

Science Seeks Facts on Effects Of Atomic Radiation on Mankind

Washington — (U.P.)—Science set out today to establish, once and for all, the facts about what atomic radiation does to man, animals, and plants.

The vast project was undertaken by the National Academy of Sciences with the Rockefeller foundation's financial backing and the Atomic Energy commission's blessings.

It will be carried out by eminent scientists who will try to find out all that can be learned about effects of A-bomb and H-bomb explosions on living things.

The study, an academy spokesman said, should disclose where the truth lies between those who preach atomic doom and those who uncritically retort "nonsense."

Which Will Stay?

Among other things it ought, he said, to liquidate the current controversy over whether the more than 75 nuclear test weapons already exploded have cast a genetic blight on the race of man which will manifest itself generations hence in the form of human defects.

The study will last as long as necessary. At its conclusion the academy will report its findings to the public.

Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, academy president, said the study will be "a dispassionate and objective effort to clarify the issues which are of grave concern as well as great hope to mankind."

Stated as starkly as possible, the big issue appears to be whether both man and the atom are here to stay—or just the atom.

Bronk said the academy "will appoint a committee of eminent scientists and staff to deal with the problem." The committee, working with full access to data accumulated by the AEC, will dig into "all phases of the biological effects of the increasing use of atomic energy."

Objectives Listed

It will:

1. Collect and appraise available information on everything from H-bomb fallout to contamination of the air by Atomic power plants.

2. Formulate any conclusions warranted by this information, whether they are reassuring or frightening.

3. Identify problems which urgently require further investigations.

4. Get such investigations underway.

In addition the committee will catalogue what is known about radiation "therapy and protection."

AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss, whose agency has been in the middle of a heated international controversy over atomic effects, said of the study:

"No more timely service to the world's people could be per-

formed by American scholarship."

The academy committee's hardest job will be to establish the effect on human heredity of nuclear radiation to date and the probable genetic effects of future weapons tests, or of atomic war.

The AEC is convinced its test programs "will not seriously effect the genetic constitution of human beings." But it concedes "there is a rather wide range of admissible opinion on this subject."

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By **HARMAN W. NICHOLS**
United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.)—Interested in a cozy little summer place? Your Uncle Sam has some for sale—surplus lighthouses, 16 of them, located along the Atlantic Coast.



The General Services Administration here is handling the sales, and wouldn't be surprised if the current offering was gobbled up as fast as 17 others that were put on the block in the last five years.

Inflation has hit the lighthouse market. For example, the light station at Wings Neck, Cape Cod, was built in 1849 for \$3215. It has been done over a number of times since, and the going-rate today is \$13,738.

It Was Quite a Life

Much has been written about the old keepers of lighthouses. Some of the glimmers were a mile out to sea. When summer was around the keeper could row home for a week end, if he had an assistant. But in the chill of winter, he packed a big lunch, oared out in his dinky boat for the next few months saw more of the waves than he did of his wife. Sure, he could wig-wag his missus a message, but that wasn't as good as kissing her behind the ear at Yuletide.

Worse, the life of the keepers was here today and maybe gone

tomorrow. Take the plight of one John W. B. Thompson, assistant keeper of the Cape Florida lighthouse in 1836.

The incident occurred on July 23 during the Seminole War. After it was all over, according to files in the Coast Guard headquarters, Thompson made out his official report. The Cape Florida house was practically on shore. He looked out the kitchen window and saw a band of Indians approaching, muskets and bows and arrows at the ready. Thompson and his helper ran to bolt the door of the lighthouse.

The Indians Attack

"I had the key in the inside lock," the keeper said, "when an Indian had his hand on the outside latch."

There followed many arrows and even more musket balls. All Thompson and his man had were three muskets. They fired two of them until they were hot and then picked up the spare.

The helper finally was done in and the keeper was wounded "in several places." The Indians fired, by accident, into tin tanks of oil, 225 gallons of it, and soon the inside of the lighthouse was an inferno. Finally Thompson made it to the top of the lighthouse and to escape cremation climbed out on a two-foot ledge.

"I recommended my soul to God," the keeper wrote in his report. "I thought of jumping to the rocks below, but decided not to."

