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How Much Can The Budget Be Cut?

DEMANDS from big business for "dramatic cuts" in President Eisenhower's record-breaking \$72 million budget this week hit high heights. Unfortunately, most of the sound and fury is based upon the premise that the federal budget is, in fact, an economic document. It isn't.

It is primarily a political document—and that is precisely what makes Congress' chore so painful.

Economist Martin Kessler of New York University's Institute of Economic Affairs brought the awful truth into cruelly sharp focus this week. "The difficulty with using budget and tax policy primarily as a means of encouraging economic growth is that this does not take into account the desires and needs of people which are often 'uneconomic' though deemed necessary," he said.

Here's the rub: There is a continuing demand from the American people for governmental services. As long as the people demand these benefits the politicians will provide them. The budget will not be substantially cut until the people make up their minds to get along on less.

The government of the United States, unlike the ordinary citizen, cannot adjust its budget by moving to a cheaper neighborhood or finding a better job.

Everybody is for "economy and efficiency." Almost everybody agrees that a federal budget must be bound by rigid standards of "economy and efficiency."

But a budget in which 63 per cent of federal revenues is earmarked for defense cannot readily claim "economy and efficiency." From a strictly economic point of view the government is squandering its money on military items. Obviously then, some other standard of judgment must be employed. It is the security of the United States in a world situation heavy with peril. Some pundits predict that, if anything, President Eisenhower actually will get more money for defense than he asked for.

So, the budget cutters must take their shears elsewhere. They will most certainly pause menacingly over the 24 per cent earmarked for what the economists call "civil benefits"—the farm program, conservation, health, urban renewal, etc.

But these are the very benefits most Americans have insisted that their elected representatives provide over the years. Will a politically-minded Congress ignore this insistence and make its "drastic cuts" here? Hardly. Congress has a tendency to increase rather than trim such items.

That leaves 13 per cent—10 of which goes into paying for the interest on the national debt. But pitifully little can be done about the interest charges.

'Nuts' Make The World Go 'Round

RETIRED Chancellor Robert Burton House stripped the problem of academic freedom at the University of North Carolina of some of its ornamental parts this week when he raised his voice in praise of the "nuts" on the faculty.

By "nuts" Mr. House means men who are passionately, even feverishly, devoted to certain ideas and will let no obstacle thwart them in their determination to turn these ideas into reality.

At a time when intellectual timidity is the order of the day and when "Safety First" has become the first rule of scholarship, the chancellor's down-to-earth bluntness had a good, bracing sound.

Without the "nuts" this would be a stale and stagnant world. The great and continuing adventure of the human mind would be blocked. Science and invention would come to a halt. Art and literature would wither. There would be no such thing as social progress.

The ideal was laid down in prettier words years ago by Thomas Jefferson, speaking of the harbingers of spring: "This institution," he said, "will be based on the illimitable freedom of the human mind. For here we are not afraid to follow the truth, wherever it may lead, not afraid to tolerate error so long as reason is left free to combat it."

The "nut" may indeed be in error. But trial and error is the principle by which progress is made. And academic freedom involves the right to be wrong as well as the right to be right.

Rightness may take a little time to assert itself. Victor S. Bryant, a trustee



'When I Said 'Cut' I Was Talking To The Cameraman'

So, Congress is left with 3 per cent for administration. But President Eisenhower has already boasted that he has trimmed away the bureaucratic fat accumulated during 20 years of Democratic excesses in this field. It is doubtful that really sizable cuts can be made here without adversely affecting the efficiency of government. Besides all bureaucracies—Democratic and Republican—share a natural tendency to protect their jobs.

Of course cuts can be made in the Eisenhower budget. But they will doubtless be made with a scalpel rather than a meat ax. Foreign aid may be pared down. School construction and welfare costs may be reduced. But the major bulk of this fundamentally political document will remain intact. It will still be a "big budget"—unless John Q. Citizen suddenly decides to trade the social fabric of post-depression America for something very strange and very different indeed.

