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**HAPPENINGS THAT AFFECT THE FUTURE**

The January 11th issue of U. S. News & World Report carries a feature article with a telling and somewhat ominous title: "What Congress Will Do To You and For You."

An early sentence in the article states: "During the two years of its life, this Congress will take action affecting the life of nearly everyone in the nation—old and young business men and wage earners, farmers and school teachers." And that point is amplified with this observation: "For the most part, the new Congress will try to do things for people—yet, in doing things for people at home and abroad, Congress will do things to people—particularly taxpayers."

In other words, this is expected to be a big spending Congress—a fact which should surprise no one. The spending, very possibly will be materially higher than seemed in prospect a comparatively short time ago, because of the recent and current world emergencies—and of still other emergencies of a potential character. Military spending, obviously, will run at very high levels. So will other spending designed to prevent the spread of Soviet power and influence. Total appropriations, so far as can be anticipated now, will be in the neighborhood of \$72 billion a year for each of the two years of the 85th Congress' tenure.

This means that the outlook for tax cuts is not only dim, but black. There may be some changes and adjustments in the tax structure, but they will be of a comparatively minor character. No one now anticipates general tax reduction.

U. S. News has summed up, in check list form, what we can and cannot expect from this Congress in the way of major legislation. The prognosis will please some, thoroughly displease others, and leave others still with mixed emotions. Here is how this authoritative magazine sees the present chances for certain laws:

Proposals which are unlikely to pass include tax relief for small business; general aid for school building; the bill to ban filibusters; stronger civil rights legislation; tighter curbs on imports; the Bricker amend-



ment; changes in Taft-Hartley; increased minimum wage; controls over union welfare funds; federal atomic power plants and laws to loosen tight money.

Proposals which are likely to pass include closing of some tax loopholes; bigger defense spending; new aids for depressed areas; increased drought relief and other agricultural aids; increased foreign aid; the bill to allow more refugees to enter this country; the President's request for authority to use troops if necessary in the Middle East; the end of the drafting of doctors for military forces; indemnities for damage due to atomic accidents; higher postal rates on letters; more federal money for mortgages; higher interest on GI mortgages and a broader federal health program.

There are, needless to say, varying degrees of "likeness" and "unlikeness" in a summing up such as this. Future changes in events could easily move a "likely" proposal to the "unlikely" column, and vice versa. But this is what the crystal ball shows now. As U. S. News puts it, "The underlying trend in Congress at this session is to try to keep conditions quiet abroad and to improve many groups at home."

**SETTING THE TRAP**

Whole nations from time to time come under the freedom-destroying rule of dictators by devious methods which fool the people until they are trapped.

Powerful labor leaders and politicians in the United States have been promoting candidates and measures to build government monopolies to the exclusion of free enterprise.

If such a program is successful, rank and file workmen would find themselves mere work slaves as they did in Germany and Russia. Their labor bosses would be holding top political jobs. Strikes would be outlawed under penalties such as we have witnessed in the dictator countries. Government control of industry and individuals would be extended.

You may think this could not happen here, but it is happening under many disguises. Commenting on the way workers are forced to contribute for candidates and measures which they may oppose, Raymond Moley in Newsweek lists large sums that are taken from union funds for political purposes. He points out that workmen should be interested—in the fact that their contributions, which should be devoted to matters related to their interests as workers, are thus diverted to the ideological and political concerns of their officers.

Thus are individuals trapped into situations over which they have no control.

**Nation Has Achieved New High Level Of Economic Activity; To Be Better**

The nation has achieved new high levels of economic activity in 1956, and the impetus can be expected to carry business along at a high rate for at least the first few months of the coming year, Ernest G. Swigert, 1957 president of the National Association of Manufacturers, said today in a year-end business forecast.

Mr. Swigert, who is president of the Hyster Company, Portland, Ore., said that the business outlook for the rest of 1957, and beyond, is somewhat clouded by two factors—rising production costs and the fact that profits have not shared in the economic advance seen on other fronts. It is noteworthy, he said, that, while taxes and dividends have both gone up 14 per cent, earnings retained in business have gone down 28 per cent.

Highlights of Mr. Swigert's year-end business analysis follow: Total economic activity—the gross national product—will show for 1956 a five and one half per cent increase over 1955 or from \$391 billion to a record \$412 billion. Total personal income for the year as a whole is up six and one half per cent, from \$306 to \$326 billion.

Total consumer spending for '56 is estimated to be up from \$254 billion in 1955 to \$266 billion, an increase of 4.7 per cent.

Hourly wages of factory workers are averaging five per cent above 1955, or nine cents an hour.

Profits, however, are estimated for this year at \$19.5 billion, for all corporations, only a small increase over the \$19.4 billion of 1955—despite an increase in corporate sales from \$57 billion to \$58.1 billion, or 4.2 per cent.

