

RN 3487

Rampant inflation concerns experts

MICHAEL CHESTER reports from Johannesburg.

The buying power of the rand in your pocket has shrunk by more than 33 percent in a mere seven years — and the R1 coin of 1980 may be worth no more than 25 cents by the end of 1987 unless inflation rools down.

Disclosures of the dramatic erosion of the consumer value of the rand, emerging from studies by the economic research unit, underscore the mounting concerns of economists over the failure of South Africa to follow the lead taken by most Western trading partners in finding solutions to rampant inflation.

Dr Azar Jammine, Director of Economics, believes the full degree of

shrivages to the rand may be even worse than the distortions currently reflected in the consumer price index because of deliberate weaknesses in the composition of official statistics.

But even the CPI concedes that a basketful of household items that cost only R100 in 1980 now cost around R240 — with the annual rate of inflation locked in at an ugly close to 20 percent.

MISMANAGEMENT

The result is that the purchasing power of the rand has tumbled from R1 in 1980 down to 44c, with a deeper slide threatened as economists despair about the inflation spiral and the long-term impact on living standards.

In Johannesburg government mismanagement of fiscal and monetary policies is the main cause of the inflation dilemma.

"The government has made a hash of it ever since it wasted its golden opportunity to set the economy on a dynamic new course when an avalanche of money came into the country as a result of the wild climb of the gold price above 1850 an ounce back in the early 1980s," he says.

"Instead, it allowed a mindless explosion in buying credit in a spending spree in which the government also took part and encouraged as the money simply spun out of control."

Also to blame is the way both the private and public sectors permitted wages to gallop higher without any commensurate increase in productivity.

The ambition to start closing the wage gap between white and black employees was commendable, but the error was the failure to find simultaneous remedies for South Africa's dreadful productivity record.

"The numerous structural faults in the economy are well known, but the private business sector must carry part of the blame for our present inflation headaches."

"The temporary boom at the start of the decade set in motion a massive movement towards big business in business, with big corporations growing even bigger through a succession of takeovers of smaller companies and the emergence of massive concentrations of corporate power."

SHEER SIZE

"It's a controversial issue, but personally I am convinced that the sheer size of business enterprises can cause havoc in classical economic theory."

Theoretically, when demand falls, as in the prolonged recession we have been in, prices should come down to bring demand and supply back into equilibrium.

"Unhappily, it is obvious that many giant corporations, rather than reduce prices, have simply resorted to reductions in production volumes, hoping that high prices will counter balance lower sales volumes — but in the process causing more unemployment and loading the problems elsewhere."

"Several companies in specific industrial sectors, such as the motor industry, would have been forced to make different decisions on prices had they not been under the umbrella of huge conglomerates that virtually guarantee their survival whatever their strategies."

"There's a weird mixture of causes for all our inflation woes. But in the final analysis it is the government that must shoulder the bulk of the blame because of its poor performance in economic management on so many scores."

Mystic believes she is ready to challenge Uri

LESLEY WROUGHTON tells of her experiences with a telepathist.

A few days before the Afghan air crash which killed 49 people, little known Pretoria telepathist Beverly Rhodes told in an interview of a dream in which the disaster was predicted.

On the Saturday after the dream, the 707 Yang Boring crashed on the Ivory Coast, killing 37 passengers and 12 crew members and leaving two survivors.

In her dream Beverly "smelled the burning plane and saw six passengers standing 'afire in the aisle'."

She predicted the plane would crash in a forest area.

The accident happened in a forest soon after take-off.

Now, with troubled anxiety at United States President Ronald Reagan entered a military hospital this week for a post-cancer and prostate operation, Beverly predicts an incident that will involve a "man dressed in a white jacket which is going to affect all Americans."

She describes the man as balding with grey hair and a long face. President Reagan is walking towards a car with his wife Nancy.

"This time I am ready to be heard and become known," she says, looking at me earnestly.

Beverly believes in using her powers for doing good — and considers herself ready to take up a challenge with well-known psychic Uri Geller, who in the 1970s physically bent metal by using telepathy.

"I don't know what the challenge will be, but both of us know all about it and we will seek something out."

For the past few years the number of dreams has been in hiding after her psychic powers drew much attention following a sensational article in a national "glossy" magazine.

She was approached by the United States authorities to work for them — but fled, believing her powers would be exploited.

At the age of seven, Beverly had her first "sighting" and was soon branded a witch by school friends as she amazed herself and those around her with premonitions of accidents and answered questions before they were asked.

