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Editorial Correspondence . . .

Rice Mt. Inn, Paul Smiths, N.Y., May 30th—This part of the country has, we surmise, changed little since the Civil war. It was essentially a summer resort area then, it is now. But in the future there may be great changes.

There is another important factor. As the country grows the demand for paper—newsprint, wrapping, writing and what have you—will increase correspondingly.

Before we left home the people of Grants Pass were working hard for a change in the state law so a pulp mill could be established on the Rogue. The sentiment in Medford appeared to be one of indifference as to what was done for Grants Pass in this field.

As far as this department is concerned we would like to have more substantial information concerning both the effect of a pulp mill on the residential assets of a community, and the effect of loosening the restrictions on commercializing of Rogue river before we would favor EITHER.

Both the city and the state of New York have had their crooks and hoodlums, but in the realm of conservation, both governments from very early days have been extremely enlightened.

And now, a considerable section of the Adirondacks has been set aside as state parks, the streams and the lakes and the miles and miles of forest to be kept free from commercialism of any kind, and in general preserved in a natural state for the enjoyment of future generations.

Oregon and other states in the Far West could profit greatly in this direction by following the example of this great Empire state, and what is in some ways the most mercenary and materialistic metropolis in the country, the Borough of Manhattan.

Took a walk around the lake at the MacArthur "camp" and was much impressed by the ruthless economy of Mother Nature. Regretted our lack of education regarding bird life, for there were all sorts of birds flying about and twittering between songs.

So we come to the Atomic Age, when as the King of Siam remarked if no nation trusts any other nation, there will be nothing left in this mad whirling cosmos but "fishes."

This problem is too complex and momentous, however, to treat adequately in this offering, so that discourse will be reserved for another time.

(We think we hear cheering from the gallery, but it may be merely the sighing of the hemlocks and the pines outside.)

Who to Believe?

A woman who called the office Friday said that the reports of the cloud of radioactive fissionable materials reported passing south of Medford that day "sort of bring it close to home, don't they?"

They do indeed. And someone else, referring to the assurances of the Atomic Energy commission spokesman that the cloud was entirely harmless, asked, "Do you believe that?"

Well, if we don't believe the authorized spokesman of our own responsible government agency, who can we believe?

NONETHELESS, the entire business of atomic tests, radioactivity, fall-out and the potential ultimate threat to health—not only in an annihilating nuclear war but simply in the testing of nuclear and thermo-nuclear devices—has made a tremendous impact on the thinking of Americans.

And the thing which is so distressing to thoughtful people is the fact that those best-qualified to make a decision as to public safety—the scientists—are far from agreeing about it.

On the one hand, Pulitzer prize winner Linus Pauling claims that tests already have done irredeemable damage to thousands of people. On the other are AEC scientists and others who claim that no one has as yet been harmed by the tests, and none will be in the foreseeable future.

ALL of this adds urgency, it seems to us, to the congressional inquiry which is now getting under way into the matter. If we could have an impartial, unbiased and factual account of just what the hazards are, with substantial agreement on the points at issue, we would be in a position to make a judgment on the tests.—E.A.



Matter of Fact

By Stewart Alsop

Washington — For the long run, the most important outcome of President Eisenhower's belated drive to save his program may be his increasing awareness of his immense power.

THE clincher is the case of Harry Truman. In 1952, Truman was an unpopular lame duck President. But the man he chose, the rather obscure Governor of Illinois, would have been nominated without any fuss at all, if Adlai Stevenson had not chosen to make a fuss.

Now consider the power Eisenhower will have in 1960. The roster of Republican national committeemen and state chairmen, which included a majority of Taft men in 1952, is now made up overwhelmingly of devout Eisenhowerites.

In short, there is no doubt that the President can name the ticket if he wants to do so. And if he makes it clear that he does want to do so, a lot of people in the Republican party are going to feel a sudden, strong impulse to play the game the President's way.

THESE broad hints that the President means to use his ultimate power—the power to make or break a would-be Presidential candidate—have immense political significance.

The theory has been much advertised, of course, that President Eisenhower has no real power, because he is the first President in American history barred from succeeding himself.

Just as much in his second term as in his first, the President has the power of Federal patronage—though that power is admittedly much diminished since the days when Franklin Roosevelt could make a Congressman shiver in his boots by a gaily malicious hint that WPA spending in his district might be cut back.

HE has, moreover, the mysterious power which hedges a President as "divinity doth hedge a king." Lesser politicians instinctively seek a strong President's favors as avidly as royal courtiers. Franklin Roosevelt could switch important votes by a promise to appear in public with his arm around a politician's shoulder.

