

**SENATOR
SAM ERVIN
SAYS**



The 92nd Congress which convenes next week faces a massive agenda of unfinished business carried over from the waning days of the old Congress. On the legislative calendar will be controversies centering on the President's family assistance plan, trade quotas, military defense and the draft, funding of the SST plane, limitation on political campaign spending, and the priorities in the federal budget.

Two new proposals are also certain to generate much debate in the coming months. One is the president's revenue sharing proposal to make block grants to the local governments. Hard-pressed communities are counted upon to urge Congress to adopt the measure to give them tax-relief, but the truth of the matter is that the nation is already committed to finance a budget beyond its revenues and the only money that the Federal Government can give the states and local communities will have to be borrowed. The other major proposal that is likely to develop into a national debate is the plan to establish nationwide health insurance with new subsidies for health care.

Even so, the battle areas of the new Congress are likely to be the issues that caused the fights of the last Congress. Generally these were: how to divide up the budget expenditures, what to do to bolster a flatering economy, how to curb the flood of imports into this country which destroy American jobs, how to revamp the welfare system, and what to do to better control environmental pollution.

As usual the overriding question will be where to spend and where not to, and this looms large at a time when Americans are pinching pennies to make their own budgets balance.

The ultimate question relates to the direction in which this nation is to travel in the decade ahead. Often the pressure to pass laws to remedy particular conditions becomes so great

that its larger consequences are not emphasized, and this is particularly true in respect to experiments in social welfare. We might heed the warning of post-war England's social experiments. Consider the fact that England was the cradle of the American free enterprise system, that she fostered many of the basic concepts of American liberty, that she gave us a language, a system of laws, and the spiritual ideals to build a great nation. During her proud days, English ships laden with commerce plied the Seven Seas and the sun never set upon the British flag.

Then came the days after two wars when Britons wanted security above all the politicians promised to care for

them from the cradle to the grave. The England that had won in battle lost its initiative in peace, founded the welfare state, and now struggles to compete on the terms of other nations.

The lesson is notable, and one we ought to heed. For years, our government has been extolling the virtues of deficit financing and borrowing on the future with promises that it can provide for many individuals better than they can themselves. Some of these ideas, it should be noted, we are borrowing from the same English theorists who led England on the road to a non-major power. The point of the matter is that we are now told

that we shall run a budget deficit of about \$15 billion this fiscal year, and that the new budget to be submitted shortly will also run a deficit. While there is yet time, it would behoove this nation to retrieve the lost art of budget pruning, for most taxpayers are

beginning to feel that we are paying too much for what we are getting in governmental service.

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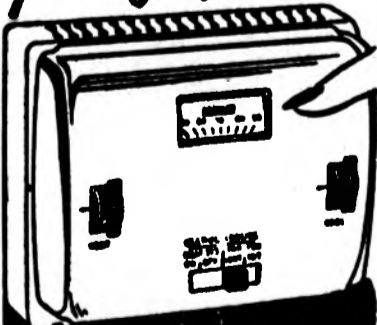
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