

'Hang on for the real action, man!'



EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man
And He May Be Wrong

Misguided Concern

Nothing is more ridiculous than the Presidential and congressional concern over labor unions and industry causing inflation.

The direct and total cause of runaway inflation is the federal government.

The unbelievable waste of every facet of federal government contributes more to the cause of inflation than the combined efforts of every private citizens in the nation.

One has to look no further than his own home county to see waste piled on top of waste. In North Carolina the federal education program has added nearly 10,000 more highly paid drones to the taxpayers' back.

This means a half a million in the nation.

The War on Poverty is succeeding only in making the taxpayer poorer.

Medicare added roughly 30 per cent to the social security tax paid by every working person in the nation. Now it is boosting medicare costs.

The space program costs every taxpaying American a huge slice of every pay check. The monstrous waste of men, money and materials in Viet Nam is

just one more reason for galloping inflation.

Federal highway programs, federal irrigation projects, federal slum clearance, federal waterways, federal power projects, federal parks, federal underwriting of civil rights rioting are each and all a part of this thing that makes the dollar have a lesser value every time the clock ticks.

But the whining of The Great Hushpuppy and his litter of whelps in congress would have us gullibly accept the utterly wrong premise that the big bad wolf in the inflation woodpile is the working man and the private business man.

Unfortunately and almost unbelievably a vast majority of us swallow just such drivel, which, after all, may be the very best reason one can find to insist that the Number One need in our nation today is better education.

Since it is more than apparent that very few of us have sufficient education or common sense to recognize unadulterated horse manure when it is thrown in our face.

The Way We Are Headed

"The first panacea for a mismanaged nation is inflation of the currency; the second is war. Both bring a temporary prosperity; both bring a permanent ruin. But both are the refuge of political and economic opportunists."—Ernest Hemingway.

Hemingway is gone but his cynical clairvoyance has a pertinence every American voter should consider, since these exact acts of opportunists are heading our country down the certain path to economic chaos, which leads to the anarchy in the streets in which civilization is threatened.

We flatter ourselves wrongly that this cannot happen to us, the mid-20th century sophisticates who have all kinds of "controls" to prevent utter collapse of our economy.

One of the few intelligent things Senator Wayne Morse has said recently is that he will not support labor unions in their assault on the American economy, which is the most basic thing of value our nation can still claim.

The super-civilized Germans turned to the mad excesses of Hitlerism as a direct result of financial collapse. The generally talkative French turned to the guillotine when their bellies got empty.

Political ideals had nothing to do with the Russian revolution, nor with the more recent Chinese revolution.

In each instance economic collapse, wide spread privation and selfish thievery were mixed with liberal portions of demagoguery to stir the natives up to savagery that the survivors still find difficult to understand.

Stalin didn't starve the kulaks because of their political defections, but because they deliberately threw the farm economy of Russia out of kilter.

Inflation is the handmaiden of anarchy and anarchy is the father of dictatorship. If one doubts this he only has to examine the sudden dash our country is now making down the primrose path where the ugly bride of inflation and the horrible groom of anarchy are beginning their honeymoon.

Manners or Politics?

The question answers itself when one poses: Is it manners or politics causing President Johnson to defer to congress and congress to defer to the president in the airline strike hot-potato passing.

Neither wishes to pull the tail feathers out of any union fowl, and so most graciously each is trying to let the other have the "honor."

Perhaps more importantly to both than the personal politics involved is the cold realization that neither can really do anything about the corner into which they have painted themselves.

As we have said repeatedly on this page: The technological complex into which we have been launched in the past few years places the economy at the mercy of an endless list of "vital" services. And this puts the nation at the mercy of those who operate these "vital" services.

But when a penetrating look is taken at these utterly "vital" services we find frequently that the world keeps on turning and aside from minor inconvenience "progress" continues, and even without such services.

There are people in congress capable of understanding this as well as we, and such unalterable truisms cannot avoid penetrating some levels of the White House hierarchy.

So what is all the clamor about?

Certainly not about the sacred right of labor to strike, nor the equally sacred right of management to resist strikers. So it has to be about such mundane things as political expediency and personal annoyance.

The president has his private planes and helicopters to flit about in but poor, overpaid congressmen have to catch military planes or fly on commercial craft to mend their political fences and personal fortunes.

So they want their "toy" back, but like other spoiled brats who tear up such toys, they don't know how to put "Humpty-Dumpty" back together again.