But, a President who is not going to run also has one immense source of power which a President who is going to run does not have. If he has a mind to, he can choose his party's next Presidential and even Vice-Presidential candidates.

Consider the record. William Howard Taft was easily nominated when Theodore Roosevelt passed the word. In 1920, Woodrow Wilson was fading rapidly but in James Cox and Franklin Roosevelt he got the pro-League of Nations ticket he wanted. Calvin Coolidge, to be sure, sat out the 1928 convention, but that was the kind of man Coolidge was. In 1940, if the famous

Republican Party in Trouble Financially; Split Foreseen

By LYLE C. WILSON

United Press Correspondent Washington—This is the season for the Republicans to have money trouble, and bad trouble it is.

In its strongest form the story is that the Republican National committee is now broke, or near it, and cannot raise more money.

Others claim the situation is bad enough, but not that bad. Something seems to be persuading contributors not to contribute. It is freely conceded that the committee is looking for a finance chairman and may get it this week.

Some party men blame President Eisenhower for the money drought. They believe the flow of Republican political funds was slowed or stopped because likely contributors object to Eisenhower's big 1958 spending program and to what sometimes is called his new liberalism.

THE danger level. But some authorities hold that even the smallest amount introduced into population may cause some increase in cases of bone cancer and leukemia.

In any event, safe or unsafe, the United States will hold nuclear tests in the Pacific next year unless some international agreement is reached to stop them.

The controversial question whether there is any "safe" dose of radioactive strontium-90 will be aired this week in congressional hearings on H-bomb fallout. Strontium-90 is a long-lived product of nuclear explosions that can cause bone cancer or leukemia. The Atomic Energy Commission says that the amount sprinkled on the globe so far in bomb tests is far below the danger level.

The word from West Germany is that Chancellor Konrad Adenauer is a sure bet to win the national election set for Sept. 15 as the result of his successful visit to Washington.

Top Western generals are sure that delegates to the Middle Eastern Treaty Organization, who opened a meeting in Karachi, Pakistan, today will form a joint military command. They are pretty sure also that 37-year-old Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi of Iran will be chosen as commander in chief.

Washington insiders say that this week's Senate debate on the Hells Canyon dam project will be held primarily to let the Democrats record their arguments in favor of public power. A bill to upset the administration's decision to let the Idaho Power Co. build three dams and to provide for a federal project instead was defeated last year, 51-41. A new bill is given no more than an outside chance in the Senate. It would meet even rougher going in the House—and presumably Eisenhower would veto it if it reached him.

To the Editor: Memorial Day memoirs, from a patient who was there.

Am writing this to thank all of the medical staff and employees for being so nice to me at Rogue Valley Memorial hospital. This hospital has the home atmosphere that you seldom find in a public place.

I wish to thank Miss Hart for all of her kindness to me, also my little roommate, Sharon Frazier. There was never a dull moment around her.

Also wish to thank the Chevrolet people for sending the paper, "Tribune." We all enjoyed it too. I know where to buy gas now.

Mrs. Essie Egger, 113 South Jones st., Grants Pass, Ore.

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U.P. Correspondents Forecast Headlines

United Press Correspondents around the world look ahead at the news that will make the headlines.

European diplomats are interested in the mildness of United States reaction to Britain's decision to loosen up trade restrictions against Communist China.

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Following a long established custom, the National Safety Council made a prediction as to the number of lives that would be lost on America's highways during the four-day more or less holiday period from Thursday morning until Sunday night.

Well, it's pretty rugged. If the prediction is borne out by the facts, it will mean an average loss on our highways of about 112 lives per day.

It gives one the shivery feeling that driving on our highways during a holiday or semi-holiday period is a good deal like playing Russian roulette.

Before swearing off holiday driving, let's take a calmer look at the situation. Traffic fatalities on American highways have been running for a long time at the rate of about 36,000 a year.

You see—Holiday driving is only about 12 per cent more dangerous than average, everyday driving. If you are going to swear off holiday driving, you might as well swear off ALL driving.

Downed, the truth of the matter is that if you will drive careful, keeping your mind strictly on what you are doing, gauging your speed to the conditions of the traffic, watching approaching cars and sizing up what their drivers are going to do and governing yourself accordingly and refraining from getting in too big a hurry, your chances of getting to your destination all in one piece will not be too bad.

That goes for holidays as well as ordinary days.

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