

Tough times ahead for U.S., says expert

The U.S. share of the world economy will continue to decline in the 1980s, accompanied by further erosion of this nation's already reduced international influence, University of Michigan economist Paul W. McCracken predicted in an address delivered in Japan.

The speaker, a Miller-McCormack Research Institute consultant in Tokyo, Prof. McCracken said the relative change in America's international position "will be forcing the liberal nations of the world into a painful search for viable new international economic and political structures to replace the old simple but in its time effective hegemonic system" dominated by the U.S. economy.

The demise of the old system was inevitable, McCracken said, and, with the United States assuming a large share of world economies after World War II, "evolved in part naturally from its own success." He added:

"THE PROCESS of its demise has been accelerated, however, by the perplexing inability of the United States to manage economic policy in ways that would permit the reasonably stable price level, high employment and persisting gains in real income that have characterized it historically."

"The most fundamental contribution that the United States can make to the orderly evolution of the new system is the better management of its own economy."

Monetary policies, urgently needed at home in any case, This can be done, and there is a growing disposition to support these needed actions."

McCracken, the U-M's Edmund Ezra Day Professor of Business Administration, has twice served on the President's Council of Economic Advisors.

The U-M economist emphasized that "It is essential that present tensions and strains not turn governments and

their policies in the direction of protectionism."

"If our nations can sustain strong operating political and economic relationships with each other," he concluded, "then the year 2000 historians may yet record that the twentieth century ended with two better decades than the 1970s would have indicated."

McCracken continued, the relative economic positions of Japan and the United States over the past quarter century.

He Japan's productivity and real incomes a quarter century ago were well below those of the United Kingdom, and Japan was still haunted by its early reputation for low-priced and low-quality products on the export market, he said.

Today, "economic aid activity flows from Japan to other societies. Products made there worldwide an enviable reputation for reliability, quality, and high technology." These statistics on comparative per capita incomes show Japan's economy today to be rich, powerful, and dynamic."

The United States alone accounted for about 27 percent of the world's gross national product two decades ago (compared with about 5 percent for Japan and the United Kingdom and 7 percent for West Germany) and 18 percent of total world trade, about five times Japan's share, McCracken noted. Today, the U.S. share of world GNP has declined to just under 22 percent and its share of world trade is below 13 percent.

He expressed skepticism about the administration's determination to balance the budget and pursue monetary restraint, but said, "There are fundamental actions to revitalize the economy and to restore its capability to deliver gains in productivity and real income have yet to be taken. Even after these programs are put in place, their good results will show up only slowly in the economy."

McCracken cited declining growth of the net stock of capital per person at work and of new technological development as important factors in the economy's decline.

"There is, however, an even more fundamental reason for concern about the diminishing capability of the American economy to deliver economic progress," he said. "While it deals with matters that are intangible, it is perhaps more fundamental than subnormal investment or inadequate research and development activity or an attitude of poor demand management policies."

"The American society seems to have lost the unifying force and attractiveness that were considered a common consent as to what the nation and its society is all about. It is a society, therefore, that seems to be at war with itself."

Children's author advocates vigorous use of books by kids

A book is meant for use, not reverence, reminds children's author Joan W. Blos.

Those tattered pages with chocolate

smudges don't necessarily indicate vandalism. Just as likely they are a sign of loving and repeated attention.

"Sometimes parents who hope to instill a respect for books make them seem more intimidating than intriguing. They display them on the coffee table and then say, 'Be careful. Don't touch!'" Blos says. "I would rather see a child turning the pages with dirty fingers than turning the pages with fear."

A lecturer in children's literature at the University of Michigan School of Education, Blos was recently awarded the Newberry Medal for her 1979 book, "A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal" (1930-32).

Set against a backdrop of 19th century rural America, the story chronicles the change and growth in 13-year-old Catherine as she experiences personal trauma and social change.

White Blos' novel is aimed at young adolescents (and has drawn a considerable following among adults), her main field of interest is books for preschoolers. She has published three picture books and is the American editor of "Children's Literature in Education."

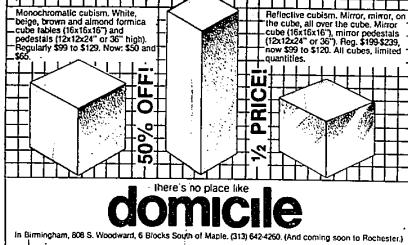
"IT IS NEVER too early to expose a child to books," Blos declares, "even if all he wants to do is teeth on the covers." The best picture books are probably in the sounds of the words, the large bright pictures and the comfort of being cuddled while being read to.

"Then, gradually, the pictures and sounds begin to convey meanings and the experience in the story becomes the child's experience as well."

"You can't relieve your life," Blos observes, "but the experiences in books can be relieved again and again."



Analytic cubism.



There's no place like **domicile**

In Birmingham, 808 S. Woodward, 6 Blocks South of Maple. (313) 642-4260. (And coming soon to Rochester.)

SABRINA PRESENTS
Sarina

Mary Hallman
of Lion's Paw

Personal Appearance
Saturday, April 26th
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Come meet Mary
and experience this feminine nostalgic collection
of very special dresses...
Linen, silk, cotton and lace
combinations as only Lion's Paw can do.

Bloomfield Plaza • Telegraph at Maple • 851-6368



THE GREAT DOLL SALE

April 21
dru
May 3

OVERSTOCKS
20% off

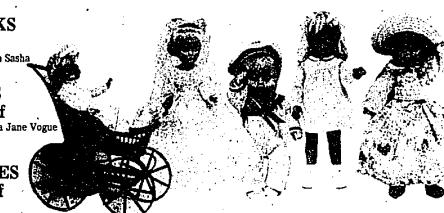
Eifelbee/Susan Gibson Sasha

CLOSEOUTS
up to 50% off

Peggy Nisbett/Amanda Jane Vogue

**DOLL
ACCESSORIES**
10 to 30% off

SELECTION
REDUCTIONS
ON ANTIQUE &
COLLECTABLE
DOLLS



Introductory
Prices on
C.R. Club
Marjorie Spangler
Shackman
(doll kits
& small bisque
reproductions)

Airesford
(large plush
animals from
Great Britain)

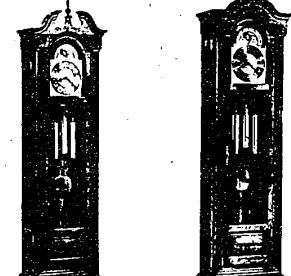
The Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop

3947 Twelve Mile Road, Berkley Telephone 543-3115 Monday thru Saturday 10-5, Friday till 8P.M.

THE STUART



THE ARISTOCRAT



THE OXFORD



THE WINDSOR



THE SOVEREIGN



STEWART-GLENN CO.
"YOUR FULL SERVICE STORE"
has no extra charge for
• Careful Inspection & Set-Up
• Courteous Delivery Service
• Generous Storewide Parking

Stewart Glenn
2000 N. WOODWARD, BLOOMFIELD HILLS
Just South of Square Lake Rd. 332-8348
Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-4, Sun 1-5

Ask our Interior Designers
to help you with your
decorating problems
Use our Pay Plan
or credit plan
or use your VISA
or Master Charge