

# Candidates seek inflation cure

Nothing has hit the average consumer harder than rapidly rising costs of food, clothing, housing, college education and almost every product on the market.

Inflation should be curbed immediately, the politicians say. But every politician has a different view on how it should be curbed and what circumstances are responsible for the current inflationary spiral.

For this reason, the Observer & Eccentric newspapers asked candidates in the 17th Congressional race, "Who or what is to blame for inflation? What would you as a congressman do about it?"

The district includes Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Lathrup Village and northwest Detroit. Democrats seeking the nomination are Kathleen Straus, Patrick McDonald, Joseph Levin, Robert Fitzpatrick, Dennis Shrewsbury, and William Brodhead. Republicans are Kenneth Gallagher and A. J. Goldenthal.

**GOLDENTHAL BELIEVES**, the "present inflationary cycle was origi-

nated by President Johnson's escalation of Vietnam War costs. "Then, as the Federal Reserve chairman stated, the deficits of the Democratic-controlled Congress were responsible for inflation in eight of the last 10 years. Therefore, they failed to organize themselves to relate expenditures to revenues and will probably sabotage the new budget control law."

"This week Congress has been unwilling to deal with abuses of power by big labor and industry which raise prices and force increases in money supply to avoid more unemployment."

"Among other causes for higher prices were the dollar devaluation which lifted import prices, the high international demand for commodities and the Arab-led oil cartel which not only quadrupled prices but injured our district's economy."

**LEVIN SAYS** increased productivity will help curb inflation. "When the free market system is working, inflation is a result of demand for a particular product or service growing faster than the supply."

"Wage increases in excess of increases in productivity and an inadequate expansion of productive capacity contribute to inflation."

"We should stimulate increased productivity by encouraging capital investment (adequate depreciation schedules and investment tax credits) and education (direct manpower training programs for labor-short industries and post-high school tuition tax credits or tax deductions.)"

**SHREWSBURY WANTS** federal expenditures to be reduced.

"I believe deficit spending is a large contributor to inflation and the \$304 billion budget should be cut, with many of the large unnecessary defense expenditures reduced."

"Reductions in foreign aid should also be considered. These cuts can allow more expenditures in the area of energy research and production. The areas of housing, public transportation, health care and public service employment need more attention from the Congress."

**FITZPATRICK FEELS** the President is directly responsible for the economic condition of the country.

"President Nixon and his fiscal and budgetary blunders are responsible for the runaway inflation. His 'phase this' and 'phase that' policies on controls have let inflation race out of control. If Wayne County, the third largest county in the nation, can balance the budget the last four years, why can't President Nixon and congress? As a new beginning, there is no doubt that we have to cut Pentagon spending and reorder our nation's priorities to include welfare and tax reform."

**BRODHEAD BELIEVES** the Nixon administration is largely to blame for inflation.

"It has catered to the needs of big business and neglected the needs of the average citizen. Unfair tax laws, huge oil company profits, the wheat sale to Russia and wasteful military spending are prime causes of the present inflation."

"As a congressman, I would work for tax reform, increasing the supply of food and fuel to bring prices down, and clamping down on the unfair practices of the oil companies."

**STRAUS SAYS** inflation is a problem facing the entire world and "We are now facing an economy of scarcity of resources whereas in the past we enjoyed an economy of seemingly unlimited resources. The traditional means of dealing with inflation are no longer effective."

"Raising interest rates to reduce the supply of money have increased costs, which in turn, leads to higher prices. Putting a damper on construction through high interest rates, for example, leads to unemployment and this is an unacceptable means of controlling inflation."

"What is most needed is a congress that exercises its rightful role in drafting meaningful legislation, not one that abdicates its responsibility by giving blanket authority to the president."

**MCDONALD FEELS** inflation is the result of many different problems.

"The current administration's combination of bias in favor of the wealthy, inattention to domestic problems, shocking incompetence in dealing with commodity problems and exports of grain have made inflation unbearable."

"Interest has become so excessive that the cost of borrowing money is stifling expansion of industry and the creation of housing. The cost of food and medicine must be immediately price controlled."

"The federal government should undertake a program of consumer advice in the area of nutrition; a program which would tell people how to buy foods at times of peak availability and low price and how to avoid buying food products of little or no nutritional value."

