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EDITORIALS

THE POLIO TOLL

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis announced recently that 1951 was the third most costly year recorded in the fight against poliomyelitis. During the year, 28,668 children and adults contracted the disease. Only two years have produced larger totals.

It is interesting to note at this time—when the March of Dimes campaign is being concluded—that 46 states exhausted their March of Dimes funds in 1951 and had to turn to the National Foundation for advances totaling over 8,000,000. Only Rhode Island and Delaware were able to care for their victims without appealing to the National Foundation for funds.

Because of this, the Foundation went into debt to the extent of \$5,000,000 during the year. Keeping this in mind, and also that the National Foundation is very near the discovery of a polio vaccine, the urgency of the need for funds at this time is clearly obvious.

At no time since 1933, when the first birthday balls for President Roosevelt was held, has the need been more pressing than it is today. This newspaper suggests you contribute generously to the continuing fight.

WAR AND THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

While most people don't realize it, the war in Korea has produced at least 1800 American "unknown" soldiers. The Army uses the most modern scientific detection methods to link each of its unknown soldiers with a name but even so, each war produces hundreds of fatally injured unknown soldiers.

The 1800 unknown soldiers who have been recovered from Korea today lie in Southern Japan, in army mausoleums. Each day a few are identified from birthmarks, tattoos, fingerprints, dental work, old fractures, and so on.

This painful process is one of the tragedies of war and if the instigators of armed conflict were forced to perform the necessary work in these mausoleums, wars might not begin so easily.

Some of the Americans who are among the 1800 unknown soldiers are undoubtedly listed as missing in action. Others may have been killed in action and never identified. The main point is, however, that somewhere a family, or a wife or mother, waits and wonders about this or that particular unknown soldier, who has given his life for the cause of freedom and who may never receive the recognition this sacrifice deserves.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Harris Ellsworth, M. C. 4th District, Oregon

Our great Federal government has a wondrous and complicated system for getting ready to send to Congress, via the President, its request for money—and the request must be made annually. In other words, the whole system functions each year. The President has just recently submitted his budget to Congress. He says in his message that he must have \$85.4 billions to spend between July 1, 1952 and June 30, 1953. It is called the fiscal '53 budget.

The way the budget-making system works is something like this:

Each government department or agency has what is generally called its budget officer. This person gathers up the figures which, when totalled indicate the amount of money needed (or at least wanted) by the department for the coming fiscal year. The figures are taken to the head of the department who looks them over and then decides just how much he will request. That figure does not, however, go to the President—it goes to the Bureau of the Budget. There some bright young men hold what they call hearings at which the departments explain why they need the amounts requested. Then the Bureau of the Budget prepares the figures to be submitted to the President and by him to the Congress. He, and his White House staff, are the last word and the suggested budget may be, and often is, changed materially from the way it comes from the Bureau before it is brought to Congress.

From time to time I have discussed budget-making with people from the Executive departments. It seems to be quite a game which some of the old-fashioned departments haven't learned to play very skillfully. The general scheme seems to be to ask the budget officer for about twice what you hope to get. Then the head of the agency will lop off ten or fifteen percent. The Bureau of the Budget will peel it another thirty percent, the Congress will probably knock off another ten percent and there you are—just what you hoped to get! One complaint I heard about the bureau of the Budget was rather more amusing than disturbing. It seems the young fellows who conduct the hearings and who, no doubt, have a great deal to do with making the final figures, are very young—most of them under 30 and with little or no background (this is merely repeating what was told me by one who faces them). They sit and ask uninformed and inconsequential questions. That might not be so bad, said my informant, but, as he put it, the trouble is they change these youngsters every year so that the school-teaching has to be done all over again each time. I gather, from the sigh he heaved, that the procedure is something of a headache, and tiresome.

It generally takes Congress quite a long time to catch up with the activities of our Executive department officials. This is especially true with respect to those things we do overseas. For instance, I learned unofficially and off the record, from one of our people in France last fall, of the neat scheme the French government works to chisel a profit over and above our aid to them. One example—the French share of the cost of the headquarters building for the NATO army is 18 percent. However, the French government levies a tax of 20 percent on the construction. See? In addition to saving her 18 percent contribution, France came up with a profit of two percent on the job. A neat trick if you can do it, and France has been doing it to us for years. Last week the Congress took notice of this situation, and a committee has issued a sharp and factual report on the subject. The State Department says it is "working on the problem!"

Home Training on Fires Suggested For Children

Recent tragedies in the state emphasize the fact that winter is the most serious time of year for home fires, Charles R. Ross, Oregon State college extension farm forestry specialist, says.

He suggests that all children be given some home fire training. Teach them what to do in case of fire, Ross advises.

With children up to four years of age, burns are the largest single cause of fatal accidents. Special dangers for children are open fires, matches, flammable toys, and second story sleeping rooms.

Property loss from fire is usually most severe in rural areas where fire fighting equipment and personnel are not handy. Recent fires of the "flash" type point out the fact that a fire can multiply itself 50 times in just eight minutes.

A CHANCE RECOVERY—

New York—Last October a new employe of a Bronx trucking firm disappeared with a tractor-trailer-truck belonging to the firm. A friend of one of the firm's partners spotted the tractor recently on a chance visit to Indian River City, Fla. The trailer was returned to the owners by the men who said they had leased it and police are seeking the real culprit.

APPROPRIATE NAME—

Lansing, Mich.—Mushrooming over the years, the record library of radio station WJLS collapsed in a

heap and more than 7,000 records fell off shelves and racks—but only one was broken. Its title: How About That Mess?"

CAT'S RESCUER KILLED— Logan, W. Va.—Edward Gilmore,

66, of nearby Peach Creek, was electrocuted when he attempted to rescue his pet cat from a power line near his home. He used a long piece of pine, which, of course, conducted the electricity. His wife was looking on when the mishap occurred.

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