Western Europe Optimistic Over 1961 Economic Growth Possibility

London–(UPI)–The last weeks of 1960 skimmed some of the cream from Western Europe's boom, but hopes stayed strong that 1961 would still see economic expansion, though at a slower pace.

Specific financial problems still worried individual countries, but for most of Europe the bugbear of unemployment was not one of them. Instead, some countries grappled with a tight labor situation and its inflationary threat.

Overseas trade grew increasingly competitive and Europe's flourishing auto industry ran into a recession, in part due to the advent of U.S. compact cars and partly through seasonal demand patterns.

Uncertainty about future relations between the two European trading blocs, the Common Market (six) and the European Free Trade Association (Outer Seven), plagued long-term business planning. At the year-end the out-look still was obscure on whether the two groups would stay divided or find a joint working arrangement.

Clouding the atmosphere, too, were fears on the action the new U.S. administration would take to put its own economic house in order, and what the impact would be on Western Europe of future moves to strengthen the dollar.

Recurring Problems

Recurring post-war problems stayed with Britain. Exports failed to match soaring imports, but the government stuck to its trade liberalization policies. Gold and dollar reserves mounted across the year, but were still slim and the true rise masked by "hot money" movements. There was some fear that British overseas investments, running at some 300 million pounds ($840 million) a year, might prove too heavy a burden for the country's razor-edge economy.

For much of 1960 Prime Minister Harold MacMillan's vote-catching phrase "You never had it so good" applied to most Britons, but the gilt was wearing thin in places at the year's close. The warning signals flashed a difficult period ahead, and exporters were expected to find foreign markets even harder to crack.

Virtually full employment ruled in Britain most of the year, but tough anti-inflation credit screws bit hardest just when the auto industry collided with falling markets overseas. Other consumer durables piled up in the pipelines. Short-time work among the big auto companies filtered through to other sectors of industry.

British production stayed high, but growth lost its zip. It was feared that continued credit curbs would mean cutbacks in industrial investment which could cause stagnation of growth. The outlook for 1961 was that world trade might have dulled but was not heading for a recession.

From Bonn, the report was that Western Germany still was being haunted by the old specter of inflation at year's end. The country enjoyed huge gold and dollar reserves, and industrial production rose by 10 per cent in1 960. But productivity advanced only 7 per cent and wages increased by 11 per cent.

For every four jobs offered in West Germany there was only one unemployed person, and employers complained labor was constantly on the move. Exports were at the rate of $900 million monthly, exceeding imports by $100 million. Experts in Britain judged that the growth rate of production in Germany was slowing, exports were leveling off and the price rises loomed.

More Confidence

France reckoned 1960 had reinforced its internal strength and won the country more confidence aboard. Industrial output fell away after May, French exports climbed through the first seven months then fell back.

France hoped Common Market prospects would boost its exports while agricultural earnings should go on the uptrack.

Italy planned to use its glowing 1960 prosperity to tackle unemployment between the north and south of the nation.

Exports stepped ahead but could not keep pace with swelling imports. But the report from Rome said Italy had few anxieties on this score with her strong reserves and bounding earnings from tourism.

Few Complaints

Scandinavia had few complaints on how 1960 had treated the region and looked for expansion ahead. Finland worried over how the "Outer Seven" would hit its industries and probed the possibilities of association with the trading bloc.

Austria banked on her boom running out, but feared a wage-price spiral would threaten its currency.

From Spain the forecast was that 1961 would be a key-year for the nation's economy and is stabilization and liberalization plan. Portugal worked on her national development plan but showed a heavier trade deficit through higher imports.

Belgium readied to face sharp tax increases to offset the loss of the Congo. Industrial activity stayed high, but exports declined. Holland's exports tended to trail off as 1960 ended, but it saw expansion and prosperity ahead in 1961, and meanwhile worked for unity between the opposing trade blocs.

Scots' Wine Guzzling Threaens Crisis in Scotch Whiskey Country

Edinburgh, Scotland–(UPI)–A crisis is brewing in Scotland because Scotsmen are drinking more wine during the holiday season than scotch whiskey.

"We were amazed to find that extremely delicate and fine sherries were not being written off as womanly drinks," the magazine "Scotland" said today.

The magazine said that the traditional celebration of New Year's Eve is dying out because Scots are whooping it up too much at Christmas time.

"You can see it reflected in the crowds that gather in Edinburgh and Glasgow to see the old year out . . . The packed multitudes are dwindling,' the magazine said. "The prodigal sons are still in bed recovering from Christmas, which has become more fashionable."

The magazine added, "soon the only people who gather in the streets to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' will be the egoists who want to be televised."

The publication gave as proof the fact that the sale of liquor and wine are much greater before Christmas than New Year's.

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NO FANCY FRILLS — Bing Crosby, right, talks with Jimmy Demaret during the "1960 Bing Crosby Golf Tournament" at Pebble Beach, Calif. Crosby will be the chief commentator for the 1961 tournament. He said there will be no entertainment such as singing and dancing as in past years. (UPI Telephoto)

Bing Crosby To Eliminate Vaudeville Entertainment From Golf Tournament

Hollywood –(UPI)– Bing Crosby decided today that show biz and golf don't mix.

It's not that Der Bingle is giving up singing or forgetting about lowering his handicap. But he's discovered that televiewers like their golf and entertainment separately.

