

Economic squeeze proves political lemon

by Frank Mankiewicz and Tom Braden
 Washington — On the same day the Dow-Jones Industrial Average broke through the floor of 800, the New York City Housing Authority announced that no new federally financed low- and middle-income housing had been begun since July, and the government said that business expansion expenditures in the first six months of 1970 will be up 11% from the same period in 1969.

These events — and others less dramatic — point up a growing hazard for the Administration. President Nixon and his advisers — with the best intentions in the world and despite all the earnest promises of Inauguration Day — appear to be taking the economy down a steep and perilous path.

There is no guile in this, no attempt to put on a brave front in the face of adverse statistics. Nixon men — from the President on down — share the fears of outside observers that their plan for the economy will not work. As Chairman Paul McCracken of the Council of Economic Advisers said of the sharp rise in planned business expansion, "Anyone in my position would have been hoping to see a more modest projected increase."

Like Herbert Hoover confronted with the depression, they are unwilling to go beyond what the ideology tells them. The ideology says that high interest rates and tight money will cure inflation.

Since January, all the evidence has shown that the ideology is wrong.

But the alternative to tight money — wage and price controls — is so far outside the scope of Republican doctrine as to be almost literally unthinkable. It is a curious political fact that the dominant and the wage-earner newly moved to the suburbs, will suffer the most for their faith.

High interest rates — and McCracken said the new indicators made them more likely to last longer — will, of course, ultimately stop the economy, starting with the construction industry, already badly hit. But a slowdown in investment will not stop the upward spiral of prices and wages.

There is hardly a labor-management dispute which cannot be amicably settled by a healthy wage increase, which is then passed on to the consumer. And if wage boosts are keyed to the cost-of-living index, they become self-fulfilling prophecies that the cost of living will go up.

It is this inflationary hard core to the economy which the Nixon Administration has not touched — and does not want to touch for the deepest of ideological reasons. A Republican Administration cannot propose wage and price controls any more than Democrats can propose a subsidy to private electric power companies.

True, there have been some signs of

biological doubt. Lyndon Johnson's guidelines went out at the beginning; useless "jawboning," the President called them. But in the past few months the President has urged businessmen not to bet on inflation and to restrain new investment.

The jawbone turned out to be toothless; the businessmen went home and bet on inflation by committing to new plant investment before prices went even higher.

Businessmen are counting — and gambling — on short-term inflation. The stock market, meanwhile, is predicting the longer view. It is telling us that sooner or later tight money will crack the economy. In that shakedown, prices and profit levels will indeed be lower, and the market will accurately reflect the new levels.

But unemployment — already too high among the unskilled who are largely Black and perforce poor — will begin to edge into the ranks of the semiskilled, and even the Silent Majority will not be immune. That will be a high price to pay for orthodoxy.

Mr. Nixon has more than once demonstrated his ability to rise above Republican orthodoxy — his welfare program is a conspicuous example. But even that had to be called "workfare" and "the new federalism." Wage and price controls may have to be sold as "consumer freedom."



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 DAILY NEBRASKAN
 1969

Nebraskan editorial

Seething high schooler won't be soothing collegian

by Phil Semas

Chronicle of Higher Education

(CPA) — During the past few months, student radicals on many college campuses have sounded a warning in virtually the same words: "If you think we're bad, wait until some of these high school kids get into college."

The unrest that hit so many college campuses last year also hit the high schools — and with almost equal force.

So far during the present academic year, activism in the high schools has been even more widespread than in the colleges. Among the incidents:

—At Bladensburg High School in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., more than 60 students were arrested after a series of demonstrations over demands by Black students. The students charged that Principal David L. Dean had refused to discuss their demands, but the school later decided to establish a Black studies course and to allow establishment of a Black cultural organization.

—Balboa High School in San Francisco suffered two days of violent battles between white and Black students. There were no specific demands involved and Principal Harold Zimmerman put the blame on "pure hatred" between the races.

—Students ran through hallways and broke some classroom windows at Riverside High School in Milwaukee in a protest over school regulations.

—Several high schools and junior high schools in Detroit were closed after racial disturbances.

—At Central High School in Little Rock, Ark. — where National Guardsmen were called out to enforce integration 13 years ago — 150 Black students staged a walkout, charging racist policies at the school. All were suspended.

There have been many other disturbance and many quieter, non-violent protests.

