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THE DRAKE WELL—1859

Increase in Business Index Predicts Economic Rebound

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government said Tuesday its index of leading business indicators was up 1.9 per cent in June, a big increase that points to a solid improvement in the economy in months ahead.

The indicators index now has increased for four consecutive months and it stood at 98.3 in June, the highest since last October when it was 100.3.

In another report on the economy, the Commerce Department said the nation had a record merchandise trade surplus in the second quarter of $3.5 billion and also a record in the first six months of nearly $5.5 billion.

The surplus was attributed to a steep decline in imports, although exports also fell. Imports were off in the second quarter by $3 billion to a total of $22.3 billion, while exports fell $1.4 billion to a total $25.8 billion.

Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz said, meanwhile, that the value of U.S. farm exports in the fiscal year ended June 30 rose to a record $21.6 billion. He said agriculture exports exceeded imports by $12 billion.

"The surplus in agricultural trade the past year has helped to stabilize the dollar, to strengthen our international economic position and to pay for high-cost petroleum imports," Butz said in his statement.

The Commerce Department uses the index of leading indicators to forecast future trends of the economy. It was at its record high of 126.6 in June, 1973.

Eight of nine categories in the index increased in June, with the strongest rise occurring in liquid assets, which are the cash-term securities held by banks and thrift institutions.

Also increasing was the average work week, up one-tenth of an hour to 39.1 hours.

There were improvements in sales price changes for a certain group of crude materials; stock prices; the money supply; new orders from manufacturers and building permits.

Declining were contracts and orders for plant and equipment. Data was not yet available for three other categories, the job layoff rate, business investment and inventory changes.

The Commerce Department revised its indicators index in April to include economic measures whose movement in the past have paralleled business cycles.

According to the old index, which the Commerce Department continues to report, the indicators declined 1.4 per cent in June.

In its report on trade activity in the second quarter of the year, the Commerce Department said agriculture exports, especially grain and soybeans were down and that imports of petroleum were off sharply, averaging 5.7 million barrels a day in the second quarter compared with 6.2 million barrels a day in the first quarter.

The Commerce Department reported Monday that the nation had a record trade surplus in the month of June of $1.7 billion.

Congress Overrides President

WASHINGTON (AP) — By a 9-1 margin in the House, Congress overrode one of President Ford's vetoes for the first time this year as it enacted into law a $2-billion health measure Tuesday.

The final passage was 384 to 43, or 39 more than required. The Senate rejected Ford's veto 67 to 15 on Saturday, only hours after the White House announced the veto.

The health bill authorizes $1.42 billion during 1976-78 for health services and health revenue-sharing programs that give grants to states for projects such as community mental health centers, migrant health and family planning.

Another $553 million was earmarked for nurse training programs, and $30 million to the National Health Services Corps, which is a federally funded program that puts medical personnel in under-served areas of the nation.

In his veto message, Ford called the amount of money in the bill excessive and said that some programs, such as nursing student assistance, duplicated other health programs.

Ford said it would authorize almost $550 million above his fiscal year 1976 budget request.

Super Summit Opens

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — President Ford, Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev and leaders from 33 other countries assembled here Tuesday for a super-summit described both as a boon to detente and a sellout of Eastern Europeans.

The Conference on European Security and Cooperation opens Wednesday and ends Friday with the signing of a nonbinding document that tacitly accepts the postwar map of Europe in exchange for promises of greater civil liberties for Russians and Eastern Europeans.

Ford on his arrival in Helsinki said, "America's wellbeing is tied to the security of Europe."

He warned that provisions of the declaration "must be translated into policies of action by the participating states if we are to realize the promises of greater security and cooperation in Europe."

"The United States will participate fully in this process," Ford said.

He arrived from Krakow, Poland, where he was warmly greeted by a crowd of about 70,000. He paid a 27-hour visit to Poland which included a trip to the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz, where he vowed a "dedicated pursuit of peace." He also visited Warsaw.

