

Memo of the Month

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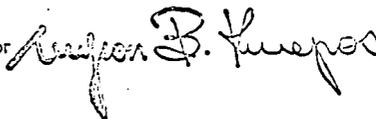
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : All Region V Staff

DATE: March 19, 1974

FROM : Myron B. Kuropas, Regional Director



SUBJECT: Women's Meetings

In view of the inordinate number of meetings being held by women during the past month, no additional meetings are to be held by the women without prior authorization of the Regional Director.

3/22/74



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
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Why Price Controls Stopped Working...



by Robert Samuelson

"I don't want to brag about how dumb I am, but this job is plain as astronomy to me. I understand everything about it except what you have done and why, and what you're trying to do and how."

—a young detective in Dashiell Hammett's "Red Harvest," 1929

I.

Every investigator has his own style, and I have mine. There's nothing very special about it. Some have even called it plodding. But I like to begin every case the same way: a long lunch with a knowledgeable Source who feeds me reliable information and well-informed interpretation.

I like to pamper my sources. Flatter their sense of self-importance. Take them to lavish restaurants. Sans

Robert Samuelson is a Washington writer.

Souci. Rive Gauche. It loosens their tongues.

This, however, requires money, and, lately, my income and expenses have been running wildly in the wrong directions. So I met my Source in a more modest establishment: Hungry Herman's, a quick-lunch place on the first floor of the building where he worked. He was a senior economist for the Cost of Living Council.

I told him what I was about: a post-mortem on wage-price controls.

He stared at me blankly. It was the vacant look of a man who'd sat through the same movie six times, but couldn't rouse enough energy to leave the theater. His work inspired similar torpor.

It hadn't always been so. He'd been there from the beginning. Back in 1971, he was the government's expert on titanium stockpiles, work-