

# Highway Dept. Shows Interest In Clinton-Laurens Road

The fact that the two highest officials in the South Carolina Highway Department came to Clinton Monday night to take part in discussions on four-laning the Clinton-Laurens road (U. S. Highway 76) is indicative of the importance which they attach to the project.

Silas N. Pearman, chief highway commissioner, and T. J. Hendrix, highway engineer, were here to attend the meeting and to tell business leaders of Clinton and Laurens they were ready to rebuild this stretch of road into a modern thoroughfare.

It was the third time that these men took the time from their busy schedules to come to Clinton since the project was broached several months ago. Men of this calibre don't get in their cars and go all over the state to be at meetings like this just to be riding around. They mean business, for they know what a highway like this will mean to the county and especially to adjoining property owners.

Mr. Pearman seemed to be getting a little impatient with the slow progress that has been made in securing the necessary rights-of-way that would enable the work to get underway.

He said that he has never yet seen a modern highway built that did not enhance adjoining property values. And neither has anyone else.

We can think of nothing more desirable from a property owner's viewpoint than to be situated on a narrow, crooked poorly designed road, and all of a sudden have a well-designed, modern four-lane expressway put there in its place. Land values couldn't do anything but rise—and there's no telling how much.

Mr. Pearman went on to say that the Highway Department is prepared to pay fair prices for right-of-way easements. But it seems to us that money received by adjoining property owners for rights-of-way is a minor factor when compared with the increase in value of the land after the highway is built. That stretch of road could truly become a "golden strip."

We don't know of any project facing this section of the county that means so much to everybody involved—people in the two cities and adjoining property owners.

The Highway Department is ready to act—they have been working on the project for a long time, and are prepared to move immediately when the necessary rights-of-way are secured. But they won't wait forever—and this may be the last chance.

It is a settled fact that a better

road is going to be built between Clinton and Laurens, and it could take another route.

But we hope that negotiations seeking to improve the present route will go forward to a successful conclusion—and without delay.

## Babson's Point of View On Rising Living Costs

By ROGER W. BABSON

Babson Park, Mass., March 10—Lots of people are nervous about price inflation, and we don't blame them. Naturally, it does make a housewife fidgety to find out how much less her dollar can buy today than it could a year ago. And the breadwinner himself—while his income is probably moving up somewhat—notices how much more he has to pay for household goods and services to maintain a decent standard of living.

### NO END IN SIGHT

To speak very frankly, the "creeping" price inflation that has been going on for so many years shows absolutely no signs of reversing itself. Consumer prices for December chalked up their sharpest advance for the month of report in fifteen years. Goods and services for January cost 2 per cent more than they did, on average, only twelve months ago; and this is no small fractional nudge.

The base period used by the Labor Department is 1957-1959. If a typical city family measured what it was able to buy for \$10 during that base period, it would find the same purchases now costing \$11.10. Another way of looking at it: For the five years 1960-1964, the average annual increase of consumer prices was 1.3 per cent. But during 1965 the figure pushed ahead to 1.7 per cent. While the difference may seem small, the important fact is that despite a pause in January, the upward trend is still strong—and the upside pressures are increasing.

### EVEN GOVERNMENT IS WARY

Although the White House is eager to hold prices in check so they will not explode into runaway inflation, there is only tentative official optimism about the future. The Labor Department has come right out and admitted that consumer prices are likely to increase even more in 1966 than they did in 1965. There is not really too much encouragement in the cautious prediction that the rate of gain is going to advance more in 1966, "but not much more." There is, of course, no way of telling when an inflationary blow-off might suddenly dislocate our basic economy. If such a thing should happen, the inevitable result would be violent deflation.

Probably the greatest danger lies in the possible emergence of a speculative psychology, the sort of thing that happened in the first year of the Korean War. Fortunately, there are vast differences between that time and the present. When the trouble broke out in Korea, our plant capacity was pitifully inadequate to produce the needed volume of both guns and butter. The result was a real buyers' rush for goods that drove the consumer price index up a spectacular 9 per cent within twelve months.

