

The News-Review

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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations

Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver

Published Daily Except Sunday by the

NEWS-REVIEW COMPANY, INC.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; six months, \$6.00; three months, \$3.00. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$15.00; six months, \$7.50; three months, \$3.75. By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$12.00 (on advance), less than one year per month, \$1.25.

Entered as second class matter May 7, 1936, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879.

A DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRST

By Charles V. Stanton

A program initiated in Douglas County reportedly is gaining widespread favor and may soon be in operation coast to coast.

Arthur Selby, following his appointment as civilian defense director for Douglas County, proposed a program of voluntary training for high school seniors in the fundamentals of civilian defense. The proposal received immediate endorsement from the state civilian defense office and also was approved by the State Department of Public Instruction.

A national program is expected to follow the Oregon plan initiated by Selby.

Douglas County high schools now are offering cooperation in providing the course of instruction to senior class volunteers.

The training will cover fields of communications, first aid, protection in case of attack, radioactive fallout, disaster, evacuation, or other emergency.

Students completing the course would be recognized with diplomas, membership in the civilian defense organization, identification cards and other honors.

One of the early activities, Selby reports, would be the distribution of identification tags to both students and adults.

Civilian Defense has had a rather hard time getting into high gear in the United States. The adult population is discouragingly complacent and is not sufficiently cooperative with tests and experiments to please civilian defense leaders. While skeleton organizations exist, and much planning has gone into the effort, the people of the United States, as a whole, haven't been overly concerned with civilian defense plans and preparations, despite pleas and warnings.

Director Selby's program, however, if generally adopted, could solve the participation need in coming years. Students are more adaptable to educational projects. They probably are more alert than are adults to dangers and to future requirements for protection of civilians from the fantastic new weapons of war.

It is our young people who will live in a world dominated by threat of nuclear weapons. It appears that if devices to protect the public from the offensive power of modern weapons are to be placed in operation a more aggressive approach will be required than has so far been obtained.

Director Selby's plan, given the cooperation it needs, could well be the answer to one of the gravest problems of our time.

SOURCE OF AGRICULTURAL INCOME

A small item appeared recently in this, our favorite family journal, stating that Oregon farmers earned \$331,408 in the last half of 1957 from sales of timber on their woodlots. The state forester, reporting these earnings, said advice and help had been given by his department to 727 woodland owners.

That piece of news received little prominence in the Oregon press. It is not what we ordinarily term "sensational" news. Yet, in a sense, it was perhaps one of the most important bits of news in the newspaper.

It was only a few years ago that a farm woodlot was a nuisance and a liability. Our farmers stripped trees from their lands, hoping to convert hillside into pasture. Much of the hillside soil was so shallow and so poor that it would grow nothing but weeds. Stripping the land produced erosion, caused loss of topsoil on the more fertile acres, dried up springs and streams. Destruction of woodlots cost the land owner heavily in damage to his other lands.

But at the time the act of destruction occurred, the timber was worthless. Pasture land was of far greater value to the farmer. He was ignorant of the damage that would follow forest removal. No criticism can be attached to his act. Yet, had the woodlots been left, had the hillside not been denuded, his bottom lands would have been more productive and water sources would not have been destroyed. Furthermore, he or his descendants would today have a continuing source of income.

As facilities for marketing wood from farm woodlots increase, particularly as the wood industry turns to the use of fiber, the farm woodlot will increase in importance as a source of agricultural income. Many Douglas County land owners would find it to their great advantage to study ways and means of turning submarginal land into future profitable use through the growing of trees. We haven't yet scratched the surface of the potential the farmer may realize from the trees growing on his land.

—Bruce Biossat—

In many knowledgeable diplomatic circles the conviction is growing that a summit conference will be held in 1958. The feeling is that the Russians probably will agree to the lower level preparations prescribed by the United States as a necessary prelude.

Of marked concern at this moment, however, is the mounting danger that many peoples are working themselves into a state of too great expectancy over the proposed parity. Reports from abroad indicate that all too many are blandly assuming in advance that a spectacular easing of East-West tensions will result.

THIS WISHFUL thinking is understandable among those who are ignorant of or have forgotten what it is like to negotiate with the Russians, even when fruitful results are finally achieved.

Such folk might well be reminded of the "conference" that produced the armistice in the Korean war. That required two years and 575 separate meetings with the Communists. Then there was the Austrian peace treaty, concluded

at long last in 1955 after eight years and 400 meetings.

