

Urban Congestion Problem Seen As Impediment To Normal Human Life

By BRUCE BLOSSAT

American cities have been decentralizing for two or three decades, but the fanning out has been pretty haphazard. It isn't that they have no plans. It's simply that the ones they have are apparently too mild a remedy for the ills now besetting the big urban centers.

One primary trouble is that with all their spreading growth the country's largest communities still draw far too many people into their downtown areas and established industrial sectors.

With the rise in population and the gain in motor traffic, this continued centering of activity in the well-developed heart of the city is imposing a smothering human load on streets, sidewalks, transportation facilities, terminals, office buildings and other focal points of downtown life.

As has been pointed out by many urban experts, most measures designed to relieve this human congestion only make it worse. Anything that makes it easier to get out of the city's center also makes it easier to get in. The only real cure is to develop competing magnets of attraction well removed from the cluttered downtown section. But these probably ought to be planned on a much more drastic scale than most cities are contemplating seriously today.

Nearly all the biggest cities have long had sub-centers of business and industrial activity. In recent years suburban areas have developed beyond mere dormitories into more balanced communities, with shops, theaters, and similar facilities on a more ambitious footing than formerly.

Yet few of these are powerful enough attractions to hold residents of the area out of the city's heart the way they should. Too many people still make the long, wearing trip to town for work and pleasure.

If this congestion is not to choke our cities to death, they must set about developing satellite areas—perhaps separated from built-up sectors by belts of green country—that are in most ways self-sufficient.

This means more factories in the outlying regions, with workers' homes close by. Long commuting hours are a colossal waste. It means shops and recreational facilities truly rivaling those downtown. For example, road companies of stage drama might make the rounds of satellite centers before embarking on cross-country tours.

A famous and successful city planner once scoffed at men who urged drastic reworking of our cities. He considered such men starchy eyes and told them his city was "too tough for 'em."

It looks now like the shoe is on the other foot. His city, and every other large metropolis, is becoming too tough for the planners with limited vision. These centers aren't yielding to the modest plans now being executed. They're getting worse.

There's urgency in this problem.



AUSTIN FLEGEL, Democratic candidate for governor of Oregon, was snapped in a characteristic pose at the Jefferson-Jackson day dinner Friday night at Evergreen grange hall. (Picture by Paul Jenkins).

More is at stake than mere human discomfort, economic waste, peace of mind. Our lives are involved. The atom bomb has outmoded these huge urban clusters of people and buildings and transportation facilities. Civilian defense specialists are calling for sweeping decentralization of industry and business in the simple interest of self-preservation.

Whether it is to be peace or war, we must make a real start at breaking up present concentrations. They have long since reached the point of diminishing human returns.

HOG TABS MAN

MEDFORD. — (AP) — A hog stabbed Walter Faux, 43, at a slaughter plant here.

Faux, whose job is to slaughter hogs, started to stick one. But the hog kicked. Faux's knife flew 10 feet into the air and came down on his back.

He is being treated in a hospital here.

State Dept. Uses 'Gestapo,' Claim Of Sen. Mundt

WASHINGTON, April 24. — (AP) — Senator Mundt told the Senate today there appears to be a State department "gestapo" operating in this country.

He made the statement after Senator Brewster (R-Me) had said a State department intelligence agent had been investigating Kenneth G. Crawford, national affairs editor for newsweek magazine.

Brewster said the incident was either "the most stupid act in his history or one of the boldest attempts to intimidate one of the editors of this country that I have ever known."

Mundt said it was never contemplated in the recent reorganization of the State department that it should have a "counter-intelligence" service operating in this

ACTH Production Being Increased, Says Armour Co.

CHICAGO. — (AP) — ACTH is being produced 30 times over last year's production, says Armour & Co., and the wonder hormone may be supplied to "a large number of hospitals" within a few months.

The sharply increased production of the drug that has brought dramatic relief, at least temporarily, to sufferers of rheumatoid arthritis, leukemia and other baffling diseases, also has resulted in a price cut.

The new drug, however, is so scarce, that its use has been limited to experiments on selected patients in clinics.

Armour, one of the nation's biggest meat packers, is the world's largest producer of the hormone. It obtains the substance from the pituitary glands of hogs.

F. W. Specht, Armour president, disclosed in a speech to the Chicago Cancer Research foundation that production is 30 times that of a year ago. He did not give any figures but said the current output may be tripled by late summer.

"We still are far from being able to supply ACTH in unlimited quantities to every physician and hospital," Specht said.

He said the number of clinics using ACTH has increased from 40 to 100 in a year "and other clinics are rapidly being added to the list."

He said the food and drug administration has not yet approved the hormone for general sale and added: "We hope within a few months, however, to establish a basis whereby ACTH may be obtained in a large number of hospitals for the most critical cases."

Specht said Armour is cutting its present price of \$210 a gram to about \$100 effective May 1.

Wilson and Company, another big packing firm, began producing ACTH recently and an eastern firm is obtaining the substance from horse glands.

