

Red Cross May Have To Curtail Services To Humanity Unless More Funds Come In

Washington—(U.P.)—Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther said Thursday the American Red Cross is in "very serious financial trouble" and may have to curtail its services to suffering humanity.

The former NATO European commander, who became president of the Red Cross early this year, told the United Press he has ordered the dismissal of 300 paid employees and a cut of \$2,250,000 in the administrative budget of the national organization.

Unless the American people contribute more liberally to the Red Cross than they have so far this year, he said, he will be forced to make further budget cuts which will "directly affect" such traditional programs as disaster relief and aid to servicemen.

Hope Given Up
Gruenther revealed in a two-hour exclusive interview that he has given up hope of reaching the \$95 million goal which the Red Cross set for its 1957 fundraising drive. Although the drive has been in progress for two months instead of the customary one, contributions to date total only \$78 million. Red Cross chapters have been urged to "keep trying" through May, but Gruenther conceded that "We'll be lucky to get up to \$85 million."

Failure of this year's drive to reach its goal is particularly serious, he said, because the disaster reserve fund which pulled the Red Cross through past years is now exhausted. Outlays for disaster relief have been running far above normal for several years in a row, he said. The past fiscal year, with heavy floods in New England and the West Coast, "really beat our brains out."

Complete Record
Gen. Gruenther, a small man with piercing eyes and a phenomenal memory, traced the history of the Red Cross financial crisis on a series of huge cardboard charts, mounted in front of the marble fireplace of his office in Red Cross headquarters. Except for the fact that he was wearing a double-breasted blue suit instead of his four-star Army uniform, he might have been conducting a briefing on a military problem.

It was evident that Gruenther is no figurehead president of the Red Cross. He has analyzed its problems with the tough-minded realism that made him one of America's most brilliant military commanders.

He attributes Red Cross fundraising difficulties, in part, to the fact that "competition for philanthropic dollars is vastly greater today than it used to be."

"People Just Don't Know"
But three months of intensive

first-hand investigation, including personal visits to Red Cross offices and chapters across the country, have convinced him that the biggest problem is that "people just don't know what the Red Cross is, and what it does."

"I am appalled by the misconceptions of the Red Cross which I have encountered," he said.

One which particularly troubles the general is the belief that the Red Cross is a "swollen bu-

reaucracy" with hordes of professional do-gooders on its payroll. The fact that he has just ordered a deep cut in overhead expenses might be taken as evidence that Gruenther shares this belief. But he emphasized that is not the case.

"I did not find a plush organization," he said. "I found a highly efficient organization, one that compares favorably with any military outfit. I have been tremendously impressed with the spirit of dedication

among the full-time staff and the 2 million volunteer workers of the Red Cross."

Reasonable Overhead
Gruenther said about 15 per cent of each dollar contributed to the Red Cross goes into the administrative costs of the national organization and its 3,700 chapters. He thinks this is a reasonable overhead cost, in view of the fact that the paid staff form a necessary nucleus for the huge volunteer force which donates "hundreds of millions of man-hours of service every year."

"The American people definitely are getting value received for what they give to the Red Cross," he said. "We are going to economize on overhead wherever we can, but I have not found a great deal of fat to be pared off."

Another "misconception" concerns the relief job the Red Cross performs when a flood, tornado, hurricane or other disaster strikes an American community.

"I find that many people think of the Red Cross primarily in terms of emergency relief—blankets, first aid stations, hot meals for rescue workers and that sort of thing."

"Actually this is the smallest part of our work in a disaster. More than 90 per cent of the funds we spend for relief goes for long-term rehabilitation of the disaster victims—repair and rebuilding of homes, replacement of ruined furniture; weekly allowances for food; new clothing; continuing medical care."

ed with the blood serum or chemical, placed in the spider's web. Upon hearing the vibration a spider usually comes out of hiding and eats the "doctored" fly.

As each spider spins a web the thin strands are numbered and photographed for later research.

