

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



Washington — During the past week the Congress in word and action has displayed the nation's concern over defense and the determination to regain our position of strength. By an unusual vote of 374 to 0 the House passed the defense authorization bill. In the Senate the Preparedness Subcommittee was closing its hearings with recommendations to be forthcoming on the overall problems of national security. Popular demands and Congressional revelations have created an atmosphere of urgency which the Administration now seems to recognize.

Defense And Budget
Over half the budget is earmarked for defense. Whether this amount is sufficient will involve close study. As you know, the budget proposed by Mr. Eisenhower is the largest one of peacetime history. Each year the reporters give examples of its amount and meaning in everyday language and a few of these bear noting. The overall budgetary amount is nearly \$74 billion. To imagine the amount of only one billion we are reminded that it has been about one billion minutes since the birth of Christ. Viewed in other terms, the budget means a \$427.86 expenditure for each man, woman, and child in the United States.

Cost Of Survival
The cost of survival as a free people in dollars and cents is beyond the wildest estimates of only a few years ago. I am always mindful of the sacrifice so many people are making to pay taxes and to forge ahead when the burden of tax is so heavy. I had hoped that Congress could make a substantial reduction in the national debt and reduce taxes by at least a token beginning this session, but the life-and-death

Water Resources Topic Of Meeting Scheduled Feb. 1

Action aimed at insuring the conservation and wise use of North Carolina's water resources will be given detailed consideration when the State Board of Water Commissioners and its 16-member Advisory Committee meet in Raleigh on February 1.

W. H. Riley, the Board's executive secretary, announced plans for the meeting. He described the scheduled event as "very possibly the most important meeting to be held by the Board since its establishment in 1955."

Riley explained that after more

face with Russia has destroyed that hope. Now we must wrestle with the actual problem of holding the line and providing first things first as we push to overcome our tardy defenses. As a consequence there can be no expansion of foreign aid as envisioned by the White House or the whole line will topple into a morass of deficit spending. This is a question over which great debate will be required; there are so many high-pressure generalities about foreign aid that the issue is wholly confused. I oppose it as a permanent instrument of foreign policy.

Unless the economy can carry the tax burden, already heavy, we cannot support the enormous expenditures asked by the President. The Administration presently estimates that the Federal government will conclude this fiscal year with a deficit of \$400 million. In view of the business and farm decline the President's prediction of a balanced budget for fiscal 1959 without tax increase seems highly optimistic.

Our national debt now stands at around \$271 billion. This means the equal of \$1,469.44 for each individual. Congress is asked to increase the statutory debt limit, now \$275 billion, by another \$5 billion. The argument is to give a better operating procedure as the debt is now too close to the limit for fiscal comfort.

Postage Increase
I am asked whether or not the first-class letter postage rate will be raised to five cents, as advocated by President Eisenhower. I do not believe it will. While I am not a member of that committee, my guess is that the rate may be increased to four cents and that the White House is using this as a horse-trade approach.

than two years of collecting and analyzing information relating to the state's water resources, the agency is now equipped to "act with a degree of confidence that would not have been possible a year, or even six months, ago."

Mother Love

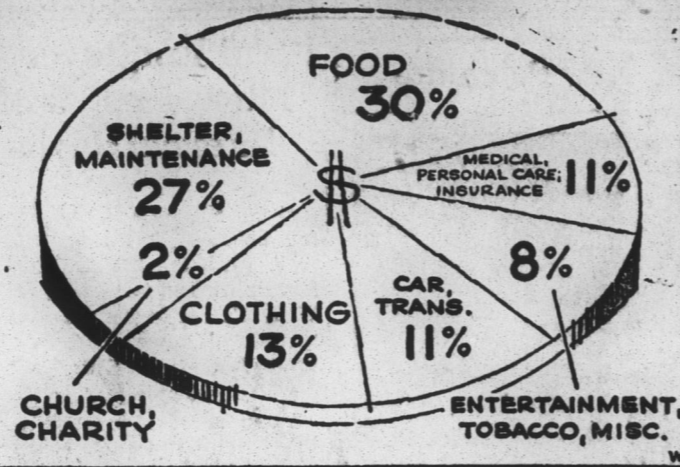
First Girl—"I don't see how you could engage yourself to that old Mr. Wiggs. He hasn't a tooth in his head and is pretty near bald."

Second Girl—"Well, my dear, you shouldn't be too severe on him, he was born that way."

