

The Gate City Journal

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



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TAPERING OFF!

The Act passed last June by Congress--raising taxes and providing for cuts in government spending--was intended as a major move against inflation. There was speculation at the time as to whether this placed just the right degree of fiscal restraint on the economy to accomplish its objective.

As we recall, opinion was divided. Those who believed that this represented approximately the right degree of anti-inflationary fiscal action were in the majority. But there was a substantial minority who feared it might lead to 'overkill' of the inflationary boom--causing it to be replaced by a recession. Practically no one seemed to fear that this fiscal action was not drastic enough.

Now, eight months later, we do not see any signs of overkill. In fact, we are wondering whether the action of last year was vigorous enough to end or even slow down the inflation. Inflation is apparently a tougher opponent than anyone had thought and the measures taken against it will have to be more drastic than anticipated.

Yet, strangely in the light of this experience, we do not see in our national leaders any great concern that the anti-inflationary programs they now propose may fall short of what is needed to end inflation. The predominant motivation still seems to be a fear that efforts in that direction may go too far. In weighing the risks, the prevailing inclination appears to be to accept the risk of doing too little against inflation, but avoid the risk of doing too much. This leads to what might be called a 'soft' approach to national policy for ending this period of inflation.

Inflation is one of those peculiar problems in which the things people in authority say they intend to do about it have an impact on the course of events even before they do them. The economy is pervaded by an inflationary psychology which makes the inflation that much worse and the problem of getting it under control that much more difficult. The widespread belief that inflation will continue leads people to rush out to buy, and for this reason alone inflation does continue.

Clearly the first requirement must be to break this psychology and convince the public that the steps necessary to end inflation will be taken. The tone of the statements issued by high government officials should reflect a firm and unqualified determination to do whatever is necessary. A 'soft'

approach to anti-inflationary policy will not be enough.

The public, understandably, has become skeptical regarding government assurances that it intends to get inflation under control. It has been hearing such assurances for the past three years but it has also seen inflation continue at an accelerated rate. It is no wonder that people are motivated in their own actions by a belief that inflation probably will continue for some time.

For this reason, we would like to see government statements on anti-inflation policy reflecting a hard-line. Unfortunately, this doesn't seem to be happening.

The President's Council of Economic Advisers, appearing before a Congressional Committee, has explained its program for ending inflation as one of "gradualism." They will avoid precipitous or severe efforts to cut back economic expansion. Instead they propose to "embark on a course of gradually and persistently reducing the rate of inflation." The Council seems more anxious to assure the public it will not be too hasty or too drastic, than to convince people it will do what needs to be done.

This sounds reasonable enough on first listening. But on some reflection it raises doubts. Is this a sufficiently forthright national commitment to break the vicious cycle of inflationary psychology?

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,
 On behalf of the AFS committee, we wish to thank you for the fine publicity you gave to the recent "Ecuadorian Fiesta".

We are also grateful to all students and adults of the community who worked to make the event a success.

The generous contributions of time and effort will make it possible for Nyssa High School to sponsor a foreign exchange student next year. Sincerely, Sylvia Endara, Foreign Exchange student; Kay Abe, student AFS president; Mrs. Virginia Steffens, faculty adviser.

OWYHEE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Dirk Dirksen of Willow Creek met March 2 with young people of Owyhee Community church. He is leader of 'Youth for Christ'. Miss Judy Nielsen was in charge of the Sunday evening young people's session. The group is planning to elect new officers.

Women's Missionary group met March 11 in the home of Mrs. Amy Stradley. The April meeting will be at the Kenneth Lorensen residence. Wednesday evening prayer meeting was held in the Lorensen home.

Rodney Frost of Boise gave the March 2 sermon and will speak again during the March 9 morning worship service.

Inflation is a bad habit, about as prevalent among nations as alcoholism, overeating or excessive smoking are among individuals.

Everyone who has ever tried to break a bad personal habit knows that "tapering off" never works. There are too many opportunities along the way to make exceptions and even to change your mind as to the objective. You wind up with the habit about as deeply ingrained as ever before, and your confidence in your ability to break it seriously impaired.

We have the same qualms about a national effort to control inflation by a program of gradualism. And we believe that the public will sense that tapering-off on inflation is a doubtful way of ending it. A slow long-drawn-out process is too likely to be reversed when it begins to hurt even the least bit. It is like saying that you will reduce your calorie intake provided you don't get too hungry in the process.

The cancer of inflation has to be cut off the body economic. The operation may involve some pain but the pain of allowing the tumor to grow uncontrolled would be a lot worse. We would like to believe that a "soft" treatment, avoiding surgery, will work but we see no reason to suppose that it will.



ONE OF THREE RELIGIOUS PICTURES, a memorial gift, presented recently to Malheur Memorial hospital by the family of the late Mrs. Ruby Mills. Looking at the Portrait of Christ are nursing home residents, Mrs. Della Hawley (on left), Lee Strickland and

Mrs. Anna Mae Sisson. The other two pictures, with overhead lighting, hang at the ends of the long corridors leading south from the chart desk area of the nursing home wing. - Staff Photo.

