

A PARABLE OF PIGS

THE INFLATION/UNEMPLOYMENT DILEMMA

By DOUGLAS STUTSMAN
UNIV. OF S. ALABAMA

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There once was a pig farm that was operated by an old farmer, his son, and a hired man. The farmyard was filled with hundreds of pigs of all sizes, and they all ate their swill from a huge trough. The big hogs ate faster than the little ones, but they had bigger bellies to fill, and when the swill was finally gone, all the pigs were content. One day some of the biggest hogs jumped into the trough, and the swill spilled over the sides. Some of the little pigs did not get enough to eat, because they could not lap up all the spilled swill before it soaked into the ground. The farmers saw the swill overflowing and they were greatly upset.

The old farmer had learned his agricultural theory in the old Classical School, and he knew that when swill overflowed a trough there was too much swill in the trough. He did not see the big hogs in the trough and he did not notice that some of the little pigs were hungry, because he had been taught that hogs do not jump into troughs and that little pigs do not go hungry (unless they are just too lazy to eat).

The farmer's son had been educated in the new Keynesian School of agricultural theory, but he saw the problem much as his father did, for he too had learned that spilling swill means too much swill, and, like his father, he did not see the big hogs in the trough, for he too had been taught that hogs do not jump into troughs. But unlike his father, he knew that little pigs sometimes were forced to go hungry. (He was fond of joshing his father by reminding him of the notorious pig famines of the past and thus revealing the absurdity of the Classical "hungry pig equals lazy pig" theory.) But at first the son did not notice the hungry pigs either, because he knew that pigs do not go hungry

unless there is too little swill, when quite obviously the present problem was too much swill, i.e. spilling swill.

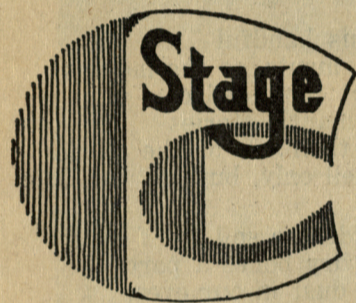
The son had recently reached manhood and had taken over management of the farm, and so the problem was his to solve. The next day he put less swill in the trough, and sure enough the overflowing stopped. Both father and son were delighted, and each was sure that the happy results supported his school of agricultural theory; however, they soon noticed that some of the little pigs were starving. The father argued rather weakly that these must be lazy little pigs, but the son wore a broad smile of anticipation, for he knew how to solve this problem too. Here, at last, was an opportunity to demonstrate to his father the superiority of the "new" agricultural theory. He patiently explained to his father that the starving little pigs were not lazy; they simply could not get enough swill. He poured more swill into the trough, and sure enough the little pigs stopped starving. The father was amazed and he became a convert to the "new" agriculture. (The father was somewhat senile by this time.)

But soon they noticed that the trough was overflowing again, and they were greatly distressed. When they put in enough swill to feed all the pigs the trough overflowed, and when they took out enough to stop the overflowing some little pigs starved. They found nothing in either the Classical or the Keynesian theory to explain and solve the problem. They worried about it constantly and came to call it the "spilled swill/hungry pig dilemma." They became desperate and tried all sorts of ingenious procedures in an attempt to find a solu-

tion. They tried pouring in the swill from either side of the trough and from both sides simultaneously, they poured swill in one end while the hired man scooped it out the other, and they even tried running up to one side of the trough and acting as if they were going to empty their buckets and then hurrying around and pouring them in the other side, but still the dilemma remained; and it appeared to be getting more severe, because more big hogs were jumping into the trough. (Of course, neither father nor son noticed the big hogs in the trough, because they both had learned that hogs do not jump into troughs.)

Finally desperation turned to resignation and they lost all hope of finding a solution. Instead they tried to find some balance, some acceptable compromise. They sought that combination of spilled swill and hungry pigs that would be preferable to all other combinations, but they could not agree. When the son was at the farm he instructed the hired man to pour in enough swill to keep all the pigs from starving, for if the "new" agricultural theory had taught him anything, it was that pig famines were unnecessary. But when the son had to be away and the father was in charge, he instructed the hired man to pour in less swill so that the trough would not overflow, for the father still suspected that hungry little pigs were lazy little pigs.

The simple hired man had never been to school and was completely innocent of agricultural theory. He had great respect for both father and son and was awed by their obvious learning, but sometimes he wondered quietly why they did not pull the pigs out of the trough.



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(more next issue)

NIXON vs GRASS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CUP-LNS)—The Nixon Administration has announced it will escalate the war on marijuana, using a combination of increased manpower, improved technology and increasing economic pressure on Mexico to clean up trade in the mind-expanding drug.

In a recently announced campaign entitled 'Operation Intercept', the U.S. government declared it will launch the nation's "largest search and seizure operation by civil authorities."

Their strategy involves a two-pronged attack: increased and improved inspection methods in the U.S. and pressure on Mexico to give eradication and control of marijuana a high priority.

Some of the methods to be used are:

- use of pursuit planes and some motor boats.
- a strengthened border patrol equipped with observation planes.
- strengthening of the bureau of customs and the bureau of narcotics.
- development by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency of a remote sensor device capable of detecting marijuana from the air.

Once the marijuana has been discovered by the Mexican government, the U.S. would supply their neighbour with a chemical called benzydiethyl amino benzoate, a nausea producing substance which spoils the plant for smoking.

U.S. officials claim the main burden for stopping the flow of marijuana lies with Mexico, and a study group working on 'Operation Intercept' has suggested that the U.S. declare Tijuana off-limits to military personnel as an "inducement" for Mexico to join the operation.

"The effect on the local will be substantial," the group stated, and added the U.S. should put other border towns, under the same restrictions if co-operation is not forthcoming from Mexico.

UNB WINS, 36-19

By Vic Renfro

The University of Prince Edward Island Varsity football team was defeated 36-19 by the University of New Brunswick Red Bombers at Fredericton, last Saturday afternoon.

The U.P.E.I. squad showed flashes of balance at times, but was hurt by poor field position, due to several blocked punts. U.N.B. scored quickly for three touchdowns before U.P.E.I. could get their offense organized.

Senior quarterback Jim Foley entered the game late in the fourth quarter, and the offense started to click. A long aerial to split end Jackie Sands put U.P.E.I. in scoring position at the three yard line, and halfback Jim Paolini rumbled in for the score.

The second U.P.E.I. score came as Jerry Lajeunesse scrambled through the U.N.B. defense. The play was set up by another long pass to Sands. U.N.B. took a shaky 21-13 lead into half time.

The second half was all U.N.B. as flanker Houston MacPherson scampered through the U.P.E.I. defense. The Red Bombers rolled up 15 points before U.P.E.I. could tally for another score. U.P.E.I. marched down from their own forty yard line, with fullback Lajeunesse getting the final major.

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