

My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt
(Trade Mark Registered U.S.
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Moscow—I was received at the Ministry of Social Welfare with the usual courtesy, and a large number of people, each in charge of a separate activity, sat around the table where we held our interview.

There is a difference here in the allocation of responsibilities to various departments of the government. The department of education, for instance, is in charge of things which might well be under medicine in the United States. So it takes a little while to find out where to go to ask permission to see certain things and what information to expect from certain ministers.

The Minister of Welfare opened my interview with a little speech of welcome and assured me of the Soviets' pleasure in my visit. He said he considered the well-being of the people the most important thing in any country, therefore his work was of great interest to him.

At all these gatherings, tea is served. There are dishes on the table with fruit, cookies, and, as a rule, boxes of chocolate candy. And for gentlemen and ladies who wish it, there is either vodka or wine.

I have been grateful for my self-imposed rule of drinking nothing alcoholic, for it makes it much easier to refuse. If you take something once, they will hardly take "no" for an answer and will fill your glass or plate over and over again.

Here again, of course, I will give you a detailed account later of the social welfare program, and as I see examples of work being carried out, I will be able to evaluate the success of the Soviet methods.

All government ministers say they are responsible for the formulation of general policy for the whole U.S.S.R. But I gather that, just as our states have a duplication of Federal machinery, so the various republics here have their own minister of education and minister of social welfare, with departments under these ministers. While they carry out the general policies formulated in Moscow and the main objectives are the same, they still have to be adjusted to local situations.

For instance, I was told that in Tashkent a different language is used, for each republic is permitted to retain its own language and customs. Teachers and doctors, for instance, who plan to serve in these areas must know the language of their own republic.

After I visit other areas, I will have a better idea of how unification of activities is brought about, but I think one way is probably by bringing delegations of people from different parts of the Soviet Union to visit Moscow on their holidays.

We noticed at the theatre the other evening a tremendous delegation of Ukrainians, and in the restaurant of our hotel there is a big table always filled with young Chinese people who evidently are here as a delegation. I also have seen groups of Bulgarians. They all seem to be enjoying themselves very much and evidently are invited to all cultural activities as guests of the government.

I also visited the Ministry of Health, and here again the heads of different departments were

present. One woman, for instance, was in charge of the care of children. As a result of this visit, I hope I have arranged to see certain services in Tashkent in Central Asia.

The training of a doctor here takes six years, and this begins right after his graduation from what they call "Ten-Year School," which is high school. On top of these 16 years, he takes his specialization, so the period of preparation is long, as it is in the United States.

We went one evening to Gorki Park, one of the biggest amusement parks. We were warned it would not be a good night to go, and at first we thought very few people were there. But when the bell rang, telling everyone to go home, about 1,000 people began to come from every area. It was astonishing how many people were scattered about, enjoying various entertainments.

One of the most popular places for men was a chess hall. Games were going on, and I was interested in watching those who played against time.

These parks are well laid out, with beautiful flowers and a great variety of entertainment for persons of all ages.

Scattered throughout the city are children's parks, and the other day we passed a department store for children which was crowded beyond belief. People were going in and out in long queues, with parents and their children going upstairs on one side, looking at the toys and clothes, and coming down a long staircase on the other side on their way out.

We wondered if they ever stopped to buy anything or whether this was just a feast for their eyes.

We visited a Moscow medical college and spent nearly five hours with the very obliging and kind director and his staff. The college has 4,000 students and 500 teachers, 100 of whom are professors. In this particular college they train doctors for both medical and sanitation services.

The staff members are very proud of their institute, which is 200 years old, and they said, "It is the best in the Soviet Union and, we think, the best in the world." I will write in more detail about this visit in a future column.

One of the most interesting things was the research and experimentation being carried on here. I noticed that Dr. David Gurevitch, one of our party on this trip, also was interested in this.

One of the great difficulties at the college seems to be the allocation of money for reconstruction and new construction. I was told that 50 million rubles had just been granted for construction purposes.

There is a hospital affiliated with the medical college, and we were allowed to see the operating rooms and some wards. E.R. (Copyright, 1957, by United Features Syndicate, Inc.)

GUN GIVEAWAY
Chicago—Thomas Levasseur, charged with armed robbery, discovered too late there is no rest for the wicked. Levasseur fell asleep in the lobby of the Palmer House hotel only to be awakened by a policeman who saw a gun protruding from his pocket.

Two Changes Made By VA for Widows

Two important changes in laws by the Veterans administration benefit widows of veterans, S. T. Brannock, officer in charge of the Medford VA office, said today.

Public Law 85-209 enacted by the present Congress, provides that a woman who married a veteran without knowing that a legal impediment to the marriage existed may be eligible for widow's benefits, even though it develops she is not the veteran's legal widow.

The other change changes the length of time the widow must have been married to the veteran prior to his death, Brannock said.

In the case of the widow who married a veteran only to find on his death she was not legally his widow due to failure to dissolve previous marriage bonds or other reason, the law authorizes payments of widow's benefits under certain cases.

Under the second change, some 12,000 widows may become eligible for death benefits. The new change says the date of her marriage to the veteran will not disqualify a widow for VA benefits if a child was born of the marriage, or if no child was born, the marriage existed for at least five years.

Corn constitutes 30 per cent of U.S. harvested crops.

