

# 1960 Predicted as Most Prosperous Year Ever; Non-Inflationary Expansion Seen

New York — Top government officials exuded optimism this week over the economic outlook for 1960, but many business leaders, finding some trouble pushing their wares in the marketplace, were still to be convinced.

Anderson predicted 1960 will be the country's most prosperous year ever and asserted that the economy's chances for a "long period" of non-inflationary expansion are better now than at any time in the past.

Treasury Secretary Robert

Anderson's leading economic adviser



## Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

### Sexton Beetles Keep Busy Burying the Dead

He and his hard-shelled little wife, working as a team, take their work seriously. Because of him, his wife and others of their kind, birds and small animals which are killed or die are completely buried and in a surprisingly short space of time; remarkably short when we realize the little animals doing the burying are small beetles — aptly called "sexton beetles."

The burying takes place right where the little animal died. When the pair of beetles starts working, the body of the dead drops from sight in just a few hours. The sexton beetle is about an inch long; usually the body color is black with dull orange or red markings.

The antenna on the head are developed into tiny knobs, which are very sensitive to the odor of decay. These beetles can detect the presence of a dead animal from a considerable distance.

Hurriedly approaching the carcass, the burying bug runs around it, apparently in senseless circles. Soon, however, a decision is reached. The pair begins work, squeezing under the dead body they begin removing the earth, one grain at a time.

Corpses Sink  
Sticks, leaves and small stones are carried out. As the soil and other debris is removed from under the corpse, it sinks downward. Sometimes the two beetles become so tired they cannot go on, in which case they carry sand and pile it on top of the body, covering it completely, but leaving a little mound that marks the grave.

As soon as the body is buried or covered, the female beetle lays her eggs on the carcass, thus assuring the newly hatched larvae an adequate supply of the proper kind of beetle food.

Some beetles are outstanding examples of endurance, persistence, and resourcefulness. It has been found that there are beetles capable of lifting 500 times their own body weight. The beetle, too, is so constructed as to be almost indestructible. Some can fly at full speed into a cement wall and not be injured in the slightest.

Wings Protected  
The heavy armor that encloses their bodies is mostly impervious to poison sprays. The beetles even have their flying wings protected by a hard shield. These shields are raised up and held out of the way when the beetle is in flight.

Nearly all beetles spend their time under the ground, but among the many kinds of beetles, there is a wide difference in habit patterns and insect actions. The burying beetle, strange as it is, is no stranger than many of the others; just different. He is, however, about the only member of the beetle family who is in the undertaking business.

Usually a male and a female sexton beetle work together, and of course for only one purpose: to make food available for the newly hatched beetle larvae. If the beetle pair has any understanding with one another or means of conveying a thought, there must be times when he tirelessly says to his hard-working little wife, "Honey, there must be an easier way."

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

Talent Project Bids To Be Opened May 26  
Portland — The Bureau of Reclamation said Monday bids would be open May 26 at White City, near Medford, for a fish screen structure at Hyatt Prairie dam in connection with the Talent irrigation project.

WEATHER LAYOFFS  
Chilton, Wis. — The Wisconsin Employment Service reported Monday that 400 employees had been laid off at two factories because spring arrived late. The two factories make lawnmowers.

ers, Raymond J. Saulnier predicted a 14 per cent rise in spending for plant and equipment and higher sales of autos, houses and appliances despite "occasional, unhectic evidence" to the contrary.

Retail merchants, weathered in for the past few weeks by freak storms in most parts of the country, confidently expected to reverse the March 1 per cent decline in sales from February with a record Easter volume.

However, one disquieting note regarding the ability of the consumer to spend was struck by the Institute of Life Insurance. It reported that last year the American people added only 82 cents to their savings for every dollar they added to their debt.

The big first quarter flush of the steel industry thinned to pale as new orders thinned out following the post-strike stampede to build up inventories. The auto industry cut back in production schedules was also cited as a factor.

Rate Drop  
The American Iron & Steel Institute reported mill operating rate dropped 5 points to an average of 79 per cent of capacity. An estimated 13,000 steelworkers have been laid off in western Pennsylvania alone and another 1,100 are being furloughed at the end of the week in the Youngstown area.

However, earnings of the major producers in the first quarter are expected to be at record or near record levels. Jones & Laughlin, the only major company to report so far, said it had peak sales and profits.

The labor department reported unemployment in March climbed by more than

Sweetland Speaks On School Support  
Lakeview — State Sen. Sweetland (D - Milwaukee), candidate for secretary of state, said Monday "the fate of the nation depends on the public's support of our schools and colleges."

He told the Lake county Chamber of Commerce the educational system has the responsibility to supply vast numbers of new skilled and trained graduates capable of performing increasingly complex tasks required in this age of automation.

Sweetland said the most serious defect in Oregon's education system is the way it is financed. "Oregon's school financing has placed an unfair and lopsided burden upon property taxpayers," he said. "This can be corrected if public school financing is shifted, in part, from the local property taxpayer to the state income and corporation excise taxpayer."

The opossum is probably the oldest living native mammal in North America.

stock and improvements. A rash of annual meetings were told of a mixed first quarter and outlook for the immediate future. R. J. Reynolds stockholders can expect record first quarter operations, but Western Union Telegraph looks for a decline in earnings. Whirlpool Corp. said "severe competition" in the appliance field and top-heavy inventories point to lower earnings.

Oil buyers in Texas will cut back their purchases of crude oil in May and the Chase Manhattan Bank revised downward its prediction of a 5 to 6 per cent increase in 1960 petroleum demand to about 3 per cent.

Some domestic airlines are running short of cash. Debt-ridden Capital Airlines was put on notice that it prized fleet of British Viscounts will be foreclosed unless it antes up on \$12 million worth of overdue notes. Trans-World is seeking loans totaling 340 million dollars to finance its jet airline fleet.

Hopes of cheaper money appeared dashed. The government had to raise its interest rate to sell two billion dollars worth of treasury bills. Commercial paper and bankers acceptance rates were also boosted. However, the Federal Housing Administration reported new signs of a slight easing in the cost of new home

only temporary. On the price front warehousing men see no immediate move to hike steel prices because of the softness of the market. Revere Copper lowered prices on some copper sheets to meet foreign competition and heavy fuel oil prices were raised by 10 cents a barrel by a major mid-continent supplier.

The stock market continued to mirror the indecision of the economy. Prices moved through another dull week with no definite trend discernible. Some of the experts are hoping for the usual spring rise following the tax deadline.

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