



GREEN LIGHT DISPUTE—Body of Irvin J. Knudson lies in front of his own car after collision with an automobile transport at an intersection in La Crosse, Wis. Knudson was thrown from his car and killed, but the truck driver was unhurt. Police have conflicting reports on who had the green light.

Bob Hope: End of the Road?

Editor's note: "Have Tux, Will Travel" Bob Hope wrote exuberantly a few years ago as America's most tireless, globe-trotting entertainer. His travels were legend; they won him the affection of GIs the world over; no place was too remote to be visited if it brought a laugh to one American serviceman. But the pace eventually took its toll and now a worried, ailing Bob Hope is talking about possible retirement for his health's sake—and his family's. This is the first of three dispatches in which the noted comedian speaks frankly of the change that has come over his life.

By **VERNON SCOTT**
UPI Hollywood
Correspondent

Hollywood—UPI—Bob Hope is at the crossroads of his laughter-filled career. He knows it, and he's not laughing.

The next few months will spell out retirement or continued titillation of the nation's funny-bone for the rapid-fire comedian. Everything depends on his health.

In any case, the "old" Bob Hope—the one who tirelessly performed in movies, television, personal appearances and benefits simultaneously—has disappeared forever.

The 56-year-old comedian, relaxing in the plush comfort of his patio, surveyed his seven-acre estate thoughtfully and mused aloud that retirement for Bob Hope also would mean the end of a small empire and unemployment for scores of employees. **Not Being Idealistic**

"More than 80 people are dependent on me and my ability to perform," Bob said. "I think about their futures as well as my own."

"They include writers, technicians, press agents, directors, domestic help, agents, secretaries and a flock of others. But I'm not being idealistic. If I don't get better—and soon—I'll retire damned fast and use my energy to get well. I'm the only person who can really help myself."

Felled by exhaustion and a blood clot in his left eye while entertaining American troops in Europe last December, Bob still is a sick man. He suffers frequent dizzy spells, and twice collapsed during recent television rehearsals.

"This is not a temporary slow-down for me," he said. "I plan to keep taking things easy when I get my health back. This eye will take one or two years to clear up, and I've got to improve my general health."

"I'm not a semi-invalid. I want to make that clear. But when I told my doctors I wanted to keep working they said, 'your corpuscles don't know you're getting laughs.' Takes Heavy Medication

"If that clot had hit my heart or my brain instead of my eye, I can't tell what would have happened."

Hope admitted his physicians are continuing to make examinations and that he is taking heavy medication.

"Medicine alone won't do the job," Hope told me. "I run down to Palm Springs every week. I lie around like a lizard and once in a while play nine holes of golf, riding around in a cart between shots. The truth is I need even more rest than I've been getting. My eye is better, but the trouble is vascular, and that's a long haul."

Call Off Trip
A look at Bob's schedule for the next few months is evidence of his enforced slow-down. He has just finished taping one more TV show, and that's it until he is able to get back into fuller activity.

He was scheduled to go to New York next week in connection with the opening there of his latest film, "Alias Jesse James," but that was called off four days ago on orders of his doctors.

This started rumors he had suffered a "setback" but Bob said this was not so. He explained:

"The doctor said I'm still doing too much and not following the schedule he laid out. He told me I shouldn't go back into another can of worms. It's a little too much for me—the trip to New York—and I have to cool down again. The doctor is afraid all the confusion at the airport, the Perry Como show, the interviews and so on, would knock me out."

Going to Canada
"In August I plan to take the kids for a vacation in Canada. Maybe I'll spend a couple of weeks at Pebble Beach in June. But no work," he said.

"One good thing about this situation is I'm seeing more of my family. The first few days I suffered from the jitters sitting around doing nothing. Fortunately, I've always been able to turn myself off and go to sleep anywhere, anytime. The drugs have helped keep me calm, too."

"I try to grab eight or nine hours sleep at night and a nap in the afternoon. But my blood pressure still jumps when I get excited."

"What a different pace from my old routine!"

Audience Like Dope
"Nobody moved as fast as I did. My physical problems began a few years back when I was doing morning and evening radio programs, a weekly television show, movies and personal appearances."

"An audience is like dope. Once you're used to it—applause and excitement—you have to have it again."

"I look on all these projects back in 1952—and that's when the dizziness started. It was all because I'm a big ham."

"It was ridiculous. I used bad judgment. The folly was I couldn't keep the money, and I was fighting myself on all mediums. During that period I did some of my loudest TV shows."

Next: Bob reviews his past—his climb up the ladder—and how he amassed a fortune that runs into millions of dollars.

Superhighways Help To Cut Death Toll

Detroit—(Science Service)—Our new and better highways have been credited in part with last year's record-low traffic fatality rate. The National Safety Council reported 5.6 deaths per 100,000,000 vehicle miles for 1958. The Automobile Manufacturers association here said evidence "continues to pile up that the growing interstate system of limited-access superhighways already is making an important contribution to highway safety." It cited the New York Thruway as having a death rate of 0.88 per 100,000,000 vehicle miles, or about 17 deaths in nearly two billion miles of travel.

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Neuberger Suggests World Medical Pool

Washington—UPI—Sen. Richard Neuberger (D-Ore.), taking part Friday in a panel here of the second annual Conference on World Health, suggested international pooling of medical discoveries as a pathway to world peace and better health for citizens of all nations.

He emphasized that many great medical findings have come from other lands and cited the x-ray from Germany and the stethoscope from France.

The depths of channels between the Great Lakes are measured in inches. This is for profit, not danger. Added water in the channels means ships can carry added cargo.

Colorado has a new state law for the aged that guarantees the state's pensioners \$100 a month, plus hospitalization and nursing home costs.

Main channel of New York's harbor is dredged to a depth of 45 feet.