

THE DECLINE of the dollar was bad enough. The oil embargo didn't help. The Indo-chinese imbroglio was a real shocker. Yesterday the protracted prostration of prestige that marks the nation's current history and has anguished the deep thinkers got a dose of the old one-two.

On two continents, American idols no less revered than motherhood were openly despised and rejected. In New Delhi, Parliament was told that the Coca Cola invasion was making an addict of India as opium once did of China. In London, TV authorities banned and barred Shirley Temple movies, denouncing them as irrelevant, childish and mawkish.

It would happen, of course, that at a time of decline in American values like this, Henry Kissinger was off on another junket to the Middle East, and the situation was left to smolder unattended.