**GALLAGHER ALSO** feels inflation is a complex issue with multiple causes.

He believes in a "balanced federal budget, a cutback on federal spending that increases the inflation pressure, the investigation of price indexation and the responsibility of the individual to resist buying at inflated prices."

## U.S. European forces debated

The single most costly category in the budget of the United States is national defense. Presently, a significant proportion of U.S. military strength is housed in Europe, guarding borders and countries as part of a NATO force.

Because of the relative stability of the European continent and present day jet transport systems for troops, many experts believe that the size of the U.S. European force is far too large.

In relation to this issue, the Observer & Eccentric asked the candidates for the 17th Congressional race the following question: "How do you feel about cutting America's military troop commitment in Europe? e.g. Is the Soviet military threat over- or under-estimated?"

Candidates seeking the Democratic nomination are Joseph Levin, Dennis Shrewsbury, Robert Fitzpatrick, Patrick McDonald, Kathleen Straus, William Brodhead. Republicans are Kenneth Gallagher and A.J. Goldenthal.

**BRODHEAD SAYS**, "I believe we can reduce the number of American troops in Europe without endangering the security of either Europe or the United States. The hundreds of thousands of American troops stationed in Europe are a tremendous burden on the American taxpayer. We should use the money being spent on unnecessary troops for the solution of domestic problems. World War II ended 29 years ago. Europe should be able to assume more of the burden of protecting itself."

**FITZPATRICK ALSO** believes that European defense spending is out of proportion. "I believe America's troop commitment in Europe can and should be reduced. The Nixon administration is asking \$100 billion for Pentagon spending in 1975, or about 59 percent of your tax dollars. For every two people in uniform, the Pentagon has one civilian employee. And why should we have almost 8,000 H-bombs, or 36 for every major Soviet city. The Russians have about half that number. Their threat is blown out of all proportions by the military-industrial complex."

**STRAUS SAYS** that action for withdrawal should be taken only after consultation with U.S. allies. "My inclination is to want to cut American military troop commitments in Europe. But I would want to be con-

vinced that in so doing we do not unduly weaken United States security. Nuclear war is still the ultimate horror. Detente with the USSR is, at best, fragile. I believe that NATO is still essential, and if troops are to be withdrawn, it must be done in consultation with our NATO allies."

**LEVIN ASSERTS** that troop withdrawal must come simultaneously with Russian withdrawal. "I favor mutual, phased reductions of American and Soviet troops stationed in non-Soviet European countries."

"The American troops in Western Europe are, in effect, a 'hostage' force giving continuing credibility to our important and otherwise less-credible 25 year NATO treaty obligation."

"The still unresolved anomaly of West Berlin—a real burr in the heart of East Germany—is just one example of why Western Europe remains an area of potential major conventional and, if we permit miscalculation by the Soviets, nuclear conflict."

**GALLAGHER STATES** that he is against cutting America's troop commitment in Europe. "I am against

cutting America's military troop commitment in Europe. Under-estimated."

**SHREWSBURY SAYS** that as long as the U.S. possesses the nuclear capability to annihilate the Russians, European troops are not needed. "One of our military expenditures which I favor is the cutback of troops in Europe. We have military transport planes (remember how much they cost) which can get troops from the U.S. to Europe in a matter of hours, if necessary. Let's reduce our cost by that much, anyway. The Soviet threat is not over-estimated, but as long as we have our present capability of bombing them out of existence, and they have the same, how much more do we need?"

**GOLDENTHAL BELIEVES** that while troop reductions are possible, they must not be at the expense of U.S. strength overall. "The presence of American troops is more of a symbolic than military significance. We can reduce these forces more to a knee-keeping level. But the containment of the Soviet military largely continues to rest with us."

"The Soviets will take advantage of every military weakness they think helps strengthen the security of the 10,000 elite who run the country. At the same time, in view of their nuclear and conventional military capability, we must, first, remain strong and, second, continue to explore the possibilities of detente."

"Hopefully, a reasonable amount of democratization of the Soviet society will occur so that the military threat will diminish."

**MCDONALD SAYS** that any troop reduction must be done only after careful analysis of the current military situation. "As I am not presently privy to national security information, I would have to assume that the members of Congress base their opposition to troop reductions on analysis of facts presented by national security and defense officials."

