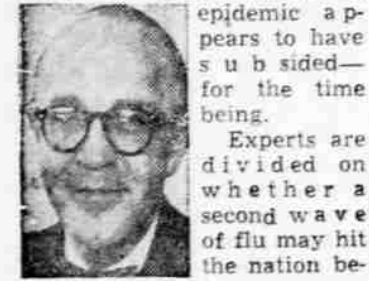


Asian Flu Epidemic Appears Over; Second Wave Possible

BY LOUIS CASSELS
United Press Correspondent



Louis Cassels

Washington — Public Health Service officials said today the great Asian flu epidemic appears to have subsided for the time being.

Experts are divided on whether a second wave of flu may hit the nation between now and spring. Some think it is likely; other say it is very improbable. Both sides admit that the history of past flu epidemics offers no clear guide to what can be expected.

The first wave of the epidemic, which rolled across the nation beginning in September, took a heavier toll than is generally realized.

Surgeon General Leroy H. Burney estimates that about 20 million Americans came down with the disease during the last four months of 1957.

That makes it the biggest flu epidemic, from the viewpoint of total cases, since the terrible 1918 "pandemic."

Asian flu, as predicted, proved to be far less of a killer than the 1918 disease which took an estimated 500,000 American lives.

But the mortality charts at Public Health Service headquarters show that Asian flu was not quite as "mild" as some people thought.

Surprising Figures
In the 108 major cities which submit weekly vital statistics to public health headquarters, there were 9,240 deaths from influenza and pneumonia during the last four months. This represents a jump of more than 4,000 deaths over the figure for the comparable period of 1956.

In these same cities, which represent less than one-third of the total U.S. population, the number of deaths from all causes was about 17,500 greater during the same period of 1956.

More Businesses Reported in City

Portland — More business firms are listed for Medford this year than in 1956, according to J. Harry White, district manager of Dun and Bradstreet, Portland.

White said the figures were obtained from a count made for the Dun and Bradstreet reference book in November. Medford business firms total 810 this year, 51 more than the 759 total in 1956.

Ashland business firms number 208 and Central Point firms number 72, according to the book. The book does not include several service and professional businesses such as barber and beauty shops and stock and real estate brokers.

The credit reporting agency reported they mailed more than 3,000,000 requests for financial statements last year to firms listed in the book. The Portland office reported mailing about 30,000 such requests to firms in Oregon and Washington and the financial statements received provided a basis for a credit rating, White said.

Summit Meeting, Pact Turned Down

Washington — The United States has turned thumbs down on either a "summit" meeting or non-aggression pact with Russia unless specific East-West disputes are settled first, authoritative sources said Tuesday.

Officials belittled Russia's announcement of a 300,000-man cut in Soviet armed forces, and indicated this country will not accept Moscow's challenge to match it.

They said Russia, if the cuts are real, is trimming its military manpower because of increasing destructive power in modern weapons without losing any of its striking potential. They said this country is doing the same thing, and pointed to U.S. military cuts of about 900,000 men since the Korean war.

A large proportion of these 17,500 "excess deaths" are attributable to the Asian flu epidemic, according to Dr. Carl C. Dauer, Public Health Service influenza control officer.

Dauer said a flu epidemic always causes an upswing in the death rate from heart disease, tuberculosis and other chronic diseases. Victims of

these ailments are "pushed over the line" by an attack of flu, and although their deaths are not listed as due to influenza or pneumonia, they are as truly victims of the epidemic as anyone else, he explained.

Vaccine Helps
Dr. William H. Stewart, assistant to the surgeon general, said the impact of Asian flu

was "considerably lessened" by the extensive advance preparations, particularly the widespread use of vaccine.

Stewart said about 40 million doses of vaccine moved into medical channels in the past four months, and most of this presumably has been shot into arms.

he said, "the vaccination program clearly had an important part in curbing the spread of the epidemic."

The vaccine is now readily available through any physician. The Public Health Service still thinks it is a wise precaution to take the shots, if you haven't had them.

women, and people with chronic heart and pulmonary diseases," Stewart said.

"I personally am inclined to doubt that we'll have another big wave of Asian flu this winter. But some experts feel otherwise, and no one can really tell how influenza will act.

Medical Internship Program Approved
Salem — A medical internship program alternating between the State hospital and Fairview home has been approved by the State Board of Control here.

The program also will include Salem Memorial hospital which had sought affiliation with the state institutions to bolster its application to the American Medical Association for approval of the program.

SUSPENDED HARMONY
Washington — Movie tough guy Edward G. Robinson was disappointed in the opening of Congress because there was no wrangling. "I guess they're in a state of suspended harmony," he said.

NEW HORROR ASSIGNED
Hollywood — Producer Herman Cohen is in a horrible rut. Cohen, who produced "I Was a Teen-age Werewolf" and "I Was a Teen-age Frankenstein," has been signed to produce "How to Make a Monster."

Guided Missile Base Near Portland Forecast
Washington — Rep. Walter Norblad (R-Ore.) Tuesday forecast the possibility of a guided missile base near Portland within the next five years.

Norblad said his prediction was based on a statement by the Air Force that it has "definite plans" to remove its fighter-interceptor plans and personnel from Portland International airport "within the next five years."

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- 4.98, 6.50 Boys' Black Loafers, 7 pr. 2.99
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