

# The Golf Business OUTLOOK

## **Liquor prices to rise in many states**

A fifth may cost 15 to 20 cents more, and drinks at the bar may go up five to ten cents. This dismal news for drinkers (and headache for club managers) is the result of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that upheld a law designed, ironically enough, to lower liquor prices in New York State. The state law, passed in 1964, but delayed by distillers' court actions, requires that the prices for liquor sold to wholesalers in New York be no higher than those charged anywhere else in the country. Seagrams, the nation's largest distiller, has filed a new price list with increases on most of its brands in Michigan, where the state controls liquor sales. This is tantamount to announcing increases in all 17 states with control boards which regulate prices. The other large distillers are expected to follow this lead, including Schenley, National Distillers, and Hiram Walker.

## **After taxes, courses face confiscation**

Citizens in one of the nation's richest counties are teeing off at one another over condemnation of private golf courses for a two-year community college. The Bergen County, New Jersey, College Board of Trustees says it needs 165 acres for the school, and has proposed that one of four private golf courses be condemned. No property other than golf courses has been recommended, although the county contains literally thousands of acres of vacant meadowland. With excessive and unfair taxation closing courses in many areas, Bergen County golfers are faced with what amounts to outright confiscation. There are two other ironies in the proposal: The county is pressing the state legislature for funds to build a park at public expense which would include a new golf course. Funds also are being sought for a new four-year Bergen County College which would occupy less land and make the two-year college superfluous. The case also contains one of the best defenses available to golf course owners: A proposal to build a 37-home colony adjoining the golf course selected as "best" for condemnation has been postponed until the future of the course is decided. As William E. Lyons pointed out, (GOLFDOM, June 1966, p. 82) both state and national Recreational Associations should be formed to preserve outdoor recreation for all Americans.

## **Space research may help superintendents**

Recent experiments in plant life on other planets may eventually help superintendents come through the winter without damage to grasses by winterkill. Backed by NASA, Sanford Siegel, a 37-year-old botanist at Union Carbide's Research Institute in Tarrytown, N. Y., is learning much about the surprising adaptability of plant life to harsh, alien environments such as that on Mars. As a by-product, Siegel's research may turn up findings that can be applied directly to civilian life on earth. There is some evidence that reducing the oxygen to a plant can actually improve it. Another important side effect of low-oxygen growth is a stubborn plant resistance to freezing. Mr. Siegel placed a dwarf palm tree in 1% oxygen and subjected it to a precipitous temperature drop—from 65 degrees above zero to 5 below within a 24-hour period. This would have killed a normal palm tree, but the dwarf lived 15 days. Siegel can picture a farmer putting a simple plastic bag over a tree, for instance, and tying it at the bottom when a frost is coming. The tree would consume enough oxygen to reduce the level.