

# Inflation Stimulates Self-Reliance

**R**EAL benefits attributable to inflation may be hard to find, but there is one. Inflation is stimulating a new boom in do-it-yourself projects to keep house, car and family going.

Wages, tools, truck, fuel and overhead compel business firms to charge \$15 or \$20 to send out a repairman. Needed parts are extra.

So any time simple repairs can be made by the owner, he can save at least a \$10 bill, and often more, in taxpaid income. Professionals should be called in for intricate or major jobs.

Entertainment, exercise, relaxation and the satisfaction of productivity also may be derived from do-it-yourself work. In many cases, creativity is called for and used.

While Americans are complaining about inflation and about the cost of living, they are spending an estimated \$180 billion a year on travel, sports, entertainment and self-improvement. Nearly 100 million work off excess energy and weight by walking or jogging. Millions

more bicycle, swim, camp and fish for similar reasons.

Mowing the lawn and weeding the garden should consume as many calories as jogging five miles, give a feeling of accomplishment and keep a \$20 bill or two in the pocketbook each week.

Home Center magazine, a do-it-yourself publication, estimates that half the households have workshops and that the nation's 26,000 home centers did a booming \$17 billion in sales last year.

Home centers have made it convenient for customers to buy repair parts, tools and materials, along with instruction books. Customers may buy a half sheet of plywood or a 4-foot-long 2-by-4 to suit needs. Price per foot might be higher, but total cost is less.

Because they need something to occupy their leisure time, many have adopted do-it-yourself hobbies. Dozens of such projects have demonstrated therapeutic and recreational values, as well as profit.

As yet, there are no government

regulations restricting do-it-yourself projects. Old, young, men, women, boys and girls of any race or creed may try them with good chances for success.

People may underrate their abilities because they don't stop to read directions and realize how simple many home repairs are. Often skills may be extended into additional areas for fun and profit.

Experience in using tools and ingenuity is a real asset to young people, as well as to employers, when they go looking for jobs.

A large-scale do-it-yourself project was reported recently from Byng consolidated school north of Ada, where students have constructed about 30 buildings on the campus.

The district didn't have money to contract the jobs, but could buy materials. The students have gained practical work experience by providing labor as a part of their classroom assignments.

In these days of inflation, do-it-yourself pays better than ever.