

# Housing Is Losing Its Impact

By HENRY J. BECHTOLD  
UPI Financial Editor  
NEW YORK (UPI)—The housing industry is losing its recuperative impact on the nation's economy and will continue to do so for at least the next five years, a real estate executive declared today.

Morris Karp, president of Realty Equities Corp., said this situation has become obvious during the current recession. In the recessions of 1950, 1954 and 1958, housing starts rose sharply while the rest of the economy was declining, thereby helping to shore up the decline and support the succeeding economic upswing.

But in 1960, Karp noted, housing followed the sluggish trend of the general economy. And he does not see the industry returning to its counter-cyclical role for at least five years.

Karp does not support the belief among many industry and political leaders that the housing decline has reflected a tightness in mortgage money. He said mortgage money has been ample the past six months, and in many areas interest rates have declined somewhat without any stimulating effect on housing.

Basically, the realty equities executive declared, home building appears to be faltering on a fundamental weakness in consumer demand based on the shifts in the age composition of the U. S. population.

The population is growing fast at both ends with fewer new households being formed in the middle because of the low birth rates of the 1950s. The housing demands of the elderly and the very young do not call for new homes or large space requirements, Karp stated.

To back up this view he cited apartment construction and renting, which caters more to the young and old, and which led up very well in 1960. He also recalled that from 1945 to 1960 additions to the stock of U. S. housing exceeded the growth of new households by more than two million units.

Sales of luxury and inexpensive units have been good despite the overall softening in housing demand, and Karp sees his performance continuing through 1961.

He noted that luxury homes, especially in prime suburban areas like New York's Westchester County and Chicago's Oak Park, can always sell because living in these areas imply a certain social connotation desired by young executives on the way up in the business world.

Inexpensive homes continue in demand because young couples still prefer a home to an apartment if the carrying charges are not too great.

The slack in housing has occurred in the broad middle income area. The resale market for old homes has slackened and many families are unwilling to accept the lower price for their present homes and assume the charges and costs for the new ones, Karp explained. He doesn't see any change in this situation until the mid-sixties when the huge crop of war-time babies comes of marrying age.

**52 Charged In Obscene Mail Case**

CHICAGO (UPI)—A federal grand jury has indicted 52 persons, including college and high school teachers and students, on charges of conspiring to send or of sending obscene matter through the mails.

Those named in the indictment included at least one clergyman.

The action climaxed a six-month investigation of two organizations called the Adonis Male Club and the International Body Culture Association.

U. S. Dist. Atty. Robert Ticken said the Adonis Club had 750 members in 24 states and Canada. He said both clubs were promoted by Jack Zuidveid, 40, Oak Park, Ill., and his wife, Nirvana, also 40, through the physique and muscle display type magazines Vim and Gym.

"Postal authorities have repeatedly said that the biggest increase in obscenity has occurred in the field of correspondence between males with deviate tendencies," Ticken said.

"The investigation originated with the response by wives and mothers to the request of Postmaster General (Arthur) Summerfield that envelopes bearing cancelled postage stamps and carrying obscene material be retained and that the matter be reported to the Post Office Department," he said.

The Rev. Robert M. Redenbaugh, 55, Tabor, Iowa, a retired Episcopal clergyman and one of the men indicted, denied the charges. Redenbaugh said he had "absolutely no knowledge" of any basis for the charges against him and had no knowledge of the Adonis Male Club or the International Body Culture Association.



"I have a feeling he's going to give up skating!"

# Navy Will Convert Ship For Long Range Missiles

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Navy has won Defense Department approval to convert its long delayed nuclear-powered cruiser Long Beach into the first surface ship armed with longrange ballistic missiles.

Defense Secretary Thomas S. Gates Jr., a former Navy secretary, has rejected Navy proposals for arming a number of surface ships with Polaris ballistic missiles, but made an exception in the case of the Long Beach.

The cruiser, first nuclear-powered surface ship ordered by the Navy, has slipped about nine months behind schedule and the estimated cost has risen from an original \$250 million to \$320 million.

**Authorizes More Money**

Gates has authorized the Navy to spend an additional \$58 million to equip the ship with eight 1,500-mile Polaris missiles, bringing the total cost to \$378 million.

He told the Navy, however, that it would have to get the money by cutting back on other projects and not by adding to its budget.

With the agreement of Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gates decided that land-based and rail-mounted Air Force Minuteman missiles and submarine-based

Navy Polaris missiles would be less vulnerable than ballistic missiles carried by surface ships.

