

THE PERKIMANS WEEKLY
Published every Friday at Hertford, North Carolina.

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Entered as second class matter November 15, 1934, at Post Office at Hertford, North Carolina, under the Act of March, 1879.



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$2.00 Per Year

Advertising rates furnished by request.

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1953.

The Rising Debt

There have been many warnings from economists recently that consumer debt, or the total debt of the American economy, was expanding too rapidly. Usually these words of warning have been accompanied by figures showing a steep rise in consumer credit and other debt totals in the United States.

It is true that the total debt of the American economy is, and has been rising sharply. However, one could not expect anything else. The income of the American economy is rising, as well as savings, population, and total production. Thus, it is only natural for total debt to rise too.

To get an accurate picture of what the rising American debt means, and whether or not it threatens us with an economic recession, one must look at the increasing debt compared with increased population, income and savings. When one does this, it is reassuring, since it is discovered that the growth of savings is moving upward faster than the growth of the total American debt. In fact, only in one year since World War II has the total American debt grown faster than have increased savings.

Also, when comparing income and the total American debt, one can summarize the comparison by showing that the gross debt has expanded about two hundred per cent since 1940, while the national income has expanded two hundred fifty per cent. Therefore, the American debt in 1952 was a smaller proportion of the national income than it was in 1940.

Malenkov vs. Beria?

Speculation continues in the Western World about the reported rivalry in Moscow between Premier Georgi Malenkov and First Deputy Premier Lavrenti P. Beria. The recent purge of the Ukrainian Communist Party boss is attributed by many observers to the influence of Beria.

This, and other evidences, are taken as an indication that Beria is gaining the upper hand in the Kremlin and that he is probably allied with the man who was the No. 2 Communist while Stalin was alive—Vyacheslav M. Molotov.

Foreign observers could not miss the interesting fact that Ukrainian newspapers had glamorized Premier Malenkov to a far greater extent than had papers in Russia proper. Whether there is any connection between this and the top Ukrainian Communist's removal from office is yet to be definitely established. It is accurate to report that his removal has added weight to the school of opinion that Beria, and probably Molotov, are now wielding great influence inside the Kremlin.

A strange lack of publicity about the new Premier—Georgi Malenkov—has been noticed by observers in recent months. This has heightened the speculation that Malenkov is having a difficult time establishing his position as dictator of the U. S. S. R. While no one in the United States can predict the course of affairs which will transpire in Moscow, it would not be surprising to pick up a newspaper some day and find that one or more of the top personalities involved have died an unexpected and "natural" death.

U. S. Library System Fails

Despite the wealth of America, the present generation has failed to build an adequate library system for young and old in forty-five out of forty-eight states. This conclusion was reached recently by a group of state librarians and the New York State Library in a cooperative study.

The group went so far as to term the condition of the nation's public libraries "shocking," and estimated that more than 53,000,000 Americans do not have easy access to books. And 24,000,000 have no public library services of any kind.

Anyone who has traveled abroad and seen feverish Communist efforts to provide Communist-tinted literature for the masses can readily realize the extent of this failure in our domestic system.

The public library is an American heritage, which must be preserved if intellectual freedom and individual freedom of thought are to be safeguarded. It is in the public library

that the American enjoys the freedom to read the views of anyone, whether or not he agrees with prevailing sentiment. In the Communist countries, and many other countries, this freedom to study and weigh the views of all is not enjoyed by the people. As President Dwight D. Eisenhower pointed out only recently, we must understand all points of view about any issue if we are to champion our form of life successfully.

Upper Atmosphere Invaded By Army's Research Rockets

Valuable Information Is Gained From Recent Program

The Army has test-fired 70 V-2 rockets at the White Sands, N. M., proving grounds during the past six years.

The first test firing at White Sands was a check run of a V-2 rocket motor. It was mounted on a static test stand set into the side of a mountain, with a concrete flame pit below to receive the jet blast of the 56,000-pound thrust motor. Thirty days later, the first V-2 to take to the air in America roared into the atmosphere.

From early in 1946 until July 1, 1951, the actual work of building and launching V-2 rockets was accomplished at White Sands Proving Ground by close co-ordination between Army Ordnance missile technicians, officers and men of the First Guided Missile Battalion stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, and the General Electric Company.

In July, 1951, GE transferred all V-2 material to the Army Ordnance Corps which then assumed responsibility for completing the V-2 program.

In the next year, the Army V-2 project successfully conducted nine static firings of V-2 propulsion units and fired five missiles for high altitude research, one of which rose to a height of 132 miles. That was in August, 1951.

The program which ended in October, 1952, provided valuable information on:

1. How to fire a two-stage rocket.
2. Aerodynamic data.
3. Atmospheric properties and temperature effects.
4. Atmospheric composition at high altitudes.
5. Atmospheric ionization and the

6. Radiation phenomena including cosmic ray and X-ray measurements.
7. Earth's magnetic field.
8. Parachute design.
9. Atmospheric meteor content and bombardment by meteoric dust.
10. Photography.
11. Television transmission.
12. Speed of sound and shock wave measurements.
13. Spectroscopical analysis.
14. Rocket turbine design.

While the purpose of the V-2 firing program was primarily upper atmosphere research, the firing also served many other useful purposes. Valuable experience was gained in assembly, pre-flight test, launching and handling, and firing of large liquid-fueled missiles. American-manufactured steering control systems and other guided missile components were tested. The behavior of the missile in flight—its yaw, roll and pitch—provided significant data for subsequent missile firings. The firings also were used to test ground control guidance of the rockets by radar and to test radars on detection and tracking of supersonic missiles in flight.

