

# Hot Facts For Sale

By Rudy Maxa



● Between 112,000 and 224,000 civilians who work for the Federal government have drinking problems.

● The last time an American President visited Birmingham, Ala., with the exception of President Nixon's visit in mid-1971, was 52 years ago.

● Joe "The Baron" Barboza described the night in 1962 he "bundled" a candidate for a Boston baker's union this way: "We popped his roots in, dislocated his shoulder blade, gave him 16 stitches in his knee, and he got thumped about the head with a 20-pound, lead sash weight from a window."

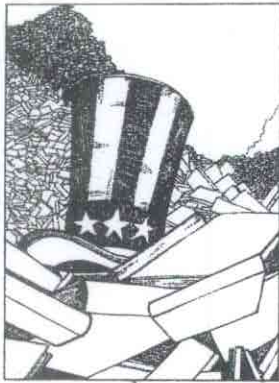
● Mexico and Japan were the two principal foreign markets for U.S. export on mayonnaise, salad dressing and related products in 1971.

You won't find stories or statistics like these in your average home encyclopedia set but it's routine stuff at the Government Printing Office. And it's a fairly routine month—a few congressional hearings for sale, a few history books, a couple of useful pamphlets—little of the stuff for which Pulitzer prizes are awarded, but still interesting enough reading to justify keeping the 177 linotype machines well-oiled down at the GPO.

Starting from the top: the depressing estimate of the number of alcoholic federal workers is courtesy of a 25-cent pamphlet called **Here's Looking at Us** (Item 60I), a report on alcoholism and civilian government workers. The pamphlet is long on explaining the problem, short on offering solutions. If you're not sure you're an alcoholic, read this; if you are sure you have a drinking problem, invest the time you'd spend reading to seek professional help.

## The President's Public Papers

All the official, public statements President Nixon made in 1971 have been served up to fill a



Illustrated by Carolyn D. London

1,217-page, three-inch-thick hardcover **Richard Nixon 1971** (\$15.75, Item 90K), an annual installment of "the public papers of the President."

Wrote the President in an introduction: "1971 was a year of high drama in the domestic arena—especially in the economic realm. The reader can trace in this volume our search for bold new ways of achieving full prosperity at home—without war and without inflation—and of building fairer systems for the international exchange of money and goods."

The passage of time provides plenty of fodder for any number of gratuitous comments about war, inflation and the international monetary system, but the volume is interesting, I think, largely for the transcripts of interviews with the media.

The politically expedient comments—such as the "first President to visit Birmingham since 1921" remark upon arrival in Alabama—are expected and will be of interest to whoever this century's Alexis de Tocqueville might be, but the glimpses of the President at unrehearsed moments make more enjoyable reading. The January 1971 conversations between President Nixon and four television network representatives, for

example, included a frank admission that may have been forgotten.

"I think the greatest disappointment (during my three years in office) was in terms of the tragedies of Kent State, of Jackson State and of the University of Wisconsin . . . We have seen the amount of violence going down some, but during this Administration to have had three such tragedies as that, left a very deep impression upon me," President Nixon said.

Insights on the President rarely come in prepared texts; some are in this pre-Watergate volume of a President's words.

## The Gang's All Here

On a seamier level, nothing this month beats the publication of the House Select Committee on Crime's **Organized Crime in Racing** (\$10.65 for the set of four books, Items 85L through 88L). The mid-1972 hearings produced more hours of interesting testimony than real results, but with witnesses such as Sammy Davis, Jr., Frank Sinatra and Joe "The Baron" Barboza, a gentleman who has confessed to 27 gangland killings and is presently serving a life term in a Federal penitentiary, the hearings were bound to be fun.

Barboza sang like a bird during the hearings, detailing shakedown and dark operations that at times prompted one congressman or another to clear his throat and remind the committee that the topic was organized crime in racing, not so much the nuts and bolts techniques of physical persuasion that "The Baron" seemed so fond of telling. At one point, Barboza mentioned Frank Sinatra, who was to appear as an angry witness several days later.

"I think it was indecent and irresponsible for a man to be allowed to come in and bandy my good name about without

any foundation whatsoever, in order to better his position," began an irate Sinatra, who then read a newspaper headline inspired by "The Baron's" testimony.

"Witness Links Sinatra With Reputed Mafia Figures." That's charming, isn't it? That's charming. And it is all hearsay testimony to begin with!" Sinatra spat.

Almost all of the four parts to the hearings are direct question and answer testimony, a rarity in committee transcripts which are often tediously full of "inserts" into the record of lengthy dissertations on narrow subjects. The give-and-take makes easy reading, and some people's suspicions that the business of horse racing is not always as clean as the jockey's uniforms are, by and large, confirmed.

Now, about the mayonnaise statistics. The Department of Commerce has issued a report detailing where all the American **Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing & Related Products** (45 cents, Item 49F) goes. And what it goes in (containers of less than one gallon were used to pack 69 per cent of the stuff sold in 1971). This handy-dandy reference booklet makes a great birthday gift for that uncle you can't stand.

## How To Order Items

The books mentioned above may be obtained by making check or money order payable to "Superintendent of Documents." Print or type desired title and item number on one piece of paper. Then, to expedite order processing, provide your name and address on a separate piece of paper for use as a return mailing label.

Mail payment, order list, name and address mailing label to: Public Documents Distribution Center, 5801 Tabor Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19120. ■

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