

WINTER PERSPECTIVE

C. O. Borgmeier

The inflation pressure continues unabated with no prospect of a halt or stabilizing. Sure the Administration can make a few grandstand plays like cracking down on the metal industries, but what about the price of pork which has advanced nearly 100% in one year? That effects the consumers with fixed incomes much more intimately than the price of aluminum metal. What feeds inflation? Excess demand or purchasing power on the part of individuals, industry and the government fueled by constantly increased supply of money and credit. So money is losing its value or purchasing power, but everybody, especially the politicians, enjoy that feeling of well being, they never had it so good. Will it continue indefinitely? Past experience says no, but with no solution in sight of the war involvement, the prospects are: more inflation and a shortage of labor. The headache will come when the spree is over.

Labor will continue to be the superintendent's biggest problem. There is now a definite shortage of skilled labor. Mechanics are in much demand so in addition to your own problem sympathize with your suppliers on whom you depend for service. They have to compete with the automobile industry for mechanics and with the plumbing, electrical, heating and appliance industries who charge you from \$7.00 to \$10.00 per hour for a serviceman. So plan to expand your fairway gangs to nine and equip all hands with labor saving tools wherever possible. You are cast in a role where your labor relations problem puts you between the club owners or officials and your workmen. From a humane point of view it behooves the superintendent to champion the cause of his workers well being to ease his problem. Understanding owners and officials will appreciate your position but it is a real selling problem to attain fair wages and fringe benefits for golf course labor.

Golf play has flourished the past year. Private clubs will benefit from the excise tax elimination on dues and assessments on January 1, 1966. This will amount to an average of \$25,000 per club. Many clubs plan to increase dues to the extent of the excise tax being eliminated. It would seem that grounds budgets should benefit greatly to cover increased wages.

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