

YOU and YOUR CONGRESS



Washington—Bernard Baruch's influence is being felt in Congress again and its effects on such things as military appropriations and economic controls legislation should be known a few weeks hence.

The 81-year-old elder statesman, who helped administer government controls in both World Wars, has made three appearances as an outside consultant to Congress during the mobilization program that began at the outset of the fighting in Korea.

His most recent advice is that given to the Senate Preparedness subcommittee, which conducts a running investigation of the defense program.

Baruch's latest recommendations include:

1. A defense budget that fits the risks this country faces, with no cuts that will imperil the country's security. (He did not name a figure.)
2. Stockpiling of weapons and ammunition.
3. Giving the President ample power, including strong control over prices and allocation of scarce materials.

Declaring that the United States is losing the armaments race to Russia, Baruch said "we can have the necessary defense and preserve the soundness of our economy."

The effect of Baruch's advice to Congress was strong in 1950. Then after the outbreak of the fighting in Korea, Congress was deadlocked over the question of how much control power to give the President for the new emergency period. Some feared to give him too much; others feared Congress might not give him enough and be blamed later by the public for not

doing so.

On July 26, 1950, Baruch told the Senate Banking Committee that Congress should freeze all wages, prices and rents, increase taxes and ration essential goods.

Almost immediately the deadlock broke and although Congress did not accept Baruch's advice completely, it did vote the President more power than he had requested. The President did not employ his controls power in the wage-price field until several months afterward and Baruch now criticizes the Administration for that delay.

Last year, when Congress was considering extension of the economic and production controls, which were due to expire, Baruch recommended extending them intact. Congress was considerably less receptive to his advice than in 1950. Realizing that inflationary pressures had subsided somewhat during the one-year interval, Congress decided to extend the economic controls in less stringent form than it originally had drawn them.

While it is still too early to say how Baruch's recommendations will fare this year, certain conditions may be noted.

For one thing, many members of Congress, overwhelmed by the Administration's request for \$51.2 billion for military use in the next fiscal year, are seriously concerned about the economy's future stability—realizing that it, too, affects national security. Moreover, refusing to increase taxes again this year, they hope to cut the total \$85.4 billion budget substantially so as to hold down inflationary deficit financing. And since military spending accounts for 60 per cent of the budget, they feel it must be reduced. Besides, the Pentagon has developed a reputation for waste-

fulness.

Consequently, the House cut the military budget figure by \$5 billion and the Senate, while hearing Pentagon pleas to do so, appears unlikely to restore the amount cut by the House.

While Baruch argues for stockpiling weapons and ammunition, the Administration's program has been to make ready ample military production capacity as a substitute for such stockpiling and Congress has gone along pretty much with this plan. Whether it will reverse itself as Baruch suggests certainly is open to question.

Meanwhile, Baruch recommends stronger economic controls than those now in force. But Congress sees more and more prices sliding below official ceilings as merchants operate mainly in a buyers' market. Congress also hears the Wage Stabilization Board frequently referred to as the "wage stimulation board" and many in Congress are angered by the Board's majority's rulings on such non-economic matters as the union shop.

Thus, the outlook for Baruch's recommendations in this field, too, remains doubtful.

Hints To Homemakers

DO YOU KNOW — How to get a just right crust?

1. Use the right ingredients—Lard, all purpose flour, water and salt. Lard is first choice of shortening because of its higher shortening power, its greater plasticity, its success in adding flakiness to pastry as well as richer flavor.

2. Use the pie-tested recipe be-

3. Keep Lard at room temperature to blend quickly.

4. Use water at room temperature—not iced.

5. Measure water, don't guess.

6. Don't be afraid to blend thoroughly, then divide and shape into a compact ball before rolling.

7. Roll lightly, from center toward edge, back and forth, then side to side until the crust is one inch larger than the pan on all sides.

8. Use pans which are dull in finish rather than shiny for best browning.

9. Bake fruit pies at 425 F. single crusts at 425 F. to 450 F.

How To Prevent Soggy Under Crusts?

1. For Fruit pies—try sprinkling part of the flour and sugar to be used over the bottom crust before the fruit is put in, then bake at 425 F. Or thicken the fruit first, partly cook and cool before putting into unbaked crust, bake quickly at 425 F.

2. For cream pie—Partly cool creamy filling then pour into baked pie shell. Some find it helps to brush the crust of custard pie with beaten egg and let it dry in the refrigerator for 10 minutes before adding filling.

How To Keep Filling From Getting "Runny"?

Fillings which seem to thin down after pie is baked may be due to several things.

1. Cream fillings have 2 kinds of thickening—starch (cornstarch, flour, or tapioca) as well as egg. Be sure to cook the starch long enough to get maximum thickening before adding the egg. Also cook the egg into the filling until maximum thickening is obtained.

2. Pie fillings which have acid in them, such as fruit, brown sugar or chocolate, need additional thickening since acid tends to thin the mixture in cooking.

How To Get A Fluffy Meringue?

1. Use egg whites at room temperature to get maximum whipping power. Beat egg whites until nearly stiff. Then add 2 tablespoons of sugar per egg white and beat until fine textured and stiff. Pile on pie spreading clear to edge of crust and bake it at 425 F. for 5-6 minutes to brown the peaks of the meringues.

2. Cool slowly, away from drafts to insure a non-shrinking meringue.

Five Minute Pie Crust Recipe For A Two Crust Pie

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
2-3 cup lard
3½ or 4 tablespoons water
Measure flour without sifting. Add salt and sift. Have lard at room temperature. Blend into flour with pastry blender or fingers until size of small peas. Add water all at

once. Press together with knife. Divide and shape into 2 balls. Roll out on lightly floured board or pastry cloth.

To bake single crusts: Prick with fork. Bake in 425 F. oven for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.

To bake double crusts: Bake at 425 F. for 30 minutes or until crust is browned and filling is cooked.

Feed consumption by rats and mice costs the poultry industry many thousands of dollars each year, say poultry specialists of State College.

Surveys indicate that farmers will need a total of about 16 per cent more new farm machinery and equipment in 1953 than they bought in 1949.



Approximately 55 counties are expected to send delegates to the Sixth International Grassland Congress at Pennsylvania State College in August. The Congress is sponsored by the United States Government and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

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