The Indians thought him dead, went about plunging and steal-

Russian Experts To See All on Journey To Iowa

Editor's Note — Any Soviet delegation bent on studying Iowa farming would be permitted to see whatever it wished. But the following dispatch indicates not all Iowans would be happy to greet the Russians.

By **ED DE MAR**
United Press Correspondent

Des Moines, Ia. — (U.P.)—Gov. Leo H. Hoegh said today that Russian farm experts coming to Iowa to learn "how the tall corn grows" would be permitted to see "just about anything they want to" about American farm methods.

But, Hoegh warned, the Soviet visitors wouldn't be greeted "with a lot of fanfare."

Visit Good Idea

The governor said he thinks the visit might be a good idea because "when they are acquainted with us, that should erase any suspicions and even any hatred they might have for us."

But he's even more interested in the other part of the exchange proposal — for Americans to go to Russia.

"I'd like to be named to go over there," he said. "And I'd like to be able to appoint a few people to come with me. I'd straighten them out and send them on the United States."

Housewife Opposed

At Cedar Rapids, however, a housewife — Mrs. Joseph Vitek — who was arrested in her native Czechoslovakia by Communists on trumped-up spy charges, said she opposes the suggestion to let Russians visit Iowa.

"If the millions of Russian peasants were free to see our way of life, I'd be for that," said Mrs. Vitek, who is a lecturer against Communism.

"But I'm against showing our secrets to a bunch of hand-picked Communists. They won't tell the people what they saw, anyway."

"Besides, they couldn't use our methods. Their climate and machinery are different."

More than 500,000 children in the U.S. suffer some form of heart disease.

ing everything they could lay a hand on. Then the Redmen went away. The keeper cut off one leg of his pants and waved for help. Help finally came, and Thompson lived to tend another light.

English Group Going To South America To Rebuild World After Next Disaster

Hastings, England — (U.P.)—Those of you who worry about the future of the human race will be glad to know that "Sub Group X" is almost ready to move into the secret redoubt in South America.

There it will ride out "the second flood."

And after the rest of us are washed away by the water, "Sub Group X" will emerge and start the tedious job of getting the world on its feet again.

The Society of Metaphysicians has been assembling "Sub Group X" for about 10 years, ever since the first atom bomb went off.

The World's End

Metaphysics is the study of phenomena outside the realm of orthodox science. John J. Williamson, head of the society, and his followers are away, way outside.

They claim that by using special techniques they have figured out that the world is due for destruction either by a flood exceeding Noah's, by radioactive poisoning or by a combination of disasters such as melting ice caps, polluted atmosphere, universal sterility.

Williamson, in fact, hints

darkly that he would not be surprised if the first flood, Noah's, was caused by atomic and hydrogen bomb experiments.

Secret Is Mental Energy
As head of the society's "social community," Williamson has been charged with forming "Sub Group X" and selecting the spot to hide in.

"The secret of survival is mental energy," he said, "and the simple truth is that a majority of people are incapable of survival."

Williamson, who is 38 and an electronics engineer most of the time, said he had found a few people with the right amount of mental energy. This "savior community" is learning how to live

FONG TRIAL OPENS

Portland — (U.P.)—The trial of Wey Him Fong and his wife, Sherry, for first degree murder in connection with the death of Diane Hank, 16-year-old high school girl, opens here today. The body of the girl was found more than a year ago near Washougal, Wash.

Dead line Sunday. Classified is at noon Saturday; 1 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

TO OPEN BIDS

Salem — (U.P.)—The State Board of Higher Education and the State Bond Commission were to open bids today on a new 100-man dormitory for Oregon College of Education at Monmouth. If bids are within available funds, it is possible the building might be ready for fall term.

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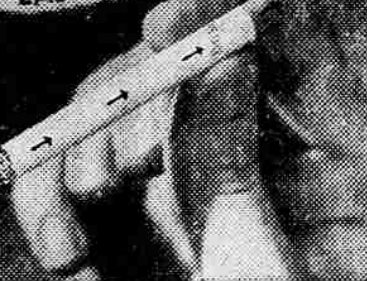
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