

Lower Housing Payments Nearer

Washington—Down payments on new homes are about to be cut drastically, it was reported today. This should touch off a home-buying and building spurt, according to industry sources.

Congress Monday completed action and sent to the White House a bill authorizing sharp reductions in down payments required on government-insured mortgages.

The White House and federal housing officials were understood to be generally satisfied with its terms. It was expected to be signed quickly and the lower down-payment minimums put into effect promptly.

If this is done it would mean the minimum down payment on a \$10,000 house would go down from the present \$700 to \$300.

On a \$12,000 home the present minimum of \$1,200 would drop to \$600; on a \$15,000 home it would be lowered from \$1,950 to \$1,050, and on a \$20,000 dwelling, from \$3,200 to \$2,400.

Brownell Favors Japanese Trial

Washington—Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. says Japan has the right to try Army Specialist 3C William S. Girard regardless of how the Supreme Court rules in the case.

In a brief filed with the court Monday, Brownell said U.S. troops visiting a foreign nation are not immune from foreign jurisdiction unless the local government allows them immunity.

Brownell asked the court to reverse a lower court decision barring the United States from turning Girard over to Japan for trial on manslaughter charges. The 21-year-old Ottawa, Ill., soldier is charged with the fatal shooting of a Japanese woman on an Army firing range in Japan last January.

Girard, who is being held by the Army at Camp Whittington near Tokyo, was married today to Haru (Candy) Sueyama, his Japanese sweetheart.

Polio Epidemic Raging in Hungary

Vienna—A polio epidemic is raging in northern Hungary, according to reports reaching here today.

The official Hungarian News Agency MTI refused to confirm reports that 599 cases were registered within the last two weeks.

However, the Budapest newspaper Esti Hirlap said that health authorities have barred children from Budapest swimming pools "to prevent a further spreading of the disease."

A HOODED CAT

New York—A truck loaded with liver stalled on a parkway Monday and between the time the driver got the engine started and stepped on the clutch he found he had a rider. Each time he stepped on the clutch he heard an anguished meow. There under the hood was a liver-lovin' feline.

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Science Unable To Identify Specific Cause for Excessive Alcohol Drinking

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of dispatches on the nation's fourth-ranking health problem—alcoholism. Today's dispatch reports what science has learned about the causes of alcoholism.

BY LOUIS CASSELS
United Press Correspondent

Washington—About 70 million Americans drink alcoholic beverages. Some take a drink only two or three times a year. Others down a fifth of whiskey a day—or more.

Medical science knows, as a statistical fact, that about 7 per cent of all drinkers will wind up as alcoholics. But it cannot now predict, with any degree of accuracy, who will be included in that 7 per cent.

The problems of preventing and treating alcoholism would be enormously simplified if science could identify a specific "cause" for this pervasive illness which now afflicts nearly five million Americans in all walks of life.

The search for a cause, or causes, has been a principal objective of the scattered and poorly-financed research which is being conducted on alcoholism. To date, this research has produced several conflicting theories—and very little firm knowledge.

Here's One Theory

Some scientists are convinced that people who become alcoholics are suffering from some kind of physiological disorder—a vitamin deficiency, a malfunction of the thyroid or other glands, or a defect in metabolism which causes alcohol to become, for them, an addictive poison.

Exponents of this theory have been unable to produce evidence convincing to a majority of doctors. The prevailing medical view is that the physical ailments, such as vitamin deficiency, which appear in advanced alcoholics, are the result rather

than the cause of excessive drinking.

Other scientists go all the way to the other extreme and attempt to explain alcoholism solely in psychological terms. Compulsive drinking, they say, is the symptom of some "personality inadequacy." The alcoholic is trying to drown hidden feelings of anxiety, guilt or inferiority.

Unsupported By Research

The psychological-origin theory was dominant until fairly recently, when researchers began to shoot holes in it. They pointed to a large number of unquestionably neurotic people who drink, but never become alcoholics. They also found that many alcoholics are quite "normal" from a psychiatric viewpoint until they begin drinking excessively.

Now a majority of medical authorities seem to be coming around to the view that alcoholism is like fever—it can be symptomatic of a tremendous variety of causes. In any one individual, alcoholism may result from a physiological defect or a psychological disturbance—or both.

It is interesting to note that the organization of recovered alcoholics called Alcoholics Anonymous arrived at this conclusion years ago. Its definition of alcoholism has long been: "An obsession of the mind coupled with an allergy of the body."

One of the sharpest disputes concerns the role played by alcohol itself in causing alcoholism. This dispute has inevitably become involved in the continuing battle between wet and dry forces over local option prohibition.

Point of Controversy
The National Temperance League and other groups seeking

to outlaw alcoholic beverages contend that heavy and prolonged drinking is a primary cause of addiction to alcohol. They bolster this assertion with statistics showing a relationship between per capita alcohol consumption in each state and the number of alcoholics per 100,000 population. The District of Columbia, for example, is tops in both categories.

A spokesman for the licensed beverage industries insists, with equal vigor, that "there is no scientific evidence to indicate that drinking alcoholic beverages is responsible for alcoholism." In support of this position, he notes that 93 per cent of the people who drink don't become alcoholics.

Scientists tend to tread warily on this disputed ground. Dr. Harold E. Himwich, writing on the physiology of alcohol in a recent issue of the American Medical

Outbreak of Polio Studied in Tennessee

Johnson City, Tenn.—East Tennessee Health Director Dr. Alex B. Shipley arrived here today to study a mounting polio outbreak which has claimed 12 victims.

Officials today began administering Salk vaccine shots to some 10,000 children in an effort to stem the rising number of cases.

Twelve polio cases, all non-paralytic, have occurred here within a little over a week.

FORMER EDITOR DIES
New York—Dr. James R. Joy, 93, editor of the Christian Advocate from 1915 to 1936, died Monday.

Association journal, said it is "probable" that prolonged, excessive intake of alcohol brings about changes in the body "so that alcohol assumes the characteristic of a foodstuff required by the cells."

When that happens, he said, "a need for alcohol has been created as a result of excessive drinking."

Tomorrow: Symptoms of the disease and a test for anyone fearing he is on the way to becoming a victim.



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Boy With Salk Shots Dies; Polio Suspected

Wausau, Wis.—An investigation into the suspected polio death of a boy who had a full series of Salk vaccine shots has been launched here.

Dr. E. P. Ludwig said Lee Kruback, 7, died Sunday in a Madison, Wis., hospital. Ludwig said he suspected polio as the cause of death.

If the investigation reveals polio as the killer, it will be the second polio death in the nation of a person who received all three Salk shots.

Alligator Destroyed After Killing Boy, 9

Eau Gallie, Fla.—An 11-foot alligator which killed a 9-year-old boy playing beside a creek was caught and destroyed here Monday by conservation agents.

Agents said they found the big reptile near where the mangled body of little Allen Rice was found Sunday and the 'gator was killed.

Authorities said they were able to identify parts of the boy's body inside the stomach of the alligator.

The boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Beatty, was the object of a huge week-end search after he disappeared Friday afternoon

from his home near Horse Creek, where he and friends were fond of playing.

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