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Some Sour Predictions for New Year

PREDICTIONS may be a dime a dozen but there might be room for a few more. Futurists, economists and political analysts often stick out their necks to forecast what they hope for or expect.

Not me. My predictions are sure-fire certainties (well, almost) because of history's repetitive habits. Here they are:

Thousands of writers will turn out millions of words pointing out how George Orwell missed his guess when he wrote about "1984" back in 1948 but Big Brother may be closer to reality than we care to admit.

The public will continue to deplore graft and waste in government but will vote for more officials of the same kind who got us into the mess we're in.

Presidential candidates will talk about balancing the budget but Congress won't reduce the national debt by one inflated dollar and state officials never will have all the money they want.

Any tax reductions granted to taxpayers will be siphoned off by the IRS in its drive to bring Con-

gress more revenue.

Statistics on inflation, unemployment, gross national product, etc., will be used to prove whatever point the economist or politician using them has determined they ought to prove.

The state of the economy will continue to be a debatable subject. The "ins" will insist that it is improving. The "outs" will argue that we are headed for bankruptcy. Each side will claim that our salvation depends on putting it in charge. Both will be wrong.

The administration and Congress will talk about a new farm program to provide profitable commodity markets and assure cheap food for consumers. It won't happen but we'll keep on eating.

Labor unions will demand "More!" but may have to settle for less or lose more jobs to foreign competitors.

The government will keep on advocating seat belts and costly air bags to make automobiles safer but won't succeed in getting drunken drivers who cause half the acci-

dents off the highways.

People will earn more money, spend more money, and complain more about having less, but too few will save more to have more.

We will have the hottest days, coldest week, windiest spring, driest summer, and wettest fall on record some place, but the weather won't be nearly as severe as the past the way we remember it.

"Women libbers" will keep on campaigning for an ambiguous equal rights amendment but it won't be ratified because most women won't give up privileges they now enjoy just being women.

Enemies of freedom will stir up new hot spots around the globe and Uncle Sam will rush around trying to put out the fires. People will cry "Peace! Peace!" but it won't come.

Technology will increase our dependence upon electronic gadgets and machines while our spirituality, morality and patriotism deteriorate. People won't believe they are headed for disaster until they crash. Then it usually is too late.