Mrs. Ford, who accompanied her husband on the 10-day, five-nation trip which began last weekend in West Germany, was reported well-rested after cancelling most of her engagements Monday.

Ford's trip to Poland was long on ceremonies and short on substance but did produce a joint statement in which Ford and Polish Communist chief Edward Gierek expressed a "will to achieve progress" in stalled Vienna negotiations aimed at mutual arms reductions in central Europe.

Ford and Brezhnev head the list of leaders who will put their signatures on the 30,000-word charter, a kind of code of conduct for nations.

Only Albania, an ally of China, is missing from the roll call of European nations. The countries, which include Canada and the United States, range from superpowers to tiny San Marino and the Vatican.

The official organ of the ruling Albanian Communist party, Zeri I Popullit, said Tuesday the summit "cannot dispel the doubts and misgivings which the conference of Helsinki has aroused with ordinary people on our continent, with all those to whom peace and security in Europe is close at heart."

Ford, under attack from conservative congressmen, has defended U.S. participation by saying the document represents "significant progress in our continuing efforts to achieve a more productive East-West relationship."

However, the conference is viewed as a crowning personal achievement for Brezhnev, 68-year-old general secretary of the Soviet Communist party.

He, more than any other Soviet leader during the last two decades, has pushed for the conference as part of a program of East-West detente, proclaimed at the 24th congress of the Soviet party in the spring of 1971.

Venezuela Sets Takeover of Oil

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela, the United States' second largest foreign oil supplier, is expected to complete its takeover of foreign oil holdings, most of which are American, before the end of August.

The lower house Chamber of Deputies approved the bill nationalizing the $10 billion per year industry Monday night and the senate was expected to begin debate Wednesday.

Subsidiaries of Exxon, Shell, Gulf, Mobil, Sun and Texaco with assets unofficially estimated at $1.1 billion would be affected.

Venezuela intends to continue supplying oil to its traditional customers after nationalization through a new state company called Petroleos Venezolanos (Petroven), according to government officials.

The United States buys 1.4 million barrels of crude oil and refined products per day from Venezuela. Only Canada exports more to the United States, providing 5.9 per cent of U.S. consumption to 5.4 per cent from Venezuela, according to figres from The American Petroleum Institute and U.S. Bureau of Mines.

The United States imports approximately 38 per cent of its daily petroleum needs which average 16.7 million barrels, getting the rest from domestic production.

Most of the rest of Venezuela's 2.5 million barrel per day production is shipped to Canada, Latin America and European Common Market countries.

President Carlos Andres Perez, whose Democratic Action party controls both houses, promised when he took office in March of 1974 to have the state take over the oil industry during 1975 but set no specific date.

The foreign oil companies have not objected to the government's plan to nationalize, indicating their desire to continue cooperating with Venezuela in international marketing and the supply of technology.

Under terms of the bill, the companies will receive a still unspecified compensation based on the net book value of their fixed assets and negotiations were underway.

The bill provides for payment of compensation upon state takeover either in cash or in public bonds over a period of 10 years.

President Visits Auschwitz Camp

AUSCHWITZ, Poland (AP) — Under sunny skies with a warm breeze rustling lavender and yellow wildflowers, President Ford on Tuesday became the first American chief executive to visit the the Nazi Auschwitz death camp.

It was only a brief stay — just 20 minutes — but the President saw enough of the site where the Nazis exterminated more than four million people to leave the ordinarily jovial man grim-faced:

"Horrible, unbelievable," Ford said as he walked through the camp, which has been kept largely intact as a memorial to the unspeakable horrors committed there.

Arriving after a 15-minute flight from Krakow, the President's U.S. Army helicopter landed inside the camp next to a barbed-wire fence that had been electrified when the camp contained prisoners being prepared for the gas chambers.

There were a few hundred spectators inside the compound, and Polish farmers continued working in the fields that surround the concentration camp in a pastoral setting.

