EDITORIAL

It is a word we have been living with all our lives and are going to have to live with and tolerate for many years to come. There is much literature written about this subject. In these writings one will find many biased ways in which inflation is explained and who or what is to blame. I have studied and read many of these articles and in my own and "unbiased" opinion will explain inflation and place the blame where it belongs.

At any given point in time there are a certain number of goods available to the general marketplace. This number of goods is constantly changing. But the parameter is there. At this time (the second I started this sentence), there are "x" number of automobiles, "y" number of ranch style homes, "z" tons of fertilizer, etc. available for consumption in the marketplace.

At that very second that we had those "x, y, z, etc." numbers of goods available, there were also a certain number of units of money available to purchase those goods. In this country there are "x" number of federal reserve notes in circulation used to purchase this countless number of goods.

If we go back to that second referred to as our given point in time when there were so many goods available to be purchased with so many dollars, we must assume that all spendable dollars are used to purchase all needed goods. If there are more federal reserve notes printed with that same number of goods available for purchase, then the price of each good will go up do to the increase in the number of dollars printed.

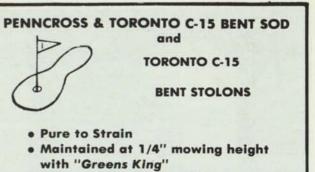
The prices go up because the number of dollars available for spending increases while the number of goods available remains the same. If those dollars were not printed, then they could not be spent and prices would not go up.

Granted this is very, very oversimplified. But after all economic constraints such as balance of payments, gold backing, labor unions, oil import quotas, stock market volatility, interest rates, world unrest and who knows how many others, are considered, the basic problem of inflation is the government's printing paperbacks not supported by real economic strength. Politically it is easier for an administration to prime up the printing presses and print the greenbacks instead of stabilizing the economy through sound economic policies.

Tom Vieweg, Supt. Cary Country Club



A speaker beginning his talk at a club meeting advised, "My job, as I understand it, is to talk to you. Yours, as I understand it, is to listen. If you finish before I do, just hold up your hand."



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