Similarity Between Codfish, People Claimed Not Coincidence

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor
New York—(U.P.)—Science has found a similarity between people and codfish which is no coincidence. Rather, it is a further indication that somewhere, way back people and codfish have a common ancestor.



Delos Smith

The similarity is in how codfish react when they get out of water and how people react when they dive into water. They act almost identically to preserve their very lives in a life-threatening situation. The facts as to codfish are newly discovered by three Norwegian scientists.

Blood Closes Off

When the codfish is taken from the water he is threatened with oxygen starvation, just as people are when they submerge themselves under water. The codfish reacts by instantly reducing his need for oxygen. His blood no longer flows through his muscles—they're closed off from the circulation.

Down goes his heart rate, to half or less of what it is in the water. Since when he is out of water he is thrashing around

and exercising his muscles like mad, it seems hardly possible. But it is possible because muscles are capable of acting for short periods without the free oxygen they obtain from the circulating blood.

Muscles Need 'Fuel'

The Norwegians found that the "fuel" for muscular activity accumulated in the muscles the instant the codfish left the water. Its presence was indicated by an increase of lactic acid in the muscles and a decrease of it in the blood. When the fish were put back into water to recover, the blood was flooded with lactic acid, indicating that the muscles were no longer being by-passed.

H. Leivestad, H. Andersen, and P. F. Scholander, of the University of Oslo, in reporting their results to the American Association for the Advancement

of Science, pointed out that when people dive into water, their heart rates diminish greatly and that is true even while they are "swimming vigorously." So a cut-off of muscles from blood circulation is indicated.

Heart Rate Decreases

It has been proved in other diving mammals, for instance, the seal; and in diving birds. The scientists could only conclude their codfish "very probably" have "the same sort of protective mechanisms." They thought the decreased heart rate resulted from the restriction of surface blood flow. In at least some diving mammals the arterial blood pressure doesn't fall with decreased heart rate which suggests that normal blood flow

Cocaine was used in the first spinal anesthesia.

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is maintained in the organs not capable of functioning without free oxygen.

There was one curious sidelight. As in seals, a decreased heart rate could be brought about in codfish "simply by frightening the animals"—without taking them from the water. This the scientists called "a diving reflex" which, they commented, "might seem to be an excellent idea for a flying fish but how it could ever benefit a codfish is an evolutionary puzzle."

New Hearings Scheduled On Hoffa Activities

Washington—(U.P.)—Chairman John L. McClellan said Monday the Senate Rackets Committee plans new hearings on the activities of James R. Hoffa before Hoffa seeks the teamsters presidency at the union's convention Sept. 30.

The Arkansas Democrat "tentatively" set next Tuesday, Sept. 24, as the date for starting the new hearings.

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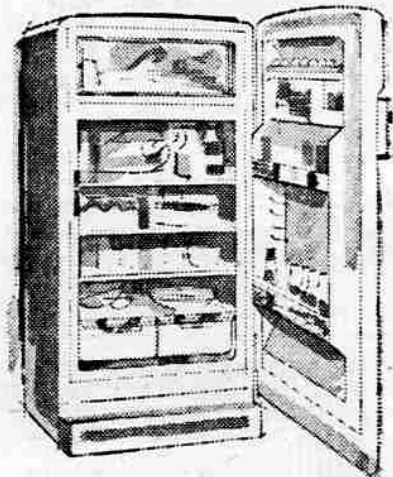
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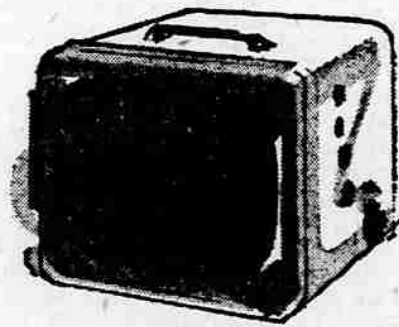
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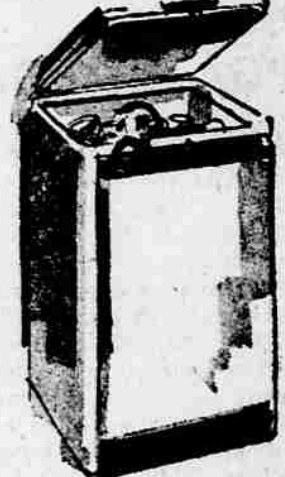
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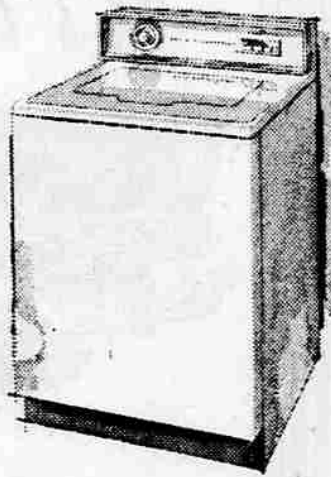
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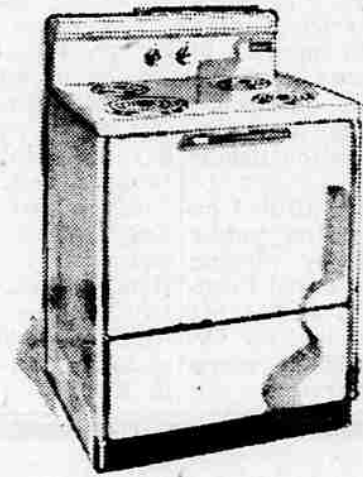
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