

The NATIONAL OUTLOOK

BY RALPH ROBEY

In Washington there still is extensive and, frequently, heated discussion as to whether President Eisenhower won his battle to balance the budget. It would appear that this should be an easy question to answer, but it is not.

The controversy started last January when the new Congress convened. An extraordinarily large proportion of the members had been elected with the aid of labor union support. It was their clear intention to enact large spending bills — as an aid to recovery — and an almost endless list of increased welfare proposals.

The President immediately made it clear that he was not going to travel down that path — that to the best of his ability he was going to hold appropriations down to the point where spending would be below receipts taken in by the Treasury.

The fireworks, of course, were not slow in starting, and they continued until the Congress adjourned.

To carry out his determination the President vetoed one spending bill after another. In some instances the veto was based upon the amount being larger than the

President thought necessary. In other instances it was because the bill provided for a type of spending which was believed unwise. Perhaps the most surprising veto was that of the public works bill. This is known as "pork barrel" legislation and, according to reports, no president since Cleveland has had the courage to veto it. The first veto of this measure was sustained, but Congress quickly passed another bill providing for all the same projects, but at an aggregate cost of 2½ per cent less. The President also vetoed this, but in this instance the President was overridden, for the first time since he took office.

Why, then, should there continue to be a controversy over whether the President won his battle? There are two principal reasons:

First, the Democratic leaders insist that they held appropriations about \$1.5 billion below the President's budget requests, and superficially that is correct. The reality of the Administration and its spokesmen is that this does not take into account programs being started which will cost much more in future years.

Second, the total of appropriations does not determine or control the actual volume of spending. This is because of unspent balances from previous appropriations. Even if one grants the Democratic leadership claim of holding down appropriations, it does not follow that the budget will be balanced. That will depend upon how much the Administration is willing to release for actual spending. The Administration's mid-year budget review, released a few days ago, forecast a surplus of \$95 million.

It is my personal opinion that for the fiscal year ending next June 30 we shall have not more than a billion dollar surplus, or more than a billion dollar deficit. Many careful students are of the opinion that the deficit will be

FIND THE FACT

From the New York State College of Agriculture and Home Economics at Cornell University

- Scholars and scientists seem to agree that civilization started with: a) The wheel? b) Agriculture? c) Hunting?
- What's the most important crop in the U. S.? a) Wheat? b) corn? c) Grass?
- Why is fall an important time for America's dairy farmers? a) Many calves will be born at this time? b) Fall colors are prettier on the farm than in the city? c) It's a slack season for the farmer and a good time to relax?
- To control the Gypsy moth, scientists brought 13 other insect species into the U. S. that are beneficial to science but natural enemies to the gypsy moth. Why do they want to control these moths? a) Gypsy moths do millions of dollars worth of damage to forests each year? b) They're the bane of the housewife who wants to preserve her woolens? c) They carry a disease that quickly attacks livestock?
- When conservationists talk about saving water, they're thinking of industry as well as agriculture. For instance, about how many gallons of water do you think it takes to produce a ton of steel? a) 13,000 gallons? b) 28,000 gallons? c) 65,000 gallons?
- Rats carry many diseases, cause innumerable farm fires, damage buildings and foundations, attack baby animals, and eat or spoil our food. It is estimated that rats eat about how many bushels of grain in the U. S. each year? a) 200 million? b) 2 million? c) 20,000?
- Why is it a good idea for the farmer to give his cow a manicure? a) She'll do more walking, and thus forage more? b) She'll look a lot better? c) She won't scratch herself accidentally?

Answers: 1-b, 2-a, 3-b, 4-c, 5-b, 6-a, 7-c, 8-b, 9-c, 10-b, 11-a, 12-c

two or three times this large, and it still is too early to attempt to prove that they are wrong. We may be sure, however, that if President Eisenhower had not entered this battle we would be anticipating really significant deficits.

THE GREEN THUMB

By GEORGE ABRAHAM—Naples, N. Y.

PLANTING BULBS: Fall's a wonderful time for planting spring-flowering bulbs. Here are the various bulbs you can plant for continuous bloom throughout the spring, starting from the earliest to the latest bloomers: Snowdrops, Winter aconite, Crocuses, Scilla (Squill), Chionodoxa (Glorry of the Snow), Hyacinths, daffodils, Narcissus, and tulips.

