

# US economic policy attacked

By DON MIDDLETON  
Staff Writer

The ills of American economic policy and the men who make it was the subject of a spicy, and sometimes caustic, talk by journalist Louis Rukeyser, television's top financial expert and host of "Wall Street Week."

Rukeyser opened his speech with a series of well-aimed, rapid-fire jobs that found their mark on personalities ranging from former President Nixon to the Mafia.

Gerald Ford quickly became a favorite target for Rukeyser's barbs. He characterized Ford's "Whip Inflation Now" program as the shortest war in history.

"If you had to leave the room at any time you would have missed the whole war," said Rukeyser.

Even the journalist himself was not immune to stinging witticism. Describing his qualifications to speak on economic policy, Rukeyser said, "I spent two years in New Delhi and India devalued the rupee. I moved to London and Britain devalued the pound. For the last seven years I've been concentrating on the American economy. After this program we're going to take up a collection to send Rukeyser to Switzerland and Saudi Arabia."

With the audience firmly in his grip, Rukeyser outlined ten areas in which positive action is needed in order to put the economy back on its feet. These were public education, the national budget, banking and credit, labor, business, governmental restrictions on the free market, international commodity shortages,

foreign policy and the individual. Rukeyser contended that public confidence is a factor directly affecting the economy. Citing the loss of confidence in the administration after Watergate, he said that "when confidence evaporates in this country, the economy can spiral downward."

Throughout his talk, Rukeyser stressed that inflation is the underlying cause of the economic situation today. However, he stated that "to fail to fight both recession and inflation at the same time is to insure that both will flourish."

Rukeyser also pointed out the dangers of trying to rejuvenate the economy too quickly through programs such as wage-price freezes.

"The problem with wage and

price controls," he said, "is that they deal only with the symptoms of inflation and not the causes, and divert attention from those who contribute to inflation to those who are its victims. American businessmen and workers were made the scapegoats of senseless politicians."

Directly related to inflation is un-

employment. Rukeyser admitted that the job situation is bad everywhere.

"Up in New Jersey even the Mafia had to lay off two judges," he said.

But he also added that "no nation anywhere, at any time, has ever managed to stop inflation without

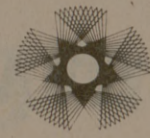
increasing unemployment." Rukeyser discussed in depth the energy shortage and its effect on the economy. He said that we will continue to work for peace in the Middle East and spend millions of dollars for their defense. However, no money would be paid as tribute to governments in return for oil.

He also advocated the need to exploit other energy sources such as the Alaskan pipeline and nuclear power plants, as well as removing controls on natural gas prices.

In the area of foreign policy, Rukeyser suggested that it be conducted with greater attention paid to how it will effect the economy. He feels that we should use every weapon necessary to convince the Arabs that we will not continue arming them so they can rob us.

On the whole, Rukeyser's outlook for the American economy is optimistic. He stated that although present trends will continue for a while, no depression is in sight and opportunities for economic expansion in the next eight to ten years are unlimited.

"The main danger facing us now," he concluded, "is not recovering too slowly, but trying to recover too quickly."



## NOTICE

Students—Faculty—  
Staff—Former Students

Memorial Student Center Guest Rooms, located in the Memorial Student Center on campus, is now open.

For reservations call 845-4253

## License deadline nearing for Texans

Midnight Tuesday is the deadline for motor vehicle registration in Texas.

After that time law enforcement agencies have been instructed to stop motorists not displaying the 1975 plates to remind them of their licensing responsibilities, the Texas Highway Department reported.

In lieu of annual replacement, motorists will be issued an adhesive-type sticker beginning in 1976 to update their plate for another year. The sticker will be placed in the debossed upper left corner of the plate. Once in place, the tags cannot be easily removed without deterioration.

County tax offices will continue to issue annual plates to certain classes of motor vehicles including radio operators, dealers, government officials and cars with personalized plates.

## Aggies to tour launch areas

A&M cadets in the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) will tour Cape Canaveral this weekend.

Army, Air Force and Naval ROTC cadets will make the two-day trip. The 60-member group, including Lt. Col. Malcolm Sandlin, will leave at 8 a.m. Friday and return Saturday afternoon.

While at Canaveral, the SAME members will tour the vertical assembly building, rocket transport facility, a launch pad and control center. The vertical assembly building now contains the Saturn V rocket being prepared for lifting U.S.

## Campus briefs

### Book donations asked

The Friends of the Texas A&M University Library is asking for donations of books, magazines, maps and posters for their April 17 book sale. Boxes are provided on the first floor of the University Library or the materials can be picked up by calling Pam Walton at 845-1952, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to restock the library's collection of paperback books.

### Computer shortcourse

An introductory short course in Programming Language I will begin March 31. The class is free on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5 to 7 p.m.

Classes will be held in room 200 of the Harrington Complex. For more information call Dr. Chuck Adams at 845-4211.

### Sunrise service

A 35-minute Easter sunrise service will be held at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the System Administration Building.

The Rev. J. B. Searce of St. Paul's Methodist Church will bring the message and a community sing will be part of the service.

The public is invited to attend.

### Easter Egg hunt

The Aggie Players are sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on campus Sunday.

Twelve hidden eggs will contain notices entitling the student to a free ticket to "Godspell." Clues to the locations of the eggs will appear Thursday.

The hunt begins as early Sunday morning as the hunters wish to rise and the clues are the only starting points.

### Horseback ride planned

The Outdoor Recreation Committee will sponsor a horseback ride this weekend through Sam Houston National Park. For further information contact Ann Chenoweth, trip leader, at 845-4709.

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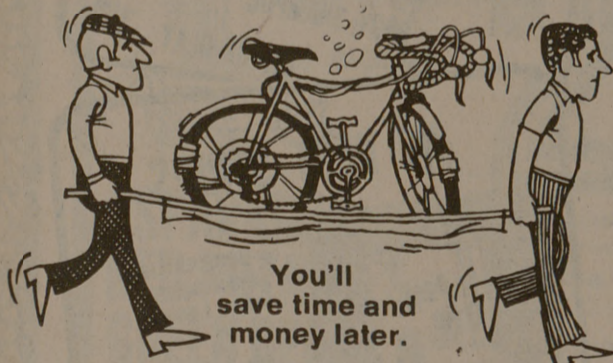
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