

Alcohol Deaths in France Drop Despite Drinking Increase

Paris—UPI—France has reported a marked decrease in deaths from alcoholism although Frenchmen remain the world's heaviest drinkers.

The national committee for study and information of alcoholism reported that 15,853 Frenchmen died from the effects of excessive alcoholic consumption in 1958.

This amounted to 10 deaths per 100,000 persons—greater than tuberculosis fatalities but 28 per cent below the alcoholism death rate of 14 per 100,000 in 1956.

Three Times as Much

Despite the drop, and the committee's continuing efforts, Frenchmen still consume more alcohol per head than anyone else. For example they drink three times as much as Americans.

Frenchmen consume 1,200,000,000 gallons of wine and other alcoholic drinks a year—23 gallons apiece on the average.

Alcoholics cost the government roughly a billion dollars a year in hospital care, welfare costs and rehabilitation. This is as much as it costs France to fight the Algerian war.

There is one bar for every

50 Frenchmen, compared to one for every 286 Germans or 3,000 Norwegians.

The decline in deaths from alcoholism was seen due to several factors: Increased health consciousness among Frenchmen; the moral resurgence that has accompanied the advent of Gen. Charles de Gaulle's fifth republic, and the committee's own persistent anti-alcohol advertising.

Every Metro (subway) car carries placards advising "no more than one liter (1.2 quarts) of wine a day," and similar slogans.

The drive against alcoholism really got going under the government of milk-drinking Premier Pierre Mendes France in 1954 after post-war alcoholism had risen alarmingly.

The drive lost much of its momentum after the fall of Mendes France's government, partially as a result of the opposition of the country's most powerful lobby, the winegrowers.

But under de Gaulle, the campaign has picked up speed again. One of de Gaulle's first moves was to raise wine prices. Though his motives were more financial than hygienic.

Nixon Sees Talks As Opportunity To Solve Problems

Washington—UPI—Vice President Richard M. Nixon believes the Eisenhower-Khrushchev talks here may provide the President with an opportunity to explore the possibilities of solving some cold war problems.

Such solution, Nixon declared, "might be developed at a later point" when U.S. Allies were represented.

But he cautioned that the exchange of visits was no sign that the Russian line has softened or shifted.

Other Comments

The scheduled visit to the United States by Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev next month provoked other new comments.

—Rep. Stuyvesant Wainwright (R-N.Y.), who is supporting New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller for the 1960 Republican presidential nomination, said Nixon's political future may hinge on the outcome of the Khrushchev visit.

—Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) said he was "skeptical" about what could be achieved during the premier's visit and was "worried . . . about this matter of security as far as Khrushchev is concerned." He said the visit put the President and Nixon "on the spot."

Not Understood

—Sen. Thurston B. Morton (R-Ky.), chairman of the Republican National Committee, said it would be better if Congress were not in session during the Khrushchev visit "because the Congress is quite a forum, quite a sounding board, and our system is not understood throughout the world."

—Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) said that if the national interest would be served by inviting Khrushchev to address the Senate and House "that's all right with me . . . I don't think for one minute that the American people are going to be taken in by Mr. Khrushchev."

Doubts Promotion

—Former New York Gov. Averell Harriman, wartime U.S. ambassador to Russia, said that Khrushchev considers himself such a good salesman he thinks he is going to promote communism in the United States during his visit. "I don't think he will," Harriman added.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From Moscow:
Dr. V. Kamenov, a member of the Soviet Academy of Arts, blasts the abstract art displayed at the American Exposition now being held in the Soviet capital as an "ugly GRIMAGE (???) in esthetics."

He says these abstract painting and sculptures are "startling in their ugliness and unbelievable tastelessness," and adds that "for good reasons Soviet spectators refuse to regard them as works of art."

STILL—
If the Soviet AUTHORITIES come to the conclusion that they don't like abstract art, they'll BAN IT.

We TOLERATE it on the theory that each American should be free to follow his own likes and dislikes in such matters.

Therein lies the fundamental difference between our system and the Soviet system.

WHAT about GRIMAGE?
Webster's Collegiate Dictionary ignores it. So does Webster's New 20th Century Unabridged Dictionary.

But let's not be picayunish. If you or I were trying to express ourselves in Russian, we might easily pick off the wrong word. The interpreter might have pulled a boner.

