

Re-Evaluation of Gravity May Aid Atomic Science

By FRANK CAREY
Associated Press Science Reporter
WASHINGTON (AP) — Further developments in both the military and peaceful applications of atomic energy may ultimately result from a scheduled effort to re-determine the mathematical value of the "pull of gravity."

This was reported Saturday by Dr. Allen V. Astin, director of the National Bureau of Standards. He was discussing an announcement that NBS scientists will seek to pin down with greater accuracy than heretofore the value of "G" — the acceleration of gravity — one of the most important constants of nature.

Astin added in an interview that while immediate application of an expected new figure will probably be limited to fundamental science — particularly nuclear physics — it is conceivable that some day

there might be important practical applications to atomic energy and to industry in general.

Fundamental Measure
A Department of Commerce announcement said "G" is "fundamental to the measurement of force, electrical current and temperature — three quantities that are basic to modern technology, from automobile engineering to atomic physics."

"This 'G' constant," said the announcement, "is a highly important quantity. Geophysicists need it to study the earth. Weather men need it to study the atmosphere. In short the value of 'G' is fundamental to measurement, the cornerstone of science."

The announcement was in connection with an invitation to several hundred leaders from science, industry, education and government to attend a "guest week" program next week at the Bureau of Standards.

It promised that, in addition to descriptions of the "G" research, guests would hear of other new developments in the science of measurement, such as "an automatic weather station that rides out a hurricane."

Cuban Solons In 3rd Day of Hunger Strike

HAVANA, Cuba (AP) — Two Cuban Congressmen went into the third day of a hunger strike in the national Capitol Saturday but a third was removed to a hospital.

Deputies Conrado Rodriguez, Conrado Becquer and Jorge Cruz Perez went on the hunger strike to protest the government's approval of intervention in various sugar unions which had been under their control. They were taken over by the Cuban Confederation of Workers.

Deputy Cruz Perez developed an infection and doctors ordered him taken to a hospital.

Poles Greet U.S. Opera

BERLIN (AP) — The American Porgy and Bess troupe was given an enthusiastic reception on its arrival in Warsaw Friday, the East German News Agency ADN reported Saturday.

ADN said "countless" persons, including officials of the Polish Ministry for Culture, and U. S. Ambassador Joseph E. Jacobs, were at the railroad station as the troupe's train rolled in from Moscow. In a welcoming speech, the director of the Warsaw Opera, W. Bregy, declared:

"The exchange of artists contributes to a drawing together of the nations. Therefore, we are truly happy over the arrival of the first American theatrical ensemble in Poland since the war."

The Polish government has engaged the 60-member show for a Warsaw engagement that is to last about a week.

Adequate Enough
At the present stage of industrial technology, said Dr. Astin, the presently-accepted international value of "G" is more than adequate for industrial needs in general.

"But, as industrial technology advances," he said, "there may be need for a more precise value, and that is one of the reasons why we want to be prepared."

The "acceleration of gravity" is defined as the rate of change of velocity of freely falling objects. The presently-accepted international value for "G" is 32.174 feet "per second per second." That means that the velocity increases at the rate of that many feet a second for every second of fall. In recent years, there has been suggestive evidence that this figure is not quite correct.

German Scientist
The present value was determined by indirect methods, employing a swinging pendulum. But this method — first used by a German scientist in 1906 and later by the National Bureau of Standards in 1936 for another check — has the disadvantage that it requires swiveling the pendulum from an almost perfect or frictionless bearing.

In the new research, scientists will employ modern electronic methods. Essentially, the experiment involves measuring electronically the time it takes a freely falling ball to drop a measured distance.

A clock will automatically start when the ball is released. When the ball hits a trigger on a platform below, the clock will stop. In a demonstration with a simplified "mockup" model, the clock did not stop, but bureau scientists grinned that they would take care of that.

French Court Rules Slander In Campaign

By GODFREY ANDERSON
PARIS (AP) — A French court Saturday ruled tax rebel Pierre Poujade 500,000 francs (\$1,400) for slander during the election campaign, in which his followers won unexpectedly 52 National Assembly seats.

Poujade was not in court to hear the judge declare that campaign accusations against former Assembly Speaker Pierre Schneider were "incontestably defamatory." Poujade has accused Schneider of having "blood on his hands."

Schneider also was awarded one franc in symbolic damages and Poujade must pay to have the court's judgment printed in five newspapers of Schneider's choosing.

Poujade's noisy followers, who turned out in numbers for the trial, were notably absent when today's verdict was read. Schneider also was absent.

The judge said Poujade's defense of "good faith" was not established. Furthermore, the judge said, the fact that Poujade obviously did not attempt to check the facts may have demonstrated that he, himself, did not believe the charges he made.

