

Opinions on Nation's Home Building Program Outlined

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT

For an industry as healthy as housing has been over the last 10 years and apparently continues to be, there are a lot of volunteer physicians trying to prescribe. Perhaps this means the robust health is a delusion, perhaps it just means the doctors are too easily frightened.

Fortune magazine, which only two years ago was predicting a generation of prosperity largely based on upgrading the country's housing, now finds that mortgage debt is rising too much faster than homes' total value; it fears a slump.

An Oklahoma Democrat is warning already that the GI housing loan program, now scheduled to expire at the end of July, 1957, must be formally extended at once. Otherwise, he says, 11 million veterans will try to buy homes that month, and, after that, home buying will cease.

And the scholarly National Bureau of Economic Research warns against putting too much trust in the long-term, even payment type of mortgage such as applies to all mortgaged small homes today, says it is not absolutely foreclosure-proof.

The health of building is of concern to every community in the land, since it is the most widely dispersed of American businesses.

ROADS RIDE CREDIT—Behind the scenes of any stepped-up highway modernization program will stand the financial institutions that make it possible for the road builder to buy—on time—the costly machines he needs.

Almost 15 per cent of the money spent on any major road program will go into the purchase of equipment, according to Sydney D. Maddock, vice president of C.I.T. Financial Corp. and head of its industrial financing subsidiary, C.I.T. Corp. He says: "Heavy construction equipment gets bigger, faster and more efficient every year. So it becomes more expensive. Very few contractors can afford to pay cash for this machinery and still keep sufficient working capital to meet current expenses. In-statement financing has become the rule rather than the

exception in buying heavy equipment."

Maddock qualifies as an expert since C.I.T. Corp. is the world's largest industrial financing firm, handling equipment used in some 90 fields of industry.

THINGS TO COME—Going abroad this summer? Currency calculators of pocket size can be had for each of four major foreign areas. Self-adhesive safety markers reflect light and glow when there isn't any light. A thumb-powered dynamo lights a batteryless flashlight, small enough for purse or pocket. Plated bolts and nuts in 91 shapes and sizes are offered to dress up your home projects.

EVERWEARING INK—A luminescent additive has been put into the country's largest and most widely used writing ink to make writing not only tamperproof but immune to flood and other damage.

A national pen company announces that it has quietly improved its ink with this mysterious additive, which cannot be radiated or detected by physical means, but which abrades the fibers of the paper and of course this kind of erasure can always be detected fairly simply.

Erased and washed out writing with the fortified ink need only be placed under ultraviolet light to reveal the original writing. The company points out that not only does this offer foolproof protection against check raising or other malicious changing of written matter, but that it provides an invaluable means of restoring records accidentally damaged.

The new additive, while it was announced only last month, has been going into all the firm's ink sold for more than nine months. Practically all this ink now on retailers' shelves contains the luminescent additive.

LIFE IN OLD HILLS—Projects for getting iron ore from sources other than the Mesabi Range multiply, but Minnesota's rusty hills are still vitally important to the United States steel industry. Ore boats are already braving the ice of Lake Superior and upper Lake Michigan sev-

eral weeks earlier than they did last year. Ordinarily the opening would have been delayed rather than advanced, since the winter was severe.

Reason for the early opening is the tremendous demand for steel, which has drawn down stockpiles at Chicago and Cleveland. The risk of damage to the ore boats, while large, is less than the possible loss in partial closings. Substitute supplies are either still ice-locked, as in Quebec, or separated from the mills by long land hauls.

BITS O' BUSINESS—The Office of Defense Mobilization has granted private users of nickel an extra million pounds for April, May, and June. Shippers' advisory boards forecast a 5.2 per cent gain in carloadings for the current quarter. Factory sales of automobiles in January and February totaled \$1,353,839 vehicles, only surpassed by last year's figure.

Avalon Village Baptists Hold Special Service

The Avalon Village Baptist Church, 451 East 223rd St., Torrance, announces special evangelistic meetings which began last Sunday evening. The meetings will be at 7:30 each evening except Saturday through April 22.

Rev. Harry Lansman and the church have invited two fellow pastors to come and serve in these meetings. Rev. Claude L. Harris, the pastor of the Van Owen Baptist Church of North Hollywood, will be the speaker. Rev. Charles Hughes, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Chatsworth, will lead the singing. There will be special music at each service.

The church has Sunday worship services at 9 a.m., 11:05 a.m., and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday School for all ages at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

UNICAMERAL PLAN—Nebraska has had a unicameral legislature since 1937.

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Chemist Sees Innovations For Housewife

Unprecedented developments are ahead which will further reduce the work of homemakers, give them more free time, and add to the quality and variety of foods now available.

L. E. Jackson, director of technical services for a midwestern chemical concern, said that these developments can be expected as a result of further continued progress in the chemical industry.

Jackson was in Southern California this week to meet with chemical industry leaders who are making plans for observance of Chemical Progress Week, April 23-28. Dan W. Ryan of Dow Chemical Co., Torrance, is a chairman, was one of the chemistry executives in attendance at the meeting.

Some Innovations

1—Canned cake batter that you take from the grocer's shelf, pour into a pan and bake without even mixing.

2—Meat and chicken treated so it will keep for weeks under normal refrigeration, retaining full fresh flavor, without need of freezing.

3—Washing machines with built-in reservoirs for liquid detergents that you need only to fill occasionally. The proper amount of detergent for each washing would be supplied automatically.

4—Use of the wild plant known as "cat-tails" as a food. Jackson pointed out that things ahead which will make it possible through chemistry are probably no more fantastic than developments of the past 10 years which now are accepted facts of everyday life.

Progress Cited—Sixty-five per cent of all the items on grocery store shelves today were not even available 10 years ago, Jackson declared.

"These improved food items brought about by chemistry not only lessen the work of the housewife, but improve the health of the entire family."

Pointing to advances in agricultural chemicals Jackson said that 150 years ago nine farmers were required to feed one city dweller. Now one farmer sustains 19 city dwellers. This, he attributes to fertilizers, insecticides, mechanization plus ingenuity.

Many Unusual Flowers Are State Natives

Here's a whole new world of gardening that perhaps you have never heard of. The California natives, including trees, shrubs, ground covers and lovely wild flowers.

In the shrub class one of the loveliest is the Wild Lilac (Ceanothus). It blooms in many beautiful shades of blue, lavender and white and in many shapes, ground cover, shrubs, etc.

The Bush Poppy (Dendromecon Rigida) is a freely branched shrub from two to eight feet in height with yellowish-gray or white bark and huge quantities of lemon yellow poppy flowers from March through June. This native is excellent for dry slopes.

Rapid growing shrubs or small trees partially defines the Fremontia, an evergreen, with thick rough leaves and abundant large yellow flowers. Plant this native shrub on a slope so its brilliant mass of yellow flowers will contrast dramatically against the sky.

Oregon Grape they call it but Mahonia aquifolium grows native in California too. Other Mahonias—pinata, nervosa, nevilli and fremontii—are California natives too and all make excellent plantings in gardens and yards throughout the state, providing color and foliage interest the year 'round.

Although monkeys are by no means native to this state the Monkey Flower shrub is. Its species, Diplopely longiflorus and Diplopely punicus, plus their hybrids offer a wide range of flower colors. These shrubs grow from one to five feet in height. And there's even a Holly native to this state—the Toyon or California Holly, sometimes called the Christmas Holly because its bright red berries decorate the holiday season. It grows from six to 10 feet as a shrub or 15 to 25 feet as a tree with glossy green leaves, small white flowers and of course the gay red berries.

So now you've met this whole new world of gardening—the California natives.

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