

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Consider The Helibus

Is there no limit to the public demand for speed? Apparently not. More speed in the air or on the ground, adds up to more casualties. It is seldom a day passes now without at least one fatal airplane crash, sometimes two or three—and dozens on the highways. The death toll in automobile transportation fluctuates from season to season, but the long-period graph is steadily up—and up—and up. If there is any public demand for less speed on the ground or in the air it is not apparent. The general reaction to casualty lists appears to be "so what?"—unless, of course, the individual speaking is, or has been directly involved. Then the reaction may be of a different type.

HOWEVER, the casualty lists represent a minority when the numbers that travel safely via plane and motor car are considered, and so, as the majority rules in commerce as in politics, it is hard to see any end to this mad race to spend less and less time getting from one place to somewhere—anywhere—else. Just why no one seems to know.

THE NEW CARS are out and all the sales talk over the air and otherwise stresses the increased speed, increased horse-power and pickup, etc. One of the leading manufacturers staged a contest the other day between its latest model and a flying missile—the latest model won of course—just how or how much it was hard to see on the screen. But the sales lesson was plain.

AND NOW we note that the old motor busses are on the way out and are to be replaced by helibusses. The helibusses of course are helicopter busses. According to reports they will be able to carry around 40 or 50 passengers each and make an average speed of 100 miles an hour.

Well we hope this proves to be true. In fact we have had a hunch for a long time that in this mad race for speed the advantages of the helicopter type plane have been overlooked.

One hundred miles an hour is a snail's pace for the modern airplane, but it is lightning fast compared to a passenger bus. And it has one great advantage: if there is engine trouble the helicopter doesn't have to make a crash landing, the rotor still spins and a safe landing for all concerned may be made almost anywhere, in any kind of weather and terrain.

Such a bus would get one to Portland in around three hours and to San Francisco in about four—that would not satisfy the speed-hounds, but we believe that would be fast enough for most of the traveling public. And think of all the advantages! You could take all your luggage on board and you would not have to take out any life insurance, run the risk of depriving your family of whatever earning power you possess, before your arrival.

IN FACT, the more we consider the helibusses the more we approve of them. There are a few flies in the ointment, no doubt. There is the matter of the expense, but the helicopter engineers should be able to fix that. Then a fleet of such busses might put the SP out of the passenger business entirely, but that wouldn't change things here in Southern Oregon, and the Southern Pacific would like to get rid of its passenger service anyway.

So what are we waiting for? Let's go! — R. W. R.

Will Kefauver Win?

Senator Neuberger thinks that if his colleague Senator Kefauver defeats ex-Governor Stevenson in the Florida and California primaries he should be the Democratic presidential nominee, by acclamation.

WELL, there is a valid basis for this contention but unless the coming Democratic convention is very different from its predecessors the delegates will pay little heed to the senatorial advice.

IF SENATOR Kefauver should win these two states and half a dozen others, he would probably enter the convention with few more pledges than he did four years ago. And as everyone knows he failed to make the grade then. His chances would probably be better this year, but even so, his primary support would in all probability add up to less than 25 or 30% of the party membership.

And as in 1952 he would be a marked man—that is, "the man to beat." Every other contender (with the possible exception of Mr. Stevenson who never nurses a grudge) would be against him.

And the convention as a whole, made up as it is of party "pros," would not go over to the Kefauver "amateurs" without a struggle—and a tough one.

FINALLY, of course, party conventions are a law unto themselves. And they are disposed to be jealous of that fact and the power it gives. Their objection to the "gentleman from Tennessee" will be that he does not measure up to presidential stature. The claim will be made, with complete justification, that ability to shake hands, kiss babies and win a popularity contest out in the hustings, does not NECESSARILY qualify a man to be President of the United States.

THIS DOES NOT mean Senator Kefauver WON'T be the winner in August. It merely means that if he does win it won't be because of the arguments advanced by our junior Senator. It will be regardless of the primary results—it will be only because a majority of the convention delegates finally decide that Senator Kefauver will have a better chance to defeat President Eisenhower than any other aspirant. — R. W. R.

Rival German Armies Starting To Form; Unification Far Off

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent. Free West Germany and satellite East Germany have really started at last to raise their rival armies.



Charles M. McCann, United Press Correspondent.

President Theodor Heuss of the West German Republic has signed the constitutional amendments which legalize the building up of a 500,000-man Bundeswehr-federal defense force. The East German government has formally begun the formation of its "People's Army," which is expected to total about 250,000 men. West Germany's army will be a part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces. The East German army will be incorporated in the new Iron Curtain military bloc in which the military forces of Soviet Russia and its satellites are being unified.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

THEY MEAN TO FIGHT London — In the absence of any clear lead from Washington, the present British government has been making up its own mind about what to do if or when the East. The resolve is to fight if need be, and even against heavy odds.



Joseph Alsop.