As a teenager, Beverly realised she was different from other children and it was something she later learned she had little control over.

Her prayers were unanswered as she attempted to rid herself of her powers.

Her pre-attitudinal and clairvoyant powers were mystic, but little did she know that she would one day follow in their footsteps and help, save and heal other people.

Behind the seemingly obvious "confusion" in the mind of the schoolgirl, her parents watched their daughter closely — meaning when was happening, but losing steadily the awesome powers would leave her.

Beverly started questioning her powers more thoroughly, turning to books for explanations and recording her dreams — each one of which she says came true.



LEFT: Energy radiated from Beverly's solar plexus was captured on a sheet of photographic printing paper in a darkened room — an experiment done only rarely around the world. Photographer Richard Nezar with a 5 v battery charged the photographic paper on which Beverly placed her hand before channeling energy through it. The grey mass is the energy put out by Beverly. During a test to see if it would work with another person, the paper remained white.

RIGHT: "This time I am ready to be heard," says telepathist, Beverly Rhodes.

At this stage Beverly met Trish — a powerful telepathist — who became a mentor and friend and guided her to greater powers and understanding of the mind.

She later learned that Trish had been sent from Rio in South Africa by a group of telepathists whose aim was to find and train seven people with similar powers.

The last of the seven to join the group, which included a leader, cleanser and clairvoyant, was Beverly — who promptly guided her fellow novices, further developing her powers.

Today — as predicted — all seven have been posted in countries around the world, where they exercise their unusual powers.

With the aid of her abilities, Beverly has helped solve many police cases, including the abduction of Kerry Bekker, a young girl who was carried off by a man and hidden in a jail.

Police summoned Beverly, who described the area in which Kerry was imprisoned.

Her sightings showed evidence of darkness and pain.

A few hours later, young Kerry was saved from the hands of her abductor.

Another triumph for Beverly was the solving of the theft of R250 000 worth of stamps from a house in Johannesburg. Beverly traced the thieves to a cabin and correctly predicted the jobsite where they would disappear.

She was described as a "freakish woman" by the American embassy in Pretoria when she telephoned them, telling officials of her premonition of an assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan early last year.

Soon after the attempt, US officials claimed they had been warned.

During an astounding interview with Beverly in her Pretoria flat, I witnessed a remarkable show of telepathic powers.

I watched Beverly read three people's minds, perfectly recalling their background, feelings and at times

embarrassing thoughts.

To prove a point Beverly channelled energy into me.

My blood felt as if it was boiling and I had a tingling feeling in my hands and arms.

From the solar plexus, Beverly demonstrated to me how she is able to use all her energy to force a person back by just touching them.

In a darkened room we attempted to capture an image of the energy on photographic paper — and one could see lines of energy radiating from her right hand. The paper had lit up with a blue glow.

Beverly has stannised many people with her uncanny predictions and saved many lives by warning intended "victims" beforehand.

"But I do not like interfering with the course of life. However, sometimes I have to — because I like the person concerned so much."

She was a colleague whom Beverly dreamed would die in a car accident.

The woman later learned that the axle of her car had worn down and only a few journeys would have left her dead.

Two years ago the whole group of trained telepathists had the same dream. They saw a large funeral, rounded peasant-like people wearing scarves, fields and water.

At first Beverly said the dream predicted the Chernobyl disaster, but she now feels it could mean a world-wide disaster that is still to come.

She also predicts an assassination attempt on the life of Foreign Minister M Puk Batha in Walker Street — but says that he will not be harmed.

Though Beverly has used her telepathic powers in gambling environments — including predicting three July Handicap winners — she prefers to use them for the good of others.

Any queries in connection with this article should be addressed to the writer, care of the Pretoria News, P.O. Box 435, Pretoria 0001.

Jolly Englishmen . . . every man jack

ALONG with tens of thousands of devotees of the greatest of all pastimes — I refer, of course, to cricket — I spent a good deal of the festive season with my ear glued to my transistor radio.

For unlike this one-day lip-and-run staff which has poisoned the game in recent times, this was test cricket, played, moreover, over five days. And I need not remind you that Sir Donald Bradman regarded any match which lasted less than four days as a farce.

Haar, haar! Along with many other true cricket fans I followed with keen interest the titanic struggle at the Wanderers as wickets tumbled day after day on a pitch which was a bowler's paradise.

