expecting the superficial philanthropist of the milk board to bring forth a new law to protect all and sundry from the ravages of a free market. When no new law was forthcoming after several months, it appeared to be time to look at the other side of the coin; after all, a reduction of almost one-third in the price of an item must be assumed to squeeze somewhere.

Special Interests

Processors and distributors are reluctant to discuss the matter on a dollar basis, which is their prerogative, of course. Those to whom I was able to talk were definitely in favor of price control, minimum price control, that is, on their products. Insofar as I have been able to determine, however, none of the state's distributors has quit or gone bankrupt.

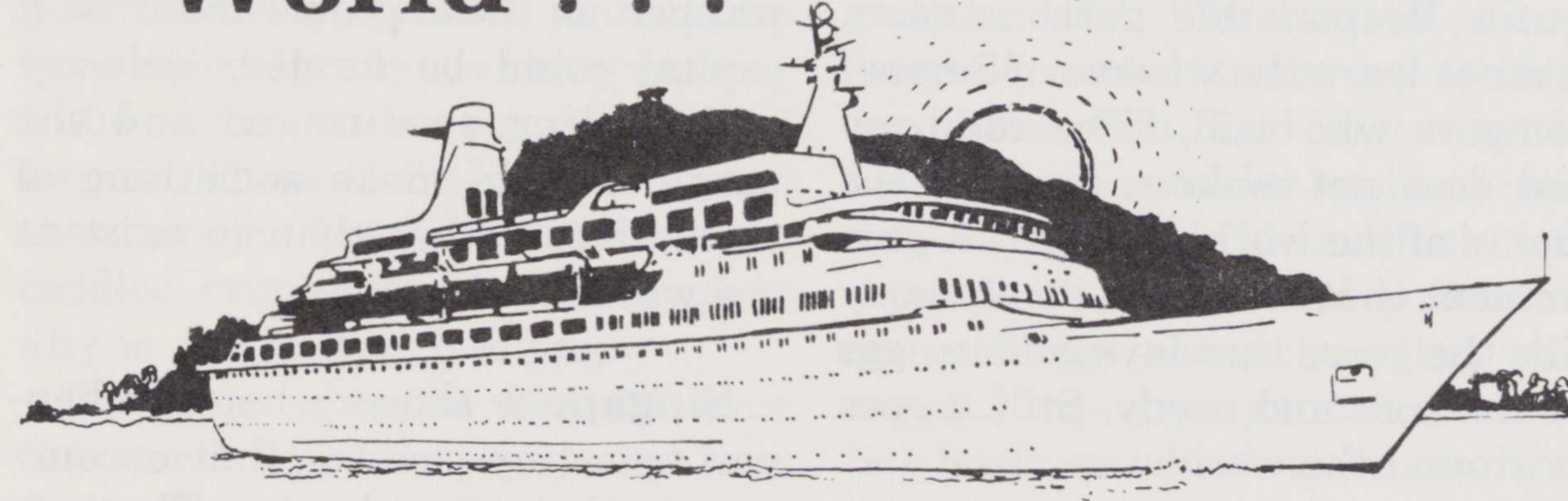
The dairymen who produce milk—feed and milk the cows, clean the barns, mend fences, sow pastures, put up silage, ad infinitum—were much more willing to talk. After all, these rugged individuals often work ten to twelve hours a day, seven days a week, in a valiant effort to make ends meet; they have nothing to hide. As a matter of fact, the price of milk at the farm was not cut when the milk board was ousted, so the actual producer is no worse off than before. Naturally, milk producers would like, and think they should have, an increase in the price of their product. But, at present feed grain prices, those with whom I talked admitted that they were not hurting unduly.

So, draw your own conclusions as to what happened to the extra fifty cents for each gallon of milk sold when the board was in command. Without this boon, the producer is no worse off. Processors and distributors are still in business and apparently doing well. The grocer is still happy; he can sell milk as high as the market will stand or run it at cost to draw more customers. Needless to say, the consumer is better off and one would think a wee bit happier.

The price of milk has inched up since that time, about the same as other foods to keep pace with inflation. But it is still about fifteen per cent less than it was two years ago, and the shortage predicted by the milk board has failed to materialize. Faced with evidence of this nature, one may ponder what the bottom line would look like if all laws that inhibit the voluntary exchange of goods were struck down. More specifically, what would it be like to live in a free market economy? ⊕

Perry E. Gresham

Around the World . . .



Yogi Berra is reputed to have made the sage remark: "You can observe an awful lot just by lookin'!" A few days in a country can yield only an impression, but when the visit is preceded by study, and the observations are supplemented by interviews and visits with informed persons, the impressions may have more validity.

For eighty days I have been sailing around the world on the *Queen Elizabeth 2*. We have spent some time in several interesting nations such as Brazil, Uruguay, South Africa, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Japan. My studies in philosophy and economics have prompted me to ask many questions and look in on many projects. The world-wide fellowship of academic people has been a great help to me. With a few exceptions I have been able to avoid talking with any of the officials who have a point of view and a position to defend. I have, with the help of a good interpreter, talked with people involved in the several cultural and economic activities that make up a national character and image. These impressions I have gained are of such interest to me that I feel impelled to share them with anybody who finds them interesting or instructive—even irritating!

It seems to me that any country in which the government is hostile to business and industry, for political reasons, damages the quality of life for the people in general. Marx is long dead and frequently shown to be wrong in his observations, yet

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