Awaiting the President at the memorial was a large wreath of white and red roses.

The wreath was placed at the base of a stark, abstract sculpture. The base was made of the remnants of a gas chamber with black granite slabs standing atop it.

Ford straightened the wreath and then stood back, and for several seconds appeared to be praying.

A guide then took Ford to see a series of tablets set in stone flanking the main memorial. Each one read the same, but in a different language:

"Four million people suffered and died here at the hands of the Nazi murderers between the years of 1940 and 1945."

One plaque was in Hebrew, another in Yiddish. These were the only indication that of those killed by the Germans, three million were Jews.

Ford was taken to the memorial book and wrote from a yellow card he held in his hand:

"This monument and the memory of those it honors inspire further to the dedicated pursuit of peace, cooperation and security."

Led Nigeria to Prosperity

Coup Ousts Gowon

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Gen. Yakubu Gowon, who ruled oil-rich Nigeria for nine years and crushed the Biafran revolt, was overthrown Tuesday in a bloodless coup, Radio Nigeria reported.

Gowon was in Kampala, Uganda, attending a summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity when fellow army officers ousted him as leader of black Africa's wealthiest and mostly populous nation.

The coup was announced in a radio broadcast by Col. Joseph Garba, commander of the elite brigade that guards the presidential residence and considered a friend of Gowon.

Garba said there had been no bloodshed but a dusk-to-dawn curfew was ordered and violators could be shot. The coup was so quickly and quietly accomplished that many Nigerians left their homes for work without being aware of it.

(Gowon, a 40-year-old, mild-mannered moderate with broad support in Africa, had addressed an OAU session Monday night and was still in the conference hall when an aide advised him of the coup.

"I have a clear conscience. There is nothing to worry about," the general said. He then left for his hotel room, looking calm.

(Diplomats said the coup apparently was organized by a group of colonels and majors following months of military dissension and student unrest in black Africa's richest and most populous nation.

(They said there was no immediate indication that Garba, 32, was personally replacing Gowon.)

Garba, in his broadcast, ordered workers at public utilities, hospitals, ports and communications to go to their jobs and warned, "Anyone caught disturbing public order will be summarily dealt with."

Troops closed the Lagos airport, sealed off the borders and shut down most means of communication. There were no reports of violence.

Gowon came to power in an army coup in July 1966 and became Nigeria's strongest ruler since the country's independence from Britain 17 years ago. But he was aware of coup rumors before he left for Kampala.

Pressure was building for a return to civilian rule and there were continuing tribal rivalries.

Gowon directed the successful Biafra war to keep the Ibos of southeastern Nigeria from forming a separate country. Thirty months of fighting ended in 1970.

Diplomatic sources said Gowon was trying to assess the situation in Nigeria and had not ruled out the possibility of attempting to return to power. Other sources said he was trying to contact military commanders at home to determine if he retained any support.

There was also a report that Gowon might fly to a country neighboring Nigeria, possibly Cameroon, from which he could re-enter his country.

Diplomats also said Gowon had suspected that members of his military government were plotting to overthrow him and had taken the precaution of moving his family to London before leaving Nigeria.

Fossil Find Indicates Tropic Area

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Two scientists have found fossilized remains of animals that indicate a near-tropical climate just 800 miles from the North Pole 50 million years ago, Carnegie Institute reported Tuesday.

Mary R. Dawson, curator of vertebrate fossils at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Robert M. West, curator of geology at the Milwaukee, Wis., Public Museum, discovered the fossils of bony fishes, soft-shelled turtles, crocodilians and primitive mammals on a field trip to Ellesmore Island at 78 degrees north latitude.

The two have been working in the arctic regions of Canada's Northwest Territories because thick layers of rocks from the Tertiary period, suitable for the preservation of fossils, are present there, the institute said.

Mrs. West and Dawson lived in isolated tent camps while conducting their research on the rugged terain of Ellesore Island, 1,000 miles north of the tree line.