The profit margin probably declined somewhat—from the 3.5 per cent of the sales dollar in 1955 to 3.4 per cent.

Probably the most influential factor in this year's high economic activity was business spending—in investment in plant and equipment. Business expenditures show a spectacular increase of 21 per cent over 1955—and manufacturing invest-

ment went even higher, with an increase in such outlays of 31 per cent. Total business spending in 1955 was \$28.7 billion; this year's estimate is \$34.9 billion. In manufacturing alone, \$14.9 billion is estimated to have been spent as compared with \$11.4 billion in 1955.

Prices were forced upward slightly—the Consumer Price Index will probably be up about two per cent. The nation may not yet have felt the full impact of 1956 wage rises, notably in the steel industry.

Business spending for plant and equipment has been called the "economic multiplier," since its effects in stimulating the economy are more far reaching than ordinary consumer spending. Certainly business' huge investments this year were the spark plug of advancing prosperity.

It should be noted that not all of our new economic records are solid gains. Approximately one half of the increase in gross national product over 1955 probably was due to the gradually rising price level. The actual gain in physical output of industry—according to the Federal Index—shows for 1956 a percentage gain of only about three per cent.

Thus to some extent our record prosperity of this bears an inflationary stigma.

In order to have prosperity and high employment on a sound basis, we must avoid a repetition of the wage price spiral that intensified the postwar inflation; we must continue the fight for governmental economy and a stable dollar; and we must take steps to reduce the high and discriminatory taxes that drain off vast amounts of potential investment for industry.

The nation's drugstores still about 1,000,000,000 worth of prescriptions a year (besides the sandwiches and milkshakes they dispense).

Last, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, 3 golden hours each set with 30 diamond minutes. No reward—day's gone forever.

**Rural Health Conferences Are Planned For 1957 In Spring**

District Rural Health Conferences or five areas of North Carolina will be sponsored this Spring by the Rural Health and Education Committee of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina, as a part of the Society's expanding efforts in the field of health education.

The meetings, which will coincide with the Society's medical districts; in Wilson on March 14th for the 4th district; at Butler on March 19th for the 6th district; at Elkin on March 28th for the 8th district and at Waynesville on April 6th for the 10th district.

Each conference is being planned by a local group from the area in which the conference is scheduled in an effort to localize the health and medical information according to the needs of the people for that specific area.

Some similarity for the entire state is expected, however each conference is expected to present a different approach to the local problem and program speakers will be drawn from professional and community leaders of the appropriate district.

Top priority will be given to such topics as "personal health services," "sanitation," "farm and home accidents," "public health services available," "hospitalization insurance," "nutrition," "immunization programs" and the health implications of industrial expansion.

The 4-H health film, "Better Health the 4-H Way" which was produced under the sponsorship of the State Medical Society, will be shown at each of the five conferences with L. R. Harrill, State 4-H Club Leader introducing the film. Outstanding 4-H Health winners will be recognized for their health improvement programs.

Communities sponsoring special health activities are being asked to give progress reports so that other community leaders may benefit by their experience and gain new ideas for future health projects.

A two-fold purpose of these rural health meetings, according to the Society's Committee on Rural Health, is first, to have information given by recognized leaders in the health and medical fields as to present day needs and problems and secondly, the pooling of experiences from the various communities engage in health improvement

activities. Society officials point out that the youth of our schools, clubs, and in our homes takes the lead in many of our group activities and through this training and stimulation of activity, our hopes are lifted for a healthier and safer future in North Carolina.

Members of the State Medical Society's sponsoring committee are serving as conference chairmen along with farm leaders, extension agents, medical and health representatives, civic and community leaders, for program responsibility and local arrangements.

Through this expanded educational program, the Medical Society is inviting the public to attend the conference nearest their locality and to participate in the discussions of how communities and individuals may meet their health and medical care needs for the present and future.

**Farmers Should Apply For Grain Loans Early**

Farmers who intend to avail themselves of a price support loan through the ASC County Committee should not wait until the final date to make application for the loan. The final date for obtaining price support loans on all 1956 grain crops except corn is January 31, 1957.

The final date for obtaining price support loans on 1956 crop corn is February 28, 1957. The necessary Co-

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ments must be completed in the County ASC office not later than the deadline date. These documents include the producer's note and Loan Agreement for warehouse storage loans, The Producer's Note and Supplemental Loan Agreement and the Commodity Chattel Mortgage for farm-storage loans and the purchase agreement for purchase agreements.

Although loan applications may be accepted until the deadline, there might be some reason why the necessary documents could not be completed immediately and the entire transaction must be completed by the deadline in order for a farmer to be eligible for a loan on his crop. In case of farm storage loans it sometimes takes up to two weeks to complete all transactions involved. This is due to the fact that a representative of the ASC County Office is required to visit the farm to make an inspection and take a sample. This must be sent to the State Laboratory for grading and the grade certificate returned to the local ASC Office before the loan documents can be completed.

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