

Inside WASHINGTON

MARCH OF EVENTS

ISSUE OF INFLATION HAS MUCH AT STAKE

ECONOMISTS DISAGREEING ON DANGER SIGNS AHEAD

By HENRY CATHCART

Central Press Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—One of the nation's most respected newspapers printed a cartoon recently commenting on President Johnson's warning that the economy is "overheating" and that a serious inflation is under way. The cutting title of the cartoon was the comment that "maybe only the driver is overheated."

No one will deny that interest rates have risen in recent months; that there have been numerous wage and price increases, and that some other economic indicators are on the rise. But there is a big difference between an active, vigorous economy and one that is overheating to the point of a dangerous inflation. And it was on this fine point that the cartoon was focused.

Many economists disagree with the severity of the conditions as it has been described by Johnson and his lieutenants. They point to some of these same indicators as showing that the record period of prosperity is "maturing" and could be peaking out. They believe that the real danger in the situation may be a recession that could be hastened and intensified if additional taxes are taken out of the spending stream at a time when the economy is contracting.

This, in fact, has been the main argument of those on Capitol Hill who oppose Johnson's tax-increase request. Led by Rep. Wilbur Mills, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, this faction insists that neither the economic situation nor the administration experts have made a case.

Those concerned with the threat of inflation fear that their opposition is playing a dangerous game. The nation has much to win or lose on the question of which side turns out to be right.

● **RETRIBUTION**—Among other legislative acts, the recent session of Congress rejected a measure to transfer 30,000 acres of federal land to the Arizona community of Glendale, for use as a park.

To some, the action was puzzling, but to others it was crystal clear.

Glendale is in the congressional district of Rep. Sam Steiger, R-Ariz., and it was this same Representative Steiger, who, in a national television appearance, agreed with an interviewer who said some congressmen were so dumb he wouldn't hire them to wheel a wheelbarrow.

● **SONG AND DANCE**—President Johnson, in a tough political speech, called his Republican opposition in Congress "wooden soldiers" among other things. His remarks caused the following exchange of quips at a recent White House press briefing.

Reporters asked if Johnson planned to give a farewell party for Congress, and whether it could be called "the nay-sayers ball?"

A White House press secretary replied that, if such an event occurred, the U.S. Marine band would be present to play "The March of the Wooden Soldiers."

Nun Sings Her Way Into Convent

San Angelo, Tex. (NC) — It was close to midnight when Father Russell Schultz, associate pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral in San Angelo, was surprised by the doorbell. Opening the door of the rectory he was further surprised to find an unknown nun accompanied by an airline limousine driver.

"Is this a Catholic church?" she asked in broken English.

To his affirmative answer the nun replied, "Thank God. I am Sister Juana Maria from Madrid, Spain, and I am looking for my Sisters. Can you help me?"

Father Schultz said he would try, so he invited the nun in, gave her a cup of coffee and then tried by phone to reach the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart at Queen of Missions Convent south of San Angelo. The phone rang and rang but to no avail.

About 12:15 Father Schultz decided the only thing to do was to take Sister Juana Maria to the convent. He loaded her luggage, guitar and all, into his car and off they went.

San Angelo had recently been hit by rain, sleet and snow, and the dirt road leading to the convent was deep mud. After wading through the mud, Sister Juana Maria and Father Schultz rang the doorbell for some ten minutes without receiving an answer.

Father Schultz suddenly hit upon an idea. Pointing to the nun's Spanish guitar, he suggested that Sister Juana Maria play and sing some Spanish numbers.

So there they stood — the priest and the nun knee deep in mud—serenading under the convent window at one o'clock in the morning.

Their songs awakened the sleeping nuns who after some bewilderment as to what was happening in the convent yard, realized that Sister Juana Maria had arrived. The nuns enjoyed a grand reunion, and Father Schultz returned to his rectory to begin once again his night's sleep.

Not Too Much

90th Congress on Social Action

Courier News Summary

Washington, D.C.—Very little of the social action that church groups sought was written into law during the first session of the 90th Congress.

While \$2 billion was allotted to the war effort, in Vietnam, the anti-poverty program was given only \$1.7 billion.

Churchmen saw a tight-fisted approach to the expensive social ills of the day. The Senate generally accepted the administration's estimate of the cost, but an economy drive in the House of Representatives brought sharp cuts in final compromise appropriations. Interested agencies included the National Council of Churches, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Jewish organizations and other religious groups.

The record of the 90th Congress looks like this:

—Model Cities, Rent Supplements: Appropriated \$312 million (the President asked for \$68 million) for Model Cities; \$10 million for Rent Supplements (the President asked for \$40 million).

—Civil Rights: Civil Rights Commission extended five

years, but its budget frozen at current level. Major civil rights package, including open housing, was never acted upon.