We in America are well aware, as are important leaders abroad, that the Russians more often than not use the "conference technique" simply as one means of accomplishing political and economic objectives—if they can.

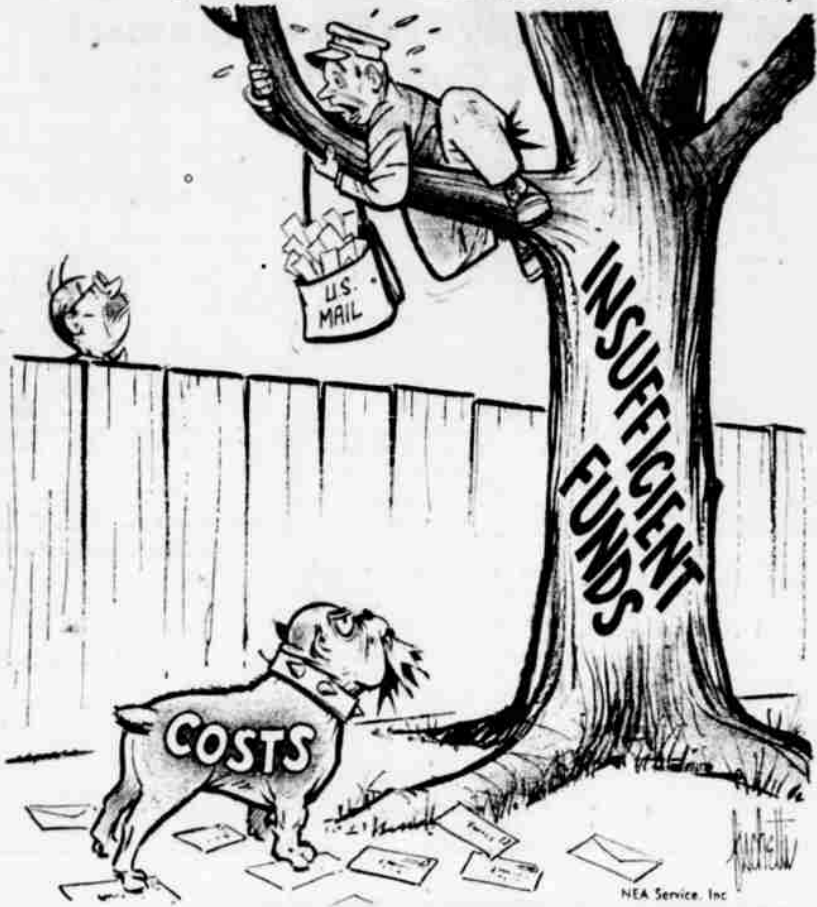
AT ALL TIMES we must be on guard to prevent such bloodless victories over free men.

On those rare occasions when the Russians do in fact want to reach some sort of agreement, it is obviously their intent to seek the maximum benefit for their side by trying to wear us down through the grinding process of endless meetings.

Plainly, we will be gravely handicapped in reaching the Russians at the conference table if millions who stand behind us clamor frantically for an easing of tensions at any cost.

Knowing the Communists as we do, we can be sure that the cost of an agreement obtained under such pressures would ultimately be ruinous to free men.

"Get on My Side of the Fence and You'll See Why"



In The Day's News

(Continued from Page 1)

get an attractive offer. Suppose that at every negotiating session with prospective buyers you called in all the reporters — thus, among other things, tipping off all your competitors to everything you were doing.

What would happen?

The chances are you wouldn't make a deal.

The people's business, as well as private business, needs to be transacted WISELY. It is seldom wise to carry on negotiations — which, in the case of the PEOPLE'S business, can be so touchy and delicate as to involve the possibility of WAR if something goes wrong — in a fishbowl or on a soapbox at a street corner.

In negotiations dealing with the public's business, it needs particularly to be remembered that there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.

Let's take a look at this Vanguard satellite business.

The failure Wednesday morning, coming on the heels of other failures, has cast a reaction of gloom over the country and has HEARTENED our enemies. It has dimmed the glory of the army's SUCCESSFUL launching of a satellite.

It has given the Russian propagandists an opportunity to paint us to the world in general as a nation of bunglers who get a break now and then but can't be depended on for consistent and businesslike PERFORMANCE.

