

Sydney Mayers

VIEWS THE NEWS

We quote—without comment—a rather provocative headline from the front cover of U. S. News & World Report: "One out of ten Negro workers unemployed. One out of twenty white workers unemployed. Key to national unrest?" YOU supply the comment!

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Ludwig Erhard, who is expected to replace Konrad Adenauer as Chancellor of West Germany, is being criticized as "a better economist than a politician." In view of his country's phenomenal industrial growth during Herr Erhard's tenure as Economics Minister, it would seem West Germany's choice merits emulation, rather than captiousness.

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The New York Times reports that, in an effort to restrain prices, inflation and concomitant unemployment, governments all over Europe are trying to curb a tendency for "wages" to increase at a rate greater than the rise in productivity. It is indeed disheartening to note the continued widespread failure to understand the true nature of wages—which are not dollars, pounds, francs, marks, lire or such monetary income, but are the economic satisfactions (goods and services) realized as a return for labor expended.

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Fernando Belaunde, newly-elected civilian President of Peru, where a majority of the populace are landless, poverty stricken and hungry, apparently won his office by promising "swift and radical reforms." We very respectfully recommend to Senor Belaunde that he read a book whose Castillian title is

Progreso y Miseria, wherein he will find clearly expounded a basic economic reform which would inevitably bring prosperity to his people.

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Tax reform continues to rank high on the Administration's legislative agenda, but it appears the Congress proposes to adopt only minor changes in the internal revenue structure. Reforming taxation on a modestly quantitative basis is somewhat like reforming a housebreaker by cutting down the amount he is permitted to burgle.

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At an official reception honoring Colonel Bykovsky and Lieutenant Tereshkova, following their reported tandem flights in world orbit, Soviet Premier Krushchev urged that outer space be transformed into a zone of peace and international cooperation. His remarks were enthusiastically cheered by a throng of happy comrades, whereupon the jovial statesman coyly mentioned that the rockets which had launched the astronauts into space could also be used for "other purposes."

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Dr. Alfons Pausch, a tax official in Bitburg, Germany, also serves as curator of a tax museum, whose intriguing exhibits date as far back as 2300 B. C., showing how long the terms "citizen" and "taxpayer" have been synonymous. Dr. Pausch, proudly viewing his collection (which, incidentally, is now government sponsored, i. e.: taxpayer supported), cheerfully observes: "You must agree our methods have become more civil with the years of experience."