



OPENING BIG CRACKS in pavement, earthquake at Mindanao, Philippines, poses problem for truck trying to negotiate street in Ozamis City. At least 200 persons were killed, 1,500 injured by temblor which shook area for nearly eight hours. Note damaged building at left. (International)

Mental Health Study Seen Step In Treatment of Mind Diseases

Editor's Note: As chairman of the House Commerce Committee, Rep. J. Percy Priest (D-Tenn.) will play a leading role in the enactment of health legislation in the present Congress. His committee recently approved a resolution calling for an overall three-year study of mental illness. In the following dispatch, Priest discusses the need for such a study.

By JAMES F. DONOVAN
Washington — (U.P.)—Rep. J. Percy Priest (D-Tenn.) believes that a thorough congressional study of mental health could lead to "real progress" in the treatment of diseases of the mind.

Seated in his picture-lined office shortly before leaving for his native Tennessee for the Easter recess, the 55-year old former newspaperman put it this way: "We have reached a point in

the field of mental health where there is a possibility of real progress. But there is a great danger of the various research projects going off in all directions. "The governors of the various states are extremely interested in the problem, and they have given a high priority to its solution. More and more attention is being given to mental health in state health programs. "I am afraid that unless we have a study and coordinate the programs of the states and federal government, this enthusiasm will wane. And the greatest effort in this field must be made by the states and not the federal government."

Priest is sponsor of a resolution calling for a three-year mental health group. The group

would be selected by the U.S. surgeon general upon the recommendation of the National Advisory Mental Health Council.

Progress Being Made
The group would be authorized to spend \$1,250,000 and to investigate "all aspects of the resources, methods and practices for diagnosing, treating, caring for and rehabilitating the mentally ill."

It would be directed to make annual reports and a final report, embodying its recommendations, to Congress, the surgeon general, and the governors of the 48 states.

Priest said that "tremendous progress" has been made since Congress passed his national mental health act in 1946. But he said mental health still remains the No. 1 health problem of the nation.

He noted that 9,000,000 Americans, six per cent of the population, have serious mental disorders; that 750,000 mentally ill Americans are hospitalized; that 47 per cent of the nation's hospital beds are occupied by mental patients and that one out of every 12 Americans born today will spend some time in a mental hospital.

Bills in Legislature

Salem —(U.P.)—Rep. John Hare (R-Hillsboro), disclaiming faith in the "80-day wonders" who presented the House with a tax program last week, has lost an attempt to recall from the Senate a bill for an increased personal income tax.

By a standing vote the House overwhelmed Hare's move to bring back for reconsideration the bill he said was presented too hastily and without giving members enough time to study it.

Hare charged that Rep. Loran Stewart (R-Cottage Grove), had indulged in wishful thinking in presenting the income tax bill as a solution to the state's financial problems and added that Stewart was "presumptuous" in attempting to second-guess the Joint Ways and Means Committee on the amount of money that would finally be needed.

Stewart fought Hare's motion as "serving no good purpose" and told the House that the surtax provision in the income tax bill passed and sent to the Senate last week was the "safety valve" that could be adjusted to dovetail income with revenue needs when the ways and means budget bills were completed.

Members of the house tax committee, including those who had opposed the income tax bill, voted against Hare's motion to recall the bill. Rep. C. Allen

Tom (R-Rufus) said it would delay a final adjournment for at least a week.

Hare's motion received six supporting votes.

Salem — (U.P.)—The Senate passed a measure which would allow port authorities of cities on the Columbia river to issue revenue bonds for port improvements without putting them to a vote at an election.

The aim of Senate Bill 301, according to Sen. Lowell Steen (R-Umatilla), was to place the ports of Oregon cities along the Columbia on a similar basis to those in Washington.

The Senate passed a House-approved measure, house bill 125, to remove the requirements that extra wide vehicles, like farm machinery, must be preceded and followed by flagmen.

Salem — (U.P.)—The House yesterday passed with only three dissenting votes a bill that would require gold dredging operations to be equipped with settling basins to protect streams from silting.

Rep. C. Allen Tom (R-Rufus) told the House that marginal gold dredging operations were silting streams at the expense of fish life and farm irrigation and that dredging left lands worthless and removed them from the tax rolls.

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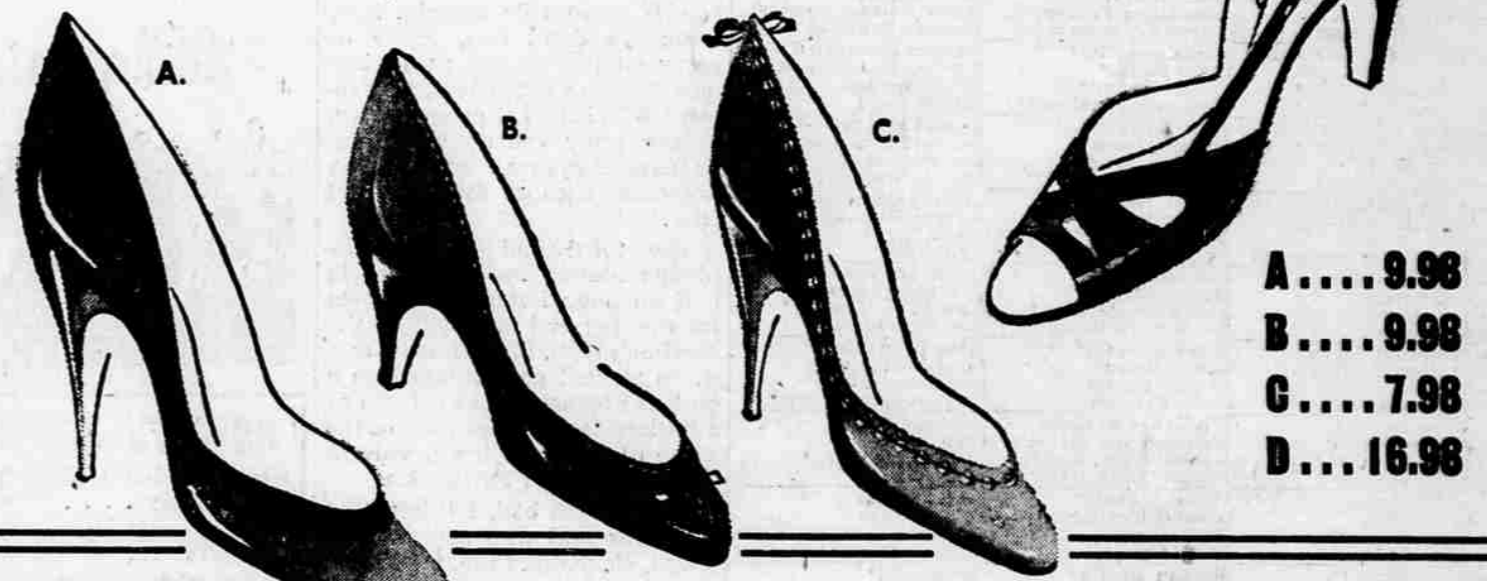


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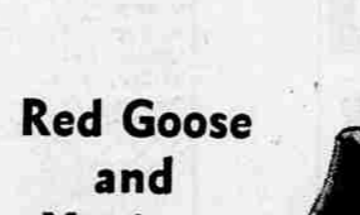
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