Some Thanks

There is small relief in reviewing the scattering of 122 billion of the American taxpayers' dollars around the world in the name of "foreign aid" in the past 21 years.

First of the panhandling nations in line is our "friend" France, which has snatched \$9,410,000,000 out of the American economy.

Second is England — now hauling war supplies to help kill our boys in Viet Nam, which has pocketed \$9,085,000,000 of our money.

Most astounding is the third beggar on this list: Korea, which has gobbled at the rate of \$6,650,000,000 — billions, that is — from the empty pockets of stupid Americans.

American money has created more multi-millionaires in the corrupt Korean hierarchy than anywhere else in the world. A new nation of just over 25 million people has been given more than six billion dollars. But the vast majority of those billions has never reached the vast majority of this tiny population. Huge slices of it are in Swiss banks in the estates of such "patriots" as the late Syngman Rhee, who left behind the world's richest widow, thanks to American stupidity.

Equally as wasteful has been the \$4,900,000,000 lavished on the nearly 12 million people of the Chinese government in exile. Here again the Soong family, which includes Madame Chiang Kai-shek, are among the world's few billionaire families, courtesy of United States taxpayers.

To the gentle Germanfolk who slaughtered several hundred thousand American boys between 1941 and 1945 we have turned the other cheek and our bank book with free will offerings of \$4,995,000,000.

For the simperingly polite Nipponese, who stabbed our nation and decency in the back, we have opened the American taxpayer's pocket to the tune of \$4,030,000,000.

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PERSONAL
PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

The fiscal year ending June 30, 1966 was a banner year for North Carolina, and especially for Lenoir County. Total retail sales in the state amounted to \$8,548,507,666 and in Lenoir County total retail sales pushed close to the 100-million-dollar mark with \$97,596,793 running through the county's cash registers.

Even in the inflated times of today a hundred million dollars is a lot of money, and especially for so small a county as Lenoir. But there is an amusing as well as an amazing side to the spending of so much money in such a small-village community as Lenoir.

To me that amusement comes from the fact that far and away the biggest part of this spending was done for and on motor vehicles. Car purchases amounted to \$10,075,634 and automotive supplies took a staggering \$18,896,357.

In the county more was spent for the care and feeding of cars than was spent on feeding the people of the county. Grocery buying accounted for \$18,669,505 in total retail sales.

And this same ratio exists all across the state. Under the automotive grouping for the state as a whole \$1,466,728,259 was spent out of that \$8.5 billion total sales in the state, and this added to the \$872,248,032 from new car sales pushed the total on all points for the gas buggy to just over \$2.3 billion, or slightly more than 25 per cent of all spent in the state for the year just ended.

So the car remains a blessing, yet a curse. It takes most of our money, gobbles up millions of acres of our best land, slays close to 50,000 of us each year, maims and injures another three million and costs us in medical and lost-time bills nearly five billion dollars per year.

But this monster is a gentle servant that whisks us to far away places with strange sounding names; to the bedside of sick friends, to entertainments, to the four corners of our hemisphere with a lot of money and a little luck.

Someday this monster will have to be muzzled in more ways than one. Already his foul breath has polluted almost beyond living the air of many major cities. The mangled bodies of these dead monsters litter our highways and desecrate every esthetic sense.

Perhaps an electric car to alleviate the halitosis of this gas-burning monster is not so far away as one might dream. Nor a plastic car that has a minimum of metal parts so that when its life span is ended a brief cremation will leave only a handful of ashes where today the residue is mountainous.

Change, and improvement are vital, and they will come because when a nation so huge, so rich and so dedicated to rapid transit demands such changes the engineers will be ready, willing and able to supply the demand.

Already the petroleum industry has a bad case of jitters everytime its leaders return from a golf course where they have ridden about in silent, unpolluted air astride an economical to build, economical to operate electrical go-cart.

This is a cloud no bigger than the nation's golf courses today which is casting a long, long shadow across a great many of our major industries. It would appear that investments in electrical utilities stocks are now a better long-range risk than in even the most gilt-edged oil stocks.

'Mister Anonymous'

Dear Mr. Editor;

I though self-reliance was part of the practiced Boy Scout Creed. Asking for money from the United Fund does not seem self-reliant. Is this a contradiction of terms or principle?

If there is something I don't understand would you, Mr. Editor, explain.

I prefer not to sign my name.
EDITOR'S NOTE: The Boy Scout Creed also has something to say about courage, which might include guts enough to sign one's name. However, we do agree completely with "Mister Anonymous."