Fire Engineering Company

Fire Protection Engineers & Contractors
3389 South 6th West
Salt Lake City, Utah

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EVERY TWO HOURS FIRE BREAKS OUT IN A SCHOOL somewhere in the United States. HOW LONG WILL UTAH SCHOOLS' LUCK HOLD OUT? Utah school officials continue to be reluctant to include automatic fire sprinkler systems in existing schools or to insist that they be included in schools to be designed. This attitude by officials persists in spite of the fact that, in most cases, school construction and insurance costs could be reduced by the inclusion of a fire sprinkler system, not to mention the cost of replacing a school destroyed by fire. An educational structure built at a cost of $1 million at the end of World War II could well cost $2 million to replace if it were destroyed today. In 1960 it was estimated that it cost approximately $1,000 per pupil for elementary schools and over $1,500 for secondary schools, and the costs have risen considerably since 1960.

More important, there is the factor of human safety. T. Alfred Fleming, leading fire authority, stated, "It is a whimsical fact that four-fifths of the fires originate when schools are not in session. This is the only reason we do not have more frequent wholesale slaughter in school fires." It is precisely during the period when school is not in session that automatic fire control is most essential. Also consider the fact that most school fire drills occur after careful planning and adequate warning. What if a fire school drill occurred without the knowledge of the pupils or the teachers and only the principal knew in advance of the fire drill? Houw much chaos would there be?

The National Fire Protection Association surveyed 60 fires in unsprinklered schools in which 827 pupils and teachers lost their lives. A similar sample, covering about the same period of time, revealed that no lives were lost in 76 sprinklered school fires. There is no record of loss of life from fire in a completely sprinklered building.

Under present Utah law the Utah Fire Marshall, Robert A. Tanner, can only advise Utah school officials of fire hazards; he cannot force the schools to consider fire protection. This situation should be remedied.

**** TO OUR EMPLOYEES ****

UNDERSTANDING ECONOMICS. The business outlook has an important bearing on our jobs. It also influences our decisions to buy "big ticket" items such as houses or cars, when to save and invest, when to retire, and even when to have children.

Businessmen, guided by their evaluation of the business climate, must plan their production and marketing.
A severe business depression can disrupt the orderly relation between jobs, production and people's ability to buy what they need.
Worry about business outlook is justified, for our economic history is dotted with periods of crises and collapse and periods of exceptional prosperity. Although business fluctuations affect almost everyone, they affect various groups differently - and to a greater or lesser degree.
Profits are most dramatically affected by business downswing. Practically every business firm, whether a giant steel company or the neighborhood automobile dealer, suffers a drop in profits. Many run in the red.
Wage earners feel the pinch of a business downswing too. Overtime hours are usually reduced, and wage increases do not come as quickly or as easily as during prosperous times.
What are the causes of the business cycle and the techniques and problems of forecasting business trends? To answer such quiestions requires examining the nature of business fluctuations and what typically happens during upswings and downswings.
Government and private economists produce several useful indexes of over-all economic activity that usually agree fairly closely. But the most popular and the most convenient is the "Gross National Product" series. The GNP is the dollar value of all final goods and services produced in the United States. Basically, this is the amount of money and equipment, and for government services.
The dollar value of the national product is also the national income. Fou you, a haircut is an expenditure; for your barber though it is income. When we speak of the economy turning "down" we mean the GNP actually declines - as in the recessions of 1953-54, 1957-58 and 1960-61.

Setting apart foreign economic relations, total national expenditures can be divided into three main GNP components:

- Consumer spending on goods and services.
- Business investment spending on plant equipment and inventories.
- Government spending on the goods and services sonsumed collectively.

On the average, we spend about 92 percent of our income and save about 8 percent.

To the extent thatthis relationship between income and spending is stable, consumer behavior tends to keep the economy moving in the same direction. Consumer spending, in other words, works against business fluctuations and in favor of stability. The only way that the GNP can decline is for government and investment spending to fall off enough to offset the increase in consumer spending.

(Excerpts from NATIONS BUSINESS-Sept.,67

SOCIAL SECURITY BITE TO DOUBLE. Wage earners are having more than twice as much withhold from paychecks for Social Security this year as in 1959. If you earn $6,600 or more in 1967, $290.40 will be withheld and matched with equal amount by the employer into a Social Security trust fund for present and future benefit payments. In 1959 the maximum was $120 and 1965 it was $174. If the Senate passes the House-approved version of the Administration's Social Security package, the amount will take another jump for persons earning $6,700 or more and in 1968 will jump to $334; $364 in '69; $395 in '70; $429 in'73 and $448 in 1987. The President wants even larger amounts withheld. With the base for the maximum payroll tax going to $7,600 a year under the House bill, the biggest chunk will affect 85 percent of the nation's payroll workers.

STATE-LOCAL TAXES INCREASED $25 PER PERSON in 1966, according to a study based on Consensus Bureau statistics. The state and local tax take averaged $290 for every man, woman, and child in the United States.

NEW JOBS: (List if you like)

HOW TO MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER (Ernest Fair, MANAGE, April, 1967)

> Has your job been looking less attractive lately? Have simple, routine procedures suddenly become more difficult? Many things could be the cause of this, but chances are it's due to your approach to your work. Here are a few suggestions that might help improve matters: Make a point of remembering pleasant people you come into contact with and of forgetting the unpleasant ones. Too often we remember distasteful people for the rest of the day. Don't listen to malcontents and chronic complainers; they contribute nothing but tension. Spend your lunch time away from the job, mentally at least, if not physically. Keep right on learning; never "leave school". Learn something new every day, whether it's job-related or not. Always keep your eyeball peeled for ways to improve little things. Finaly, try not to worry about the future. Plan ahead by all means, but live day-to-day and solve each day's problems as they arise.