During the 1968-69 academic year some of the worst disturbances occurred at schools in Los Angeles and the New York City area.

All 18 senior and junior high schools in the predominantly Negro south central area of Los Angeles were hit by fires, assaults on teachers, picketing, rock-throwing, and window-breaking. On one day 65 fires were set in schools in the area. The violence started after the arrest of a Black college student at one of the schools.

In New York and New Jersey, a number of schools were closed because of violence last year.

A study of newspaper clippings by the Center for Research and Education in American Civil Liberties at Columbia University showed that from November,

1968, through February, 1969, there were 239 serious disruptions involving 348 high schools in 38 states and the District of Columbia.

"In this short period, the number of clippings we have been receiving monthly has increased almost three-fold, indicating a sharp rise in the rate of conflict," says Alan F. Westin, director of the center and a professor of public law and government at Columbia.

Westin's study involved only serious disorders such as "strikes, sit-ins, boycotts, protest demonstrations, and riots," but the extent of student unrest in the high schools is greater than that.

A random survey of 1,026 senior and junior high school principals conducted by the National Association of Secondary School Principals found that some form of protest had occurred at 59 per cent of the schools last year.

Unrest is most extensive in large urban and suburban schools, but even among small rural schools half the principals reported some form of unrest.

"One of the surprises of the survey," says J. Lloyd Trump and Jane Hunt, the researchers, "was the fact that protest is almost as likely to occur in junior high schools as in senior high schools." Fifty-six per cent of the junior high schools reported protests.

The extent of this unrest has caused some concern among federal officials. This fall James E. Allen Jr., U.S. commissioner of education, sent special message to high school principals and state school superintendents warning them of the likelihood of increasing high school unrest.

Since high schools enroll two and a half times as many students as the colleges, "these younger secondary school students potentially are more volatile than their college counterparts,"

says Gregory R. Anrig, a U.S. Office of Education official who headed a study of high school unrest. In addition, he says, "high school disorders are usually more precipitous, spontaneous, and riotlike" than college protests.

Student radicals in some cities have attempted to give more direction to high school unrest. High school student unions have been formed in San Francisco and New York and there have been attempts at coordination in Los Angeles and Philadelphia.

The most common topic of protest in the high schools — reported by 82 per cent of the principals whose schools had protests — is against school regulations. These include rules on dress and hair length, rules against smoking, censorship of student and underground newspapers, student government, and even cheerleader elections.

Racial issues are a less common topic of protest than school regulations, but protests over racial questions tend to be more violent. The survey of principals found only 10 per cent reporting racial protests, but Westin found that racial questions were the most common issue among serious disruptions.

The Justice Department survey, which included only high schools with at least a 10 per cent minority enrollment, found that 85 per cent had experienced unrest. Some principals believe the colleges are partly at fault for racial protests in the high schools.

"Colleges are not training teachers for the urban school," one principal told Mr. Trump and Miss Hunt.

The content of the education studies are receiving is the other major issue in high school activism. Mr. Trump and Miss Hunt said that 45 per cent of the principals they surveyed reported student unrest over the instructional program.



... J. L. Schmidt

Born a poor young country boy —
 Mother Nature's Son. All day long
 I'm sitting singing songs for
 everyone.

—Lennon, McCartney

Everybody's talkin' about Midnight Cowboy and everybody's talkin' about Harry Nilsson, who sang the theme music.
 Harry (RCA LSP-4197) is a Nilsson album which deserves great praise for the variety which this sometimes falsetto, sometimes Rudy Vallee, fur coat spangles and beads sounding singer displays.

Nilsson's new hit single, "I Guess the Lord Must Be in New York City" is on this album as well as some Lennon, McCartney and Jerry Jeff Walker's "Mr. Bojangles" tunes.

Harry is simple and pure sounding and packed with a world of verse which will let you identify or forget.

Jerry Reed plays "Nashville Underground" (RCA LSP-3978) and lends mellow nasal vocal and a lean tinged North Georgia counterpoint to such favorites as "the Wabash Cannon Ball," "John Henry" and "Hallelujah I Love Her So."

This album gives a new sound to the country with its heavy rhythms and electric interpretations, which zap you and might possibly roll you right off your chair.

