

Neuberger Credits Modern Age for Cancer Recovery; Stresses Early Treatment Need

Editor's note: Last fall, Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, 46-year-old Democratic senator from Oregon, underwent surgery for removal of a cancerous tumor. Today, he is en route back to Washington, grateful for being alive. In this dispatch, Senator Neuberger speaks frankly of his experience and, as he prepares to "resume a normal schedule of activities"—his physicians' words—offers a message of hope to other cancer sufferers. He also speaks, from the basis of his own trying experience, of what he feels this country must do to bring the possibility of cure to all cancer victims.

By Sen. RICHARD NEUBERGER
Democrat of Oregon
Written for UPI

It has become almost axiomatic to protest about our modern age. Yet if I did not live in a modern age, I would probably be dead now. Three miracles of modern medical science have given me a prospect for recovery from cancer which my doctors regard as excellent.

These miracles are (1) early detection of the tumor, (2) skillful surgery, and (3) the twin agents of cobalt radiation and chemotherapy, with their destructive impact on any of the tumor which might have spread.

Even before cancer was diagnosed in me, I stood on the floor of the United States Senate and advocated vastly-increased federal support of medical research. Yet I used glibly the reference that 40 million Americans were destined to have cancer. I never thought I might be among the 40 million. I always felt that this would be somebody else. I suppose countless citizens feel this way—otherwise we would not tolerate spending more on chewing gum than on cancer research, and many times more on such things as permanent waves and cigarettes.

International Medical Year
Along with my colleagues, Sen. Lister Hill of Alabama and Sen. Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota, I have been proposing an International Medical Year and a pooling of medical discoveries made by all nations. This has a particularly urgent meaning for me today. Cobalt radiation, a vital factor in the successful treatment I have undergone, was developed by such illustrious scientists of Canada as Dr. David A. Keyes and Dr. H. F. Batho. I am fortunate that no unwise import quota kept this marvel of their intellects from coming to the

Ashland Youths Fined in Court

Ashland — Four Ashland youths were sentenced in municipal court this morning on charges of malicious destruction of public property.

Ashland police arrested the youths Tuesday and Wednesday following an investigation into the killing of a peahen in Lithia park last week. The cage which houses several birds had been broken into, and a peahen killed, police said.

Judge P. H. Stansbury fined Erwin George Rothwell, 18, of the Oregon hotel, \$200, and sentenced him to 30 days in city jail. Two 17-year-olds also were sentenced to 30 days in jail along with fines of \$200 and \$150. A 16-year-old Ashland youth was fined \$100 and placed on a 6 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. curfew for 30 days.

The youths appeared with their parents.

Police said the youths told them one of the birds appeared to be angered and they thought it would attempt to attack them. Police found feathers scattered throughout the pen and signs that the bird had been kicked to death in one corner of the cage.

Dental Meeting Discussed by Group

Plans for the fall Oregon State Dental Society meeting, which will be held in Medford Aug. 14-16, were discussed at a meeting of the Southern Oregon district Dental Society at the Rogue Valley Country club this week.

Dr. Robert Watkins, a member of the teaching staff of the University of Oregon dental school, was principal speaker.

New officers for the Southern Oregon District Dental Society are Dr. John Dickson, Medford, president; Dr. Dan Engle, Ashland, president-elect; Dr. Frank Wilson, Medford, secretary-treasurer; Dr. Eugene Ray, Medford, editor; and Dr. Jack Owens, Medford, Dr. Dick Grabb, Ashland, and Dr. Lyle Haley, Grants Pass, associate editors.

Wives of members of the Society organized an auxiliary. Officers for the group are Mrs. Olive Melish, president; Mrs. Ray Walker, Grants Pass, vice president; Mrs. Sam Price, Medford, secretary; Mrs. Marvin Kock, Ashland, treasurer; and Mrs. Merna Caspey, secretary, vice president of the state society.

United States. A brush with cancer tends to place many things in true perspective. First, one becomes profoundly grateful to all those who, through the long history of medical research, have contributed to the advances thus far made in treatment of this grim disease.

Secondly, old antagonisms fade away. I no longer can transform political disagreements into any feelings of personal malice. When one is grateful to be alive, it is difficult to dislike a fellow human being.