"That's why my national pro-amateur golf tournament next month will stick strictly to the game," he said. "No singing, no dancing or pretty girls messing things up.

"In past years we put on a show right along with the tournament, but people didn't like it. And I don't blame them.

"Viewers are interested in the contest on the links. They want to know who's ahead and who wins."

Sits it Out

Crosby won't play in his own tournament, but 150 amateurs and 200 professionals will be belting the ball around three championship courses—Monterey, Pebble Beach and Cypress Point—come Jan. 15.

Brother Bing has landed such celebrities as Bob Hope, Jim Garner, Phil Harris, Dean Martin, Fred MacMurray, Ray Molland, Desi Arnaz and George Gobel to play in his 20th annual tournament which is expected to net some $100,000 for youth charities.

"I'll narrate the tournament, and open the show with one song," the Old Groaner went on.

"We'll haxe six or seven cameras spotted around the course to pick up the leaders as they progress."

Relaxed and good-natured as ever, Bing said golf has made tremendous strides as a spectator sport during recent years.

"Viewers want to watch golf just as they do football and baseball," he said. "No frills. No fancy stuff. You never see a baseball telecast interrupted for vaudeville acts. And we're not going to do it, either."

Bing refused to predict a winner, but said the winning team usually consists of a low handicap amateur and a top pro.

"I won't say who has the best chance, but off his record, you gotta like Arnold Palmer."

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mrs. A. S. – I was happy in Florida and want to return there.

June S. V. – She should stay up here near her children.

* * *

Mrs. A. S. – I'm 60 years old and a widow. For the past five years I lived and worked in Florida. A few months ago I fell ill and came North to recuperate. I took a room near my married children, a son and a daughter.

Now that I'm fully recovered I'd like to go back, but my daughter won't hear of it. She doesn't understand how unhappy I am up here. Down there I feel better in general. I'm not afraid to venture out on the streets in the evening the way I am here. I can come and go alone, without depending on anyone.

My life would be much simpler in Florida. But every time I mention this, my daughter makes me feel like a deserter. My son wants me to do as I wish. Who's right?

* * *

June S. V. – There's no good reason why my mother should run 1,000 miles from her family. It would be different if she had no comfortable place to stay here, or if she had to have her Florida job to support herself. But my brother and I each have a room for her, and if she doesn't want to stay with us, she has enough income from Dad's insurance and savings to maintain herself in a nearby apartment.

The only reason my brother encourages Mama to leave is he knows it won't be up to him to run down there and take care of her if anything happens. It'll be up to me. And I'd rather have her here where I can keep tabs on her health and prevent any long-distance SOS's.

Regardless of Mama's whims and fancies, it seems to me a mother's place is near her family. At such a distance, she'll be a stranger to her grandchildren, and the family circle will be broken.

* * *

The Council – June should face the fact that there comes a time in Mama's life when she's entitled to pursue her "whims and fancies." In dashing cold water on Mrs. S.'s brave plans to go it alone, her daughter seems to be thinking more of her own needs.

Mrs. S. seems to be the type of mother who attended to all the musts of life conscientiously, and now wants to turn to the "would-likes." While her health holds up, this is her right and June should send her off with a smile, a corsage and a bottle of champaign. The cloud of imminent illness—which can shadow any of us anywhere—is irrelevant.

Can it be that June will miss a free and indulgent baby sitter? A sounding board? A captive shoulder to weep on? These are not valid reasons for depriving Mrs. S. of the comfort of easy-to-take climate, the freedom of coming and going without comment or reproach or complaining escort, and the peace of self-sufficiency.

As to estrangement from the grandchildren and the gap in the family circle, there are always visits to look forward to, and mid-point rendezvous where Mrs. S. and her children split the mileage 500-500 and meet somewhere interesting.

However, we suggest that Mrs. S. examine her true reasons for not just picking up and going, regardless of what her daughter says. Does she really want to go? Is she fishing for reasons, or rather excuses for not going, to make it look as though she's being restrained from doing something she doesn't want to do anyway? If she wholeheartedly wants to go, we advise her to do so and continue the discussion with June, from Florida!

(Copyright 1960, General Features Corp.)

Photos Said To Show Russian Marks on Plane

New York–(UPI)–Photographs reached New York from Laos Wednesday showing clearly that planes dropping supplies to rebel forces in Laos bear official markings of the Soviet Union.

The same markings – the letters C.C.C.P. (U.S.S.R. in the Russian alphabet) were on the wings of the Ilyushin-14 transport which fired on an unarmed American C47 Tuesday. This was reported by the American crew of the C47, according to information reaching Washington.

Apparently definitive evidence of Soviet involvement in the Laos rebellion was provided in photographs taken by Arthur J. Dommen, a staff correspondent of United Press International.

He made the pictures Dec. 23 from a chartered aircraft. His plane spotted an Ilyushin-14 air-dropping supplies over rebel positions at Phone Hong, 40 miles north of Vientiane, and Vang Vieng, 60 miles north of Vientiane.

The official Soviet markings were clearly visible.

Although the plane bore Soviet identification marks, it had not been established whether Soviet pilots actually were at the controls.

Bandit Yields When Sweet Talk Starts

San Antonio, Tex.–(UPI)–Insurance man Ray Waddell and glass firm owner E. B. Vester destroyed a bandit's nerve with kindness during a hold-up.

The pair talked the bandit out of his gun, bought him some groceries, gave his dog some food and the bandit $2.

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