They would examine rock outcrops accessible by foot from each camp, then fly to other areas while maintaining radio contact with a base camp in Resolate Bay.

Their findings show that arctic living conditions 50 million years ago were suitable for warm-climate vertebrate animals. Similar fossils in western Europe suggest that continent may have been joined to North America, supporting the theory of continental drift, the institute said.

Lordstown Layoffs Imminent

LORDSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — A new inventory of parts taken Tuesday revealed that General Motors Corp.'s van assembly operations here will have to shut down "late Wednesday," a spokesman said.

John Brinko, assistant public relations director, said it had been thought there were enough parts to keep the lines operating at this point in the first shift on Thursday.

But whenever it comes, he said, it means idling 2,400 workers in addition to the 7,000 already off the job as a result of the Fisher Body plant strike that began July 18.

The 2,200-member United Auto Workers Local 1714 at the fabricating plant struck in a dispute over production standards, and negotiations held daily since have made little progress.

John Grix, GM public relations director for this sprawling Chevrolet complex, said earlier Tuesday that the strike apparently will mean delaying the changeover to 1976 models that had been scheduled for Aug. 8.

Man Charged For Deaths Of Horses

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A 35-year-old Canadian man was charged by state police Tuesday with setting a barn fire which killed 41 race horses Sunday night.

Donald R. Douglas of Otterville, Ontario, waived a preliminary hearing for arson and was sent to the Dauphin County Prison in lieu of $100,000 bail by District Justice Truman Peters.

The fire broke out about 9:30 p.m. Sunday at nearby Penn National Race Course when a flammable substance was poured inside the 180-foot long barn, said Trooper Richard Guckelberger, a state police fire marshall.

Of 42 horses in the barn, only a thoroughbred escaped. One owner-trainer, W. J. Taylor, lost 24 horses.

A state police report at first indicated that Douglas was a track employe, but Guckelberger later emphasized that he was not.

"Douglas was in no way employed at the track ... He came on the track and that was it," the officer said. He would provide no further details.

Each horse was insured for up to $5,000 although track spokesman Kelso Sturgeon said Monday that some may have been worth as much as $20,000.

The entire loss was estimated at $175,000.

U.S. Steel Earnings Set Mark

PITTSBURGH (AP) — U.S. Steel Corp., the steel industry's pacesetter and largest producer, Tuesday reported record first-half earnings despite a 20 per cent drop in profits during the second quarter.

The company's earnings contrasted with those of some of its major competitors whose second-quarter and first-half profits both tumbled.

Third-ranked National Steel, for example, announced earlier this week that its second-quarter earnings fell 42 per cent, its first-half profits 61 per cent.

Ninth-ranked Wheeling-Pittsburgh reported a $520,000 loss in the second quarter and a 57 per cent drop in earnings for the first half, after record profits of $73.4 million last year.

U.S. Steel, meanwhile, chalked up net income for the second quarter of $129.1 million, or $2.38 per share, on sales of $2.1 billion. That compared with income of $160.3 million, or $2.96 per share, on sales of $2.4 billion a year ago.

Second-quarter earnings represented a return on sales of 6.2 per cent compared with 6.6 per cent earning a year ago.

Site Set for Astronauts After Hospital Release

HONOLULU (AP) — A sunny hideaway was being readied Tuesday for the Apollo astronauts' convalescence and a reunion with their wives.

On their release from Tripler Army Hospital, where they were treated for inhalation of rocket fumes, the three men will rest in seclusion for 10 days.

Space agency officials indicated that preparation of the military housing would probably delay release of the ailing crewmen from the hospital until Wednesday, a day later than had been planned. The astronauts' wives and children — a party of about 15 persons — were to arrive here from Houston at 6 p.m. Wednesday, the officials said.

Officials have not yet revealed the whereabouts of the hideaway.

