

Fire Is Real Killer in Air Crashes



AT FULL THROTTLE, NACA test plane roars down runway toward barrier on way to a crackup to study ways to prevent fire.



SPLIT SECOND LATER, high-speed sequence camera catches test plane as it hits barrier. Wings and tail start to crumble.



AS GROUND-LOOP BEGINS, damage grows, but cabin is intact.



PLANE SKIDS TO STOP, and fire breaks out from ruptured tanks.

Committee Sponsors Program To Reduce Airplane Deaths

WASHINGTON (NEA)—Fire is the real killer in aircraft crashes. That's the finding of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, which has a major research program under way aimed at drastically reducing the death toll in plane accidents.

If it weren't for the flames which usually turn a crashed airplane into a mass coffin for all passengers, the number of survivors from plane accidents would be considerably higher, NACA scientists have found.

The actual result of the impact of the plane with the ground is not the main fatal element. "Aeromedical research has shown that very high decelerations can be withstood by a human, provided they persist for only a short time," an NACA report states.

This fact is also supported by almost all eye-witness reports of crashes. When rescuers have been able to get close to planes which have just crashed, they invariably report screams, moans and shouts from persons alive inside the cabin.

Using war-weary C-46 and C-82 cargo planes, NACA creates actual crashes.

"We simulate a take-off accident in which the airplane fails to become airborne; strikes an embankment; shears off the propellers and the landing gear; strikes trees or poles; ruptures the fuel tanks, and then skids along the ground to a stop," an NACA report explains.

This produces a "maximum array of potential ignition sources." Such a test, with the planes loaded with more than 1,000 gallons of fuel and engines at full throttle, contains the elements of just about every crash fire hazard.

coupled and heat registering devices are installed in engine nacelles and in wings and fuselage."

Cost of this program, which will end up saving thousands of lives, is included in next year's NACA budget request of \$58,872,000. This year NACA financed the work out of its \$48,840,000 budget. Last year NACA asked for \$50,563,000 but was cut five per cent by Congress.

VERY IMPORTANT Most of the results are considered so important to national security they are being kept secret. However, they will be built into new military and commercial aircraft.

A few results of the fire studies have been revealed. For example, it was learned that in many cases temperatures are caused in crashes which are too low to ignite the gasoline, but which can set in flames the oil or hydraulic fluid. These flames, then, touch off the gasoline.

Another discovery was that it is possible to cut off the ignition on the engines too soon when a pilot sees a crash is imminent. If it is cut off before the flow of fuel has been stopped, fire frequently results as the gasoline passes through the engines and hits the hot metal of the tail pipe.

Findings of this nature have been given to employees and crews of the airlines for the increased safety of passengers. This line of research will be more vigorously pushed, in view of the recent series of air crashes.

Ike's Address Well Received By Law Makers

By RAYMOND LAHR United Press Staff Writer WASHINGTON — Republican and Democratic congressmen generally hailed President Eisenhower's inaugural message Tuesday as a magnificent creed to guide the new administration in the troubled days ahead.

Most of the GOP lawmakers couldn't find enough adjectives. They called the speech "clear and courageous," "inspiring," "dramatic," the "hallmark of eloquence."

But some, sharp critics of any policies remotely resembling those of the Truman administration, gave only qualified endorsement. "The message deals in generalities," said Rep. H. R. Gross (R-La.), "I'm waiting to see him get down to specifics."

Some of the Democrats observed wryly that it was encouraging to see that the new President planned to carry out the wise policies of the previous administration.

Sen. Stiles Bridges (R-NH), Senate president pro tempore, said: "With the simplicity which is the hallmark of eloquence, President Eisenhower set forth the creed of his administration."

Other comment: Douglas McKay, incoming interior secretary — "I was very much impressed, it was a masterful speech."

Sen. Wayne Morse (Ind-Ore): An adequate discussion of generalities.

Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.): "A dramatic and challenging statement of our declaration of faith that should leave no doubt in anyone's mind as to the President's and the nation's determination to fulfill our responsibility of world leadership."

Rep. Charles Halleck (R-Ind.), majority floor leader, "It was a magnificent presentation dealing with the problems confronting the country."

Rep. James P. Richards (D-S.C.), "It is a clear and courageous exposition of what our foreign policy should be and what it has been during the past administration."

Rep. James Fulton (R-Pa.), President Eisenhower stands four square on the idea of mutual security, with the emphasis on mutual.

Rep. Clarence Brown (R-O.), "The President's speech gives an encouragement to those who seek clean and sound government."

Rep. Usher L. Burdick (R-ND), "I approve, except I don't think we can bring about peace through the framework of the United Nations as now constituted."

