

'Upward Track' For Lockheed

"All we need is a lift," said Lockheed's Dan Haughton of the \$250 million bank loan guarantee Congress okayed a few months ago. While it may be too early to judge finally, the news from the embattled aerospace giant these days seems to be bearing out the faith taxpayers have placed in it.

Financial results reported to stockholders for the third quarter of 1971 are quite close to the forecasts given the Treasury and Congress last spring.

Lockheed has announced an order for five more of its TriStar airliners, and employment on the program including over 1500 suppliers in 41 states has climbed to approximately 27,000 from its low point of 15,000 in June.

Four flight test TriStars have accumulated over 750 hours in more than 300 flights and are said to be doing splendidly. Development of the super-quiet and virtually smoke free Rolls-Royce engines is reported to be fulfilling expectations.

Stockholders also learned that Lockheed's S-3A Viking carrier based antisubmarine plane that rolled out November 8 will fly in January, two months ahead of schedule, and that the Navy program calls for 191 of these aircraft to be produced.

And two of Lockheed's most prominent on-going programs recently marked new milestones. A Navy Poseidon missile, one of the free world's major peace-keeping weapon systems since it went operational last spring, was launched from a nuclear submarine, the 40th flight since August 1970 and the 20th from nine subs in a highly successful flight program. The most complex of all Agena spacecraft continued the multi-year record of successful flight launches when it entered polar orbit as part of the defense department's space test program, and will provide vital scientific data for more than six months.

Haughton himself calls the road ahead for Lockheed "rough and somewhat uncertain" but feels the company is on an "upward track" now that its financing problems are behind it.

The evidence to date should be reassuring to those in the administration and in Congress who had faith in Lockheed's ability to repay the guaranteed loans to the banks as forecast — and without cost to the taxpayer.

Writers Forum

By George B. Russ



EDWARD

On December 6th, 1963 the stork delivered to Duke Hospital a 6 lbs 13 ozs "brown baby," with saucer eyes and dimpled cheeks. The little "brown baby" was Christened Willie Edward Muse — Willie is a favorite first name of "brown baby's" family, thus, we now have a Willie the VIII.

The "little brown baby" was fondly called Snookie or Snookum by family and friends — strangers referred to him as "some boy." When he was about 5, he announced that his name is Willie Edward, "I am not Snookie."

Believe-it-or-not, Snookie was late learning to talk. He

was a happy well adjusted child but like the Giraffe, he made no distinct vocal sounds. Then suddenly, he began talking, making complete sentences all beginning with "I want —"

There was a time when Hill-side Band terrified my leprechaun. The closer the marching band came to where he was standing, the more hysterical he became. We had many, long talks before he accepted the idea that the guys in the band are the good guys.

Several days after he entered public school, I watched him as he pored over some of his class room drawings: "well, I guess its all over — I don't have a baby anymore."

Lifting his eyes from the "Dafty Duck" drawing in front of him, quietly shook his head; politely, but firmly said, "no!"

Our "talk sessions" became more expensive with the passing years. He has made it clear that Santa Claus is to bring him clothes; yet, he leaves yards of colorful toy advertisements where I can't escape them. This joker is about as clever as the Fox in one of his recent Book-of-the-Month Club selections.

Our most recent talkathon, naturally, had to do with Christmas, Santa Claus, How to earn money to buy gifts for his teacher at Spaulding School, Sunday School teacher, his mother, Uncle George and Aunt Stattie. Money is harder to get these days, nothing like the times when he was "Snookie" and the Missionary ladies kissed his ruddy cheeks and, crossed his palms with silver.

Another thing that has caused my leprechaun no small perturbation is the changing of the Durham area Santa Claus. He prefers the fat, jolly Santa who is retiring. "He is buying a mobile trailer house to live in. I like him, Uncle George, he was real nice to all the kids. He'd give out candy and small toys and comic books — he was just nice."

"What is it you don't like about the new Santa Clais — doesn't he ho-ho!"

My leprechaun actually scoffed; "yes. His ho-ho! is okay but he is too skinny — his beard is skimpy. You can see his young skin. I don't think he is going to work out."

Watching the boy's furrowed brow, the laughter ribbing me was nipped in the bud. Most of the "beefs" in this world can be boiled down to nothingness. The meeting of the store employees with management to complain about the 20% federal taxes being deducted from Christmas Bonuses was as trivial as Willie's Santa Claus dilemma.

As time passed, there would be more and more boys and girls dissatisfied with St. Nick. Perhaps it would be better to make a clean sweep of the whole Santa Claus bit; but, at the age of 57 one is reluctant to make changes for the sake of changing. The boy's problem doesn't warrant taking a pressure tablet; so, the wintry wind outside the window sorta cushioned the thick si-

lence between buddies — June and December.

"Did Santa Clais come to see you when you were a boy? He demurred.

"Yep. I got a Christmas horn, some nuts, candy and fruits just like most of Swan Street fellows."

"Santa Claus has been around for a long time, hasn't he?"

"A half century isn't so long but Santa Claus has been here in the U.S.A. much longer. The Dutch settlers introduced this country to St. Nicholas, their patron Saint of children."

"Some grown ups call Santa Claus, Kris Kringle. That name sounds like a breakfast cereal." Willie laughed lazily.

"Kris Kringle is a synonym for Santa. The German immigrants brought to this country their patron saint of children, Christkindlein. Christkindlein was made easier for everyone to say, so, he became widely known as Kris Kringle."

For a moment we sat

watching "Jeannie" perform some of her feats of magic. Suddenly, Willie looked around to make sure we were alone, then he whispered, "what do you think about Santa Claus coming down the chimney?"

"You don't think much of that story, do you?"

"No! A skinny Santa Claus couldn't get down our chimney. If ye got down the chimney, he couldn't get out because Mimi has a cover over the fireplace."

"That idea came from England. At one time it was common practice around Christmas time to clean chimney in preparation for coming winter. People had a special time for this chore the same as we have a special time for cleaning furnaces and putting in new filters. Well, the idea of Santa coming down the chimney gave rise to the children's myth that Santa Claus would come down the freshly chimney to fill their stockings with presents."

"I buy that idea."

"You do?"
"It sounds okay. Well, Uncle George, I think I'll shove off."

"Take it easy, little buddy." My leprechaun skedaddled out into the blistery, late fall evening and as I stood waiting for him to disappear inside his own front door, I recalled that his birthday would be coming up in a few days. Happy Birthday, my genuine, made in the U.S.A. leprechaun —.

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