As already reported, for example, the situation in Jordan is regarded here as immediately critical. In Jordan, King Hussein's abrupt dismissal of Gen. Sir John Bagot Glubb has opened the way to a pro-Egyptian, anti-Western coup which would depose King Hussein in favor of a young officer's junta like the one that now rules Egypt. Faced with this possibility, the British cabinet has sought to keep the situation in hand by continuing their subsidy to Jordan despite the humiliation of Glubb's dismissal. None the less, the odds are thought here to be rather heavy that a coup in Jordan will be attempted soon.

ALTOGETHER the outlook is not pretty. The simple fact that such plans are even being prepared in London proves the acute peril to the Western Alliance of the state of drift that prevails in Washington.

IF the Eisenhower administration dislikes the policy that is being desperately worked out here—and this would certainly be understandable—then the Eisenhower administration has an inescapable duty to come forward with a positive, practical Middle Eastern policy of its own, which will probably be greeted with sighs of relief by the British.

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Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

The Stassen-Gromyko Talks Mr. Stassen and Mr. Gromyko, who are in London exchanging proposals about the race of armaments, are no doubt a long way from an actual treaty which could be signed and ratified.



Walter Lippmann.

WE CAN best understand what is going on in London if we look at the proposals from two points of view—first, as they reflect the vital interests of the two nuclear powers themselves, and second, how these proposals are addressed to the other nations which do not have nuclear weapons.

Both Moscow and Washington have acknowledged publicly that in the stalemate they are mutually deterred from going to war. They have been asking themselves under what conditions the deterrents might not work. Obviously, the deterrents would cease to work if one or the other of the two lost the race of armaments—that is to say fell seriously behind the other in airplanes and missiles. But, assuming that the stalemate might well be broken if one or the other achieved a tactical surprise or some decisive strategic advantage.

THERE is almost always a lag in human affairs between an actual change in a situation and the official appreciation of the change. We are like people on the back platform of a railroad car who see the country through which the train has already passed. It is fair to say, I think, that not until the past few months have the governments taken seriously into account the strategical revolution which began in 1949 when the Soviet Union broke the American monopoly of nuclear weapons. The failure to take this revolution into account is a reason, perhaps the reason, why for so many years disarmament has been such a fruitless and boring subject.

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initial for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Only 7,000 Would Benefit

To the Editor: The doctors and dentists say only the under-teenage children benefit by fluoridation (approximately 7,000 in Medford). They would use only about 2 per cent of the treated water. Why force the rest of the people to drink the poison? Those who want it can have a doctor's prescription of the right amount needed. Why pay the huge cost of the other 98 per cent just to waste on lawns, flowers, trees and down the sewer, or do they think the pets, stock, birds and earth worms need it? I have heard of hens teeth.

Putting all joking aside, why should something be forced upon the people who don't need or want it? If it is as good as they claim, what will happen to the more than 35 dentists in Medford, or do they approve thinking they may have more work? About 60 years ago I had relatives who had goiters. Soon iodized salt came on the market, those who needed it could use it, others didn't have to. You don't see many goiters today. Why don't they mix fluoride in candy and ice cream or the things children like that causes the decay?

For a free country to force the people to drink something they don't need would be like forcing everyone to attend and belong to the same church or organization whether they believed in it or not. When I came to Medford I had water put into the battery of my car. The attendant went to the water faucet. I said I wanted distilled water, he said "Medford water is pure." Let's keep that way. I am in my second childhood and have my natural teeth. After 35 years of kidney trouble I have felt better since coming to Medford. The doctor said it was because of our pure water.

Other nations such as Switzerland, France, Sweden and Great Britain, after studying it, won't the circle of American Air Force bases from which so many different attacks could be launched. That is why the central purpose of Soviet policy is to dislocate and liquidate the alliances on which the encircling air bases depend.

THEY want us to leave the bases. We want them to open their country. They want us to give up the alliances upon which our security system is founded. We want them to give up the secrecy by which their regime operates.

These are such big differences that it is hard to see how agreement can be reached. Perhaps, we should say, it is hard to see how an agreement can soon be reached. But in the long run it may well be that our bases will become obsolete and that the Soviet system of secrecy will become unworkable.

Both the USA and the USSR have become deeply conscious that they are the only two nuclear powers in a world which is, for nuclear warfare, unarmed. Great Britain is a partial exception in that it has some nuclear weapons. But the British Isles are too small to be able to absorb and survive a nuclear attack.

Moscow and Washington are, therefore, armed powers dealing with an unarmed world. Naturally and inevitably, each is under enormous and increasing pressure from its allies and from the uncommitted countries to prove that war will not be permitted to break out. That is the reason why Mr. Stassen and Mr. Gromyko are so anxious to prove their will to negotiate. However far they are from agreeing, they must go on negotiating.

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have fluoride in the water. Why should we? Let us stop and reason. E. F. Santo, 204 Lozier lane.