We receive but what we give. —Coleridge.

SPENDING for AVERAGE INCOME

\$4,000- \$5,000



Compare your spending with that of those earning the average income, \$4,000-\$5,000 (after taxes). They're overspending 2%.

Where, Oh Where Does the \$ Go?

The American family is central figure in the mystery of our age—the case of the disappearing dollar. Where it goes, few seem to know.

Consequently, about half of us are spending more than we earn. Of those with an income, after taxes, of between \$2,000 and \$6,000, more are in debt than are saving. The average deficit ranges from 12 per cent in the \$2,000-\$3,000 group to 4 per cent in the \$3,000-\$4,000 range, and 2 per cent in the \$4,000-\$6,000 bracket.

These figures, tabulated in the February Ladies' Home Journal, are based on an article from W. M. Kiplinger's magazine, *Change Times*, and from surveys by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau, Department of Agriculture, and private researchers.

In the \$2,000-\$3,000 group, 27 per cent can save an average of \$260. Fifty-six per cent are in debt an average of \$666, but a large number, 17 per cent, break even. At the other end of the scale, where income is over \$10,000, none break even. But

74 per cent save, 26 per cent owe. In the "average" income group, \$4,000-\$5,000, 52 per cent save, 45 per cent are in debt, 3 per cent break even.

However, the article warns, savings and deficit figures can be misleading. For instance, a planned withdrawal of savings will show up as overspending. Or any big buying on installments in a year will show up in red ink, but the next year, as it is paid off, you'll be in the black.

But where does the money go? In every income group, the largest percentage of income goes for food and housing. But as the income increases, the percentage decreases. The percentage of income used for such items as recreation and personal care stays fairly constant as income increases. The share for items such as medical care falls as income goes up. Other items decrease; for instance, the more you make, the more you give away.

One conclusion: "Every income group has its savers; good income helps, but so does good management."

Administration's fiscal program outlined in messages to Congress. One of the Eisenhower statements they applaud is that "it is necessary that every possible economy be effected in other defense activities to help offset the increased costs of the high priority programs."

Mr. Eisenhower also was cheered for abandoning or postponing some domestic programs (such as federal aid for school construction), curtailing expansion of others, and recommending the transfer of greater responsibility from the Federal Government to state and local governments or to private individuals or enterprises.

While members of the economy bloc were pleased by these developments, it must be added that they think considerable more progress could and should be made in this direction. Feeling this way, they urge a continuance of the grass-roots rebellion against waste and extravagance in gov-



BEAUTY AND THE BULL—Moody motion picture star Ava Gardner is reportedly conferring with beauticians, doctors and make-up men about removing evidence of a recent disagreement with a fighting shorthorn bull in a private bull ring. Ava, long an avid fan of bullfighting, is shown jousting with a young cow in Madrid, Spain, just before the accident. She says heavy make-up conceals the "dimple" in her face remaining from the reported butting she suffered.

ernment spending that started a year ago after submission to Congress of the Administration's \$71.3 billion spending budget for the present fiscal year ending next June 30.

The budget presented to Congress this week—for the fiscal year starting next July 1—calls for net expenditures of \$73.9 billion, with defense spending up \$4 billion over the current year, and a reduction in some other areas.

This increase in defense spending requires a real campaign for savings wherever possible, in the opinion of members of the congressional economy bloc. And they explain that support from back home is essential if it is to succeed.

They contend that Mr. Eisenhower needs all the support he can get for his economy efforts, since a determined effort is being made by some members of Congress to convince the public that the President is a penny-pinching miser in defense spending at a time when (they claim) untold billions of additional spending is required.

The same campaign is being waged with respect to non-defense activities by those whose only solution for almost any type of problem is higher and higher government spending, regardless of need or the ability to use more money advantageously.

This effort is certain to be intensified as the November Congressional elections approach. Therefore, it is contended by the economy group, Mr. Eisenhower must have strong support immediately and constantly if he is to resist successfully the campaign for higher spending that he is recom-

plays, assembly programs, showings, and other means of your mind's height by servances of physical of casts.

work are being arranged in schools in the following counties: Northampton, Halifax, Nash, Edgecombe, Wilson, Pitt, Bertie, Hertford, Gates, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck.

The Penalty
Dad—Son, if you're a good boy and learn a lot you might some day become President.
Son—And what if I ain't a good boy and don't learn nothin'?
Dad—You might be elected to the state legislature.

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