

Forest Service Starts Drive of Standardization

Portland - A three-year project, another in the continuous effort to combat forest fires and one which may save the lives of future fire fighters, is being launched by the U.S. forest service. The project is one to standardize fire hose couplings to conform to National Fire Protection association standards. Increasing emphasis on mutual aid in fire fighting between federal, state, and local agencies makes availability of equipment that hooks together, like hose desirable. In pointing up the need for standardization, the forest service said there are 462 fire hose coupling thread forms in use by fire services in the United States. There are 17 different thread-pitch types in 10 basic sizes of fire hose fittings. Standardization and improvement of equipment may save lives during an emergency.

Reason for Standardizing
One of the most important reasons for standardizing nationwide is for defense purposes, according to J. Herbert Stone, regional forester, Portland. In case of attack where many fires would result, much equipment, including pumps and hose would be needed. Standard threading of hose would be essential to efficient operation, Stone said. Many fire departments and at least one state (California) already have adopted the National Fire Protection association standard for small hose. The trend is to more general adoption of this standard. The Pacific Northwest section of the forest service is now working with six states of Washington and Oregon, with other government agencies, and various fire-fighting organizations to accomplish the task of creating a relatively small equipment problem that grew into a many-headed monster. Target date for conversion to NFPA standards is June 30, 1966, Stone said.

Four-Term Program Available at OU

Eugene - A complete four-term program will be available in business administration at the University of Oregon beginning with the 1962-11-week summer session. The university will offer two complete summer sessions - the regular eight-week session and the eleven-week session. However, the school of business administration will operate only on an 11-week basis. By utilizing the summer program, students may accelerate their programs toward early graduation, or earn additional credits. A full term load of 16 or more credits in undergraduate subjects may be taken. It also will be possible to complete a full one-year sequence in certain subjects.

If Mart Plans To Open on Sunday

The Mart will open Sunday, March 17, on Table Rock south of Four Corners, according to O. C. Sullivan, owner and manager. The business will consist of three acres of land which will be available for renting to individuals who have any items for sale. Persons renting a location may drive their car or truck onto the site from which they may sell or exhibit their wares. The business will be open seven days a week. The owner plans to use adjoining property for a picnic area at a later time, and a small lunch stand will be constructed on the site.

Instant Tea Now Becoming Popular

New York - American housewives buy 60 per cent of their tea in bags but instant tea is rapidly closing in, the Tea Council of the U.S.A. reports. The council also said a record 91.8 million pounds of tea was sold in grocery stores for home consumption last year. That's enough to supply every person of voting age 320 cups of the brew at home.

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OUT FOR STROLL - Prime Minister John Diefenbaker takes a brisk walk around the grounds of his home at Ottawa, Ont., with his dog, "Happy". Diefenbaker has resumed his political campaign with a swing through Quebec City and Montreal. (UPI)

Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER Copyright, Mail Syndicate, Inc.

THREE CLUES TO UPTURN
Among the reasons some of the nation's top economists cite to support their belief that our economy in coming months will resume a rise from today's high level plateau are these three:

- (1) New orders received by manufacturers for durable goods reversed a two-month decline in January, the last reporting date, and total new orders rose 3 per cent from December's level.
- (2) Contracts awarded for commercial and industrial buildings are climbing.
- (3) Net corporate profits have been increasing too, hit the highest level of 1962 in the fourth quarter.

These are three of the 12 "leading indicators" developed by the National Bureau of Economic Research and called "leading indicators" because in the past they have signaled ahead of time the development of a business upturn or downturn with remarkable consistency. Why are these three considered so significant? What makes them "leaders"? Here's the answer.

When a manufacturer receives a new order for durable goods, he follows up by spending money to manufacture the goods, employing workers to produce the goods, etc. The buyer's decision to place the order and the manufacturer's receipt of the order precede the activity to fulfill the order. Rising new orders for durable goods, therefore, telegraph in advance rising manufacturing activity to produce the goods.

When a businessman places a contract for a new factory, he sets off a chain of events which will take place over a prolonged period. The contract is just the beginning, the actual spending for the factory may not occur for months. Rising contract awards for commercial and industrial building, therefore, telegraph in advance rising business spending on the buildings, and as the paper contract is transformed into the reality of a new factory, jobs and paychecks are created not only for the workers engaged in the construction but also for those serving those workers.

When a corporation's net profits rise, its managers are influenced to make favorable decisions on spending for inventories so the corporation can hike its sales, on spending for new plants so it can enhance its efficiency, on spending for new equipment so it can produce at lower costs. At the heart of a favorable investment decision will be the corporation's rising profit margins and net profits.

In short, these three indicators flash clues to basic business decisions which will be made in advance of the business activity itself. For instance, the clues to a future cut in our unemployment rate are not bright. A manufacturer ordinarily would lengthen the average workweek in his factory, step up his hiring rate and slash his layoff rate before employing a substantial total of new workers. As of now, none of these three leading indicators - the length of the average workweek, the hiring rate, and the layoff rate in manufacturing - is telegraphing any employment boom, and our unemployment rate has just increased to 6.1 per cent.

Nevertheless, the signs that business investment will be markedly higher this year than last are vitally important. Consumer spending is still rising. There certainly is no deflation apparent in government spending at any level - federal, state or local. Business spending has been the lagging factor all along. Assuming business spending now perks up, the whole economic picture will perk up and the across-the-board tax reductions we'll eventually get really should help us move ahead. The 1961-63 economic advance is now into its 25th month, which matches the life span of the 1958-60 advance. This one is showing signs of considerably greater durability.