

Soft Jobs, Good Pay Said Wooing Students From Engineering Field When Badly Needed

Editor's Note: According to reliable figures Soviet Russia is turning out 54,000 new engineers a year while colleges and universities in the United States are graduating 24,000. Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves, retired former head of the Army's World War II atomic weapons project, recently charged the U.S. educational system with failing to meet the challenge of our technical era. The United Press asked the head of one of America's best-known engineering schools to explain the lag in training of engineers.

By DONALD F. MARTIN
United Press Correspondent

Atlanta, Ga.—(U.P.)—Soft jobs that pay well and require little or no technical knowledge are wooing American students away from the engineering profession at a time when America sorely needs well-trained engineers.

This explanation of the serious shortage of engineers in the United States has been offered by Blake R. Van Leer, president of Georgia Tech, one of the

country's best-known engineering schools.

In an interview, he also blamed penny pinching and lack of imagination on the part of state boards of regents for holding the quality of education at a "level of mediocrity in state-supported schools."

Van Leer said he would have to agree with a recent statement by Lt. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, retired former head of the Army's atomic weapons project, that Russia appears to be outdistancing the United States in the training of new engineers.

The U.S. shortage of engineers Van Leer believes, is due to three main factors:

1. People of superior intelligence did not produce enough children during the 1920s.

2. Technical advancement in the last 10 years has created an unprecedented demand for engineers.

3. The "modern idea of taking things easy" has led students to avoid taking courses that require hard work. Salaries in non-technical professions are so attractive many students feel there is no point in pursuing technical studies.

The third point, Van Leer said, is most important. "Nowadays a student won't buckle down to the task of mastering math and the sciences in high school when he knows he can get a good job without them," he said.

The Georgia Tech administrator believes the engineer shortage could be overcome by 1960 or 1962 if the present demand for engineers remains unchanged and more students are encouraged to study engineering.

He suggested the federal gov-

ernment could help by allowing

taxpayers to deduct the cost of sending their children to college, or by permitting all branches of the armed forces to finance a student's education in return for two years of service in the militia.

Private institutions up to now have led the way in research and sponsorship of new ideas in the engineering world, Van Leer said. They can do so because "they are not controlled by boards of regents" who shudder at any innovation—"es-

pecially one that costs money."

As for the fact that Russia produces 54,000 engineers a year while the United States turns out 24,000, Van Leer asked:

"But how well are the Russian engineers trained? They do a good job of teaching the basic fundamentals, but you cannot train professional engineers to competency in a dictatorship. There is need for freedom."

"The Russians train men without ingenuity. If you put a boy in a straitjacket, no creative mind will develop."

Neuberger Accuses Hoover Commission

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) has accused the Hoover Commission of following a "meat ax approach" in its report this week recommending curtailment of federal lending activities.

In a speech prepared for the Senate, he was particularly critical of the recommendation to have the Rural Electrification Administration depend on private financing.

"It would put our farmers again at the mercy of the banks and utilities which left them Roosevelt administration," Neuberger said.

Martin Clogston Leads Field at Gun Club Shoot

Martin Clogston led the field in shooting at the Medford Gun club Sunday, according to reports received yesterday.

In the skeet shoot his score was 24 with Ray Coleman second with 21. Jim Horn came in third with 20.

In the 16-yard shoot Clogston was first with 50x50, Horn second with 48x50, Coleman third with 46x50 and Bernard Henry fourth with 45x50.

Clogston was tied by Harry Elden in the Journal telegraphic shoot with a score of 25. Coleman was close behind with 24.

Clogston shot 48 in the Ed Pease handicap with Paul Culbertson next with 46.

4-H Club News

Central Point Button and Bows 4-H Clothing club met March 11 in the Homemaking room of Central Point junior high school with Margaret DeHass and Linda Lou Graber

as hostesses.

Next meeting will be on March 25 in the junior high school. Each girl is to bring a sample invitation to the mothers' tea.

Beverly Little
Reporter

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Council Turns Down D'Anjou Street Vacation Proposal

The Medford city council Tuesday accepted a city planning commission recommendation to deny vacation of D'Anjou st., between Spruce and Cherry sts.

Reasons given for denial of the vacation, or abandonment for any further use as a street, were that a storm sewer runs through the property, it is a good site for a railroad team track, and opposition to the vacation was expressed by property owners in the area.

The property is not used for street purposes at the present time.

A California Pacific Utilities company 10-year franchise was approved by the council. The new franchise, which includes only minor changes from that now in effect, calls for 2 percent of the gross, payable annually during the term of the franchise.

Two airport leases received the approval of the council. A renewal of a lease to Water Resources Development corporation was approved, and a lease was granted to Rogue Flying service, George Brothers, which purchased the Paul R. Smith fixed base operation.

An offer to the city for purchase of two east side lots by Thomas Whittle was referred to the city council fire committee and the city manager. Whittle offered \$4,010 for the two lots, which cost the city \$4,000. The lots in question are located on Ruhl Way. They were purchased by the city as a possible site for an east side fire station.

Jacksonville OKs Extension Survey

Jacksonville — The Jacksonville city council has authorized a survey for an extension of Fifth st., according to B. J. Christianson, city recorder.

The street extension would serve several new homes, all of which are now without adequate fire protection because of the lack of street facilities, Christianson said.

The survey was authorized at a continued meeting of the council held this week.

In other action, the council heard a request from Art Hinkle that the council sell a section of the cemetery property to be added to the IOOF section of the cemetery. The requested proposal was referred to committee.

Councilman E. O. Graham has been appointed by Mayor John Keaveny to serve as council representative to the city library.

STAR GAZER ★★
By CLAY R. POLLAN
Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

To develop message for Friday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES MAR. 22 - APR. 20 30-33-40-45 70-75-84-90	TAURUS APR. 21 - MAY 21 2-6-9-35 42-43-67	GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 21 7-8-20-25 50-59-79-85	CANCER JUNE 22 - JULY 23 4-12-22-47 51-62-71	LEO JULY 24 - AUG. 23 3-10-56-57 63-65-82-86	VIRGO AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23 18-19-36-39 60-64-76
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Good (G) Adverse (A) Neutral (N)

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