# VIEWPOINT

**Bruce F. Shank,** Editor

Recession, recession, recession. I wish all I had to worry about was a flattening of the gross national product. People are obsessed with bad news, tragedy, and soap operas. 1978 was too good to last. We can't stand to have two good years in a row.

And why may we have a recession? Because we are greedy, selfish, and thought-less? The proposed solution, why, of course, control our wages and prices. That ought to do it.

I suggest that if there were a precise way to measure cost increases caused directly or indirectly by government regulation, we might have a more correct indication of why prices are inflating at a faster than normal rate.

The United States has always promised opportunity to its citizens. To achieve that promise is not greed. Most of us have a sense of moderation and concern for our customers. The more we take the more our customers pay, and they'll pay only so much since competition exists.

Anyone who enjoys dwelling on negatives should come to Cleveland. There is plenty to fuss and worry about. But people still go to work and businesses still open every morning. People here refuse to let politicians ruin plans or disrupt business operations. Fortunately, local government has left the business community alone.

I suggest the Federal government do the same. Leave prices and wages alone and pay attention to its own costs. Good places to start would be the Environmental Protection Agency and the Labor Department. The inflation caused by these two organizations is probably more to blame than any other factor in a possible recession.

1978 has been a good year for the Green Industry and 1979 will be just as good. Go forward with plans the same way you did this year. Just keep control of inventories and productivity. These are things we should all watch anyway.

The staff of Weeds Trees & Turf thanks you for subscribing to our magazine and wishes you a very enjoyable holiday season. We too have plans for 1979, and we don't intend to cut back because someone whispered recession.


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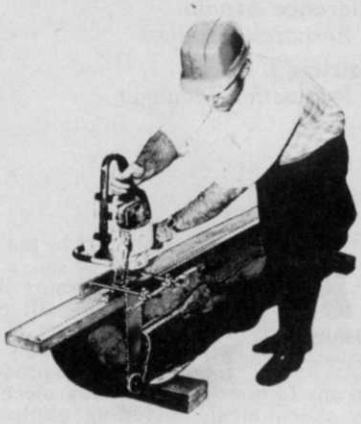

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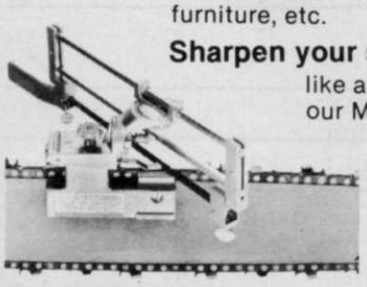

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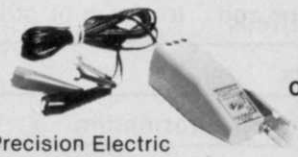

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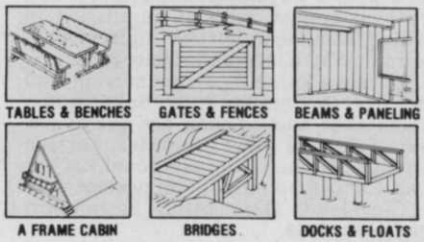


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