

Eight-Dollar Words Help Washington's 'Gobbledegook'

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS

Washington, Jan. 3 (AP)—Anyway you spell it, "gobbledegook" is a horrible word.

And it's becoming more horrible by the hour in Washington. Government reports these days come up with such flowery phrases as "this pragmatic view," "put forward this idea of balance so cogently," and "while this is a reductio ad absurdum . . ."

It's enough to send a person to Webster.

In fact old Noah himself doubtless would reach out of his grave and split the nearest infinitive if he knew what was going on.

The latest shover-around of eight-dollar words was the council of economic advisers.

It came out with a learned booklet of 38 pages, but it took several of our best men eight hours each to arrive at the conclusion that the sum-substance was that Mr. Truman's economic advisers said cooperation between government and business can pave the way to a steadily expanding and stable economy.

I hope that our President read the press digests and not the text of the complicated report. Take this sentence:

"The first trend in the attitude of government toward business seems to the council to be this: The doctrine of secular stagnation no longer finds place in any importvolute circle with which we are familiar," that means, er . . .

Everybody around here talks about the gobbledegook but nobody seems to do much about it—except Howard Lewis.

Howard is a scholarly gent who conducts a column for the Washington Times-Herald.

He's also about to conduct a spelling bee among government workers come Jan. 27. There'll be prizes, but no simple words. Just the big words government bosses throw at the poor kids who come to Washington, thinking they know how to spell.

Howard Lewis pictures the new girl from Ulrich, Mo., coming into the office of so-and-so in the Interior department. She gets out her pad while the boss dictates something like this:

"Dear Mr. Smith comma the first echelon of intransigence regarding methodology of diminishing integrated staff and line criteria has proved effectually rational semicolon thereof ore this office suggests, no make that this office directs placement in suggestivity of over-all framework on top management level know hyphen how comma stipend to be adjustable with line function comma having regard for authoritarianism in spear-heading spade hyphen work period paragraph implementation of present-ly employed technique in the opinion of this office will serve to provide motivation . . . etc."

And you can check the spelling, yourself. I'm going out to lunch.

'Little Mo,' Coonskin-Capped Master Start Missouri Trek

Santa Fe, N. M., Jan. 3 (AP)—A one-man pack train, featuring Little Mo, the Missouri mule, shoved off up the Santa Fe Trail Monday.

Edwin H. Gallinagh, Kansas City advertising man who will walk to Independence, Mo., and animal, left this old city yesterday afternoon.

He plans to pass through Kansas City on June 3rd, the opening date of that city's centennial celebration. The trip will end at Independence, the eastern end of the Santa Fe trail and, incidentally, the home of President Truman.

Actually, Gallinagh and the photogenic mule started Sunday when both animal and master were blessed by a Catholic priest in true wagon-train style. The proposed January 1 start was passed when Gallinagh discovered that Santa Fe trail caravans did not travel on Sunday.

The mule, which has already been seen by thousands of persons at the Missouri State Fair and the American Royal Stock show at Kansas City, stands 35 1/2 inches high and weighs 200 pounds.

Originally owned by Fred Wilnot of Richards, Mo., he was sired by a Guatemala donkey and mothered by a registered Shetland pony.

Gallinagh said mule men at the fairs proclaimed him as the finest specimen of a small mule they've ever seen.

Gallinagh, sporting a beard, coonskin cap and long pioneer-style haircut, admitted that the trip is purely a publicity stunt. In addition to publicizing the centennial, he also hopes to promote the proposed Harry S. Truman foundation at Independence.

However, he said, "I am also interested in establishing once and for all the backbone of the old trail which was long the economic lifeline of Kansas City."

Guided by an old map which was approved by President Monroe in 1825, he plans to make over-night camp stops at forty separate watering points where he will plant a centennial flag. In addition, he will take part in festivities along the route and gather data for historical articles about the trail.

Gallinagh planned to travel out the old Pecos trail. He hopes to travel about 10 miles per day and plans to leave New Mexico from Clayton in about a month.

From there he will cross the Oklahoma panhandle and Kansas. Little Mo will carry a small pack of groceries for off-trail stops. Mrs. Gallinagh will drive the provision car along the main highways.



First Premier—Dr. Mohammed Hatta (above) has been appointed by President Soekarno as first Premier of the newly-formed nation, the United States of Indonesia.

Central Utah Has Slight Tremor

Ogden, Utah, Jan. 3 (AP)—A slight earthquake jarred North Central Utah early Monday afternoon. No damage or injuries were reported.

The tremor was reported at 12:53 p. m. from both Ogden and Logan. It lasted about 30 seconds.

An announcer for radio station KLO in Ogden said that the shock was "decidedly" noticeable in their studios on the seventh floor of the Ben Lomond hotel.

