

# Budget Gets No Decrease From Wilson

By ELTON C. FAY  
 WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey realizes his ambition to balance the federal budget, it looks as if he will have to do it without any more big help from the heavy-spending Pentagon.

Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, who has been nudged steadily in recent weeks by Humphrey and Budget Director Rowland Hughes to come up with a billion-dollar savings in spending this fiscal year, quashed that idea yesterday in a letter to a senator and in news conference comments.

Wilson, answering some pointed questions by Sen. Lyndon Johnson (D-Tex.) about what was behind reports of administration insistence on more savings in military spending, said:

1. A new and "very complete review" now indicates that spending for the year ending next June 30 will total 34 1/2 billion dollars. That is above the 34 billion goal originally sought, though Wilson says that goal still is kept in mind. There are no plans to go below the 34-billion level (which means that the Humphrey-Hughes hope is out, as far as Wilson's department is concerned).

2. Wilson knows of no one in the executive branch of government "who advocates cutting the bone and muscle of the nation's defenses for any purpose."

Within two hours after publication of Wilson's letter to Johnson, Humphrey hastened to issue a statement for the press. He said he was "in accord with the program outlined" by Wilson and that "a reduction in expenditures which would require an alteration of that (basic military) program was never in contemplation."

The Humphrey added that, as he had said before, "our hope of balancing the budget lies in the combination of two things: first, the possibility of increasing government revenue; second, the continual, day-after-day and everyday effort of everyone in the government to eliminate every expenditure which properly can be eliminated, without the benefit of Humphrey's statement, already had expressed a somewhat similar view in his news conference. He said:

"There's no way of balancing the budget and carrying on all the activities unless there's more income than has been forecast or something else happens differently. I think the big thing is that we have not changed our military program."

Wilson said, "No one disputes our figures." He said he gave Humphrey and Hughes "the facts as I saw them." And, when newsmen pressed him with questions, he declared:

"I've no disagreement with George Humphrey. George takes the position that if this is the best we can do, why, he accepts it."



A NEW HOME now under construction in the Hot Springs district is being built for Dr. John Merryman on Fairmont Street. Shown checking plans are Norman Jones (left) and David Jones. Contractors are Norman and Bill Jones.

# Planning Lack Brought On National Water Pinch

By ROGER D. GREENE  
 WASHINGTON (AP)—Fifteen years ago the residents of Grand Rapids, Mich., complained bitterly at the expense of building a 35-mile-long pipeline to bring water to the city from Lake Michigan.

Today the city's taxpayers are grumbling: "Who built that one-horse system back in 1940? Now we've got to build one a lot bigger."

48-state survey by The Associated Press shows the Grand Rapids episode is typical of hundreds of U.S. cities and towns.

Caught in a three-way squeeze between fast-growing population, booming industry and recurring dry spells, counties communities are suddenly discovering their water facilities just won't do the job.

Only three states — Idaho, Mississippi and Rhode Island — reported no water shortage problems.

Inequities, smoldering feuds and open conflicts have arisen in many areas as water supplies run low. Laws involving water rights have become extremely complicated and conflicting. In the East, where the old Roman and English law of riparian rights prevails, you can be sued by just about anybody who thinks your use of the water is "unreasonable."

In the West, which still clings mostly to the pioneer law of "first come, first served," some water rights date back to the gold-rush era.

Just a few months ago, in Texas, the State Supreme Court ruled that the city of Corpus Christi acted within its rights when it pumped huge quantities of water from wells near the town of Pleasanton and transported it via the Nueces River more than 100 miles to Corpus Christi—even though the Pleasanton wells suffered from the city's "invasion."

Texas is desperate for new water supplies, and even Michigan, surrounded on three sides by 87,170 square miles of fresh water, has its tongue hanging out in many places.

In the booming Detroit area, some 20 outlying communities which have sprung up in the mass

march to the suburbs have been tapping the city's water supply. As a result, Detroit has been forced to install a new 200-million-gallon pumping station, and police-enforced water bans have been clamped down in the area.

Detroit's giant auto industry is watching the situation with serious concern: it takes 15,000 gallons of water, mostly for cooling hot metals, to produce one automobile.

In Arizona, officials report that unless new water supplies can be found, 800,000 acres now under cultivation may go idle. The state's underground water table in some places has dropped as much as 150 feet in 10 years—18 feet in the last 12 months.

