

Good Gains Expected In Economy

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The nation's economy is expected to show "a fair-sized gain" this year despite a brief slowdown following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

That was the Christmas Day word from the Commerce Department which reported that an upturn in steel production paced a continued slow advance in business activity in November.

"There was a temporary interruption in the tempo of economic activity for a period immediately after the assassination of President Kennedy," the report said.

"The upward momentum was resumed, however, reflecting basic underlying strength of the economic forces."

The Office of Business Economics cited these signs of economic strength in its monthly review:

—Retail sales showed a quick recovery in the first week of December, following "sharp and widespread declines" immediately after the assassination.

—Iron and steel production continued the rise begun in August. The spurt was due to renewed buying by steel consumers, whose inventories were running low.

—The automobile industry produced 875,000 cars and trucks in November — a record for the month — despite temporary work stoppages at some important plants.

—Construction of homes and apartments also picked up last month.

The department said that business confidence had been bolstered by prospects for a tax cut. The administration's \$11 billion tax cut bill, approved by the House, is now before the Senate Finance Committee. But the measure is slated to take effect Jan. 1, even if Congress doesn't get around to passing it until months later.

Man, 83, Takes Bride Of 19 In 'Business Deal'

DENVER (UPI)—Earl L. Medsker was honeymooning at home today with his new bride, Medsker is 83. His bride, the former Gwendolyn Davis of Baker, Fla., is 19.

The couple was married in Medsker's home on Christmas Eve by Justice of the Peace Harry Wall Jr. of suburban Adams City, then spent Christmas Day entertaining guests.

"The marriage might seem silly to some people, but it makes sense to us," said Medsker, who had four children before being divorced from his first wife 30 years ago. He has 12 grandchildren.

"We both know people can have the wrong idea about this marriage," he said, "but summed up, it is companionship and business."

He said the business element of his life were getting too hard to handle.

"I need someone I can trust and who has the know-how," he said, gazing fondly at his new wife.

Medsker is in the real estate and tax title business, and says he has done pretty well. "In fact, I've set up a \$100,000 fund institute to educate Medsker children," he said. The foundation guarantees a college education for all his descendants.

"This is where Gwendolyn comes in," he said. "She's got a good grasp of what the educational foundation means. She thinks it's a wonderful program, and it has had a lot to do with our marriage."

"I haven't had too much business experience yet," his bride tugged in, "but I'm attracted to the work involved."

The Medskers decided to spend their honeymoon at home. "There's too much work to do," the groom explained.

FBI Actions Investigated By California Authorities

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—A California Department of Justice official began an investigation today into strained relations between the FBI and other law enforcement agencies during the Frank Sinatra Jr. kidnap case.

Atty. Gen. Stanley Mosk assigned O. J. Hawkins, newly appointed assistant director of the Department of Justice, to investigate complaints the FBI failed to keep other law enforcement agencies informed during the search for the kidnapers.

Los Angeles police Chief William H. Parker on three separate occasions criticized the FBI for not bringing his department in on the search.

And the California Highway Patrol is investigating a report that the life of a patrolman was endangered because he did not know the FBI was searching for a suspect that he had stopped.

"When we have the facts from all law enforcement

sources," Mosk said, "we can determine what steps may be appropriate to achieve more effective rapport to protect the public."

Santa Manages To Locate Tot

PATTERSON, Calif. (UPI)—Kathy Stratton, 4, sobbed as she was being rushed to the hospital Christmas Eve.

She had swallowed a safety pin while she was eating cereal. But that was not what was worrying her. She cried "Santa won't be able to find me — he thinks I'm at grandma's."

It all turned out fine. The safety pin was removed and Kathy was in good condition today. And she had her presents, too, so Santa was able to find his way to the hospital.

Dinner And Guests Wait While President Takes Reporters On Tour Of Texas Home

JOHNSON CITY (UPI)—It was enough to try the soul of any housewife.

Christmas afternoon, an enormous turkey done to a crisp and getting crispier by the moment; twenty-seven assorted relatives lounging in sitting rooms and hallways, casting anxious eyes toward the dining room as they awaited dinner.

And then the man of the house gets a brilliant idea—he wants to show a group of 60 itinerant friends through the house, bedrooms and all.

This was the situation confronted Wednesday afternoon by Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson.

Invites Reporters
The President had invited 60 reporters and photographers to his ranch after they requested a Christmas photograph of the First Family, including the two young ladies of the family, Lynda, 19, who was there with her fiancé, Lt. (j.g.) Bernard Rosenbach of Comfort, Tex., and Lucy, 16.

The President decided that it would be a good idea to give the assembled news party a brief tour of the house.

After visiting the dining room, where the ice was melting in 28 sparkling glass water goblets, and on into the President's office where an eight-foot native cedar Christmas tree dominated the room, the President led his visitors through two crowded living rooms. He wanted to take the newsmen through the family sleeping quarters and out into a patio.

Bedroom Door Locked

The door to the bedroom area, however, was locked. The President tapped on it several times. A sly smile spread over the President's face.

"Mrs. Johnson has locked the bedroom door on me," he said. "Miss Lady Bird" as she is called around the ranch or simply "Bird" as the chief addresses his wife, opened the door moments later.

Soon the reporters left and the President went inside for Christmas dinner. Once the large meal was completed, Johnson and his old friend, A. W. Moursund who has a large ranch nearby, took a helicopter ride to a 4,451-acre ranch about 45 miles to the north. This is

the so-called Haywood Ranch which Johnson and Moursund own in partnership.

They scooted around Travis Lake, within the ranch property, in an outboard and then returned to the LBJ ranch for the evening meal. This time there were no reporters or photographers around to hold up the proceedings.

Controversy Continues To Rage Over Actions Of Stricken Ship's Crew

LONDON (UPI)—The Greek liner Arkadia headed for the British Isles today carrying 120 passengers and 150 crewmen who survived the fearful fire aboard its sister ship, the Lakonia. About 100 other survivors refused to sail on another ship of the line.

The Arkadia's departure from the Madeira Island port of Funchal was delayed because of the dispute. Some of the dissident passengers will return to England aboard the Transvaal Castle on Monday. Others will come back by plane.

The controversy over the performance of the Lakonia's captain and crew continued to rage in London, where returning survivors made strong allegations that were denied vigorously.

A spokesman for the Greek line, operators of the Lakonia, said that 965 persons out of 1,027 were accounted for, including 89 whose bodies were recovered.

42 Still Missing
But 42 persons were still missing as a result of the fire that virtually consumed the Lakonia last Sunday night as it neared Madeira. The ship was on a Christmas holiday cruise.

Wednesday Capt. Matheos Zarbis, skipper of the Lakonia, denied charges that his crew panicked as the flames broke out of control and everyone was forced to abandon the vessel.

"There was no panic aboard my ship — neither with the crew nor the passengers," he said in a telephone interview. Zarbis was taken to Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands after his rescue.

The captain also denied allegations that some of the crew had been drunk. One woman claimed on her return here that intoxicated crew members were

"making passes at me" instead of fighting the fire.

"The crew did quite well," Zarbis said. "They worked well." The skipper promised to

make a full statement in London "in a couple of days."

His voice cracking with emotion, Zarbis emphasized repeatedly that reports of panic

among the crew were "not true."

"I don't know how the fire started," he said. "I was doing my duty. We got the passengers

off. It was all very fast. We were only in the water three or four or five hours before the (rescue) ships began picking us up."

But one of his crewmen, Josef Kronschnabl of Starubind, Germany, said: "The operation was very disorganized. That is all I can say for now."



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