—Poverty Program: Appropriated \$1.7 billion. President requested \$2.05 billion. Narrowly defeated attempts to disband Office of Economic Opportunity and disperse programs to other federal agencies. Narrowly defeated attempt to exclude OEO employees from general pay raise given federal employees.

—School Aid: Authorized \$9.2 billion for two years. Appropriation has yet to be made.

—Social Security: Hiked benefits an average of 13 per cent, but added index-freezing federal contribution to state Aid to Dependent Children (nation's largest welfare program) and imposing mandatory work or job training.

—Anti-riot Bill: Passed House, no Senate action.

—Gun Control: approved by House and Senate Committees.

—Foreign Aid: Appropriated \$2.3 billion, the lowest appropriation since the Marshall Plan was instituted in 1948.

—Ethics: Ousted Harlem's

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, and censured Sen. Thomas Dodd of Connecticut, but shelved several proposed ethics codes.

—Taxes: Demanded reduction in federal spending as price for 10 per cent surtax; cuts were made, but tax proposal was shelved.

—Vietnam: Appropriated total of about \$32 billion.

While the record shows that Congress did take action on a number of important items, its critics have pointed out that it failed to cope in any meaningful way with the aftermath of the summer's racial disturbances.

And there was little indication that the Congressmen are simply waiting for the report of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders. The present mood suggests that the commission's recommendations will be ignored.

Nevertheless, the Congressmen will have to cope—in an election year—with a new round of debate on the administration's civil rights bill, which Senate leaders said would be brought up soon after Congress convenes Jan. 15.

The Senate also has pending the Safe Streets and Crime Control Act, which would provide federal funds for modernization of local police departments.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, Jan. 12, 1968

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New Public Info Service For Catholic Conference

Washington (NC)—A new Catholic Church and Church affairs to the general press of the United States.

Establishment of the new Office of Public Information comes out of recommendations made in November to the NCCB and USCC by Booz, Allen and Hamilton, management consultant firm which has been studying the functions of the various departments and bureaus of the U.S. bishops' conference.

Since 1964, Donihai has been public affairs and press consultant to the National Conference of Catholic Charities, and as such he also handled matters pertaining to Caritas Internationalis. His home is in Upper Marlboro, Md.

For the present, Donihai will also direct the work presently handled by the USCC Bureau of Information—providing news and general information of the

DEADLINE FOR NEWS
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Congress May Look Again At Draft Law Application

(NC News Service)

Washington — The draft law and its administration are expected to come in for attention when Congress returns here Jan. 15.

The topic has continued to be a live one, even with Congress in recess. Some legislators are dissatisfied with the efforts Congress made last June toward amending the draft law. They claim it just "finkered" with an act that is 25 years old and needs to be brought up to date.

The debate last summer turned largely on deferments and who would get them. Some persons were beginning to ask whether engineering and science students were more important to the country than young men preparing to be teachers. The controversy simmering over the holidays had to do chiefly with a directive Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey sent to some 4,100 local draft boards on Oct. 28. He told the draft boards that those who engage in "illegal activity which interferes with recruiting" should be made immediately subject to draft.

In a position paper which has been drawn up at the Selective Service headquarters only in recent days, the local draft boards are told that "where he (the registrant) engages in activities inimical to the national interest in the local board is legally and morally required to end the delay in his military service (his deferment)."

Hershey at odds with Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who maintains that anyone who engages in illegal activities should be prosecuted by the Justice Department. Some Senators and Congressmen have sided with Clark, saying Hershey would make the local draft boards judges and juries in determining whether interference with recruiting was illegal.

Hershey, on the other hand, has said that "law enforcement agencies are free to undertake prosecution for any infraction—such as failure to possess a draft card." But he is said to feel that prosecution by the Justice Department of such offenses as interference with recruiting is too time-consuming. Moreover, he points out that students are granted a deferment on the condition that they have "satisfactory school records," and that their school records involve more than just good grades.

Figures for the last fiscal year show twice as many convictions for draft law violations as the year before, 748 as compared with 372, with stiffer sentences for those who were convicted.

NM Governor Is Recent Convert

Santa Fe (RNS) — New Mexico's Gov. David F. Cargo has become a Roman Catholic.

He was baptized by Archbishop James Peter Davis of Santa Fe on Nov. 28. His two-and-a-half-month-old daughter, Elizabeth Christine, was baptized at the same time.

Although his office announced details of the baby's baptism, no mention was made of Gov. Cargo's baptism until a Phoenix newsman interviewed him recently concerning his farm association with the Spanish-speaking and largely Catholic — people of New Mexico.

Gov. Cargo was raised a Methodist in Michigan. After his arrival in New Mexico more than a decade ago, he began attending Catholic services with his wife Anya, a native New Mexican and a Catholic. They were married in her church, and the governor says his decision to embrace Catholicism was a gradual one.

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