

# The Toilet Tissue Issue

A year or so back we were all becoming newly acquainted with daily problems of constant price changes and shortages of any item in demand. We were all forewarned to "heed the signs" and plan well in advance for the needed materials with which we could not do without; i.e., chemicals, fertilizer, and seed. A year has since gone by and now most everyone is purchasing well in advance of their needs to keep everything green for the following year. As a matter of fact, some of us are purchasing materials for future use thru the year 2000, as many people did last year with toilet paper in the Washington area and across the country.

History tells us that someone "foresaw" the crisis and promptly proceeded to buy out all of one store's stock of toilet paper. That store being empty of this daily necessity, prompted all shoppers of this item to run elsewhere and do similarly — buy out the whole store's supply of toilet paper. Needless to say we had a shortage of this item in every store not long after the initial "foresight of one individual." It is now a known fact that several Washingtonians will not be in need of toilet paper for years to come. Unlike other shortages

we have experienced, this oddity was created through the buying public and was not a result of shortages of raw materials.

We could easily experience similar shortages through similar circumstances if we consider purchases for more than we need, depleting our suppliers stock of any given item.

One superintendent has purchased over 85% of a commonly used chemical that was made available for the whole calendar year to a particular company.

The first time I heard of such a happening I passed the story off with a laugh, wondering who would do that. The second time this happened, I thought immediately of what I needed and began to follow suit, and plotted to get my hands on everything I could, regardless of what I had in stock. That seemed quite foolish after thinking about the problem for a while, but unfortunately not everyone can see this is a way of creating false shortage.

After several conversations with some of our suppliers of seed, chemicals, and fertilizers, I find that while shortages still exist, and supply and demand



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changes daily, we can still expect to get most of our basic needs if we can pay the unknown price upon delivery and order early in advance of our needs.

Some of us interpret the need of buying well in advance of our needs to mean that the supply will dry up and be no longer available — which is wrong, with the exception of banned chemicals.

Shortages of our chemicals and fertilizer have resulted from shortages of natural resources and raw materials. All of our suppliers are consequently short of supplies and are being rationed to amounts comparable to their 1973-1974 sales. To further complicate the problem, with chemicals in particular, we find that many items are coming to our suppliers in part shipments spaced throughout the year. At least this spacing of shipments will help alleviate the depletion of a given material within a short period of time.

This situation will get worse before we see any let up in meeting supply and demand. We don't know if we are living through a depression, recession, or period of inflation, or all three at once.

Last October President Ford declared war on inflation and for everyone to postpone unnecessary borrowing. Wait for the interest rates to come down. Save as much as you can.

Thirty days later the President's economic advisers began to panic over the economic slump, and they got him to issue a new alarm advocating exactly the opposite.

At one time the consumer was requested to curtail spending and revitalize the economy. A tax hike was talked about to help cut purchasing power. Now a tax refund is the latest word as a means for increasing purchasing power, to help the nation pull through the slump.

This uncertainty of our future welfare, which is reflected through the uncertainty of our government actions, will continue through 1976 and ultimately continue to complicate our purchasing decisions, both at home and for the golf course.

With these facts in mind we cannot accurately pre-judge what tomorrow will bring — and should not compound our problems by creating shortages through hoarding the total market of supplies.

Fortunately most budgets won't permit this type of buying, and because of this fact alone we might all be protected against such a catastrophe.

Keep in mind the toilet paper shortage and nobody will be without in the year ahead.

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