Early in November a crowd in the Oakland, Calif., Coliseum was awaiting

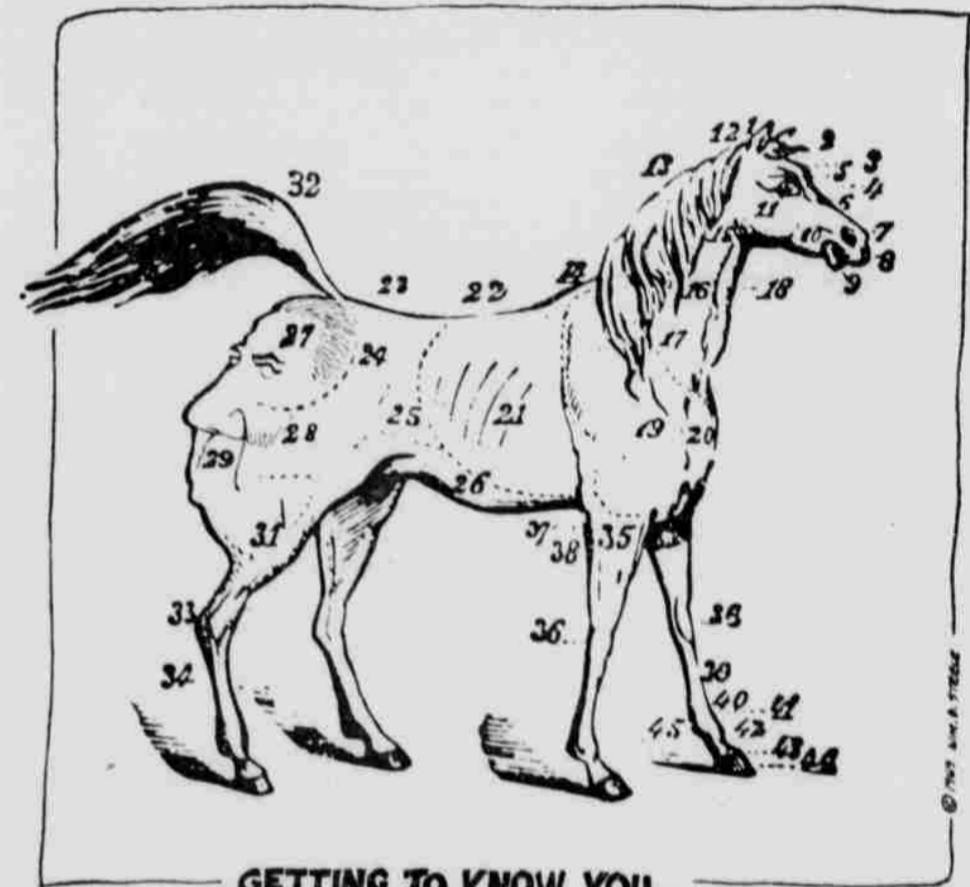
the appearance of the Rolling Stones and was being entertained by B. B. King and the Ike and Tina Turner Revue. The reviewer for the San Francisco Examiner noted that "the captivating Tina Turner ripped up the arena. The sell-out crowd stomped and roared, got an encore and remained knocked out by Tina's 'Come Together,' her great looks and sensuous choreography."

Ike and Tina come alive again on "The Hunter" (Blue Thumb Stereo BTS 11) if you're brave enough to go beyond the cover. The power soul of Tina and the big sound in the background tell you what it's all about.

Tyrannosaurus Rex has dedicated their album "Unicorn" (Blue Thumb Stereo BTS7) to "the three friends of Hiawatha." The group, which has since disbanded to form the Pink Fairies, must be listened to to be understood as they delve into a sort of Odyssey of contemporary man.

"Ready to Ride" has proven to be a hit single for a group called Southwind and it also happens to be the name of their latest album on Blue Thumb Stereo (BTS 13). A collection of country and western tunes with the emphasis on the message is presented in this package.

From "Cool Green Hills of Earth" to "Heat Down in the Alley," the listener is treated to a variety of thoughts and ideas from the four-piece group as they bring it back home from the country.



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 DAILY NEBRASKAN
 1969

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DAILY NEBRASKAN
 Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb.
 Telephone: Editor 473-3388, News 473-3389, Business 473-3386.
 Subscription rates are \$4 per semester or \$8 per year.
 Published Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the school year except during vacations and exam periods.
 Member of Intercollegiate Press, National Educational Advertising Service.

The Daily Nebraskan is a student publication, independent of the University of Nebraska's administration, faculty and student government.

Address: Daily Nebraskan
 24 Nebraska Union
 University of Nebraska
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

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