OR—
Seeking to make himself understood in a strange language, Mr. Kamenov's eye may have fallen on the word GRIMAGE—which our dictionaries define as "a distortion of the countenance; a WRY face."

That's the effect that abstract art has on a LOT of us.

ON THE home front, the ways and means committee of the U.S. house of representatives finally votes to recommend another cent to be added to the federal gasoline tax as a means of financing the huge federal highway system. The alternate proposal was to issue bonds, thus putting it on the cuff for future generations to pay.

Why is that interesting? Well for the moment, at least, it means that common sense has prevailed in Washington.

Imagine voting billions of dollars of bonds to build national highways that will be worn out or outdated when the time comes for our children or our grandchildren to dig into their pockets to pay off the bonds.



MOVING QUICKLY to quell a riot of 300 to 400 persons in St. Paul, Minn., police officers seize unidentified woman, pinion her arms behind her as she resists them. The trouble grew out of a police request of a Negro to identify himself. Unruly mobs gathered from nearby bars.

Boy Takes Own Life When Swim Refused

Little Rock, Calif. —UPI—A 13-year-old boy, apparently angry because his mother refused to allow him to go swimming, hanged himself Monday, sheriff's deputies reported.

The body of Robert Blackwell was found dangling from a barn beam with a chain wrapped around his neck. His brother, Donald, 5, made the discovery behind their home in this Los Angeles county community and called their mother, Ruth, 33. She said she earlier had refused to allow Robert to go swimming.

ONCE TOO OFTEN

Ogdensburg, N.Y. —UPI—Charles Mills, a freshman at Ogdensburg Free Academy, won the pole vault event in an intra-squad track meet with a 9½-foot leap, but he wasn't satisfied with his performance. So he tried again—and broke his left arm.



PICKING peaches during the labor shortage in Modesto, Calif., area, U. S. Navy Airman Bart Bronson, of Grade, Idaho, helps harvest fruit crops. Shortage of 5000 laborers is reported at critical period of harvest.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 5
Tuesday, Aug. 18, 1959

Desi Arnaz Escapes Injury in Accident

Oceanside, Calif. —UPI—Actor Desi Arnaz, husband of Comedienne Lucille Ball, escaped injury when his sports car careened off the road, tore out 20 feet of metal guard rail and hit three utility poles, the Highway Patrol reported today.

The accident occurred shortly before midnight last Friday when a truck forced Arnaz off Highway 101 north of Del Mar, Calif., according to the patrol report just made public.

CRACKERS GET CRACKING

Hartford, Conn. —UPI—It was firemen, not police, who routed some cafe crackers. The latter fled after their acetylene torch had set fire to the building in which they were "working."



