

Better Understanding of Budget Problems Facing Congress Given

By VINCENT J. BURKE
United Press Correspondent
Washington — U.P. — Here's a puzzle. Unravel it and you'll have a better understanding of the difficulties facing members of Congress who hope to reduce the President's budget enough to justify cutting everybody's taxes.

The story goes back more than two years.

Item one — Eisenhower on Jan. 17, 1955, sent Congress a spending budget of \$64,300,000,000. That was the amount he planned to spend from July 1, 1955 through June 30, 1956.

Item two — Congress refused to give Eisenhower all the new money he wanted. It cut his appropriations by a total of \$544 million.

Item three — Actual federal spending during the 12 months ending June 30, 1956, went up. The administration spent \$66,500,000,000 or \$2,200,000,000 more than the original budget estimate.

This illustrates the difficulties and frustrations facing Congress whenever it tries to cut a president's budget.

Estimate of Spending

The explanation is that actually Congress doesn't directly approve or disapprove—or even act on—the President's budget.

The present record peacetime budget of nearly \$72 billion is merely the President's advance estimate of how much he will spend in the year starting next July 1 from (1) funds already available and (2) new money which he is asking Congress to appropriate.

Congress in its present so-called "budget-cutting drive" is merely whacking away at the appropriation bills carrying new money but some of the money which it is cutting out isn't even included in the budget. These are funds which the President plans to spend in future years.

This year the President requested appropriations of more than \$73 billion in new money, a good share of which is not

budgeted for spending in the coming fiscal year.

In some cases, the President himself doesn't have any control over the amount which is spent.

A good example is the farm price support program. Congress has authorized the Commodity Credit Corp. to draw as much money out of the Treasury as it needs for buying up surplus crops under advance price support commitments made to farmers.

Tax Cut Wanted

If the weather is good and the crop harvest is big this fall, federal spending on that program will be higher than the President "guessed" in his budget message last January. The opposite will be true if there are crop failures.

House Democratic leaders have said that if tax revenues continue to hold up and if Congress makes a big enough dent in money bills, they will launch a drive for legislation this sum-

mer to cut everybody's taxes, effective Jan. 1.

If the drive is started and the administration opposes it, you'll hear a lot of charges and counter charges as to whether the prospective budget surplus is

big enough to justify tax relief.

At that point neither side will really know for sure how much the federal government is going to spend in the coming fiscal year and how much it will take in revenue.

In January, 1955, the Presi-

dent forecast a surplus of \$200 million for fiscal 1956. Actual spending exceeded his forecast by more than \$2 billion and revenues exceeded the forecast by \$3,600,000,000. Result: the surplus amounted to \$1,600,000,000.

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Hells Canyon Group Files Brief With FPC

Washington — U.P. — The National Hells Canyon association has filed a brief asking the Federal Power commission not to let the Pacific Northwest Power Co. develop the Mountain Sheep and Pleasant Valley sites on the Snake river downstream from Hells Canyon.



LADEN WITH ACCUMULATION of mail over long weekend, San Francisco Postman Walter Jobst starts rounds with extra sack slung over shoulders following discontinuance of Saturday deliveries. (International Soundphoto)

Children 'Trapped' To Test Reactions In Safety Latch Test

Washington — U.P. — Government researchers have lured 201 tiny tots one by one into a refrigerator-size "playhouse" to test their reactions when trapped.

The result was a government proposal to prevent "ice box" deaths.

Standards Proposed

Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks in a report to Congress proposed standards for an easily operated release mechanism for escaping from inside a closed refrigerator.

He said the standards were set after a series of tests by the Bureau of Standards and Children's Bureau with 201 children ranging in age from 2 to 5.

The report said the children one by one were lured into a "playhouse" by showing inside a Mickey Mouse-Donald Duck cartoon. The plywood "playhouse" inside was the size of the average family refrigerator.

Once the child was inside the cartoon stopped, the "playhouse" door was shut and the child was left in darkness.

Child development experts observed the trapped children's behavior through a "snooper-scope." Infra-red motion pictures were made. Sound recordings were taken of the children's outcries.