Also at the Wanderers, I listened enthralled as John Maguire — at 40, no more than an honest jolter and off the seam — scooped in six and wickets to bring his side to verge of a sensational victory.

So to the heathlands, where the names of John Dyson, Michael Hayes, Peter Kirsten and mighty Garth Sobers rang loud and clear through my speaker in my radio.

PEERLESS Well-known as ever was the Charles Fortune, now well into his ninth decade and as vocally as ever, and informed as ever. At was my friend Alan Wilkins, an ex-cricketer in his own right, admitted after a stutter, made the transition from microphone with polished oratory.

But then, as ever succeeded over, something started giggling at me. At



Also in the box was one of my boyhood heroes in Tom Graveney, a cricketing legend in his own right whose 79 tests for England at a batting average approaching 50 speak for themselves.

Although born in the Midlands, Tom speaks English with a delightful West Country burr-cum-Bramington twang which contrasted sharply — but by no means jarringly with the plummy tones of Mr Fortune and the obviously honed-down cadences of Cardiff in the voice of Mr Wilkins.

Presenting views as sound as any was a second England test player in Robin Jackman of Surrey (he who innocently precipitated a crisis when an England tour of which he was a member was nearly scuppered in the backwash of West Indian politics) and a Gloucestershire man in Martin Young, a distinguished coach after his playing career had come to an end and who made his home at the farthest of all Capes more years ago than either of us would care to remember.

These, then, were the men who kept me happy over Christmas and New Year.

But then, as ever succeeded over, something started giggling at me. At

first — what with Kirsten pissing the bowling all over the park — I took no notice of it, but the niggles became increasingly persistent.

And then it struck me.

Each and every man jack of the five in the commentators' box was a jolly Englishman. My a South African intonation — broad, bad or indifferent — was to be heard.

HORROR

And even as the horror of it ran through my mind, dear Charles, bless him, started gloating about what I can only describe as this unhealthy preponderance of Pommies.

"We are all," he said plummily, "products of the Old Country. And we are all, in some way or another, closely connected to the West Country. This must surely be something of a record, don't you think, Martin?"


"Absolutely," said Messrs Young, Jackman, Wilkins and Graveney in unison.

I seethed like the very devil. The only thing that consoled me was what had happened to the Gloucestershire Regiment at Modder River, Ladysmith, Magersfontein and other great test match venues of the past.

Wizer there not, I asked myself, any English-speaking South Africans capable of broadcasting cricket at test level? What had happened to the Ian Ballours and the Neils ("The wicket's talking spin") Adecocks of yore?

A sad and disillusioned man, I switched to the Afrikaans transmission.

Heinrich Marnitz was interviewed by Kim Hughes . . . in English!



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NELSON MANDELA

75 YEARS OF THE ANC

8 JANUARY 1912 — 8 JANUARY 1987



OLIVER TAMBO

The Bureau for Information and the SABC have recently bombarded the people of South Africa with distortions about the ANC.

On the occasion of the ANC's 75th Anniversary we demand of the government:

LET THE ANC SPEAK FOR ITSELF

"The African National Congress was formed in 1912 to defend the rights of the African people which had been seriously curtailed by the South Africa Act ... For 37 years until 1949 — it adhered strictly to a constitutional struggle. It put forward demands and resolutions; it sent delegations to the government in the belief that African grievances could be settled through peaceful discussion and that Africans could advance gradually to full political rights. But White governments remained unmoved ..." — **NELSON MANDELA ON TRIAL — APRIL 1964.**

"Who will deny that 30 years of my life have been spent knocking in vain, patiently, moderately and modestly at a closed and barred door? What have been the fruits of moderation? The past 30 years have seen the greatest number of laws restricting our rights and progress, until today we have reached a stage where we have almost no rights at all." — **ANC PRESIDENT CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI — 1950s.**

IN 1960 THE ANC WAS BANNED

TODAY — 27 YEARS AFTER ITS BANNING:

- * The ANC continues to be supported by many South Africans, both black and white.
- * The ANC is internationally recognised and has offices in over 39 countries around the world.
- * The ANC is a signatory to the Geneva Convention Protocol on Prisoners of War.

These and many other factors clearly show that there can be no solution to this country's problems without the participation of the ANC.

We, the undersigned organisations, therefore say:

UNBAN THE ANC

Issued by:

United Democratic Front (UDF)
National Education Crisis Committee (NECC)
South African Council of Churches (SACC)

c/o Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
JOHANNESBURG

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