



## Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER  
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### 'GOD SAVE ME FROM MY FRIENDS' - THE LONDON PRESS

U. S. Government officials charged with the responsibility of protecting and maintaining confidence in the U. S. dollar might well as they read the London newspapers these days be muttering the British proverb, "God save me from my friends; I can take care of my enemies."

For the attacks in the British press on our U. S. dollar in recent weeks have been nothing short of vicious. The contemptuous attitude Britain's commentators are taking toward every effort we make to balance our international financial accounts, stem the drain on our gold reserve, hold the dollar's value where it has proudly remained for over 28 years is almost incredible, considering this is the press of our closest ally. The eagerness with which the British correspondents seize on every adverse statistic as an indication that we can't hold the dollar and will be forced to devalue it is, as usually mild speaking Under Secretary of the Treasury Robert Roosa said out loud the other day, "resorting to desperate contrivances to create" alarm about our dollar. The downgrading of every bright statistic arouses the suspicion that the commentators want most to be prophets—and don't care what evil they do to the whole free world in the process.

The attacks have been consistent and it's almost a sure bet they'll mount in intensity between now and mid-September, when the world's top financiers gather in Washington for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This sort of pressure on a currency already being sniped at is commonplace before these meetings.

It's not inconceivable that the alarm being fed by the press reports—most of them unfounded and the rest wildly exaggerated on the adverse side—could increase the drain on our gold, particularly from such large holders of dollars as the Germans, the French, the Swiss, the Belgians. Certainly the speculators will be breathing hard during these next few weeks.

Why? What are we doing about it?  
The "why" is a familiar story. For years, we have been spending more money abroad than we have been taking in from abroad and running a big deficit in our balance of payments. As a result, our foreign creditors have built up huge claims in dollars against our gold reserve and, as the banker of the world, we pledge to honor all claims of our foreign creditors in gold on their demand. Our gold hoard has been shrinking steadily. If suddenly there was a concerted run on our reserves, we couldn't possibly pay off all the claims in gold.

This is the background for the stories that we'll solve our problems by raising the price of gold from its present \$35-ounce level—which would be devaluing the dollar because there'd be less gold in each dollar.

Says a London Observer writer: While European bankers believe that "given time and adequate help, the dollar problem could be overcome, few expect these to be forthcoming. Sentiment is working against the dollar."

Says a Sunday Times correspondent: Although the U. S. resents questions about the dollar, "Europe will have the last word" and the world price of gold will "no longer be primarily determined in or by the U. S."

Says a London Daily Telegraph commentator: There is a "fundamental lack of confidence in the three systems of gold, dollar and sterling" and "to defeat speculators is not to provide any kind of cure" for this fundamental lack.

Meanwhile what are we doing about this? We have launched a major program to slash the deficit in our international accounts—and it is being reduced. We have entered into an unprecedented series of agreements with the free world's central bankers to combat speculation. President Kennedy has pledged again that we "are not going to devalue." We are informing the London press with admirable restraint that devaluation could hardly be done by a stroke of the President's pen; it would take an act of Congress, and Congress is no more anxious to do this than the President.

We are also making it plain that we can balance our accounts any day we wish just by slashing our defense spending overseas and our foreign aid—which should be a clear warning to our critics that if they try to force our hand they might bitterly regret it.

The affluent society of the United States in 1962 is hardly the war-devastated economy of Britain when she devalued in 1949—and to suggest a similarity is malicious. As an Englishman said in the 15th century, "God save me from my friends...."

### Voter Registration Listed for County

Total voter registration in Jackson county is now 36,558, according to the county elections department.

The Democrats have 18,349 registered, the Republicans 17,311 and there are 898 independents.

All citizens who have moved since they voted or registered must give a change of address to the elections department by Oct. 6, elections officials said, in order to vote in the November general elections.

## Traffic Judge Uses Unique Measures To Impress Violators

Santa Monica, Calif. (UPI)—Traffic violators who come before Municipal Judge W. Blair Gibbens get the "blood and guts" treatment in his personal campaign to reduce auto accident fatalities and injuries. Judge Gibbens has instituted some unique measures in lieu of what he views as inadequate and ineffectual fines and jail sentences.

He ordered a young woman who was caught going 74 miles an hour in a 35-mile zone to spend five hours at an emergency hospital and take notes on traffic casualties.

**Film Showed**  
He showed about 100 violators a film called "Signal 30" which, in sound and color, depicts the horrifying results of high speed auto and truck crashes.

He ordered another group of violators to go with a detail of police and street cleaners who mop up after an auto wreck.

Judge Gibbens, 61, has been on the bench only about eight months but he's attracted a lot of attention with his corrective measures.

"Conventional sentences by these judges who give two or three days in jail are not accomplishing their purpose," he said. "I don't believe fines accomplish anything either. I don't consider the purpose of a traffic court is to raise funds. I think the purpose is to convince the violators of the error of their ways and help make the streets safe."

Gibbens, a practicing lawyer for 38 years before he was appointed to the bench, said that traffic citations for moving violations have shown a 10 per cent decrease since he began his measures. He said he plans to hold a public showing at Civic Auditorium of "Signal 30," the movie made by Ohio State Police.

**Whiff of Ammonia**  
The violators who viewed the movie last week were not compelled to do so. Judge Gibbens reduced their fines by \$5 when they agreed to see it. One elderly woman collapsed as screams from the sound track filled the courtroom, and the film showed a truck driver trapped in his cab and burning to death. The woman said her husband died in a similar accident many years ago.

Another woman ran from the courtroom, pressing a handkerchief against her mouth. "I don't think I'll ever drive again," she said as firemen gave her a whiff of ammonia.

Lis Kieliskov, ordered to spend five hours in an emergency hospital, was visibly shaken when ambulance attendants carried in a bleeding and bruised motorist whose car had gone over a 150-foot cliff.

"I bet I'll never speed again," she told newsmen.

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