The sequence of bloom of tulips follows this pattern. First to bloom are the species (6 to 12 inches tall). After the Species follow the Single Early Types (10" to 16"), then the Double Early (10 to 16"), Triumphs and Mendels (20" to 24"), followed by the Single Late Types.

May flowering tulips include Cottage (18 to 24"), Darwin (24 to 30"), Breeder (24 to 30"), Parrot (18 to 24"), and the Lily-Flowered (20 to 28").

Plant your bulbs as soon as you buy them. If not, keep them at a temperature of 60 degrees F. They can be planted any time until frost hardens the ground. Daffodils should be among the first to be planted. The soil for bulbs should be well drained and reasonably worked up. Heavy and light soils can be improved by working in peatmoss. Never use manure for spring flowering bulbs as it encourages botrytis blight, the villain which causes your tulips to turn brown or blast.

Plant the bulbs pointed end up. Daffs, tulips and hyacinths can be planted 4 or 5 inches deep; crocus and other small bulbs about 2 inches deep. Usually the lighter the soil the deeper the planting. Spring flowering bulbs should be planted in a mulch of peat moss or leaf litter for winter protection. It is not necessary. I feel it's apt to attract mice or other rodents. It's a good idea to add new bulbs to your planting each fall, because old bulbs have a way of petering out. If you do save your old bulbs, select only the largest for replanting.

What about bulbs which produced "blasted" blooms last spring? These can usually be saved. Throw those that show rot or which have black round structures on the outer scales, especially at the "nose" or tip. Soak your bulbs in a solution of Manganese before planting. And try to change the location of the beds as often as practical.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes, "Last winter rabbits girdled 2 of our newly planted fruit trees. What can be done on our trees to keep them out?"

Ans. Better place a guard of hardware cloth or galvanized screen cylinder around the tree at least 2 feet or more in height to prevent rabbits from chewing the bark. The bottom edge should be set a couple of inches into the ground to keep out burrowing mice. Put the guards on now, not after snow flies.

Sound driving calls for reduced speed on residential streets and particularly near parked cars, according to the National Safety Council. Most child traffic accidents occur when a youngster runs a parked car into the street from behind a parked car.

Soil-Saving Practices Proved in Studies

The economic value of soil-saving conservation practices is re-emphasized by results of a long term U. S. Department of Agriculture study.

At Waco, Tex., 12 years of conservation practices contributed to a substantial increase in the efficiency of cotton production through higher yields per acre.

On comparable lands at Waco, soil conservationist J. B. Pope has since 1943 compared the production of cotton with and without the benefit of such conservation practices as terracing, contouring, fertilization, and the use of a legume in the crop rotation. The cumulative gains of conservation practices, measured in per-acre yields of lint cotton in 1955, ranged from 297 to 358.4 pounds of cotton per acre, depending upon the type of rotation.

Production without benefit of conservation averaged 154.4 pounds. Highest yields were obtained from a two-year rotation of cotton and oats-clover. A phosphate fertilizer — 0-45-0 — was applied at the rate of 100 pounds per acre at the time of seeding oats-clover. The rotation followed on the non-conservation fields was cotton, oats, cotton, corn.

Isolated farms must usually depend on their own resources and equipment to fight sudden fires. There are not enough town fire departments yet to insure rural safety.

But two measures of protection are quite often available. Reliable resources of water supplies are afforded by good deep wells and farm ponds. The ownership of man-purpose, high-pressure, high-volume portable farm sprayer will put that water to good use.

Mounted on wheels as a trailer, the farm sprayer can quickly be brought into action. The tank which normally holds pesticides for crop

an automatic stop signal to cars from all directions, the Allstate Safety Crusade says. Motorists avoid the hazard of youngsters rushing to or from the bus by waiting until the bus leaves.