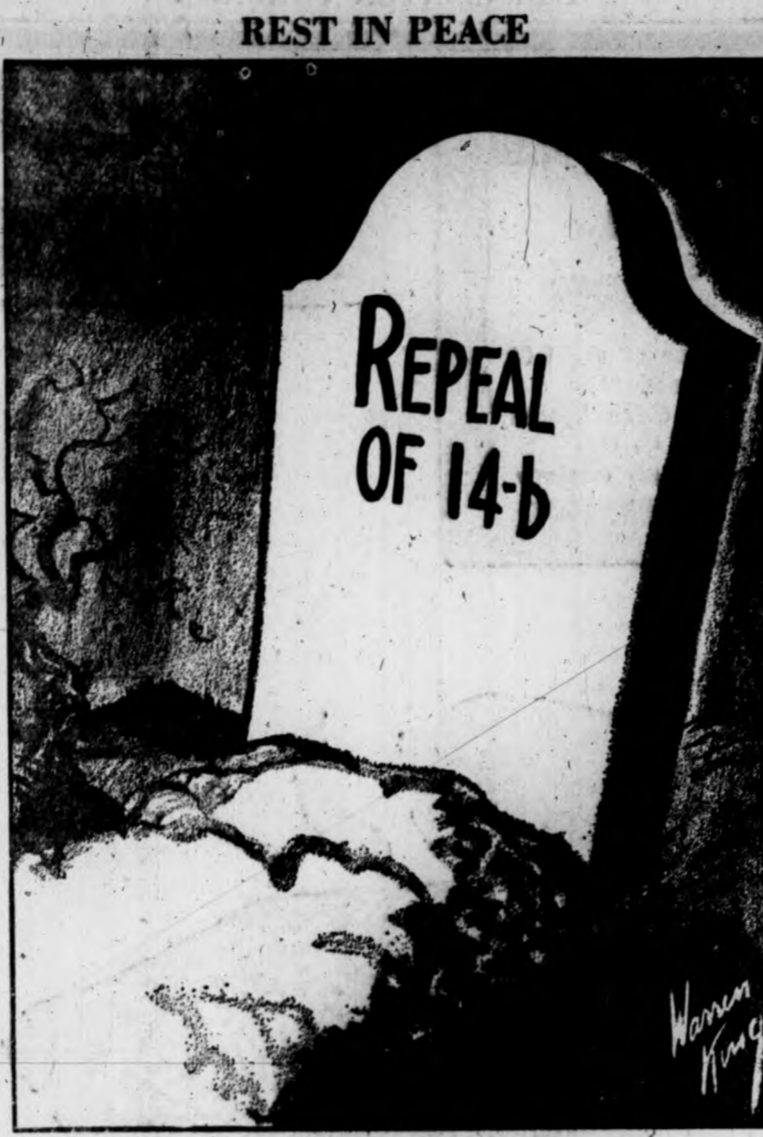
### VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS... OR COMPULSORY?

Currently, our production of both military and civilian goods is miles ahead of any other in our history. In fact, it is not far from capacity. Hence, it is to be hoped that speculative consumer buying will not be so frenzied that it will drive prices radically higher. Labor Department experts do expect to see the greatest concentration of price gains this year in those times that led the list in 1965: Food, shoes, medical attention, transportation, home maintenance, auto insurance, gasoline, and tobacco products—which make up a big part of the home budget.

The administration continues to plead for voluntary restraints on both prices and wages. Consumers and manufacturers are asked to avoid piling up top-heavy inventories that might tilt the apple cart. It is obvious that many of the government's economic advisers would truly like to avoid compulsory curbs on prices and pay rates. Chances are they may be able to avoid them unless some huge escalation of the Vietnam struggle darkens the picture. If it does, controls will be tried.

### IMPORTANT ITEM OMITTED

But, while government officials hammer away at the necessity of avoiding price and wage increases, they seem to forget that their own actions compound the problem. The price of government at all levels is soaring year by year. So why not include the price of political administration in the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index?



## Stories Behind Words

By William S. Penfield

### Bigwig

Late in the 17th century, King Louis XIV of France started wearing long wigs. The nobles of France followed suit, and, after awhile, the custom spread to England.