"It felt like someone moving something heavy in the hotel," he said, "but when calls started coming in, we realized what it was."

Melvin K. Jennings of the Salt Lake City staff of United Press, visiting his parents' home just north of Ogden for the holidays, said that the shock was pronounced enough to shake the ornaments on a Christmas tree.

3 Indians Die After Drinking Anti-Freeze

Madras, Ore., Jan. 3 (AP)—Three Warm Springs reservation Indians are dead and two recovering in a hospital today from a New Year's day drinking bout with alcoholic motor anti-freeze.

J. W. Elliott, superintendent of the reservation agency, said Bill Walsey died Sunday night and George Charley and Wesley Spino died yesterday at the agency hospital. Recovering at the Redmond Medical-Dental hospital are Bill Moses and Jack Puckka.

Elliott reported the holiday party was a stag affair. He disclosed no other circumstances.

before several hundred Moslem leaders at an observance of Mohammed's birthday, in the presidential palace.

Puts Pressure On New Guinea

Jakarta (Batavia), U. S. I., Jan. 3 (AP)—President Soekarno declared tonight that New Guinea "must" come into the United States of Indonesia before the end of 1950.

This emphatic statement appeared to be part of a persistent campaign to wrest the western part of the island from the Netherlands. The other part is administered by Australia under a United Nations trusteeship.

"Before the sun sets on the year 1950," said Soekarno, "New Guinea must come into the U. S. I."

He was repeating the Indonesian claim in Dutch New Guinea.



Emil Jannings Dies of Cancer

Strobl, Austria, Jan. 3 (AP)—Emil Jannings, veteran German screen actor, died last night at his home here.

He was 63.

Jannings, who won a Hollywood "Oscar" in 1929, had been suffering from cancer of the liver since mid-December. He came to Austria in early 1948 after a German denazification court cleared him of any Nazi taint despite his film work during the Hitler regime.

He was best remembered in the United States for his silent screen role in "The Way of All Flesh."

Jannings was born in Switzerland of German parents. He ran away to sea at 14, tried farming for a while and finally joined a German group of strolling players.

He made his first film in Germany in 1914, but did not achieve fame until he co-starred with Pola Negri in "Madame Du Barry." His next film, "Ann Boleyn," starred him as Henry VIII and he became an American box office success as "Deception."

Jannings went to the United States in 1925. In addition to "The Way of All Flesh," he played character roles in "A Story of Old Egypt," "The Street of Sin" and "The Sins of the Fathers," among others.

But with the advent of talkies, Jannings left Hollywood for Germany in disgust.

"The talkies talk too much," he said, "they are becoming a cheap substitute for the stage." Nevertheless, he made a talkie only a year later in Germany. It was "The Blue Angel," a smash hit which introduced Marlene Dietrich to film fans.

Thereafter, Jannings made an average of one film a year, even after the outbreak of the war. Jannings took out Austrian citizenship when he came here in 1948.

Eight-Year-Old Draws Traffic Citation

Los Angeles, Jan. 3 (AP)—Robert Smith has a traffic citation today—although he is only eight.

A policeman ticketed him for crossing a street in the middle of the block.



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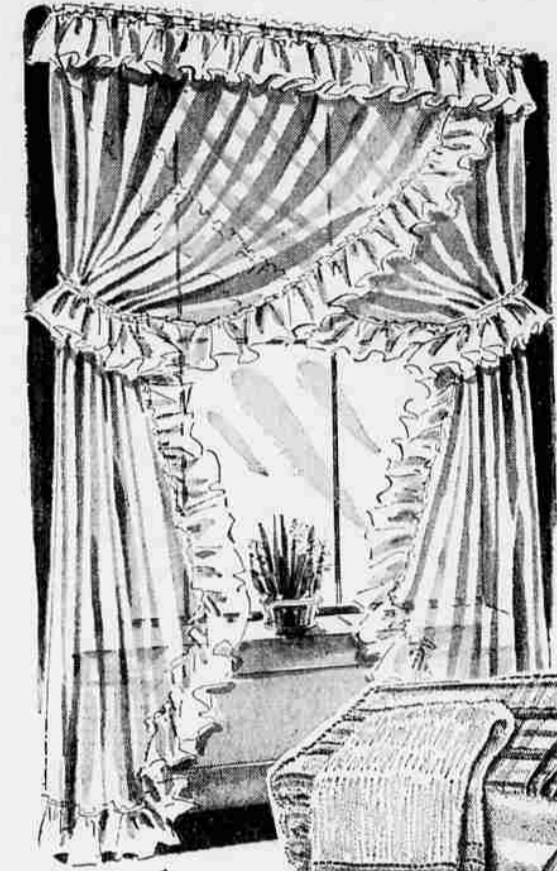
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