

**SENATOR
SAM ERVIN
SAYS**



President Nixon's Phase IV economic controls were only hours old when it became evident that prices of many consumers products, including many foods, were on their way up. Not only that, beef I am told is in short supply and it may become a scarce item on the family table in a matter of days.

The cost of owning a home and keeping it operating is going up at a rapid rate. Housing costs are rising far more rapidly than incomes and so are home repairs, and day-to-day expenses. The energy crisis, among other things, is adding greatly to the cost of keeping a residence.

Inflation and the conditions which it breeds poses immense problems for us all whether we are growers, manufacturers, craftsmen or consumers. Once again we see that controls and price freezes work only for a short time, and only permit us to correct fundamental defects in the economy.

What we are witnessing now in respect to inflation is in large measure due to excesses in federal spending that have eroded the value of the dollar and the resources of our country. Many of our troubles today are due to the unwise philosophy that was widely held in high places in our government in the years following World War II that our country could afford the luxury of giving away vast amounts of our resources to other nations—more than \$150 billion—without any detriment to the country. That philosophy also made it impossible to hold down the costs of social welfare programs in this country. When the United States gave large sums to the citizens of other nations it could not politically deny benefits to our own impoverished citizens.

Soon the "red ink" began to pile up yearly in the federal budget and new budget concepts were adopted by one Administration after another to conceal the magnitude and the consequences of deficit spending from the people.

There is hope that change is on the way. Congress is making efforts at this session to restore fiscal responsibility in government. Fiscal responsibility ought to be a matter of the highest priority. I am pleased that a bill which I introduced on

April 11 to establish new congressional budget procedures to set ceilings on both outlays and budget authority, S. 1541, was approved last week by the Senate Subcommittee on Budgeting, Management and Expenditures of the Government Operations Committee. That bill now goes to the full Government Operations Committee, of which I am Chairman. I trust that the Committee can report this bill to the Senate after the August recess.

The adoption of this measure would provide budget control by creating standing committees on the budget in both Houses of Congress, establishing a Congressional Office of the Budget equivalent in status to the General Accounting Office, moving up the date of submission of the President's Budget from January to November 15 each year, providing for congressional



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review and approval of new so-called "backdoor spending" authority, requiring the adoption before April 15 each year of a concurrent resolution establishing overall and major category ceilings of the budget, and requiring the adoption of a second resolution before September 15 of each year of any changes in program priorities.

This measure, in essence,

seeks to provide for a total system that is urgently needed rebuilding of the structure of if the Federal Government is to get to the real causes of inflation. budget control through new congressional procedures, a

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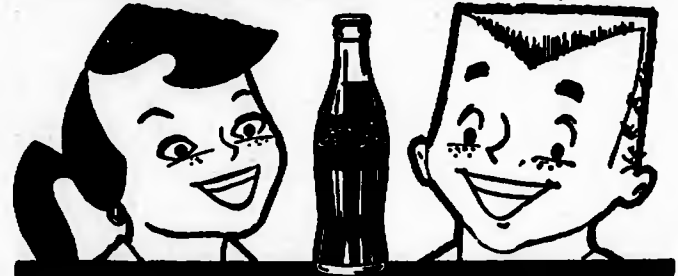
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