The suit against Poujade was brought by the State. Schneider appeared as an injured party. Witnesses testified they heard Poujade say in a public election meeting: "It is scandalous to have a speaker of the National Assembly with blood on his hands."

Poujade said he based his charge on a letter given him by a friend, Farmer Leon Dupont, who already had been fined 400,000 francs (\$1,142) for slander because he suggested Schneider was an accomplice in the "removal" of a woman prisoner after the liberation. Several witnesses suggested in their testimony that the woman was taken from prison and executed because she was an embarrassing witness to the theft of funds which the British had parachuted into France to aid the resistance movement during the war. The circumstances of her death never have been cleared up officially. Schneider was deputy governor in the area at the time.

Medicated Gum Ruled Different

WASHINGTON (AP) — When is chewing gum not chewing gum? The U. S. Department of Commerce, after an investigation of exports to Argentina, has the answer.

It's when the chewing gum is medicated.

The department's foreign trade division has decided to include medicated chewing gum as a medicine in compiling statistics on Argentine U. S. trade.

The medicated variety has been included in the chewing variety totals.

Life Editor Apologizes for 'Brink of War' Headlines

By JACK BELL
WASHINGTON (AP) — Editor-in-chief Henry R. Luce Saturday apologized for "unfortunate" brink-of-war headlines in a Life magazine article which brought a storm of world controversy swirling around Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

"If anything in our account of the secretary's position caused any misunderstanding among our readers or the public, we heartily regret it," Luce said in a statement issued from his New York office.

At the same time Luce struck out a critics of Dulles and the magazine article. He declared that any fault on the part of Life "was furiously compounded by those who, for the moment, put prejudice or personal advantage above the best interests of the United States."

The Supporter
Luce is a supporter of President Eisenhower and the husband of Eisenhower's ambassador to Italy, Clare Boothe Luce. The editor said Life alone was responsible for the article, both as to "substance and phraseology."

He did not say that Dulles was incorrectly quoted, but declared that the article as originally written by Life's Washington bureau chief, James R. Shepley, had been shortened and edited by Life and that the headlines did not fully reflect the main emphasis of Dulles' remarks. This emphasis, Luce said, was on the administration's "vigorous pursuit of peace."

Praises Policy
Luce strongly championed the administration foreign policy, saying he had no doubt it averted war by courageous action.

On the cover of the Life edition containing the article was the caption: "Three times at brink of war; how Dulles gambled and won." The headline on the article itself read: "How Dulles averted war. Three times, new disclosures show, he brought us back from the brink."

The body of the article quoted Dulles as saying that the administration walked three times to the verge of war — over Korea, Indochina and Formosa — and averted it by "strong action." Dulles was represented as saying that the ability to get to the verge of war and yet avoid it is a "necessary art" of diplomacy.

Democrats have hotly criticized Dulles on the ground he distorted history and showed a lack of responsible leadership. In some Al-



WASHINGTON — Henry R. Luce, editor-in-chief of Life Magazine, Saturday apologized for "unfortunate" brink-of-war headlines on a recent article discussing Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and U. S. foreign policy. The article brought a wave of world controversy. (AP Wirephoto)

Police Catch Cons Before Escape Known

DINWIDDIE, Va. (AP) — State policemen, suspicious of a motorist who would not stop for a routine traffic check, chased the car and said they recaptured two Southampton Prison Farm escapees before farm officials knew the pair was missing.

Troopers Earl F. Mays and J. M. Hutcherson said they arrested Alton Sprouse, 21, and George Bay, 22, after a 100-mile-an-hour chase Friday.

Sprouse and Bay, the troopers said, escaped from the Southampton farm in a state highway department truck and abandoned that for a stolen car in Petersburg. Later the escapees slowed but did not stop at a traffic check point where police were checking drivers' permits and auto registration cards. Mays and Hutcherson gave chase.

MOOSE SAID TAMED
KAPUSKASING, Ont. (AP) — Civilization is taming the moose to no good end, says Chief Game Overseer O. D. Lewis. He said the big animals get so used to human beings and their noises that they stand by unalarmed for slaughter in the hunting season. "If the animals wanted to commit suicide they could not have selected a better way to do it," he added.

Fuel Oil Supply, Demand Weighed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mobilization Director Arthur S. Flemming has asked importers of residual fuel oil whether increased shipments are needed to meet industrial and consumer demands the rest of the heating season.

Flemming noted that the "unusually cold weather," combined with high level industrial activity have caused a tight supply problem.

Flemming asked the companies to supply the information covering shipments up to April 30, by the end of this month.

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