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LOOKING AHEAD

by **GEORGE S. BENSON**
President—Harding College
Searcy, Arkansas

Dips and Peaks

Practical economists view the business outlook in terms of peaks and valleys. They have come to accept the ups and downs of the chart as interpretation of the myriad factors indicative of trends that may take place in our changing, dynamic economy. But the query is put: How can we avoid depressions? Must we take these periodic back-sets for granted? Is there not danger for America in depressions? These questions are sometimes honestly asked by critics of what they call "boom and bust" capitalism. Yes, there is danger in depressions. They're full of dynamite. We might wish to avoid the effects of every kind of business recession, but to say that we desire to give up a regimentation so thorough that we can avoid depression would be to swap temporary set-back for permanent disaster.

Level Road?

America's economy is a changing economy. It is dynamic. And its direction, always, has been upward toward the mountain peaks of a higher and higher standard of living for all her citizens. It is just possible that we could stay in the valley, finding a level road that would be smooth and easy. Some folks mistakenly call this "security." But if we would have the mountain peaks of higher and higher standards of living, then we must be prepared for the brief plateaus, or even the dips, of readjustment for the climb ahead.

This need be no bitter revelation. The price of no depression would mean accepting a static economy. We can have "no progress" along with "no depression." A static America, however, would not be a progressive, inventive, virile America. There are freedoms which thrive in the dynamic economy, and not the least of them is freedom of opportunity.

Price Too High

State socialism desires to become your protector. You may have full and continuous protection—if you care to turn over to the state the job of deciding how many jobs there will be, what will be produced, who'll take the jobs, and at what wages. But we know the price of this protectorate is too high.

Almost within our own generation the working man has had his hours cut nearly one-third. Real wages of the "undiscovered" common-man have tripled in many industries. Secondary school enrollments have increased ten times, and college education is available to everyone. The physical comforts and the luxury goods consumed by America's common-man are the envy of the whole world. All this has taken place, despite depressions.

Upward Still

This is not to say that America should accept various business recessions without making any effort to cushion their effect. A wealth of experience from the uncertain Thirties should enable Congress to meet future emergencies with more success. We shall be able to avoid the mistake of blaming overproduction, for we now know that to admit overproduction is to admit that we can offer a higher standard of living than our people can accept.

America can keep going ahead on the climb upward toward heights now undreamed of. If we rededicate ourselves to honest effort in understanding and using the system that has brought us so much. Recognizing the laurels that belong already to the American way, we may scale heights that yet have never been surveyed. Let us not just take depressions for granted; let's take them in stride.

The oldest earthquake on record, according to the Red Cross, is the one that destroyed Sodom Gomorrah. The volcanic eruption which accompanied the earthquake upheaved a large area and caused the subsidence of a large tract of land, altering a whole water system and leveling the soil, so that what has once been a flourishing valley dotted with cities became a land of desolation.

Bill On City Clerk Became Law Friday

The Institute of Government at Chapel Hill this week reported the following action on Cleveland county bills introduced in the General Assembly, including final passage of a bill to clarify the status of the clerk of Kings Mountain:

SB 195—(Kings Mountain city clerk) Introduced by Weathers, Feb. 26. March 3, received in the House and sent to Counties, Cities and Towns. March 5, reported favorably by House committee. March 6, passed second and third readings in the House. March 7, ratified.

SB 243—Introduced by Weathers, March 8.

"To make Chapter 1076 of the Session Laws of 1945, relating to the sale of wine in certain counties, applicable to Cleveland County and municipal corporations therein." (As title indicates. Would allow Board of County Commissioners to regulate or prohibit the sale of wine in the county and would allow the governing body of each municipality in the county to regulate or prohibit the sale of wine in that municipality. Further provides that if the sale of wine be prohibited by proper resolution, anyone having on stocks of wine shall have 30 days from date of passage of the resolution to dispose of such wine.) To Finance.

HB 406—(Clerk of recorder's court) Introduced by Mull, Feb. 21.

March 4, reported favorably by Senate committee. March 5, passed second and third readings in the Senate. March 7, ratified.

HB 600—Introduced by Mull, March 7.

"Authorizing the sheriff of Cleveland County to appoint not exceeding 2 full-time deputy sheriffs and to equip the automobiles with receiving and transmitting radio sets." (Deputies would be paid a monthly salary to be fixed by the commissioners, would be required to maintain telephone in their homes and to provide automobiles at their own expense, except they would be allowed 5c per mile for official travel outside of county. All fees would be

turned into general fund. In case of emergency, sheriff could appoint additional deputies for period of emergency, upon authorization of the commissioners, such emergency deputies to receive a per diem to be fixed by commissioners. Sheriff or commissioner could require deputies to post \$1,000 bond each, premiums to be paid by county. Would authorize commissioners to purchase and install a short-wave radio transmitter in the sheriff's office or other suitable place, and short wave receiving and transmitter sets in sheriff's and full time deputy's cars. Would empower sheriff to require that full-time deputies while on duty wear uniforms to be designated by sheriff and paid for by the county. None of provisions of Act would become effective until adopted by resolution of the commissioners.) To Salaries and Fees.

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