



LLOYD A. BROWN, 2427 Darrow Avenue, right, is a man who knows his beef. He guessed to the exact pound the weight of the big half of beef on display at the two Market Basket locations last weekend and is shown with the six pound rolled Swift Premium beef roast being presented as first prize by Vern Hadley, manager of the meat department of the Market Basket at Shasta Way and Division. The second, third and fourth place winners all guessed within a pound of the actual weight of the dressed beef.

US Looks To Government For Action On Recession

By STERLING F. GREEN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Almost every recession-troubled state, city and industry is looking hopefully to Washington for the actions and policies — and, chiefly, the spending — that will spark a business recovery.

This is true even in the many states and towns which have tackled their problems with do-it-yourself solutions like local tax cuts, public works and lures for new industry.

Associated Press reporters who visited corporation offices, union headquarters, relief lines, city halls and statehouses in their nationwide "How's Business?" survey heard one theme stressed almost to the point of monotony: "Our recovery depends on the federal government."

Most of the speakers hoped for the arrival of big defense contracts. Many wanted tax reduction and further easing of credit. Mining men called for tariff boosts on foreign metal. Railroaders wanted higher freight rates. Washington alone, they all implied, has the final answers.

Some of the comments had political overtones, a majority of these being unfavorable to the Eisenhower administration.

In the proud, Republican, mostly Mormon state of Utah—which is now distributing food to the unemployed for the first time in memory—reporters heard grumbling about "Republican prosperity."

A Vermont manufacturer blamed his state's problems on the "light money" policy as well as on "extremely unfair income and corporation taxes." A jobless New Jersey plasterer said: "I hope Eisenhower is waking up."

By contrast, some people said they were reassured by the President's recent words and actions, including his record peacetime spending budget. A North Carolina builder observed: "Before, Ike was going to balance the budget at all costs. Now he's committed to deficit spending, and that means inflation and a boom."

There weren't enough politically slanted comments, however, to be taken as evidence that the recession will hurt GOP candidates in the November congressional elections. Most interviewees ignored politics and talked about the immediate problem — finding and creating jobs.

The survey did indicate, however, that pressure is growing in harder hit areas for faster, more positive action than the administration so far has taken.

To date the federal stimulative measure, as listed by President Eisenhower in his recent chimp-up economic statement, consist mainly of programs that were in progress or pending before the full impact of recession was felt.

They include the credit loosening steps begun by the Federal Reserve Board last October, the federal-state highway program, stepped up placement of military contracts, some liberalization of housing credit, a half-billion-dollar increase in civil works, a five-year post office building plan, and more lending to bolster foreign trade.

If other measures are needed, Eisenhower promised, "they will be proposed — and in time." Since then Secretary of Labor Mitchell has stated that tax reduction and other emergency actions will get

"serious thought" in the March unemployment figures, due in April, don't show improvement.

Without waiting for Uncle Sam, "Operation bootstrap" is being attempted on thousands of local fronts, public and private. These range from the major "crash programs" of public works of Vermont and Pennsylvania to the simple, hopeful device of Chipley, Ga.

Chipley is changing its name to Pine Mountain in hope of luring more tourists. Chamber of Commerce President Ken Askew explained: "Something had to be done. Our town could dry up and blow away, what with farm conditions as they are."

These are some of the statewide efforts:

1. Highway and public construction speedups have been ordered in Missouri, Idaho and elsewhere.

2. Oregon, finding itself with a budget surplus, cut its income tax 20 per cent. Maryland is pondering the removal of some business taxes, but Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin has proposed a 50 per cent increase in income taxes.

3. Special sessions of state legislatures have been considered — but not yet called — in Vermont, Washington and other states to take up tax cuts, bigger unemployment compensation benefits and other remedies.

4. States which have authorized "development corporations," to help new businesses get financing, are using them to intensify the fight on unemployment. These include Arkansas, Vermont, Maine and Minnesota. The Connecticut Development Commission is focusing its efforts on getting the state a bigger share of missile contracts.

Across the country, in union halls and corporation boardrooms the underlying theme was the same: government spending may provide the pickup if it is massive and comes soon.

The prime question is: How soon? From Vermont to California, producers of machine tools, aircraft and metal products generally estimate that the defense spending impact won't be felt substantially until fall.

And if an upturn hasn't been felt before then, the grassroots sentiment suggests, the pressure for tax reduction to build up public buying power may have become irresistible.

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