

And they impinge on economic growth problems and problems of employment. And neither before Ways and Means, I again emphasize, nor before this committee, were the witnesses prepared in their prepared text to discuss the problems of debt management and which of those problems are aggravated when in a period of the debt, as we have it today, and deficit financing already, you add another item on to it.

And so we have discussed it to some extent; all too briefly, I might say. We have just touched some high spots.

Now, one way that these theorists have dismissed the problem of the debt has been to say that it is, after all, only 60 percent of the gross national product, when in 1945 it was 120 percent. To me, that is a very shabby way of dismissing a serious problem, and it does not dismiss it.

I want to put in the record for you, Mr. Secretary, what I had the staff prepare, going back to 1910, and just picking out quick dates as to the gross national product and the debt and the percentage.

And I might say this is in current dollars, as it should be, because it is relating things at the same time. I think it is important for the people of the country to become a little more educated on the difference between current dollars and constant dollars.

I might add that is something I wish the President would become informed on. In his speech the other night, he used current dollars when he should have been using constant dollars, in relating how well we had done in coming out of this recession.

The chart—and I will turn it over to the reporter—shows that in 1910 the debt in relation to GNP was 3.1 percent. I have the actual figures for GNP and debt, but I will not read them.

In 1920—and this was the result of World War I, obviously—it went up to 26.4 percent. In 1929, very properly, it had reduced to some 16.2 percent. In 1930, 17.8 percent. In 1940, as a result largely of deficit financing in the depression years, 43.6 percent.

And then in 1946, with World War II, 127.9 percent. In 1950 it declined to 90.4, and in 1960 to 56.9, in 1961 to 55.7, and with the second quarter annual rate of 1962, to 54.

(The material referred to follows:)

	GNP (in billions of constant dollars)	Public debt (billions of dollars)	Percent
Year:			
1910.....	33.7	1.1	3.1
1920.....	91.9	24.3	26.4
1929.....	104.4	16.9	16.2
1930.....	91.1	16.2	17.8
1940.....	100.6	43.9	43.6
1946.....	210.7	269.4	127.9
1950.....	284.6	257.4	90.4
1960.....	503.4	286.3	56.9
1961.....	618.7	289.0	55.7
1962.....	1 552.0	298.2	54.0

¹ 2d quarter at annual rate.