

WASHINGTON — The real reason the average American's dollars are disappearing so fast isn't so much high prices as it is high taxes.

Inflation is measured on the Consumer Price Index, which is based on what prices were in 1967.

Since that time, prices have shot up 64 percent, a pretty steep climb on anyone's roller coaster. But taxes have soared more than double that rate. For the average family, taxes have increased at least 150 percent.

Even this breathtaking figure doesn't really measure the true tax bite. It covers only income taxes and Social Security taxes. There is no reliable estimate for the other tax increases.

Property taxes and sales taxes, for example, have been shooting up like sky rockets in most part of the country.

By the most conservative estimate, the total tax increase since 1967 is well over 200 percent. This is a staggering tax burden.

The public, moreover, is receiving less service for its money because the bureaucrats are keeping more of it for themselves. They use it to pay themselves higher wages and to hire more bureaucrats. The more bureaucrats there are, the bigger the bosses become. This adds up to more promotions and still higher wages.

President Ford, of course, has called for government economy. But the bureaucrats usually economize by trimming back on services rather than cutting down on their own comforts.

At the Commerce Department, for example, the bureaucrats decided they needed fancier telephones. According to a confidential memo on the subject, the system "will have touchtone and many advanced custom-calling features." Cost to the taxpayers: A cool \$200,668.16.

At the Library of Congress, Daniel Boorstin was sworn in last month as the new librarian. We discovered that he hired a dozen painters, carpenters and electricians to

prepare the great hall for the occasion. They moved books around, removed doors and and cut out a new door.

A library spokesman claimed the renovations were unrelated in Boorstin's inauguration.

Big Fish:The secret intelligence reports describe an astonishing episode in the Aegean Sea.

It happened on Nov. 13. A small Greek fishing boat, named the "Mary," was trawling off the island of Lesbos. Suddenly, the steel cables of the net grew taut, and the boat began to list under the weight of some gigantic catch.

The five-man crew strained their winches for 20 minutes, hauling in the net. As their catch began to emerge, the fishermen stared in amazement.

About 10 yards away, a periscope had popped out of the water. Then came the top of a submarine. The Greeks immediately recognized the marking. They had snared a Turkish sub.

The Greeks, panic-stricken, hastily sliced their lines and headed for shore, leaving \$7,000 worth of nets wrapped around the Turkish submarine. Through binoculars, they watched four Turkish seamen scramble out of the tower and begin untying the net.

Spook Scoop:CIA agents may be cold-blooded, but they do not lack a sense of humor. When the late Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba in 1961, they lost track of him for a few days. He turned up in Katanga, and the CIA chief there cabled the news to his superiors. "Thanks for Patrice," he telegraphed. "If we knew he was coming, we'd have baked a snake."

• Many intelligence officials are grouching over all the investigations of their activities, but a number of former spies couldn't be happier. At least a dozen ex-agents are now writing their memoirs, and they feel the current publicity will help them sell their books.

• One of the deepest mysteries about the CIA is how they choose the code names they assign to projects. The agency's surveillance of the Jack Anderson office, for example, was tagged "Mudhen." I was dubbed "Brandy," even though I am a teetotaler. The man who sits behind a desk in Havana and oversees Cuba's military operations in Angola is code-named "Ulysses," after the Greek hero who wandered the world for 10 years in search of adventure. The chair-bound Ulysses' real name, incidentally, is Armando Estrade Fernandez.

• A pretty, young secretary at the CIA, say our sources, has been keeping some secret files of her own. She's been dating a number of Congressmen and keeping a

confidential record of their amorous abilities.

Secret Project:Hidden deep in the Pentagon's vaults of classified papers is the story of a fascinating secret project which flopped.

During the Vietnam war, a Pentagon whiz kid came up with a brilliant idea for clearing helicopter pads in the dense jungle. All it would take, he figured, was a specially designed bomb that would blow down trees.

The Air Force experimented with the idea and found, according to the documents, that the bombs "precisely placed, would cut all trees up to 12 inches in diameter in a circle 100 feet in diameter."

There was just one problem: "The trees would fall where they stood, leaving a tangle in which a helicopter could not land."

Thursday, December 18, 1975

WASHINGTON Merry-Go-Round

THE GAITHERSBURG GAZETTE

by Jack Anderson
with Joe Spear



Taxes Fatten Bureaucrat Cats