British Troops Unload Strike-Bound Vessels

LONDON April 24. — (AP) — The Labor government today ordered troops to unload ships tied up in London port by a wildcat dockers' strike denounced by Cabinet ministers as Communist-inspired.

The government decision to use soldiers and sailors to keep food and other goods moving was made after the walkout threatened to halt all operations in the sprawling dockyards.

Almost 1,000 soldiers and sailors, stationed in the dockyards since yesterday, were ordered to go to work on 69 ships which are immobilized by the strike over an intra-union dispute.

More than 4,500 dockers joined the strikers over the weekend bringing the number idle to 12,489. The total working force in the London docks is 27,000 but only between 15,000 to 20,000 are employed on any given day.

BEARDED MONDAYS

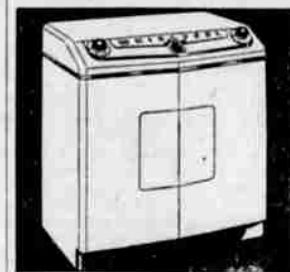
BAKER. — (AP) — Bearded Mondays are going to be in order here after May 1. Baker union barbers, headed by Tommy Hall, voted to set up a five-day week beginning May 1. All the union shops will close on Mondays.

country. He said it was specifically understood the department's intelligence service was to be used abroad, and not at home.

Senator Lodge (R-Mass) said he would demand "a most complete explanation" from the State department. He is a member of the foreign relations subcommittee now looking into charges by Senator McCarthy (R-Wis) that the State department is infested by Communists.



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Roseburg Youth Now At Air Force School



Private First Class Samuel A. Croucher, 20, of Roseburg, has entered the airplane and engine mechanic's school at Sheppard Air Force base, the home of the largest technical school of this type in the world.

Pfc. Croucher is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Croucher of 1330 N. Ball, Roseburg, and a graduate of the Roseburg senior high school. During his 28-week course as a student at Sheppard he will receive intensive training designed to provide him with the thorough knowledge and the basic skills required in servicing, inspecting and maintaining every type of aircraft currently used by the USAF.

Upon graduation he will be awarded the rating of airplane and engine mechanic. Along with the majority of graduates in his class, he probably will be assigned to one of the major Air Force commands for on-the-job experience with fire-line operational aircraft after completion of his school here.

Blasts, Flames Destroy Atomic Board's Building

BERKELEY, Calif., April 24. — (AP) — Fire, accompanied by a series of minor explosions, destroyed the Atomic Energy commission's administration building here last night.

AEC officials declined to answer such questions as (1) whether any irreplaceable scientific data was lost, (2) what the building contained, or (3) how great was the loss in dollar values.

The University of California's giant \$9,000,000 cyclotron, in a concrete building 100 yards away, was not damaged.

IPR Defended Against Label Of 'Communist'

SEATTLE. — (AP) — A trustee of the Institute of Pacific Relations says that "charges and insinuation that it is or was a Communist organization are utterly false and irresponsible."

The statement was made by Dr. Raymond B. Allen, University of Washington president, in a speech before the Washington Newspaper Institute.

He said the institute cleaned its own house when Communists tried once to "insinuate themselves into positions of influence." He referred to the resignation of an IPR executive committee member in 1947.

Dr. Allen termed the institute "one of the strongest and surest tools possessed for finding our way out of the morass of ignorance, misunderstanding and propaganda which has surrounded far eastern affairs and for reaching, eventually, a sound and permanently effective far eastern policy."

He also expressed grave concern over current investigations in Washington, D. C., on U.S. foreign policy since they "inadvertently or otherwise... may result in great and permanent damage to the institute." He said this concern was heightened by the allegations of Senator McCarthy (Wis) before a Senate foreign affairs subcommittee about Phillip C. Jessup, ambassador-at-large, and Owen Lattimore, McCarthy has accused Jessup of having an "affinity" for Communist ideas and has said Lattimore is the chief Soviet agent in this country. Both have denied the charges.

Dr. Allen suggested that more useful results would be obtained from congressional investigations if they "were carried out less in the public eye."

Nervous Man Can't Open Safe; Saves His Payroll

YONKERS, N.Y. — (AP) — Sometimes it pays to be nervous. Samuel J. Colin, 63, returned to his Yonkers Window Cleaning Co. after lunch and found two young bandits had taken over. His secretary, Rita Bleich, 30, was bound and gagged.

"Open your safe," ordered one of the burglars. Colin, his hands shaking, tried several times but the safe wouldn't open.

"I'm too nervous," he told the intruders. "I'll give you the combination and you open it yourselves."

The bandits bound Colin and two other men who entered the shop. They fiddled with the lock for a half hour. They accused Colin of giving them the wrong combination.

"Why don't you take the money in my pocket and call it quits?" Colin asked.

The bandits, unnerved themselves, took \$287 from Colin's wallet and fled.

The unopened safe contained a \$1,500 payroll.

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What Would Grandpa Say Now?

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