Abbott Labs should be investment for the future

Q. I am an owner of stock in Ab-bott Laboratories. It has done well, but with all the talk about the gov-ernment forcing health care costs down, I'm wondering if you wouldn't think it was a good time to sell it.

A. I'm not very good at guessing what Impediments our friends in Washington will place in front of a successful business, but all the flgures suggest that Abbott is a very well-run organization. On the record, it should continue to be an excellent investment. A. I'm not very good at guessing what impediments our friends in Washington will place in front of a guesting successful business, but all the figures suggest that Abbott is a very well-run organization. On the record, it should continue to be an excellent investment.

A year ago Better Investing Magarine featured Abbott Laboratories as an undervalued stock.

That means it thought the stock had a good likelihood of increasing 20 percent in price over the next 12 in firments.

At the time it was selling at \$1. By November, it had passed 70, Recently it has dropped down a bit to the mid-60s, but its figures still look very good.

IN THE past year, sales of the company were up 9 percent, and

today's investor Thomas E. O'Hara of the National Association of Investors Corp.

Weight problems are the subject of interest to millions of people, and the market should be huge.

A slowing in earnings per share growth will likely reduce investor interest in the company, but a rate of 10 percent would still be very good.

Thomas O'Hara of Bloomfield Hills welcomes your questions and comments but will answer them only through this column. Readers whose questions on a general investment subject or on a corporation with broad investor interest are used will receive a free one-year subscription to the investment magazine, "Better Investing."

investment magazine, "Better Investing."
For a sample copy of "Better Investing," or information about investment clubs, write Today's Investor, P.O. Box 220, Royal Oak 48068.

IT'S INTERESTING IT'S EXCITING IT'S STREET SCENE Read It every Monday

Detroit business index up

The Purchasing Management Association of Detroit reported a composite index of business conditions of 45.2 in April, up 5.8 points from March and 0.2 point from one year ago.

Survey results below 50 indicate economic contraction in the industrial sector.

"Although April conditions showed improvement from the sawtooth pattern of the past six months, this still constitutes the 13th consecutive month of soft to

sawtooth pattern of the past six months, this still constitutes the 13th consecutive month of soft to deteriorating conditions in the industrial sector," said David L. Littmann, Irist vice president and senior economist at Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit.

"The improvement from March was largely a reflection of better production, new orders and employment activity in the automotive sector. One of the most constructive aspects of the April survey was the report that month-to-month price changes were the weakest in six months." Items in short supply included titanium dioxide, exc-sleohol galvanized colls and coated steel product, blue facsimite paper advanized colls and coated steel products. Binufacturers National Bank of Detroit compiles the PMAD survey report from monthly responses of local purchasting managers belonging to the 400-member PMAD.

Hot line helps get bank loan

Inc. and the Booker T. Washington Business Association.
Banks cite lack of preparedness on the part of loan applicants as one of the primary reasons for initial rejection, said Taylor Cos., deputy direct of the Minority Economic Development Division of New Detroit.
"This service will equit hem with the things they need to know to apply for a loan – most important of which is a complete, well-constructed business plan.
"THE URBAN Bankers flot LLI countries will represent the revolunteers will help applicants to re-

ed business plan.

"THE UIRBAN Bankers Hot Line volunteers will help applicants to review their business or financial plans." said Charles Dillard, chairman of the Economic Development Committee at the Urban Bankers Forum, the source for volunteers.

"The advisers can ofter informat feedback on the feasibility of their plans or how improvements might be made. They can also provide referrals to consultants who specialize in preparing business plans." The telephone lines will operate Insessay and Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., with an answering machine hookup whenever a volunteer is unavailable. The Washington business association will provide office space for the operation.

Any followup review sessions between volunteers and applicants will

Small- and minority-business entreproneurs can call 972-120 prior to seeking a bank loan; it could help to better prepare an applicant for what is otherwise an uncomfortable experience.

This specialized bot line is a cooperative venture of New Detroit Inc., the Urban Bankers Forum of Detroit inc. and the Booker T. Washington Business Association.

Banks cell clack of preparedness on the part of loan applicants as one of the primary reasons for initial rejection, sald Taylor Cox, deputy direction, sal

tool in putting together a business

tool in putting together a business' deal."

The business loan information beine number is 972-1220.

Another valuable resource for minority- and small-business entrepreneurs is the Small Business entrepreneurs is the Small Business of Smal





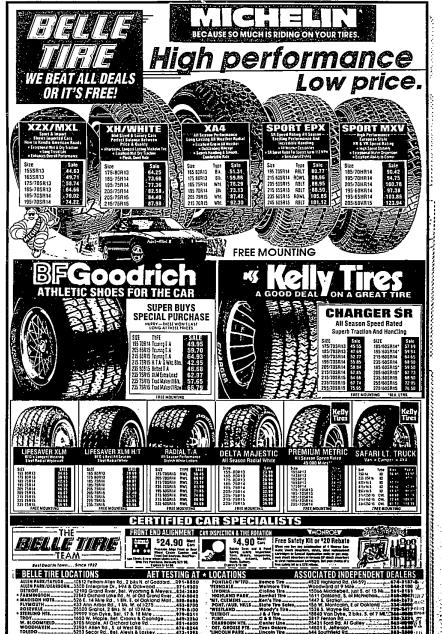
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