Some Found Safety Latch

The report said three-fourths of the children found a safety latch on the "playhouse" door and released themselves in less than three minutes. One tenth of these got out in less than 10 seconds.

The tests revealed that some children made a purposeful effort to escape by searching for the latch while others engaged in "violent action both directed toward escape and undirected."

Because some youngsters did nothing, at all, test observers concluded no safety release will be 100 per cent effective.

Ruth Roman Receives Final Divorce Decree

Hollywood — U.P. — The marriage of actress Ruth Roman and radio station owner Mortimer Hall ended officially in Superior Court Monday when Hill requested and received a final divorce decree.

Miss Roman obtained an interlocutory decree March 29, 1956, but since then both the actress and Hall took new marriage partners after Hall had obtained a Mexican divorce from Miss Roman.

Hall married actress Diana Lynn in Tijuana, Mex., last Dec. 7 and Miss Roman married Bud Moss, former Los Angeles restaurant owner, in Panama City last Nov. 8.

Immigration Racket Found in New Zealand

Wellington, New Zealand — U.P. — A "racket" in the issuance of entry permits of Chinese immigrants to New Zealand has been uncovered, police said today.

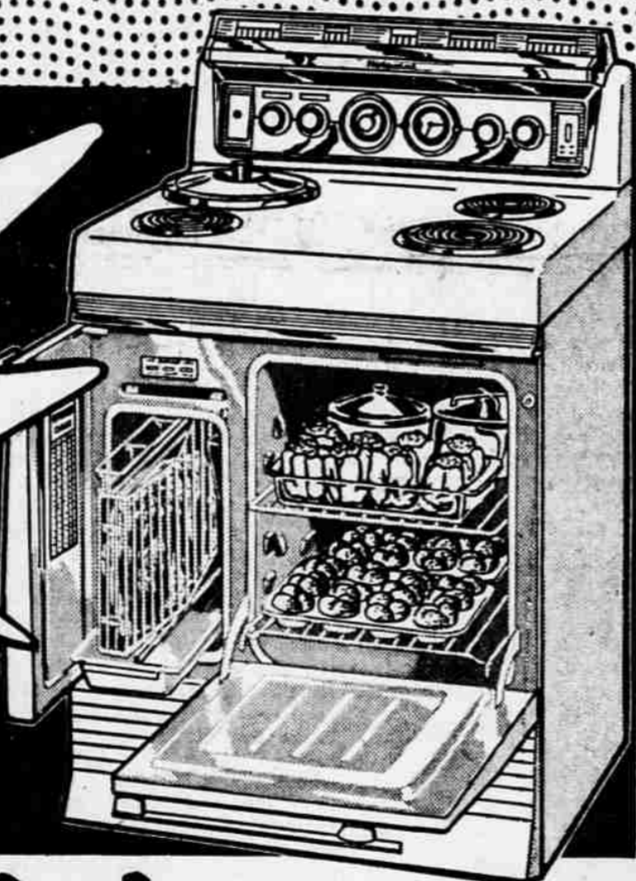
Hundreds of Chinese men, women and children were believed to have entered the country illegally during the past three or four years at fee of \$2,700 per person, police said.

THE PERFECT Easter GIFT

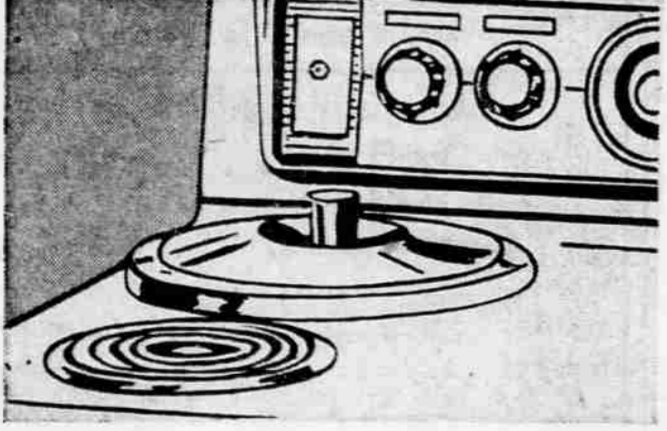
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