

# Economist paints a rosey picture

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(less developed countries). "If these countries don't get their debt problems and inflation under control, also said, a worldwide recession is possible."

**WHAT ROUTE** The Federal Reserve Board will take with monetary policy also could be a concern for the economy's health, Seger said. While the "feds" will monitor the economy carefully, they may be willing to tighten money. But I don't think it is in the cards," she added.

Taking pot shots at the country's politicians, Seger said the nation's federal

budget deficit is more a political problem than an economic one.

"The spending side of the budget is growing more rapidly than the tax side," Seger said. "The gap is the deficit."

She said, much of the problem is due to legislators who, particularly during election year make their own favorable publicity by screaming for budget cuts but who line up to sponsor spending bills for one program or another.

"We as citizens should treat politicians as we treat an 8-year-old child," she said. Politicians should be given only so many tax dollars and they will be forced to "try to get the most mileage out of it."

Cutting the size of government calls for eliminating costly entitlement programs and eliminating duplication, she said. For example, she said, Detroit has a consumer affairs department as does Wayne County, the state and federal government.

But when a chamber member implied that Reagan may not have lived up to his campaign promise to cut the size of government, Seger said he is only a leader who is as strong or weak as the people he is leading.

"We have got a real problem in this country with ignorance," she said.

Seger said, blaming voters for supporting legislators' spending bills and programs.

**LOOKING AHEAD** In 1984, inflation still will be the key factor, Seger said. Interest rates will probably "stay flat until late September and as a group will move up 1-2 percent," which is nothing to write home about," she added.

In housing, Seger expects "continued

starts of new houses at the same rate as in 1983."

As far as auto sales, Seger expects a jump to 10.8 million compared to last year's less than 9 million. Consumer confidence and the third stage of a tax cut which took effect last July should help auto sales jump, she said.

## Blaze guts mobile home

Continued from Page 1

tained minor heat damage was estimated at \$10,000, he added.

Two engines, two squads and two mobile units were used with a total 31 firefighters at the scene.

Fire officials are again reminding residents to be cautious when smoking. When a cigarette is lit, be sure you remain awake to finish it. Do not place ashtrays next to a bed. If several people have been smoking in your house, check between couch cushions for ashes or smoldering cigarette butts.

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