To protect the complicated research equipment from landing shock, instruments and containers were packed carefully and braced to prevent or minimize damage on impact. Some rockets were constructed so that the nose or the tail section, or both, could be blown off on the downward leg of the flight by explosive charges. Then, after severance, the rocket descended in a flat spin instead of nose first. This served to lessen the force of impact.

Upper atmosphere research with rockets in the United States dates from the close of World War II. In October, 1945, the Wac Corporal—one of the first "All-American" missiles—was launched successfully as a part of the Army's missile research program.

Aromatic Transplanter May Increase Acreage

The recent development of a satisfactory aromatic tobacco transplanter could easily boost North Carolina's acreage of this small leaf crop.

STORY OF A GIRL WHO MARRIED HER ENEMY

Heart-warming romance of a girl who fell in love with an escaped German prisoner of war, wanted by the FBI for seven years. Look for this and other features in the July 19th issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY Magazine in Colorgrature with the BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN Order from Your Local Newsdealer

E. H. Crouse, agronomy specialist for the N. C. State College Agricultural Extension Service, says the development of the transplanter will cut out about three-fourths of the labor previously required in planting the small plants in the field.

Transplanting was the major bottleneck, Crouse says, in the production of this leaf. The number of plants re-

quired per acre—between 30,000 and 70,000—required too much time to set in the field. The new and inexpensive transplanter will set the plants in 20 inch rows, spaced five inches apart in the row, in about one-fourth the time required when using the hand transplanter. Aromatic tobacco can now be cultivated and dusted for insect control by tractor.

This, along with other mechanical improvements such as the air conditioned curer and the wire rods on which the leaf is strung in the field prior to curing, may go a long way toward putting aromatic tobacco on a more competitive basis with other cash row crops in the Carolinas.

For Your Lawn And Garden

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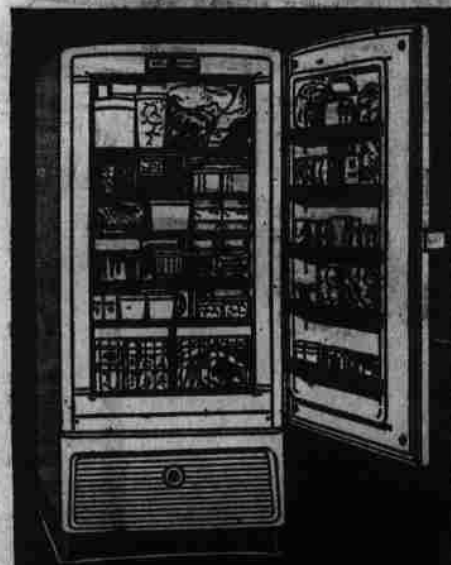
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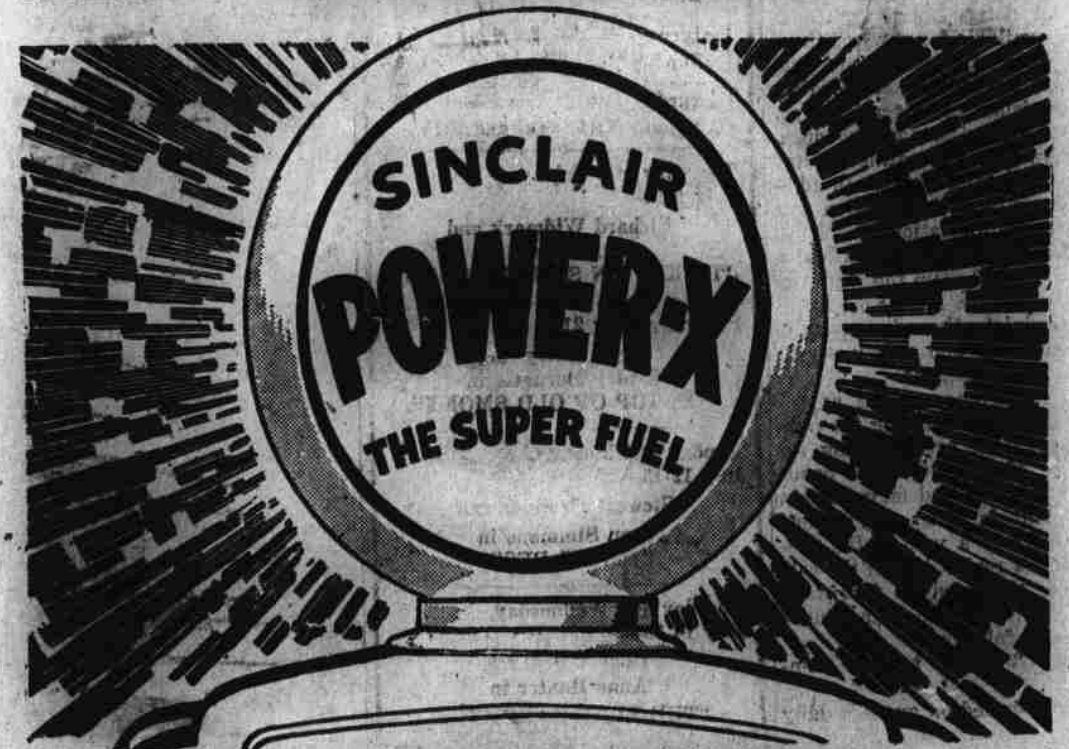
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