

Is Mr. Nixon Out of Controls?



Arthur Hoppe

June 18, 1975

FOLLOWING is the text of President Nixon's nationwide television address today announcing Phase MCCXVIII:

My fellow Americans: We have been hearing a few complaints lately about what is wrong with the economy. So let us first take a look at what is right with the economy.

Thanks to the firm, steadfast controls I have exercised during Phases I through MCCXVII, we can be proud that the American economy today is by far the free-est, the strongest and the most productive economy in the whole world. Nobody, since the Creation, has ever had it so good.

Now it is true that, due to an act of God, prices have been creeping up here and there. There are some, and I am proud to say that Pat and I are among them, who feel that \$12.42 is too much to pay for a half-pound of cottage cheese and \$14.88 is too high a price for a bottle of catsup.

But let me emphasize that we have every reason to be optimistic about the future. And because the economy is in such glorious shape, I am therefore today taking strong and effective action to deal with it.

★ ★ ★

UNDER Phase MCCXVII, which I have just signed into law, a 15-member Politburo will be established to control the controls imposed during Phases I through MCCXVII. I have long felt that uncontrolled controls pose a threat to our free economy — not to mention The Five-Year Plan I inaugurated during Phase MCCXIV.

The Politburo will also be responsible for increasing productivity of our new collective farms so that we will no longer be dependent on Russian wheat. While I don't wish to hold out false hopes, the new

Central Planning Committee assures me that a 3.2 per cent boost in State wheat production will mean that the daily bread ration can be increased by September to half a kilo a day — for those who can afford it.

But the economy is everybody's business. I have told you what I am doing about it and what the Politburo is doing about it. But there is also a great deal you can do about it.

Never forget that the economy affects you. It affects the job that's been assigned you by your Regional Work Freedom Committee. It affects your clothes ration. It affects your commune.

As an example of what you can do, let me cite the case of Elmer Sneath, a true member of the Republican Party. By voluntarily working 12 hours a day overtime on the assembly line of the State Widget Factory in Region IV, Mr. Sneath exceeded his quota of widgets by 168.2 per cent!

I have, therefore directed that Mr. Sneath be awarded the Medal of Eisenhower and be declared a Hero of American Labor.

★ ★ ★

BUT LET ME emphasize, as I have at the beginning of each phase I have gone through, that Phase MCCXVIII is only temporary.

Let there be no mistake: If our economy is to remain dynamic, we must never slip into the temptation of imagining that, in the long run, controls can substitute for a free economy. We must not let controls become a narcotic — and we must not become addicted.

It is only because our dynamic economy is in such glorious shape that I have been forced to impose these controls which I hate in order to insure that we continue to enjoy the fruits of that greatest of mankind's blessing — our American free enterprise system.