

Congress: Those Weekly Newsletters

By FRANK ELEAZER
United Press Correspondent
Washington — The lighter side of Congress: Close to 300 of the 531 members of House and Senate are estimated to be getting out weekly newsletters to their homefolks. These frequently are done in the form of "columns" ready for printing in the local papers. Runs of 5,000 to 10,000 copies of these literary gems are not at all uncommon. In many cases the publishing effort has gotten so big the professional authors — or ghost writers — resort to facilities of the Capitol folding rooms to get them into the mails. Here machines stuff the copies in envelopes, which previously have been run off on the members' addressing machines. Then the envelopes are automatically licked and sealed, and the postman does the rest.

Sen. Norris Cotton (R-N.H.) is one member who has known all along about keeping his readers smiling. This week he was writing about the Senate's new space committee. This group, he noted, has been directed to investigate "all aspects" of outer space, and to report its findings by June 1.

"Who says the Senate is slow?" he mused. "By next year we'll be debating statehood for the moon."

The Senate Anti-Monopoly subcommittee was considering problems of competition in the auto industry. Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.) asked Chrysler President L. L. Colbert: "What, for example, is keeping Chrysler back of GM and Ford?"

Replied Colbert: "MGM and Ford."

Rep. Bruce Alger is Texas' only Republican House member, among 21 Democrats. But he claims to have friends on both sides of the aisle.

He quotes a prominent Democrat, whom he tactfully refrains from naming, as making him recently a gracious and sincere offer as follows: "I'll come down to your district, Bruce, and speak for you or against you, whichever will help you most."

A young foreign service officer, nominated to the corps for the first time, was being questioned by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Surrounded by other recent graduates running heavily to Phi Beta Kappa,

he confessed unhappily that his college average was a mere C.

"That's all right," consoled Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.). "When I was in law school they always used to say that the A students made the professors, the B students made the judges, and the C students made the money."

Nomination approved.

Larger Payments Due for Homes

Chicago — Many would-be home owners will have to step up their savings if they hope to buy a house.

Officials of the United States Savings and Loan league, representing 4,300 savings and loan institutions, said they see little chance of a return to low down payments.

Norman Strunk, executive vice president of the league, said two developments have intensified the need for larger down payments:

The impact of the Federal Reserve Board's "tight money" policy upon borrowing for home buying.

The trend toward larger and more expensive houses.

Strunk said the Federal Reserve Board's anti-inflation policy has had the effect of reducing the availability of FHA and VA loans, normally the most "liberal" of all home loans.

Strunk said the need for a larger down payment actually may be a blessing in disguise for the average home buyer.

"By putting up a bigger down payment, today's home purchaser is saving himself a considerable sum in interest cost that usually goes with the taking out of an excessively large mortgage," Strunk said.

"The home purchaser who puts down \$5,000 on a \$20,000 home, for instance, paying the remainder off in 20 years at 5½ per cent, will save \$1,628 in interest cost in this period over the home buyer who puts down only \$2,500 under the same terms."

The average temperature of Mars is somewhat below 32 degrees F.

German Scientists Have Consolation in Sputnik, Explorer

Frankfurt, Germany — To space-minded West Germans, Dr. Werner von Braun is the man of 1958. It was the next best thing to having space ships of their own.

Peering at the sky for a glimpse of Sputnik II or listening for Explorer's whispering radio voice, West Germans wryly recall that both are offspring of the wartime V2 which nicked the edge of space before falling on England.

Only hours after the American satellite was in orbit, beer hall wits were telling the story of the Sputnik and Explorer meeting in outer space, pausing and then inquiring: "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?"

Only Consolation

Such bittersweet pride is about the only consolation for science-minded West Germans. There is no doubt they would love to back in the space-platform, moon-exploration business. It's the sort of scientific challenge at which this nation has always excelled.

There are thousands of enthusiasts, but not a penny of government funds for rocket research.

So far, the enthusiasm is confined mainly to detailed reporting of the American and Soviet launchings and the part played by the hundreds of German technicians divided up between the two at war's end.

Balked by Occupation

American forces collected about 150 top rocket scientists as Germany collapsed in the spring of 1945. Russia rounded up about 5,000 technicians and assistants. Most of those who went to the United States have remained there and 103 have become citizens.

Those taken to the USSR were eventually allowed to return. The last returned only this week.

The absence of virtually all trained space scientists and a 10-year ban imposed by occupation authorities on any sort of German flying or weapons research has left the country which started the race to space barely off the ground.

There are numerous rocket societies but they have little money and less equipment. They concentrate on theoretical questions, firm in conviction that public policy will change and funds will be available.

LONG ASSOCIATION

Southbridge, Mass. — The seven Dumas brothers, ranging in age from 65 to 86 and now all living in retirement here, worked a total of 367 years for the American Optical Co.

Approximately one-third of all the steel supply of the United States comes from the Pennsylvania area.

General Electric Co. in Friday, February 14, 1958 MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE



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Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Dallas, Tex.—Stripper Candy Barr, on the guilty verdict and 15-year sentence imposed for her possession of marijuana.

"All I can say is it's an unfair verdict."

Dallas, Tex.—Assistant District Attorney Bill Alexander, in his plea to the jury, on why the stripper should be convicted:

"She may be cute but under the evidence she's soiled and she's dirty."

Palm Springs, Calif.—Police Chief August Kettman, on the pilot who successfully crash-landed his disabled Western Air Lines plane saving all 21 aboard:

"The pilot did a fine job putting the ship down in the rugged area."

San Antonio, Tex.—Lt. Col. George H. Steinkamp, director of the Department of Space Medicine at the School of Aviation Medicine, on the condition of Airman Donald G. Farrell, on the fifth day of his simulated flight to the moon:

"He is in perfect shape. He's in much better shape than the crew watching him."

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Pistons To Bring Quieter Engines

Cleveland — Aluminum pistons, hardest working parts in your automobile, are being measured for new "tailor made" skirts to give you a smoother, quieter-running and more efficient engine.

Automotive engineers at Aluminum Company of America's Cleveland plant now are using a newly created grinder to develop pistons with complex contours in the "skirt" area, the part that contacts the cylinder wall.

Purpose of the selective grinding is to insure a more closely conforming piston to fit in contemporary high-compression auto engines.

The company said that pistons for many years have been contour-ground for maximum efficiency, but this grinding has been limited to a few set patterns. The new development, complex grinding, is expected to make possible infinite varieties of piston skirt shapes by merely touching a hydraulic lever on the machine.

The new piston skirts, by greatly improving piston lubrication, permit more oil to reach the critical area of the skirt and the part wears longer and operates more quietly.

Alcoa said the new skirt grinding operation also is expected to perform a vital function by reducing friction between the part and cylinder walls to a minimum thus enabling the unit to perform more effectively as a force transmitter, heat conductor and bearing conductor.

CULTURED ENGINEERS

Lowell, Mass.—A course in Shakespeare is being offered to budding engineers at Lowell Technological Institute this semester. This is in line with the increased emphasis being placed on the importance of cultural background for scientists, engineers and technologists.

ANSWER MAN

Nashville, Tenn.—George Timmons figures he answers 91,000 questions a year. Timmons works at the U.S. Courthouse here and is the first man people see when entering the building.

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