We'll have to admit that the Russians were smarter than we in their satellite project. Nobody knows how many times they tried before they hit it. Maybe DOZENS of times. But they kept MUM about it. Thus they were able to present the world with a FACT ACCOMPLISHED.

If they had failures along the line, nobody knew anything about them.

They probably DID have failures. These satellite-launching missiles deal with principles that are new in the world. They are filled with fabulously intricate and complicated machinery. If ANY component fails to do its assigned job, the whole thing flops.

The Russians had the good sense to keep their mouths shut until they had licked their preliminary problems.

We of the press (newspapers, magazines, radio, TV) need to do a little serious thinking on our own account.

We must NEVER, of course, permit government to tell us we CAN'T tell the news. But we owe it to our country to use discretion and good judgment in our handling of news dealing with developments so delicate and potentially explosive that MISHANDLING of them can endanger our country's position in the world.

Russian Machine 'Shoots' Patients To Sleep

LONDON.—Moscow Radio said today a Soviet scientist has invented a machine which puts you to sleep by shooting electrical impulses into the body.

The broadcast said the machine — known as "The Universal Stimulator" — "will enable medical men to study the complex nervous processes that go in men and animals" and can be used to diagnose and treat nervous ailments.

The radio said the nervous system of a sleepy person gives off a certain kind of impulse. It claimed the machine duplicates this impulse and introduces it into the subject's system, sending him bed-dy-by.

SALEM.—Members of county Republican central committees were told Thursday to be "strictly neutral" in Republican primary contests.

The order came from James E. Short, Republican state chairman. He said Republican state and county leaders should realize that they accept assignments with conflicting GOP candidates.

—Hal Boyle—

By MARK EMOND For HAL BOYLE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. — If public letter writing is an accurate barometer, popular interest in the United Nations has never been greater.

Last year the U. N.'s public inquiry section handled 57,837 letters to the world organization. This represented a steady growth over the years and a 15 to 20 per cent increase over 1956.

That 1957 was a year of crisis was reflected in the fact that 1,205 letters dealt with the Hungarian situation and 1,168 with the Middle East.

Mrs. Josefine Frank, head of the U. N.'s public inquiry unit, says she and her eight assistants have been getting letters from the Soviet Union in recent years. For a while there had been none.

This tends to corroborate that the Iron Curtain has been lifted somewhat since 1953, when Stalin died and his heavy-handed security crew was swept out of power. More mail has also come here from the satellite countries, particularly Poland and Hungary.

Letters came from all over the world, but something like 90 per cent came from the United States and Canada.

Most of these are inquiries about the work of U. N. bodies. And the major part of the letters are written by students, a few wanting the U. N. to do their assignments for them.

Impressed by Letters

Mr. Frank's boss, Glenn E. Bennett, chief of visitors services, says he is impressed by the number of letters written last year expressing appreciation for Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld's peace efforts. There were 1,679.

"This indicates that people think he is playing a greater role in world affairs," he said.

Bennett explained that the number of serious and thoughtful letters has increased recently, while the number of crackpot letters has decreased.

There used to be more mail from crackpots with chips on their shoulders or from zealots with weird axes to grind. Then there was the request that the U. N. step in to prevent the suicide of dogs who were said to be leaping from a building in a South American city.

The office staff recalls a number

Japanese Ship Breaks Ice Trap

TOKYO.—The Japanese Antarctic expedition ship Soya radiated she broke into the open sea Thursday from an ice pack that trapped her for 46 days, 1,500 miles from the South Pole, the Maritime Safety Board said.

The U. S. icebreaker Burton Island, steaming to the Soya's rescue, was about 600 miles away from the icepack and had been expected to reach the Soya Saturday.

The Soya, carrying a 50-man expedition, was jammed in the ice in Lützow-Holm Bay off Cook Peninsula Dec. 23, and later snapped the blade from a propeller trying to free herself.

Using dynamite and her reduced power, the 2,700-ton ship worked her way slowly out of the ice. Expedition headquarters expect the Soya to proceed to the Japanese International Geophysical Year observation base at Ongul Island, where an 11-man team has spent the winter. A team from the Soya will relieve those now at the base.

Russia Claims Progress In Manufacturing H Bomb

MOSCOW.—The Soviet Union's top atomic scientist said today Soviet work toward harnessing the H-bomb to give electric power is "very close to the achievements recently reported in England."