They would do more damage for the money spent, he decided. Nevertheless he made an exception for the Long Beach. Gates has fully explained his reasoning to his successor, Robert S. McNamara.

**Construction Behind Schedule**

The Long Beach, once scheduled to be commissioned in November, 1960, has encountered so many delays that it cannot join the fleet until next fall.

Because it was so long delayed and its expense had mounted so greatly, Gates agreed that the Navy could turn the delay to advantage and make one experimental nuclear-powered surface ship armed with ballistic missiles.

The Long Beach is being equipped also with Talos and Terrier anti-aircraft missiles, Asroc anti-submarine missiles, and the most advanced submarine detection gear available.

Armed with the Polaris, it is seen as a possible one-ship task force which, by itself, might be able to dominate such a strategic area as the Indian Ocean.

The first H-bomb explosion occurred in November of 1952.

# Water Extraction Breakthroughs Promise To Meet Need

By SAM DAWSON  
AP Business News Analyst  
NEW YORK (AP)—Water is a pressing need in many fast-growing parts of this country and the world. And both industry and government are reporting breakthroughs in methods of extracting usable water from the two great remaining sources, sea water and brackish water.

A home unit for desalting water is being test marketed in the Southwest. Big-scale sea-water operations are in use or about to be installed in such widely separated points as the West Indies and Israel.

Costs have been the big stumbling block. The goal is to get them below 50 cents per thousand gallons, which would make conversion competitive with natural water in many areas. Research efforts in both government and private industry laboratories are reported showing great promise today.

supplying fresh water from sea freezing process they say cuts water on pleasure and work boats costs sharply.

Another method is to freeze the salts out. Blaw-Knox suggests using butane as both refrigerator and melting agent, which it says should bring the cost way down.

Design Corp. have teamed in a

Fairbanks Whitney is building for the Israeli government desalting units aimed at purifying 250,000 gallons a day for that thirsty nation at a cost they say will be lower than in previously built Struthers Wells and Scientific big units.

Several other American compa-

nies are in the water-purifying business, including Westinghouse Electric and Ionics.

Government agencies say average daily use of water for all purposes in the United States is 115 billion gallons, up from 200 billion 10 years ago. They expect it to go to around 500 billion a day by 1980. At present a dried

year can bring water use restrictions to as many as 1,000 U.S. cities and communities.

We have available an average of 115 billion gallons a day of fresh water. This would be enough if it were distributed evenly. But it isn't, and many sections are short now, and others are threatened with shortages in dry years.

# Burglar Trap Failure Makes Two Men Happy

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (UPI)—Harry Wu promised to tell police the next time he sets a booby trap for a burglar. If it had worked the way he wanted it to, it might have killed a cop.

Wu, who owns the Chinese Teagarden-Cafe, said his place has been burglarized "so many times I've lost count."

"I set the thing to fix the next burglar," he said.

Policeman Jerry Phillips was making his rounds early Monday and noticed a window open. He investigated and reached across the window sill. There was a brilliant flash.

He had brushed a string that triggered a rat trap, which in turn activated wires leading to an electrical socket supposed to send current into a shotgun shell and explode it on the window sill as a burglar crawled through.

"I don't know why it didn't work," Wu said.

Phillips is glad it didn't.

# Convictions Hit Record In State

SALEM (AP)—Convictions for violating traffic laws reached an all-time high of 203,331 last year, the state Department of Motor vehicles said today.

The 1959 total was 181,405.

Convictions for drunken driving totaled 2,363, while 539 Oregon drivers were convicted of drunk driving charges in other states.

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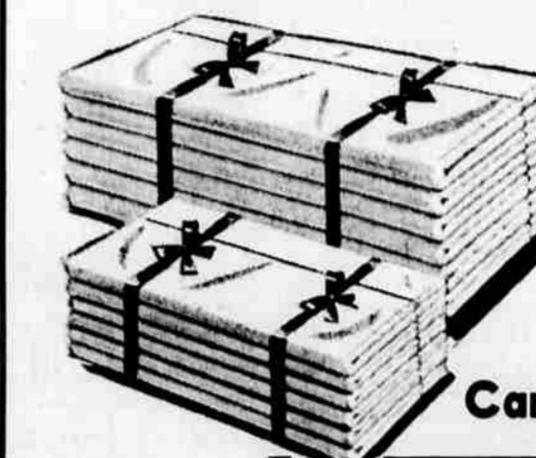
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