During their recuperation, astronauts Thomas P. Stafford, Donald K. Slayton and Vance D. Brand will continue to tape record their account of the nine-day Apollo-Soyuz mission.

Of special concern is their version of the last few minutes before splashdown last Thursday, during which a slipup caused poisonous rocket fuel fumes to be sucked into the Apollo cabin.

A momentary distraction of the crew, perhaps caused by an electronic squeal in their headphones, was given as the probable cause of the astronauts' failure to throw a necessary pair of switches.

However, experts at the Johnson Space Center in Houston added that they were waiting for the astronauts' recollections in an effort to learn everything that as going on in the spacecraft at the time.

Officials said that because the switches weren't activated, a small electric rocket kept firing when it should have stopped. As a result, a cloud of nitrogen tetroxide vapor was sucked through a nearby air inlet.

The gas sent the astronauts into a coughing spell. Stafford was able to unpack oxygen masks after the spacecraft landed, and officials said if he hadn't acted so quickly, the damage to the mens' lungs might have been very serious.

Treasurer Bans Platform Shoes

PITTSBURGH (AP) — City Treasurer Joseph L. Cosetti has put his foot down on platform shoes.

Cosetti has prohibited the wearing of platforms by city employes because he has had to pay workmen's compensation to two female workers and one male worker injured after tripping over their own feet in the high-stepping style.

How high is high?

"I don't know," Consetti conceded. "Someone who is obviously staggering around the office. Like my wife."

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(AP)

Means Associated Press

Court Upholds Mazzei Guilt

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld the conviction of ousted state Sen. Frank Mazzei.

Mazzei, a 65-year-old Pittsburgh Democrat who went to the Senate in 1967, was convicted last November of extorting $20,000 from the owner of a Pittsburgh office building who leased office space to the state.

In April Mazzei was sentenced in U.S. District Court to pay a $20,000 fine, to serve a five-year jail term and to vacate his Senate seat.

The U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday ruled, however, that it saw no grounds on which the lower court could order Mazzei to leave the Senate.

The point, regarding Mazzei, was moot. In June the Senate voted him out.

Scorcher

Sunny and warm Wednesday and Thursday with highs in the mid-80s to low 90s. Clear Wednesday night with lows in the mid-50s to mid-60s.

Jury Deliberates In Gurney Trial

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Former Sen. Edward Gurney, looking cheerful and relaxed, joked about eluding photographers Tuesday before the jury began its second day of deliberations in his influence peddling trial.

A few minutes later, U.S. District Judge Ben Krentzman entered the courtroom and accused reporters of harassing jurors deliberating the case.

As attorneys waited for Krentzman to enter the courtroom, Gurney bragged to reporters how he eluded photographers who gather daily outside the courthouse to record the ex-senator's arrivals and departures.

"I thought I would have some fun," said Gurney, explaining how he changed his routine and entered a side door. "I couldn't resist trying to fool them. One of them caught up to me as the elevator door was closing but he didn't have any luck."

Krentzman's criticism of reporters apparently was triggered by newspaper accounts of Monday's jury deliberation. The panel adjourned without informing the judge and left $56,000 in cash, a government exhibit, in the jury room.

The judge said he saw no reason for reporting the incident, saying he will "never understand why it's necessary to print something whether it's news or not."

He said from the bench that he had ordered marshals to protect the jury from "harassment by the press" because of complaints from jurors that they couldn't turn around without bumping into reporters or cameramen "holding microphones over next to them to see if they were breathing."

Krentzman also said he was ordering the marshals to place the $56,000 in a vault because of the news stories. He sent a note to jurors that they could send for the cash if they wanted.

Chrysler Shows Record Losses

DETROIT (AP) — Chrysler Corp. lost a record $58.7 million in the second quarter, while General Motors' earnings rose 8 per cent from depressed year-ago levels to $333 million.

The auto companies reported their spring financial results on Tuesday, and GM said its earnings reflected a "significant improvement" over its anemic first-quarter performance.