California, with a population of 13 1/2 million which is expected to reach 23 1/2 million by 1975, is working feverishly to bring in new supplies but is pumping water from ground sources at an alarming rate. The overdraft is estimated at a staggering 1,000 billion gallons a year.

Colorado, with water shortages in nearly every section of the state, gloomily watches the Colorado River quench the thirst of distant states while its mile-high capital, Denver, sweats out a critical shortage. In New Mexico the underground water table is dropping so fast in the eastern High Plains that supplies may be exhausted within 40 years.

Contrary to the picture in many states, North Dakota reports that its ground-water tables have risen "tremendously" as a result of abundant rains over the last decade. Officials say the state hasn't had a crop failure stemming from drought in the last 15 years.

# Sonic Blast Rocks S. F.

SAN FRANCISCO (UP)—Police decided today that a jet plane breaking the sonic barrier was responsible for causing a thunderous explosion that rocked San Francisco at the dinner hour last night.

The explosion took place at 7:22 p.m., shaking buildings, rattling windows and causing brick-abrac to fall. Thousands of residents rushed into the streets to see what happened.

Police cars, fire trucks and ambulances, sure that some catastrophe had taken place, were on the alert for a call to duty.

All they got for their pains was a false report that a cleaning plant had blown up in the Sunset District near the ocean beach. The report, spread by a local radio station, sent hundreds of curious motorists streaming into the area.

To add to the confusion, a call went to the Fire Department for a one-alarm blaze, unrelated to the explosion. And a burglar alarm in a neighborhood market began ringing.

It took police an hour to clear away the traffic jam in the area. "Everybody please go home," officers pleaded over their public address systems. "There's no explosion. There's no damage."

So many people tried to use their telephones that the exchanges became inoperative because of overloaded equipment. The Police Department said its switchboard was so flooded with calls that anybody who might have had a legitimate explanation for the blast could not have gotten a call through.

For a while, police thought they had found the cause of the explosion in the basement of the WAC barracks at the Presidio. However, the force of the blast went up the chimney and the only damage was to a door of the boiler, which blew off.

Presidio firemen said the blast was not loud enough to be heard except in the Presidio itself.

Authorities decided that the only explanation must be that a jet plane, or possibly a meteor, was responsible.

# Klamath CC Compares 1955 Figures

Business index figures show that the trend for Klamath Falls during the past year has been up, the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce reported recently.

The chamber, in a publication sent to members, compared the figures from five general indices for August with the figures for July and for August of last year. With the exception of building permits, which showed a drop over last year and a drop from last month, all of the indices showed an increase.

However, in an eight-month report from January 1 to August 31, building permits showed about a 10 per cent increase over last year.

The indices chosen were bank debts, postal receipts, parking meter receipts, building permits within the city limits and the number of water users.

Bank debts last August were \$26,427,087, compared with \$22,567,758 in August, 1954, and \$23,454,438 in July, 1955. The total for the first eight months of 1955 was \$213,110,075, compared with \$110,112,267 last year.

Postal receipts were \$22,564 in August compared with \$22,203 in August, 1954, and \$21,854 last August. Receipts during the first eight months were \$179,765, compared with \$177,095 last year.

Parking meter receipts last August totaled \$5,084, compared with \$4,176 in July and \$4,796 in August, 1954. Total receipts during the first eight months of 1955 were \$36,470, compared with \$34,437 last year.

Valuation of building permits totaled \$110,160 last August, compared with \$126,396 in August, 1954 and \$170,100 in July, 1955. Total for the first eight months of 1955 was \$1,017,171, compared with \$921,958 in 1954.

Number of water users last August was 8,335, compared with 8,370 last year and 8,508 last July. Average number of users during the first eight months of this year was 8,361, compared with 8,217 last year.

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# OSC Develops Grass Destroyer

CORVALLIS (AP)—A selective killer that will take velvet grass and other broadleaved grasses from lawns was reported Thursday successful in tests at Oregon State College.

Velvet grass, a widespread pest which in the past has yielded only to the shovel or the plow, is killed by a chemical named Karmex DW, the college reported.

Researchers said the chemical may be used only on established lawns, and then only with great care, to prevent damage.

It is expected to be available commercially soon.

# HAT STRANGLES BOY

ELGIN, Ill. (AP)—James Cole, 7, was strangled by the chin strap of his cowboy hat yesterday. Police said the boy, apparently was sliding down a rope tied to a tree when he slipped. The hat caught in a loop in the rope. The chin strap held and broke the boy's neck, police said.

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