of experience gained some years ago and take no account of constitutional changes in Kenya during the last year or so which may well have altered some of the statutory provisions mentioned.

Currency Comments

Alan Day, Professor of Economics at London University, in The Observer, *November* 29.

The question that should now be discussed calmly is what these measures should be. After careful and restrained argument, the official and authoritative Radcliffe Committee concluded in 1959 that while we should not be "easily moved to devalue sterling," nevertheless "experience has revealed no other instrument as powerful as devaluation that can be used to restore competitive power . . .

It is now perfectly clear to me that the Government made a first-rate error of judgment when it decided not to devalue the pound during its first two or three weeks in power, before the crisis of confidence blew up and when it could still act of its own free will. Now the Government has got itself into a position where it has pathetically little freedom of action.

Karel Norsky in The Daily Telegraph, *December* 3.

In spite of the inter-governmental rescue operations, private holders of sterling in Europe are refusing to show confidence in the pound as long as the surcharge on imports is retained.

Surcharge is regarded as a camouflaged form of devaluation and it is pointed out that the introduction of an import levy by France in 1956 was followed by the devaluation of the franc two years later. There are fears that this pattern might be repeated in Britain.

Richard Fry, Financial Editor of The Daily Telegraph, *December* 3.

One would probably not go far wrong in estimating that the amount of foreign currency spent last month to support the pound was in excess of £100 millions: but we are left to guess. "No comment" is the word from Whitehall.

William Davis, City Editor of the Evening Standard, *December* 2.

Why, against this background, should investors stand so remarkably firm? Why don't they sell and buy back later? Why don't they switch to safer things like building societies, or finance houses? . . . Laziness, experienced brokers will tell you, has a lot to do with it. People simply cannot be bothered to hop from one thing to another.

Fervent dislike of taking any sort of loss is another big factor. Most investors simply hate the idea of selling anything if the price is less than they paid . . . . But the main reason, without doubt, is still summed up in one simple word: "Inflation."

Over the years it has become the talisman of the investment world — trotted out by many people with the blind faith of a man going over Niagara in a barrel. You can hardly blame them. Look what's been happening to the purchasing power of the £. Taking 1946 as a base, the picture looks like this:

1949	17s. 0d.
1954	13s. 10d.
1959	12s. 1d.
1963	11s. 0½d.
1964	10s. 7d.

Now look how a pound invested in 1946 has performed since then:

1949	15s. 9d.
1954	27s. 3d.
1959	50s. 0d.
1963	51s. 6d.
1964	56s. 0d.

Kept in a cardboard box under the bed, as you can see, that pound now buys only half as much. Put into shares it is worth considerably more than twice as much. Convincing evidence!

NEW CENTRE

THE Centre For Economic Inquiry is the name of a new school of social science established in Nairobi, Kenya. The founder and first Director is Mr. Kul Bhushan Sharma, an enthusiastic and energetic delegate to the recent International Conference. There he was able to learn much from School Extension Directors and on his way home visited the Henry George School in London.

Mr. Sharma has been fortunate enough to engage the co-operation of New Era College, at which he teaches, to provide premises for the offices and classrooms of the Centre, and to provide secretarial services. He intends to start running courses in Basic Economics as soon as possible.

And the Price Today ?

"THE United States Government placed special trains at the Prince's disposal, and he travelled everywhere in a luxuriously appointed director's car. He had an excellent reception in Chicago, and went afterwards to shoot prairie fowl, quail, plover and a few cranes on the soft, rich, breezy meadows round the village of Dwight. He liked always to elicit factual information, and was interested to learn that the price of land in Dwight had risen during the past five years from ninety cents to one hundred dollars an acre."

—From the chapter on the visit by the Prince of Wales to the U.S.A. in 1860 from *King Edward the Seventh,* official biography by Philip Magnus. (John Murray, London, 1964.)