I am keenly aware that some of the most eminent members of the Senate have died of cancer during recent years—among them Charles L. McNary of my own State of Oregon, Robert A. Taft of Ohio, Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, Matthew Neely of West Virginia and Brian McMahon of Connecticut. That is why I regard it as so crucially important if I can stand in the senate and stress to my colleagues that my own life has been spared, because I have had a type of cancer which has responded to a discovery

thus far made in the realm of medical research. **Research Money Lacking**
Is it not vital that we devote every effort to extending these discoveries, if possible, into other areas of cancer where successful treatment has not yet been achieved? Does it make sense to invest in cancer research only about one per cent of what we spend on research into armaments and weapons of war? Two out of every three American families are in peril of affliction from cancer.

From the very beginning, I told my doctors to include candidly in their medical bulletins the fact that my illness has been diagnosed as cancer. I realize that has not been done in the case of some public figures. Yet we need to have full understanding of this disease if it is to be conquered. Medical scientists inform me that some people, knowing they may have cancer, still hesitate to seek treatment because they fear it is inevitably hopeless. Thus, if a person in public life does recover from cancer, it is an event

which can give hope and courage for many millions of others. The American Cancer society reports that, already, about 30 or 35 per cent of cancer victims are being saved. As new findings are attained in the field of chemotherapy, this percentage undoubtedly will be increased—especially if people seek immediate medical care. **Many Competent Doctors**
While much remains to be known about cancer, I think it is essential that Americans have faith in the competence

of their doctors. Some believe that capable care can be received only a few nationally known medical centers. I chose to remain for treatment in my native city of Portland, Ore., because I believe that knowledge and competence in this field are not confined to one or two famous places. I think I have been confirmed in this decision by the fact that, in my travels around our state this past fall and winter, I have met quite a few men and women who have recovered from cancer under the able auspices of their own lo-

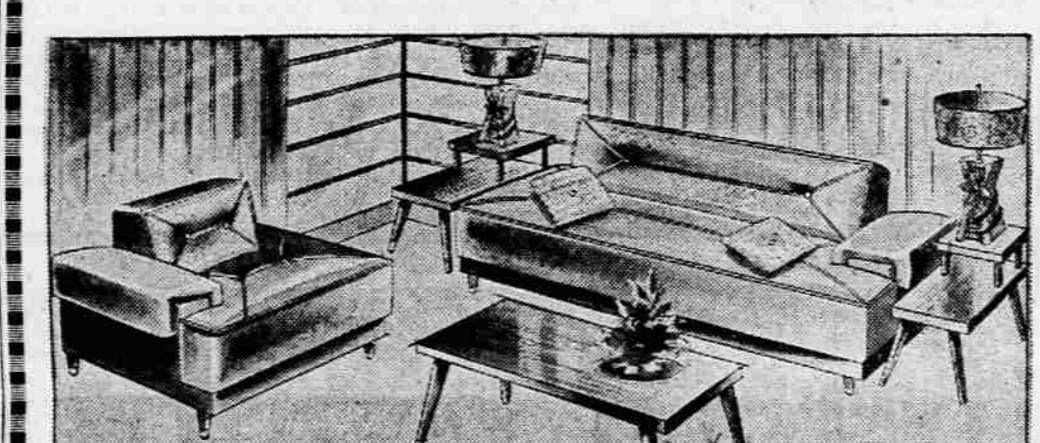
cal physicians. The National Cancer Institute, which is part of our U. S. Public Health Service, makes grants throughout the nation to all promising avenues in the area of cancer research. Your own life or that of a loved one might potentially be saved if you urge your senator to vote full and adequate appropriations for this vital government agency, which provides about 72 per cent of the funds for research into the causes and possible cures of the series of diseases known as cancer.

Central Point Man Bound Over to Jury

Lester Lee Lewis, 66, of route 2, box 671, Central Point, was bound over to the grand jury Wednesday afternoon by District Judge Roy Bashaw on a charge of procuring a female to engage in prostitution. Bail for Lewis was continued at \$2,500. His attorney is O. H. Bengtson. The Central Point man was arrested by Medford and state police Jan. 30. He was arraigned that day and requested a preliminary hearing.

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