Footnote

IF THE budget-cutters really want "drastic" action they might try abolishing the Gregorian calendar. Some \$37,531,900 in fiscal 1958's budget is to provide civilian employees paid by the day with an extra day's pay next February.

'Nuts' Make The World Go 'Round

of the University of North Carolina, reminded an audience at State College recently that the University actually discharged a professor in 1856 because he advocated the abolition of slavery. "I cannot refrain from speculating," said Mr. Bryant, "how fortunate this nation might have been had he and others like him prevailed and we had avoided the collapse of reason which made possible the catastrophic Civil War some five years later."

Benjamin Franklin was a "nut." He was passionately devoted to the idea that he could coax lightning down a string and bottle it in a jar. The Wright brothers were "nuts," too. So was Newton. So was Einstein.

The "nuts" keep the wheels of progress turning. It is the Casper Milquetoasts who slow them down.

Brave New World

WE have it on the authority of Madison Avenue's brigade of bonused pulse-takers that the American attitude toward the automobile has undergone a major change. Now that most U. S. citizens have a car, it has ceased to be a prestige symbol to impress the neighbors. The cause of reason which made possible the catastrophic Civil War some five years later.

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From The Louisville Courier-Journal

A TOKEN OF HOPE

OUR HEARTS go out at this time of year to those indomitable, golden-headed little harbingers of spring, the crocuses, buttercups and jonquills that push their blooms into the air to brighten the drab surface of our lawn and gladden winter-weary souls. Along the hedge-row and the terrace wall they stand, so proud in their new color, so brave in the uncertain air.

And from the window we watch them with the nervous and helpless concern of children watching a young bird flown too early from the nest. Can they survive the cruel weeks ahead? Or have they been betrayed by that age-old restlessness that stirred their sleeping roots and sent them surging upward into the thin sunlight, to be cut down by frost as the

U. S. Diplomatic Posts Sold To The Highest Bidders

By JOSEPH ALSOP

THE Eisenhower administration's traffic in diplomatic appointments has now reached a stage that calls for public comment.

The latest news is that Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's deputy in the State Department, McLeod, is to receive the Embassy in Dublin as his just reward for having done more harm to the American foreign service than any one else in recent memory. Perhaps McLeod will not do a great deal more harm in Ireland, but why on earth should he be sent there at all at the expense of the American taxpayer?

But this is a relatively minor incident in a long and squalid story. This year, most of the diplomatic posts in Europe have been crudely placed on the auction block and sold for cash on the barrelhead.

THREE EXCEPTIONS

By sheer accident, some of the very rich men who have thus been named to represent the United States abroad ought to make excellent ambassadors. John Hay Whitney, London, for instance, is the sort of man who ought to receive a political appointment to a major embassy, quite without regard to his Republican contributions. Then too, the administration must be credited with at least two really admirable non-political appointments, those of David K. E. Bruce in Germany and Ellsworth Bunker in India.

Some recent incidents suggest, on the one hand, that the price of diplomatic appointments has not reached a level that is downright scandalous. There is the case, for example, of the present ambassador to Denmark, the experienced foreign service officer, Robert Coe.



Bohlen, McLeod And Thomps on: A Game Of Musical Chairs

It is an open secret that Coe's original appointment was a recognition, not of his foreign service training, but of his family's enormous contributions to the 1952 campaign fund. In the last campaign, he was again approached by an old friend who was one of the Republican committee's money collectors, with the delicate intimation that it was once more time to cough up.

NOT ENOUGH

"It's going to have to be a deep bronchial cough too," added the friend. In total, Coe's cough reached the sum of \$7,000—surely a respectable extra cough from a man



who has always been a generous Republican contributor in his adopted state of Wyoming. But it was not enough, and Coe was summarily informed that his services would be dispensed with this spring. He is to be replaced by a professional diplomat, Miss Frances Willis, minister to Switzerland, who is being moved to make room for a political appointment. On the other hand, a really disdainful disregard for the feelings of our Allies and therefore of the interests of the United States is frequently shown. Belgium, for instance, has a small country, but it is an important country in NATO. Four years ago, the Belgians were not too pleased to be

in still other cases, public untruth has been freely indulged in. The present American ambassador to Moscow, Charles E. Bohlen, is the leading Russian expert remaining in the American government's service. In Moscow he is the unchallenged leader of the whole Western community there. Perhaps in tribute to Bohlen's suitability for Moscow, it has been officially given out that he is being transferred by his own request.