For Chrysler, it was the fourth consecutive period of red ink. The company has lost $234 million since the third quarter of last year, highest among U.S. manufacturers.

Return U.S. to England

Group Eyes Colonial Status

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Now, upon ground once trod by Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, comes a counter-revolutionary band of loyalists who would finally return prodigal America to the forgiving arms of Mother England.

Already these latter-day Tories have collected $83 and the support of 150 U.S. citizens who envision a happier life in a colony restored. If only another 200 million or so sign up, their petition may be ready for the queen when she arrives for a Bicentennial visit next July.

Otherwise, the Bicentennial will be nothing but "a big fake, a piece of propaganda trying to cover up the mistakes we've made," says John T. Ambrose, co-founder of the Committee for Reunion with England.

"It's time we realized that the Revolution was nothing more than the self-serving acts of a bunch of hotheads and caused a lot of problems for this country which now can be corrected only by reunion."

According to the committee's Declaration of Reunion, the corruption and injustice which have troubled America's 199 years could have been avoided if the rebels had only been patient enough to work within the system.

It noted, for example, that slave trade was abolished in the British Empire "two score and 16 years" before the Emancipation Proclamation.

If only the colonies had stayed in line, there would have been no Civil War, no Reconstruction and no Ku-Klux-Klan, it adds.

"World War I and II would never have occurred. Germany would never dare attack a British Empire that included both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The American Revolution not only betrayed America, but also Mother England, nay the entire civilized world," it says.

Not that Ambrose and his collaborators are looking for revenge.

"Mother England is kind and just," the declaration says. "If we apologize now and promise not to rebel any more, she will go easy on us. Amnesty will be offered to the rebel leaders and the present officials of this rebel government. There would be no fear that President Ford, members of Congress or the Supreme Court will be sent to prison."

Naturally "there cannot be unconditional amnesty," however. "They have made mistakes and must pay a penalty ... perhaps a period of alternative service in the Bengal Lancers."

The committee was organized back in March when Ambrose, an advertising writer, and David A. Gambill, a Richmond bank employe, decided the Bicentennial was, on the whole, boring.

"It's lacked a sense of humor, any real comedy," said Ambrose. "So we got out a mimeograph machine, took an ad in the Richmond Mercury, rented a Post Office box and sat back to watch the fun."

FDA Issues Laser Safety Guidelines

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration issued the first federal safety stadards Tuesday to protect consumers, students and workers against radiation injuries from lasers.

The devices, which produce concentrated beams of light, are becoming increasingly popular in schools, grocery stores, hospitals and industry.

The FDA said a 1973 survey of lasers found "serious deficiencies in safety practices and in products" in schools and businesses.

Excessive laser radiation can cause severe eye and skin burns.

The standard establishes four classes of lasers, depending upon their power which ranges from a microscopic beam to one several inthes in diameter.

Small units used in schools and grocery check-out lines are generally not considered dangerous, the FDA said, but big ones used in industry can burn a hole through heavy steel beams in seconds.

The FDA said it was issuing the laser standard not because there had been large numbers of injuries, but because the phenomenal growth of the industry potentially exposed more persons to the devices.

About 30,000 lasers now are in use in college and school classrooms for science demonstrations. The 150 laser manufacturers project an 18 per cent growth annually with sales totaling about $310 million this year.

Cuba Sanctions Lifted by OAS

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — A special meeting of the Organization of American States approved overwhelmingly Tuesday night a resolution that effectively lifts the economic and political sanctions imposed 11 years ago to isolate Fidel Castro's Communist regime in Cuba.

The resolution ends the mandatory nature of the sanctions and allows nations to resume diplomatic and trade relations according to their own choice. It passed 16-3 with two abstentions. Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay were opposed.

The United States voted for the resolution. Brazil and Nicaragua abstained. It had required a two-thirds majority of the 21 voting members and received two more than necessary.