Bowles Lashes Out
At Budget Slashers

By Robert C. Albright

The increasingly popular efficient defense system, with inadequate schools, hospitals and roads; with a lagging development of natural resources...

"While we are debating the problem of maintaining a 2 per cent annual growth rate, the Soviet Union is expanding its economy at an annual rate of nearly 7 per cent," he said.

"While we are arguing about the inadequacy of our school system, the Soviets are turning out twice as many engineers and scientists. While we are considering cuts in our economic aid to the critical uncommitted nations of the world, the Soviets are substantially expanding their loans and grants to these same countries. While we are hesitating over a step-up in our missile production, Russia is bending 22 per cent of her total economy to military defense."

Speech Is Praised

In the face of this Soviet competition, he said, "those who sincerely stress the critical need to meet the challenges of this nuclear age are deliberately denounced as "spenders.""

The man who had his own rough bouts with inflation, first as director of the Office of Price Administration during World War II and later as Stabilization Director, received a round of tributes from House Democratic colleagues.

House Majority Leader John W. McCormack (Mass.) told him he had "just made one of the finest contributions and addresses I have ever heard during my 30-odd years as a member of this body."
et America might precipitate another depression and lose the cold war.

Cutting “Game” Spreads

Bowles termed this first speech since his election to the House last November “nonpartisan,” and addressed his warning with good reason to Republicans and Democrats alike.

For the game of “cut the budget” which started out to be strictly a Republican and Eisenhower Administration affair, has now spread into the area of those “radical Democratic spenders,” as Republicans sought to label them in the last campaign.

Even while Bowles was talking, the Democratic-controlled House Commerce Committee was whittling back the Federal airport bill from the already pruned $465 million total that cleared the Senate to a sharply reduced $297 million.

The House Banking Committee already had made somewhat less stringent cuts in the Senate-passed multi-billion-dollar housing bill, still far above the Administration’s own figure.

More and more Democrats appeared to be crashing into the economy act in what looked like political insurance against mounting GOP cries of Democratic “budget-busting.”

Monroney Fears Sharp Cuts

Bowles wasn’t the only Democrat who voiced worry over this trend. Sen. A. S. (Mike) Monroney (D-Okla.), Senate author of the airport bill chopped back by the House unit, said he favored pruning “waste” as much as anybody. But he feared cutting too deeply will “undermine” the American economy.

“It takes a strong horse to pull the g’obal load this Nation has to carry,” said Monroney. “He certainly can’t pull it if we cut out his hay.”

In his little-publicized “maiden” speech to the House, Bowles urged a “bolder approach to the future, with increased confidence in our economic system,” if this Nation is to “grow” and meet its world obligation.

He said “respected authorities” assert that our nuclear and missile development is lagging at such a rate that we may soon be confronted by even tougher Soviet attitudes in every area.

Said Bowles: “If these authorities are wrong and we act on their advice we may lose some money. But if they are right and we refuse to take heed we may lose our country.”

Fights Inadequacy

Saying our “fear fixation” on inflation can lead us into another recession, Bowles said he had no patience with people who “tell us that we must be content with a less ade-