Dr. Berzel said the next step of the experiment will be the search for a drug that will counteract the effect of the serum and enable the spider to return to a normal web-spinning life. He said he hoped that this knowledge eventually would be applied to the treatment of mentally-ill humans.

Mayflower II Makes Way Toward America

London—(U.P.)—The Pilgrim ship Mayflower II made its way slowly along the sweeping southern route to America today, hampered by diminishing winds.

The 90-foot, square-rigged galleon which has been making five to eight knots on its voyage to Plymouth Rock, Mass., slowed to just two knots Wednesday at a point 170 miles southwest of Madeira.

Skipper Alan Villier's message of the reduced speed indicated that he had hit milder breezes moving into the trade winds of the route that will take him toward the West Indies before he heads up the east coast of America.

Spider Experiments May Solve Problem Of Schizophrenia

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—Spiders are being driven out of their minds at the University of Southern California school of medicine in the hope of saving men's minds.

The experiment was originated in Switzerland by Dr. Peter N. Witt and developed at USC to approach the problem of schizophrenia.

Indian spiders were chosen for the experiment because they always spin their webs in identical patterns. The spiders can only be found in two places in the United States—Fishermen's Wharf at Monterey, Calif., and the million dollar pier at Atlantic City.

Web With Few Strands
Dr. Nicholas A. Berzel, visiting associate professor of psychology at USC, said that under the effect of small amounts of serum obtained from the blood of a catatonic schizophrenic patient the spiders spin webs just a few strands—if they spin at all.

Berzel said blood serum from patients with other forms of schizophrenia produce almost invisible changes in the webs. He said small amounts of lysergic acid—which causes temporary mental illness in humans—make the spiders spin with feverish activity. Scientists had a hard time getting the spider to take the blood serum or chemical. The problem was solved with a tuning fork which when struck causes the insects to mistake the vibration for their prey. **Fly Placed in Web**
The prey is a dead fly, inject-



MOSCOW BOUND—President Eisenhower selected Llewellyn E. Thompson as the new American Ambassador to Russia. Thompson, now U. S. envoy to Austria, will succeed Charles E. Bohlen, who has been reassigned as ambassador to the Philippines.

Holmes Signs Bill To Aid School Driver Class

Salem—(U.P.)—Gov. Robert D. Holmes Wednesday signed a bill providing help for high school driver education courses. Money to help cut school costs in the driving courses will come from an additional \$1 fee for each driver and chauffeur license issued by the secretary of state. Collection of the fee will start late this summer.

Norblad Would Halve Foreign Aid Budget

Washington—(U.P.)—Rep. Walter Norblad (R-Ore.) said Thursday that President Eisenhower's budget request for foreign aid funds should be cut in half.

The President has asked \$4 billion to continue the foreign aid program.

Norblad said "this program was properly established after World War II, with my support, to aid poverty stricken areas of Europe and prevent their joining the Communist orbit."

"However," he added, "the program has gone on for more than 10 years and seems to be growing rather than diminishing."

The Oregon Republican cited budget items of \$5 million for Brazil, \$5 million for Siam, more than a million dollars for Mexico, \$3 million for Ethiopia, and \$125,000 for oil-rich Venezuela.

Adenauer Warns on Modern Atomic War

Bonn, Germany—(U.P.)—Chancellor Konrad Adenauer warned Thursday that a modern atomic war would bring "an apocalyptic fate" upon all mankind, including the peoples of the Soviet bloc.

Adenauer, speaking at the opening session of the NATO Council of Ministers, delivered this appeal to the Kremlin leaders.

"If your concern about the danger of an atomic war is serious, then agree to the worldwide, effective international control of atomic disarmament proposed by the West."

Eugene—(U.P.)—The Oregon Cattlemen's Association and auxiliary will hold their annual convention here May 6 to 8.

The nation's 537,682 oil wells turn out 6,807,000 barrels of oil each day—an average of 12.6 barrels per well.

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