This is plain not true. Bohlen was entirely willing and even eager to carry on in Moscow. In fact he is being sent to Manila to make room in Moscow for our present ambassador to Vienna, Llewellyn Thompson. The shift of Thompson from Vienna is another move in the game of diplomatic musical chairs. Thompson, as it happens, is an exceedingly capable diplomatic professional. But the United States would have been far better served by leaving both Thompson and Bohlen where they were.

PHONY EXCUSE

There is no use continuing the sorry tale. Its point is all too simple. We are not living any longer in the 19th century, when the traffic in ambassadorships did no great harm. America now has incalculably great interests abroad, and America's ambassadors are the necessary guardians of those interests. It does not matter whether they are rich or poor, foreign service officers or outside recruits. What matters is whether they are well qualified.

The expense of embassies is a phony excuse. Surely the United States can afford the few extra hundreds of thousands of dollars by the sole test of knowledge and ability. And surely the cheaply purchased traffic in ambassadorships, with its kindred checkbook sales, has become a really shocking business.

People's Platform

Police Must Obey As Well As Enforce

Charlotte Editors, The News:

AN automobile was parked on a street in a dense street. The police stop, write two tickets, take a lady to headquarters, threaten her companion, and threaten to put her in jail if she refuses to pay \$3 at once, before she could leave headquarters.

If the police are commonly observed to evade established law, wink at convention, and throw off their allegiance to duty and responsibility, the citizens should not be censured for exercise of a freedom from established restrictions and restraints that is commensurate with what they see of some of the police officers of this city.

—WALTER C. HAILEY

Each Dog Deserves A Chance To Live

Charlotte Editors, The News:

I WRITE in regard to the dog "Snuffy" that was doomed to die.

Many dogs lovers are happy that since now being held, the I hope when "Snuffy" is no longer needed in pictures that he will be placed in a good home.

If Bert Morse (a chief inspector for the Los Angeles City Dog Pound) from Arcadia, Calif., could visit the Animal Rescue League in Des Moines, Ia., and after a visit with Max Finch, he would be convinced that all dogs should be given a chance to live, that we need dogs, and that they are our dearest friends.

—MRS. LENA McDONALD

Soviet Union Says Put Up Or Shut Up

Pittsboro Editors, The News:

AT THE disarmament conference now being held, the Russians told us to put up or shut up when she said she would get out of the middle of Europe when we got out of western Europe. That is just about as clear and emphatic as language can make it.

Now the question arises, are we going to be realistic or remain dreaming in a fool's paradise? We fuss with Russia for not giving up buffer territory when the truth is that we would do just as much to do unless we change our policies of trying to have our cake and eat it too. Suppose there were Rus-

slan armies in Central America with their guns pointing at us and we occupied Mexico as buffer territory. Is there an American so stupid or naive that he would advocate withdrawal of our forces from Mexico? If there is, his head should be examined and that, quickly.

Russia does not need to worry about fighting for any of the colonial empires that are now disintegrating under our benign and wholesome influence. All she needs to do is just to let us continue the disintegrating process. We persuaded the Dutch to liberate the Indonesians, and now all the colonial empires have fallen to the Reds, barring Java, which will topple in a few months, if not days.

Then too, we have the unadulterated gall to fuss with England and France about the poverty, ignorance, and unemployment and hatred they permitted to exist in their colonies while we have permitted similar conditions to exist in Latin America which has been our protectorate for 127 years. We need not fuss with the mirror if it reflects mud on our face. Furthermore, under the one-ace-blood doctrine, which has been applied in Latin America without letup or hindrance, we have a mongrelized race that the devil would not have if he could avoid it.

Iets look to our record in this old world of ours, before undertaking to revise and improve upon what the other fellow has done. One who lives in glass houses should be rather careful about throwing stones.