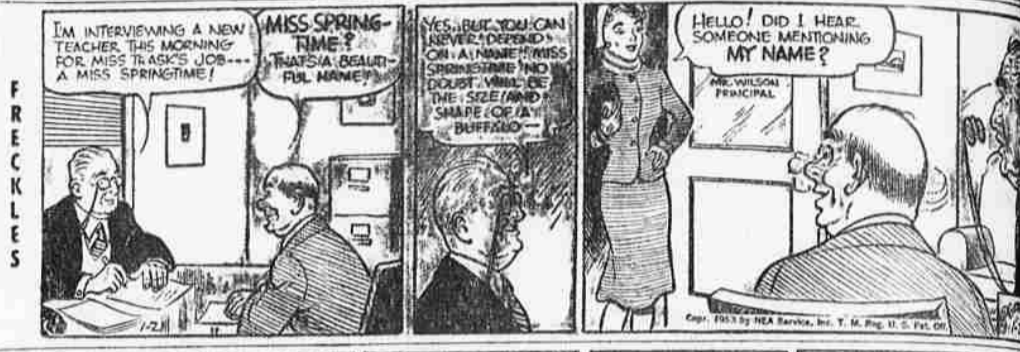
House Speaker Joseph W. Martin Jr. (R-Mass.), "The people will receive it as a much needed tonic."

House Minority Leader Sam Rayburn (D-Tex.), "I agree with President Eisenhower that we should continue to make ourselves strong."

Rep. Overton Brooks (D-La.), "I have said all along that we have had to build up our own defenses first."

Sen. Harry F. Byrd (D-Va.) called the address a "good speech" and said he agreed with most of Mr. Eisenhower's "philosophy."

Sen. Mike Monroney (D-Okla.), "A thoughtful and correct approach to the paramount problem of combatting Communism."



For Lack of Nails

British Crime Rate Increasing

LONDON (NEA) — Largely for want of some nails — and some lumber to put between them — Britain is slowly losing her battle against lawlessness.

A shortage of nails, lumber and other building materials has led to an acute lack of housing. Experts claim the housing problem is a big factor in England's growing crime rate.

It's partly blame, for instance, for a shortage of 10,000 policemen. Sir Harold Scott, London police commissioner, says the lack of homes is an obstacle to recruiting.

"I can't get enough men," he complains. "Indeed, I even lose a lot of men I already have. All because there are no homes for themselves and their families."

BROKEN HOMES Aside from its effect on police forces, the housing shortage has helped like the divorce rate. And with so many "broken homes," there has come the usual rise in juvenile delinquency.

Law breakers meet the housing problem again when they're caught and sent to prison. British prisons are more crowded today than they have been for 25 years. More than 4,300 inmates are sleeping three to a cell for lack of space.

The annual report of the Prison Commissioners lists 21,000 inmates, the most since 1877. The number has been rising steadily for three years, sometimes at the rate of 300 or more a month.

Three-fourths are "repeaters," with one or more previous convictions. They're in and out of custody so often that some observers have facetiously suggested that the prisons use revolving doors.

The governors of the Stafford and Lewes reformatories report a continued drop in the quality of young first offenders.

At Lewes, they're "less alert... less reliable." At Stafford, the governor says: "A number of lads to whom I've spoken about their futures have said, 'I hope I don't come back,' almost as if they had no power of decision as to whether they would or not."

'APPALLING' The director of a regional training prison chimes in by branding the attitude of young prisoners as "appalling."

They regard the state as apparently possessing an unlimited number of bottomless coffers," he says, "which are there to supply their financial needs whenever they feel like it."

The prisons can't handle the influx. All available rooms and bunks in 23 prisons are being used for sleeping purposes. But the commissioners report a need for at least six new 500-man institutions to siphon off the excess.

Restrictions on capital expenditures and staffs, however, have ruled out much expansion. The first new prison under the building program will be started this year, but may not be ready for use until some time in 1957.

Until then, the Prison Commissioners say the situation stands to get worse, not better. All for the want of some nails.

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Walkley at Home
CRESWELL—Clive Walkley is now at his home after undergoing treatment in a hospital for several weeks.
Miss Grace Holt of Des Moines, Iowa, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Harry Holt and family.

Cleanup Day For Vida Hall
MCKENZIE RIVER — Cleanup day for Vida hall was postponed from Sunday last to Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7:30 p.m. due to the high water which blocked highways.
The hall is being cleaned in preparation of the March of Dimes dance Jan. 31, sponsored by all McKenzie River organizations. Members of all clubs are asked to come and help Thursday, bring tools for pulling nails and tacks and wall brushes.
Representations of the association are reminded of the committee meeting Friday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the McKenzie River clubhouse.

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