SOLONS LIST WAYS TO LOWER TAXES

ON REAL PROPERTY

BY SMITH AND YTURRI

Legislative referral of the Governor's property tax relief program has not stopped attempts by the legislature to produce direct and immediate property tax relief for the people of Oregon.

Certainly, allowing the people an opportunity to vote on the Governor's proposal was a significant step.

However, we don't feel that this achievement has necessarily completed the job. We can do more, and we think we have identified the means to do more.

We are determined to do as much as possible to provide property tax relief, while at the same time maintaining the quality and availability of education at all levels.

In Memoriam

HENRY T. BUSH

Graveside services for Henry Thomas Bush were conducted Tuesday morning, March 4, 1969 at the Nyssa cemetery, under direction of Lienkaemper chapel. Officiating was the Rev. Jack Anderson of the Payette First Baptist church.

Mr. Bush died Saturday in an Ontario hospital. He was born Sept. 23, 1891 in Warrick County, Ind. The deceased resided in Nyssa for ten years, moving to Fruitland a year ago to live with his daughter, Mrs. Lorene Hoppell.

In addition to his daughter, Mr. Bush is survived by a brother, Earl Bush of Flint, Mich.; one sister, Viola Petty of South Boardman, Mich.; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

St. Bridget's News

A St. Patrick's dance will be held March 15 by the St. Bridget's Catholic church. The dance will start at 9 p.m. and last until 1 a.m. Music will be furnished by the Don Moss orchestra. It will be at the parish hall. A midnight supper will be served.

Chairmen for the event are Mrs. Art Bosselman and John Studer.

Conservative Baptist Church

Rev. Arthur Skogan of the Nyssa Conservative Baptist church announces a film to be shown March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Title of the film is "What Mean Ye By These Services." The public is cordially invited to attend.

Schedule of Services
 10:00 a.m. - Sunday school hour.
 11:00 a.m. - Sunday worship service.
 8:00 p.m. Wednesday - Midweek Bible Study and Prayer meeting.

MAN - HIS ARTS AND IDEAS

BY CLYDE T. SWISHER

CHAIRMAN, DEPT. OF ENGLISH
 NYSSA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

This Sunday night the featured television film is "The Agony and the Ecstasy" (channel 7 beginning at 8 p.m.). The novel of the same title by Irving Stone depicts the story of one of the greatest of artistic geniuses: Michelangelo.

At the heart of the novel is the magnificent story of Savonarola and the fiery background of religious wars, as well as fierce competitions with such contemporaries as Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, and the architect Bramante. Irving Stone has taken for his canvas all the revolutionary turmoil and pageantry of this turbulent epoch, and it is against the panorama of giants that Michelangelo's life unfolds in a novel as exciting, dramatic, and unusual as the masterpieces he created.

The book is designed for the general reader, and I wholeheartedly recommend a reading of "The Agony and the Ecstasy." The book is available at Nyssa Public, Nyssa High, and Malheur County libraries, as well as in paperback.

The film does not depict the entire life of Michelangelo, but instead the producers wisely chose to feature one sustained segment of the artist's life: his painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

Many critics regard this painting as Michelangelo's masterpiece. It required four and a half years of toil under the most uncomfortable physical conditions to complete the work. Read Michelangelo's own words:

"On the Painting of the Sistine Chapel"

I've grown a goiter by dwelling in this end--
 As cats from stagnant streams in Lombardy,
 Or in what other land they hap to be--
 Which drives the belly close beneath the chin;
 My beard turns up to heaven; my nape falls in,
 Fixed on my spine; my breast bone visibly
 Grows like a harp; a rich embroidery
 Bedews my face from brush-drops thick and thin.
 My loins into my paunch like levers grind;
 My buttock like a crupper bears my weight;
 My feet unguided wander to and fro;
 In front my skin grows loose and long; behind,
 By bending it becomes more taut and strait;
 Crosswise I strain me like a Syrian bow:
 Whence false and quaint, I know,
 Must be the fruit of squinting brain and eye;
 For ill can aim the gun that bends awry.
 Come then, Giovanni, try
 To succor my dead pictures and my frame;
 Since foul I fare and painting is my shame.

The sheer brilliance and uniqueness of his accomplishment explain the fascination he has always exerted. But he appeals to us in temperament for he belongs to our modern world. We live in an age of nervous tension. Michelangelo, too, was tense, neurotic, always restlessly searching for a deeper significance. Everything he created reveals an inner conflict, an unreconciled struggle.

I urge all of you to watch "The Agony and the Ecstasy" this Sunday night; you'll find it a rewarding, heartwarming two hours spent. And next week I'll go on in a discussion of this exceptionally fine artistic genius.

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