—JOHN W. HESTER

Mint Museum Of Art Expresses Its Thanks

Charlotte Editors, The News:

ON BEHALF of the Mint Museum, I would like to thank you and your staff for the excellent publicity given us on our recent membership campaign. The fine newspaper coverage and the two outstanding editorials were of invaluable assistance in our efforts to increase the membership list and financial aid of the museum.

We want to extend to your sincere appreciation for your cooperation and to thank you for your support. We know that your dedication to duty and sincere interest in civic affairs has been recognized for much that has been done for the betterment of this community.

—MRS. Z. REED DILLINGHAM Chairman Membership Drive Mint Museum of Art

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON THE Senate Labor-and-Management Rackets Committee is preparing some big fireworks in New York City—at least as far as labor is concerned. One interesting piece of testimony investigated by the new Sam Zaack, former boss of New York Taxicab Local 102 of the AFL-United Auto Workers, got his charter.

Secret Testimony "I was looking around for a labor union," Zaack secretly testified in a statement to be used in the hearing that the UAW-AFL was starving to death, and it would be a simple matter to get

Taxi Union Had To Get Mob's Okay

shire House. I was invited up and Sam introduced me to him. This was just before I got the charter. I only saw Dorfman for a minute and B. introduced me as the president of the new union. "B. intimated that it took quite a bit of money and effort with the Chicago mob to get the dough for the charter and to get the charter."

Hoffa's Pal

Significant part of this secret interrogation is the part played by Paul Dorfman. It happens that Dorfman is one of the closest pals of Jimmy Hoffa, the man who has been nudging Dave Beck for

Duff To The Rescue

WASHINGTON FOR SOME curious reason, James H. (Big Red) Duff was not the effective United States senator his friends thought he would be. He learned enough in his one term to give his new client, Teamster Dave Beck, sound advice.

As a result, Beck will appear voluntarily before the Senate rackeering committee and will bring his personal financial records with him. Senators get irritated when mere millionaires impugn their majesty.

Since his defeat last fall, Duff has been impairing the Eisenhower Republican look to a law shop here which has long prospered under the guidance of Democrat Joseph E. Davies. Now Duff is in Seattle, huddling with his client and preparing to shield him as much as possible from that Wash-

Beck's Shield Is Ex-Senator

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON spotlight once so ardently courted but in not quite the same colors.

LADEN WITH GIFTS

Shortly after the Republicans returned to power, Beck came here laden, so he thought, with rich gifts—his huge union with his bulging treasury and his own unimpeachable fidelity to the GOP. At a cocktail party for the press, he was expansive and optimistic.

But the Eisenhower administration did not want labor brain-trusters or at least not the ones available to it. The President put Beck on the government commission to formulate the highway program, which was a logical enough appointment for the Teamster president but not very nourishing to Beck's ego.

Beck is not the brooding type.

Beck's Shield Is Ex-Senator

By DORIS FLEESON

He was, however, a little puzzled. Nobody, but nobody, he contends, believes more firmly than he in the free enterprise system and has led less truck with the Communists. He's a capitalist and proud of it, always thorough in his sympathy with his fellow-laborers who liked and supported the social planning of the New and Fair Deals.

Beck has complained for some time that the committee was out to get him because he supported President Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956, a line that Duff, an Eisenhower man, probably will discourage, as will Republican members of the committee.

Some unionist senator might recall, though, Beck's explanation for why he put the Teamster's building on Capitol Hill. "It's so we can watch Congress," he explained.

Fifth Amendment

When Dorfman was cross-examined about this by a House subcommittee, Congressman Clare Hoffman said, Dorfman pleaded the Fifth Amendment. Later the congressional probe of labor racketeering was dropped.

The adroit "good offices" of Postmaster Summerfield, though he now denies this,

control of the teamsters and who is now indicted for bribing a Senate agent. Dorfman is head of the Waste Material Handlers in Chicago, and is so close to Hoffa that Dorfman's wife and son received \$1 million in commissions for handling Hoffa's welfare funds.

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