

Item #4

Why the Insurance-Consuming Public is Complaining

Consumer complaints may help to force the issue. Consumers are angered by rising rates for auto and other insurance, the anguished haggling over flood damage claims in the wake of Hurricane Camille, cancellation of policies seemingly without provocation, and the inability to obtain coverage in certain high-crime areas.

Property and casualty insurance companies have some answers. For years, they claim, insurance has offered the least profitable return of some 55 leading industries. Crime is spiraling upward at a prohibitive rate, disaster losses from Camille alone totaled \$225-million, and there were 20 other disasters in 1969. Fire losses rose 6% last year, and auto losses to insurance companies in 1969 may have exceeded \$10-billion by a large margin. Meanwhile, say the insurers, politically inhibited state regulators keep balking at granting rate increases to match soaring losses.

The insurance companies, consequently, are cutting back by dropping their poorest risks and by getting out of crime-ridden urban sectors altogether, a situation Congress will not tolerate long in the judgment of many.

Item #5

Nationalization of Utilities

In Great Britain since 1945 public corporations have greatly increased and operate in several major fields of activity: these include port management, road, rail and air transport, coal mining, gas and electricity generation and distribution, central banking and broadcasting. In researching, the take-over of the telecommunications by the government was directly caused by not meeting the needs of the people - company facilities were duplicated in urban areas where traffic proved profitable leaving rural areas unprovided.

In France since 1946 practically all communications are government operated and private interest have only a minority share in ownership - in 1937 the French railways were unified - in 1945 Air France passed under government management.

In Italy the state controls 73% of the railways, the airlines and 80% of the telephone service.

These are just a few of the take-overs by government of utilities on the European continent.