Fire Protection Needed on Farms Water Resources, Sprayer Essential

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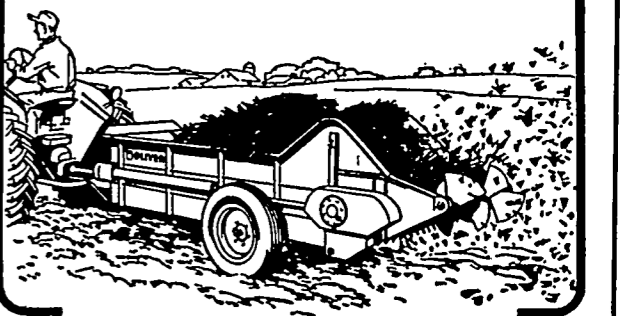
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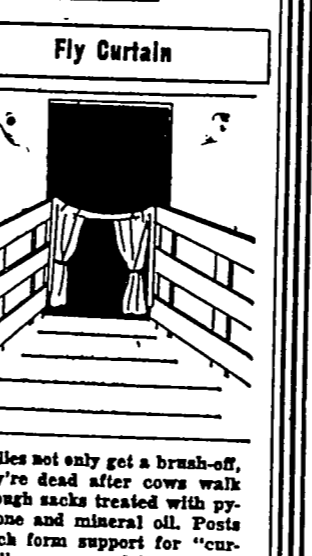
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Find The Fact!

- If you were asked to guess the amount of fruits and vegetables the average person eats each year, which guess would be correct? a) 350 lbs.? b) 500 lbs.? c) 600 lbs.?
- Until an agricultural engineer recently developed a firewood packaging method, homeowners had to buy their wood by the cord. What's a cord? a) 4 x 4 x 8 foot pile of wood? b) 4 x 2 x 2 x 4 foot pile of wood? c) 4 x 3 x 3 x 6 foot pile of wood?
- To be able to come to a safe stop when driving 60 miles an hour, how far a distance would you have to cover? a) 100 feet? b) 200 feet? c) The length of a football field (300 feet)?
- New York farmers of the mid-1800's grew a lot more for their family's needs than today's farmers. Can you guess the two items those earlier farmers used but did not produce? a) Buckwheat and wool? b) Wool and tea? c) Tea and salt?
- Today's housewife, with all her labor-saving home appliances, burns up fewer calories a day than her grandmother did. About how many fewer? a) 100? b) 500? c) 1,000?
- According to rural sociologists, what career do most high school girls in rural communities want to follow? a) Farming? b) Teaching? c) Stenography?
- If you live in a hot area, why should you paint your house white? a) A light exterior color will keep the house interior cool? b) White looks nicer in warm weather? c) White paint keeps its fresh color in hot weather longer than dark colors do?
- Twenty-five years ago, the average hen laid 127 eggs a year. Nowadays she's a poor producer unless she lays how many eggs? a) 132? b) 175? c) 188?

Answers: 1-b, 2-a, 3-b, 4-c, 5-c, 6-b, 7-a, 8-b, 9-c, 10-b, 11-a, 12-c

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"One of my brothers planned to rent a vacation cottage in the Thousand Islands, near our mother's home. And he wanted to get the whole family there at the same time for a reunion. Working things out could have been quite complicated, since he lives in Los Angeles. I'm near Syracuse, and the others are in Kansas City and Greenwich, Conn. But he just picked up the phone and got us all together on a conference call. We had everything settled in a few minutes — and had a wonderful preview of our reunion, too."

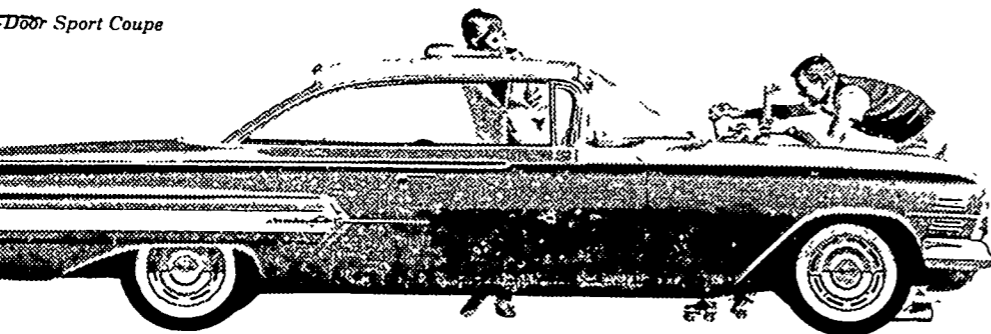


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