But like his counterparts in the West, Igor V. Kurchatov added: "number of years of intensive research by scientists of all countries will still be needed to obtain the knowledge required for the design of an industrial thermonuclear reaction."

Thinking It Over

By Robert L. Dieffenbacher, D.D.

(Written for NEA Service)

The turbulence of the air east of the Rocky Mountains is traditionally varied. The ever changing winds over the mountains cause crosscurrents and danger in the skies. Flying the north and south routes are frequently uncomfortable because the planes have to buck the side winds which are bumpy and unpredictable. It is much more comfortable to fly with the wind or straight into it.

The crosscurrents of life cause us more difficulty than the clear-cut opposition or the obvious encouragement for the job recognized as being well done. Sometimes these crosscurrents disturb our living until we become emotionally and physically ill. Some of these variable influences could be avoided if we were to shift the courses of our lives.

We need a Pilot who can take us through all the currents and temptations of life. He is ready to take over if we merely assign the task to Him wholeheartedly.

First Space Conqueror Could Guide Weapons

PHILADELPHIA.—Major Gen. John B. Medaris, commander of the Army ballistic missile agency, Huntsville, Ala., says the first conqueror of space would have the power to launch and guide weapons to an accurate strike on any earth target.

Gen. Medaris, speaking at the Franklin Institute Wednesday, said the earth "would be at the mercy of all seeing eye immune to disruptions" from any earth-bound quarter.

Unless there is unexpected success in the field of international relations, he said, "the universe could become the battlefield of the future."

He said the only positive means to prevent this war in space is for the U. S. to become the first to gain manned control of space "in the interest of those high principles of human welfare which have always directed our course."

Accidents Now More Costly, Insurance Survey Shows

By ELMER C. VOGEL

SEATTLE.—Clanging and clattering away with endless and undiminished vigor, motorists of this state battered a good many thousands of automobiles into varying stages of disrepair last year.

Almost every time someone nicked another driver's fender it had an effect on the amount you pay your insurance company for protection. The deeper the nick, the more the effect.

And, whenever any occupant of these automobiles was injured or killed, it, too, had an effect. In neither case was the effect good for those who pay the premiums on policies or the insurance company which collects—and pays.

Most Subject To Claim

At least four out of five accidents are subject to some claim for damage to one or all automobiles involved. Personal injury sufficient to result in an injury claim occurs in nearly one-third of the accidents. The cost of settling either type of claim is growing by leaps and bounds.

First, consider what it costs to repair an automobile. Five years ago, a driver with a new Chevrolet paid \$32.25 for a windshield if one side was broken or \$60.70 if both sides. Today, his bill for a plain windshield on a 1957 Chevrolet would be \$119.50. Tinting comes higher.

The same driver paid \$193 for repairs to bumper, grill, fender and windshield in a front end collision five years ago; today the bill would be \$325. Part of a rear fender then was \$21.05; now it is \$50.15. Comparable figures for front fenders are \$24.37 and \$40.05; for a front door, \$51.72 and \$69.60.

The flashier car, the flashier the bill. A few weeks ago a Seattle man sideswiped a utility pole with his car at a low speed. The bill was \$800—paid by the insurance company except for the \$50 deductible.

Other Fees Higher

Consider also that ambulance, doctor and hospital fees are up. Hospital prices are up 91 per cent in 10 years, doctors 100 per cent, ambulances 200.

The modern automobile has a lot more on it to get banged up in a collision, too. Some of it is the result of research in smoother,

quieter, safer automobile building; some because of the personal vanity of drivers who load up their cars with all the extras they can find, ranging in cost from 10 cents to a thousand dollars.

High speed is a factor, too. You can do a lot more damage whomping along at 70 than at 30, both to yourself and your opponent, and insurance companies report an ever-increasing number of totals. That's when they figure it is cheaper to settle for the cash value of the car than to pay for repairs.

One accident can result in one or a half dozen or more individual claims—for property damage, collision repairs and personal injuries.

There were 76,062 reportable accidents in Washington in 1956, resulting in 533 fatalities, 22,282 injuries requiring treatment and an estimated economic loss of \$54,900,000.

Average Payments Shown

Figures compiled by the General Insurance Co. show average payments by the company of \$125 for collision damages, \$57 for property damage and \$421.55 per personal injury claim. In addition, the average policy holder paid \$75 deductible.