"While the maintenance of NATO forces in Europe contributes to the balance of power between Russia and China, our troop commitment should be reviewed constantly. If weapons become more sophisticated and obviate the necessity of large numbers of troops they should then be reduced."

## Rare sting ray has fatal appeal for rich

By LORIN LABARDEE

A needle-sharp tail points out from one end, gaping green eyes peak through the gravel from the other.

His name is "Taeniura Lyman," the blue-spotted sting ray. In his tank at Sea Creatures, in Avon Township, the evil-eyed fish appears highly unattractive, buried in gravel up to his gills.

Despite the creature's apathetic attitude, people will gladly spend \$50 to proudly display him in their living rooms.

Blue-spotted sting rays have four things going for them, according to shop owner Larry McLean: The ability to kill humans, neon-

blue spots, jet-sleek form and rarity.

Reach your hand in the ray's tank and scratch his snout. That's alright. Move too fast and the switchblade-sharp harpoon will lash into your hand.

The action is completely reflex, McLean said. The toxin in the stinger can kill you if you are susceptible to it.

"The more deadly a fish is, the more appeal it has. All venomous things we get in sell immediately," he said.

It's the American way of toying with death, come close enough to catch the thrill but don't get caught.

When the death-dealer isn't in his gravel lair, the blue spots on his back flash as though he holds a brilliant blue light.

"There's no trick lighting in this store, those spots are as brilliant as a rainbow without lights," McLean said.

As you watch the ray glide silently across the tank floor, you sense why sports cars were given names like "Sting Ray" and "Manta."

They're sleek, quick, fast and silent. They have this very jet-setty quality about them," McLean said. According to McLean, the owners of the blue-spotted rays are very close to the jet set themselves.

McLean has sold two of his three

blue-spotted rays so far, both to very upper-class, with-it types.

The sort of people who would want something their friends won't find anywhere else.

"Anyone can see a common sting ray on the beach during a vacation in Florida."

"Even if you went on a vacation to the South Pacific you wouldn't be guaranteed of seeing a blue-spotted sting ray," McLean said.

There are no blue-spotted sting rays in either the Belle Isle or Detroit Zoological Park aquariums.

For those who would like a bit of the South Pacific in their living rooms there are two requirements: The money for a \$50 fish and for a 70-gallon salt water aquarium, and patience; McLean waited more than six months for his last three rays.

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**Insurance FACTS**  
by Robert H. Bergstrom, CPCU

Insurance is not a new idea, or even a recent idea. Believe it or not, the world of insurance, and the feeling about its necessity extends as far back as the Middle Ages. At that time in history there were guilds set up to protect the workers of various crafts. Many of these guilds provided what was essentially workmen's compensation caused by illness. When the guilds began gradually to disappear, insurance, too, went out of the picture. But today, insurance is again a necessity.

Today with rising costs, insurance is a necessity for every family. Let **BERGSTROM INSURANCE AGENCY**, 2700 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills, 48406, help you with all your needs. We have been serving Farmington and its surrounding areas since 1955 with a full line of insurance for every need. A phone call will bring you one of our trained insurance specialists to your place of business or home to analyze your insurance needs... they know the ins and outs of the insurance industry and will get you the most insurance for your particular needs and budget requirements. Open: Mon-Fri. 9-5; other times by appointment.

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D. Keith Deacon, Councilman

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"I've known Bill Ortman for years. He and I have been colleagues for a long time. I've come to admire and respect his dedication and concern for people. Bill has a certain sensitivity, call it insight if you like, into human nature. People trust him and I believe that trust is well placed."  
Byron D. Walter, former Trustee and Justice of the Peace.

"I've always believed our legislators should be responsive to the people, and Bill Ortman is one of the few men I'd trust to fill that goal."  
Herbert Grosberg (Bill's next-door neighbor).

"I think we voters have a responsibility to elect a state representative who really knows this district and the people living here. Bill Ortman was born and raised here in Oakland County and he's had a life-long interest in this area. He's worked hard to make this community a good place to live and work, and the people here respect him. We need a man like Bill Ortman representing us in Lansing."  
T.K. McGuire (Southfield).

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