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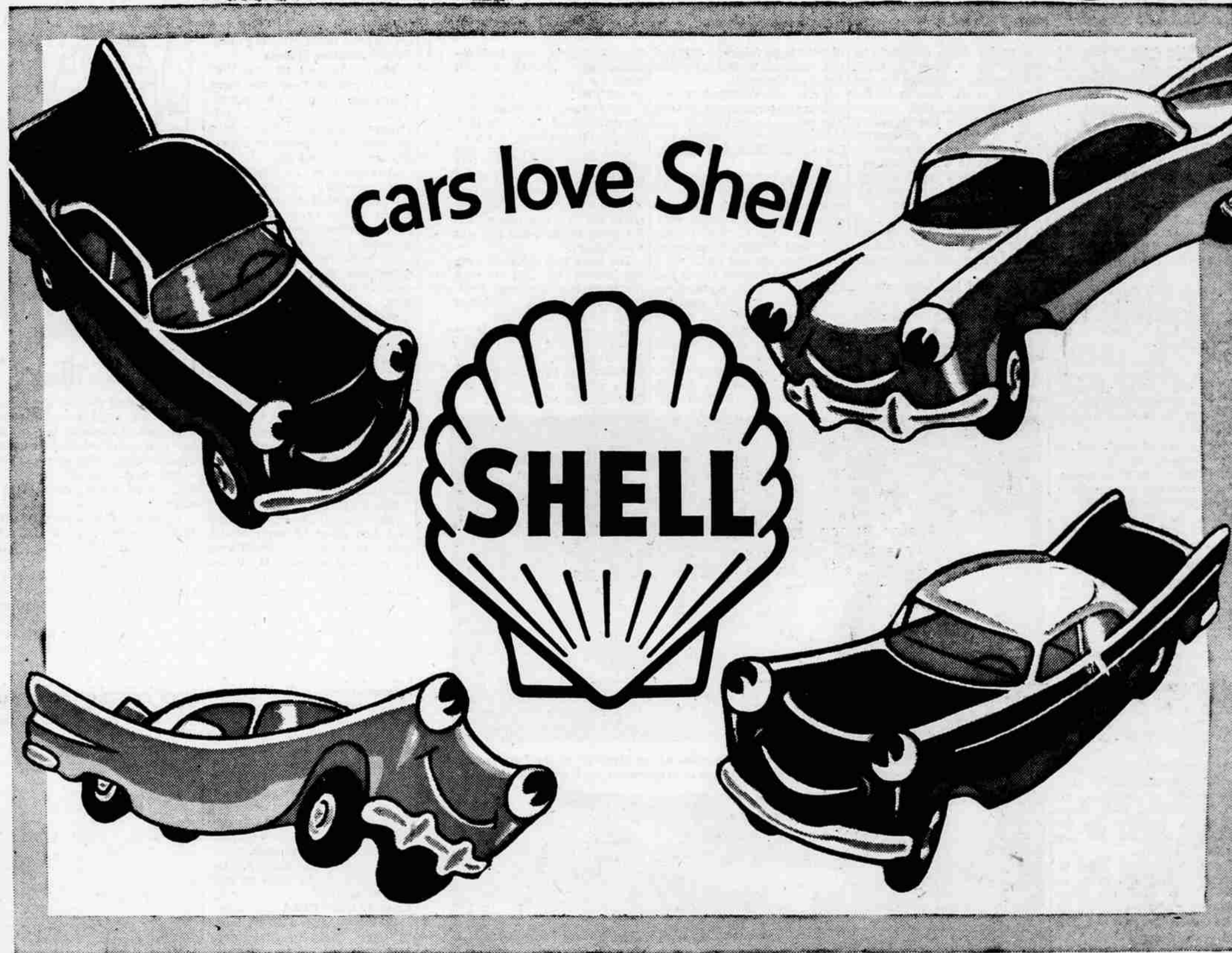
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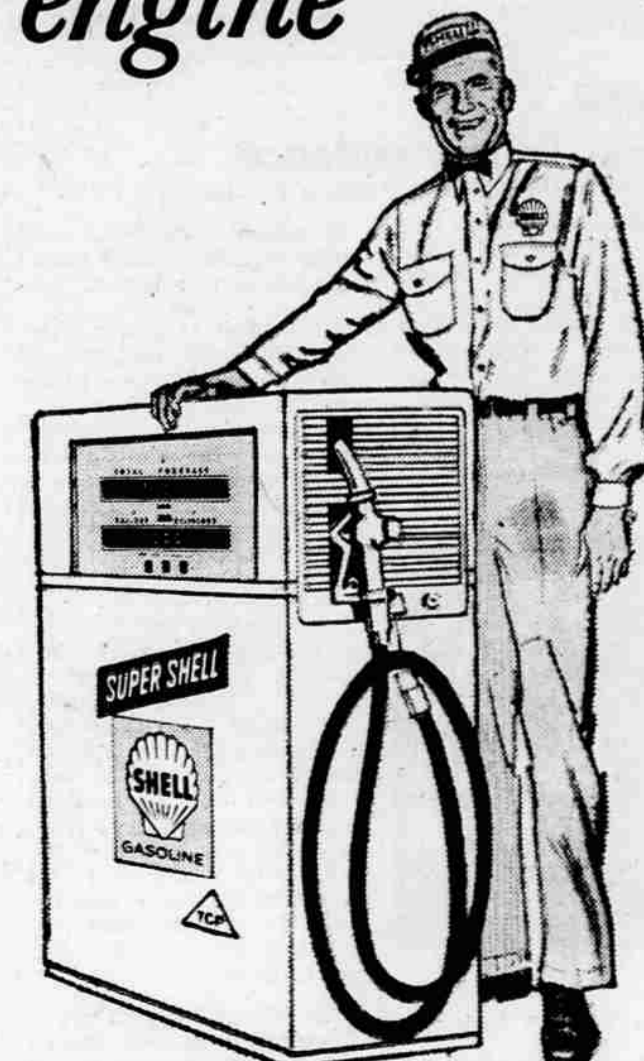
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