Assuming each of the injury claims was from a one-injury accident, the total cost to the insurance company of each such accident would be \$603.55—or five year's premiums by the average

adult driver with minimum insurance.

Premium costs might be held down more if payments by insurance companies were limited to damage to the metal, rubber and plastics. But insurance policies have been broadened continually until today many include rental costs for replacement automobiles, loss of glass from flying rocks, damage by thieves or vandals, coverage when the other party isn't insured and a dozen other provisions.

None of this is for free to you or the insurance company.

It boils down to a rising accident total accompanied by the cost of living—which makes each accident more costly.

Insurance company figures show that bodily injury and property damage liability premiums lagged 1.9 per cent behind the increase in the cost of living from 1952 to 1957 in Seattle; minus 2.4 in New York; minus 13.8 in Denver. Farouk N. D. went counter to the national trend—premiums rose 9.1 per cent faster than the cost of living.

The answer is as complex as the problem. Premium rates will level off or decline when automobile accidents do; when drivers learn greater responsibility, exercise more care and judgment. How to achieve this—through more driver education, more stringent enforcement of laws, etc., is up to everyone, insured and insurer alike.

Presbyterians To Include 'Great Decisions' In Series Of Sunday Night Services

"Great Decisions . . . '58," a nation-wide program to encourage thinking on international problems of current importance, will headline the Sunday evening programs at the First Presbyterian Church for the next six Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

A short worship service will begin the evenings, followed by a factual presentation of the topic to be discussed. Small discussion groups will then be formed to air opinions.

No attempt will be made to reach agreement in the discussions, but each person will fill out a ballot at the close of the meetings. These ballots will be tabulated and the results given to the U. S. State Dept.

The county extension office is spearheading the Great Decisions program in Douglas County and all churches, civic groups and individuals are invited to participate.

Nature Non-Partisan

Material for the discussions is prepared by the Foreign Policy Assn. and is non-partisan in nature.

The discussions, scheduled for the First Presbyterian Church for the next six weeks are:

"What are present challenges and opportunities for the U. S.?" For Christians, Feb. 9.

"Can we deal with Russia? What is the Christian attitude toward them?" Feb. 16.

"What security for the rocket age? For what kind of security should Christians be striving?" Feb. 23.

North Koreans Again Propose Free Elections

TOKYO.—North Korea's Communist regime called again today for free elections under neutral supervision to unite the divided peninsula—but once more

tacked on conditions South Korea and the West were sure to reject.

The four part proposal was adopted by Premier Kim Il Sung's Cabinet in session with the People's Assembly and Communist Party leaders. As broadcast by Pyongyang radio the plan proposed:

1. Simultaneous withdrawal of all foreign troops including the U. S. Army and Chinese "volunteers."

2. Free elections throughout Korea within a definite period after the withdrawal. They would be held under supervision of a neutral nations group.

3. Early negotiations "based on equality" between the North and South Korean governments on the election and North-South cultural exchanges. Kim also renewed his suggestion for free North-South travel and postal communications.

4. Reduction of the armies of North and South Korea to a "minimum" in the near future.

Man Who Wanted To Die Kills Another In Crash

LYNWOOD, Calif.—A man who told police he wanted to die raced 30 m.p.h. down the wrong side of a street in this Los Angeles suburb Wednesday night, scattering approaching motorists. Then he collided head-on with a car that couldn't avoid him.

The man who wanted to die didn't. The other driver, Richard N. Butts, 32, of nearby Paramount was killed instantly.

Joseph Mordes, 30, of nearby Long Beach, was hospitalized with cuts and bruises, then booked on suspicion of murder.

Police said Mordes apparently was upset over a broken romance. When they questioned him, he wouldn't talk. But wrote on a slip of paper: "Let me die. I'll tell you whatever you want to know. Just let me die."

Police said the Mary, by Mary An Kabeiski of San Luis Obispo.

NEW YORK.—A twice-married Manhattan woman says her two children were born as a result of artificial insemination and contends her former husband has no legal right to visit them.

The claim is made by Mrs. Nina Pantaleoni Bennett, who is contesting habeas corpus proceedings proved by her ex-husband, Walter Gram, Christian Abajian.

A state Supreme Court hearing in the habeas corpus proceedings is scheduled for Friday.

Mrs. Bennett filed papers in the court asking dismissal of a habeas corpus writ obtained by her former husband in an effort to visit the children.