A Little Inclined Against To the Editor: I have had the rare opportunity of reading the literature printed by both sides of this fluoridation controversy—and although I have not made a definite stand either for or against, I am a little inclined to go along with the opposition for these reasons:

(1) The proponents are and have been holding meetings since the first of the year allowing only certain people to attend and excluding anyone who appears to be opposed. Thus it would appear that many are endorsing fluoridation without ever hearing the other side.

(2) The proponents dodge the opposition's arguments merely by playing up the ridiculous—and referring to them as crackpots, food faddists, merchants of fear, etc., etc. Quite to the contrary, the opposition is composed of very highly qualified men who hold very high degrees including M.D. (Incidentally as to the recent reference to a Dr. Bonner, I for one have never heard of the man.)

(3) There seems to be no convincing argument against the voluntary action of giving pills or bottled fluoridated water.

(4) The proponents claim of 25 years research refers mostly to natural fluoride studies. I would like to see more references to studies based on sodium fluoride in water, since that is what they intend to put into our water supply.

(5) They refer to 1 ppm as harmless—but neglect to point out that natural fluorides are found in many everyday foods and that when cooking with fluoridated water it becomes more concentrated. Logically thinking, it seems that everyone would be absorbing more than 1 ppm.

(6) Chemically speaking calcium fluoride (natural) and sodium fluoride (mgf.) are supposed to produce the same result. What proof is there that this same chemical change takes place in every individual's body—especially the chronically ill or the unborn child? Also what proof is there that the diseased body will throw off the wastes as a normal body?

(7) In practically all the cities that have artificial fluoridation, the decision was made by the city councils—or influential groups, thinking it such a great thing, rushed it through so fast that people even now do not know they have it.

Frankly—since Dr. Exner is a high ranking medical man, a radiologist, and president of the King County Medical association in Seattle, Wash., I'd like to see some actual proof against his arguments for example—instead of dodging them by way of the mudslinging technique. A. A. Christensen 1125 Atkins st., Medford, Ore.

Better Dental Health To the Editor: We, the Alpha Rho Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority, wish to go on record as being wholeheartedly in favor of artificial fluoridation of our city's water supply. We pledge our continued support to this measure. Most of our members are mothers of small children. Although children stand to gain the most immediately, we must all remember that the children of today are the citizens of tomorrow.

Isn't it wonderful to realize the increased dental health of nearly every person within 50 years? Mrs. Paul Dix, Extension Officer, Alpha Rho Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi sorority.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE MEMBER. OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION.

Flight o' Time Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30 and 40 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO April 5, 1948 (It was Friday) W. A. Gate's presents A. S. Rosenbaum life membership in Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: The Older Girls are having fine times these days comparing and talking about their vaccinations.

20 YEARS AGO April 5, 1938 (It was Sunday) Water prospects for southern Oregon for 1938 rated good by various federal, state and local agencies.

Fred Heath Jr., chairman of Medford city council's airport committee, notified that \$117,000 airport improvement project approved by U.S. bureau of air commerce.

30 YEARS AGO April 5, 1928 (It was Monday) The Mail Tribune is enlarged from seven to eight columns to standardize the size and make more room available for news.

Walter Erskine, well-known Medford businessman, opens Piggly Wiggly meat market on East Main st. near Pacific highway.

40 YEARS AGO April 5, 1918 (It was Wednesday) Medford city council authorizes necessary legal papers for extension of Southern Oregon Traction company's line to Blue Ledge mine.

Merchants association and Commercial club planning "made in Medford" banquet; everything served to be product of valley.

What's the Answer? Can You Get 4 of the 7? Copr. 1955, Editorial Research Report

If you get a dividend in the form of stock, and don't sell it, you do or don't in most cases have to pay income tax on the value of it when received? 2. 1800 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. is the Washington address of the President, Treasury Secretary Humphrey, the Russian embassy, the Press Club, or Mrs. Perle Mesta? 3. Every democratic nation of western Europe allows women to vote; right or wrong? 4. President Hoover had been in the Coolidge Cabinet as Secretary of State, Commerce, Interior, Treasury or Labor? 5. One in every five, four, three or two cancer cases under treatment is now curable? 6. C. Douglas Dillon is U.S. ambassador to France, India, Mexico, Spain, Great Britain or Japan? 7. A peccadillo is a traffic center in London, small animal, pickle relish, small sin or Spanish measure? The Answers: 1. Don't. 2. The President (it's the White House.) 3. Wrong. 4. Secretary of Commerce. 5. One in every two now. 6. France. 7. Small sin.

JUDGE WOULDN'T TUMBLE Charleston, S. C.—(A.P.)—Window-cleaner John Nelson, arraigned on charges of writing nearly \$50,000 worth of bad checks, offered a \$20,000 personal check to cover his bond. Magistrate John R. Stall refused to accept it.

At the Hour of Need. Lasting Comfort. CHAPEL MORTUARY. Across from the Courthouse Frank Morgan—Harold Snodgrass FUNERAL DIRECTORS. PHONE 2-8030 DAY OR NIGHT.