In England, the custom was regulated so that only the nobility, judges and bishops were permitted to wear the long wigs. All other men had to wear shorter ones.

A long, flowing wig thus became a symbol of authority to the common people. As a result, they started referring to any man of consequence as a "bigwig."

## FARMS and FOLKS

By L. C. HAMILTON

Clemson University Extension Information Specialist

Three Abbeville County brothers have answered the question, "Can you make money growing Coastal Bermuda hay?"

Charles, E. D., and E. T. Hannah, on their farm about 8 miles northeast of Abbeville, last year obtained completed net returns of \$125 and \$114 per acre on plots devoted to a fertilizer demonstration.

I visited the Hannah Brothers last week with County Agent L. H. Bull, the official record-keeper for the demonstration.

The demonstration attempted to compare hay tonnage and profit when a very high rate of fertilizer were used on a Cecil Sandy Loam soil.

In a sense Mr. Bull—who encouraged the test—and the Hannahs were looking for a point of diminishing returns or fertilizer use on non-irrigated Coastal Bermuda.

On the very high test using 400 pounds actual Nitrogen (100 pounds plus liquid initially and 75 pounds following the first four cuttings) plus 1,000 pounds of 0-10-20, the Hannahs produced 8.7 tons of hay per acre.

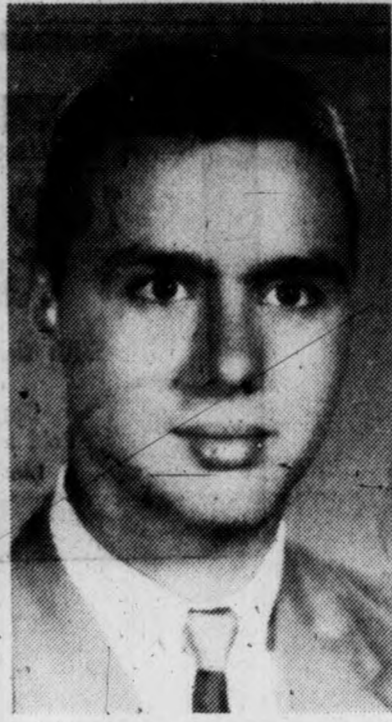
The other demonstration, at a high fertilization rate, received 200 pounds actual Nitrogen (50 pounds liquid applied initially and 50 pounds following the first three cuttings) plus 500 pounds of 0-10-20 applied initially, produced 7.1 tons of hay.

County Agent Bull carefully charged off all costs including land rent and interest. Total cost of producing an acre of hay at the very high rate of fertilization was \$179.12. The gross return was \$304.50 per acre with hay valued at \$35 a ton.

At the high rate of fertilization the total cost of production was \$134.57 per acre. With hay valued at \$35 a ton the possible return was \$248.50.

Bull computed the per ton of the hay when delivered to the barn as \$18.94 for the very high rate demonstration and \$17.12 for the high rate test.

P. S. Williamson, Clemson farm management specialist, who reviewed the records, noted that if the price of hay



LYKES S. HENDERSON

### Henderson Enrolled In Honors Program

Lykes S. Henderson, Clemson University sophomore from Clinton, is one of 79 Clemson students enrolled in the university's honors program for the second semester of the 1965-66 academic year. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Henderson of 102 Woodrow Street.

An industrial management major in the School of Industrial Management and Textile Science, Henderson has a cumulative grade-point ratio of 3.2 (4.0 represents straight A average) for his academic work at Clemson.

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## Medical Insurance Deadline March 31

Medicare's two parts—hospital insurance to help pay costs of hospital care, and medical insurance to help pay doctors' bills—go into effect July 1.

People 65 and over getting social security or railroad retirement monthly benefits will have hospital insurance automatically.

But, medical insurance is voluntary and costs \$3 a month. The Government pays an equal amount. People who were 65 by 1966 must enroll by March 31 to have this protection when it begins.

Nearly everyone 65 and over can have medicare protection, even if they never worked under social security, but they must apply. Check with any social security office for information.

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