

### President Fit For European Trip

Washington—(Science Service)—President Eisenhower is "fit as a fiddle" for his impending trip to Europe. The President will not have any special physical examinations or medication before flying to Bonn, West Germany, on Aug. 26. The President will not even have a smallpox vaccination because he traveled outside of the country less than three years ago and therefore still has this protection. The President's personal physician, Maj. Gen. Howard McC. Snyder, will probably accompany the chief executive on the trip. The President is reported to be a good sleeper who is accustomed to taking a daily nap. He also receives a daily checkup. Mr. Eisenhower is scheduled to spend the next two week ends on his Gettysburg, Pa., farm where he will rest in anticipation of the trip. The chief executive will fly from Bonn to Great Britain and France, returning to the U. S. Sept. 5 or 6.

**DOUGLAS BATTLES TAXES**  
Los Angeles (UPI)—Actor Kirk Douglas and his wife have filed an appeal against an Internal Revenue service claim that they owe \$143,519.99 in back taxes, it was revealed today. The government charged that they made excess deductions on their 1955 income tax return.

### They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hato



### Substance in Roseburg Blast Long Unrecognized as Explosive

Washington—(Science Service)—Ammonium nitrate, generally harmless and an excellent fertilizer, not only blasted out eight city blocks of Roseburg, Ore., but also was responsible for three of the five greatest accidental explosions of the past. The white solid substance has such peculiar detonation properties that it was not recognized as an explosive for centuries. In fact, in its relatively pure form, it is almost impossible to explode. **Become Popular** Only recently, it has been found that when mixed with fuel oil, ammonium nitrate becomes extremely sensitive to heat and shock. Its explosive power sometimes equals that of TNT. In the past two or three years, because it is cheaper than dynamite, the ammonium nitrate-fuel oil mixture has become quite popular as a useful explosive.

Victor E. Haninger, an Interstate Commerce Commission explosives expert, told Science Service that two of the more important safety precautions for storage of ammonium nitrate are: 1. Do not keep it in unventilated confinement. A build-up of heat and pressure in a container could cause an explosion similar to that in the Texas City disaster 12 years ago. 2. Store it away from sources of fire and other explosives.

A full report on the Roseburg disaster has not yet been made. An explosives-laden truck, parked near a building that caught fire, blew up. The truck was carrying ammonium nitrate and dynamite. It is not known what exploded first, something in the building, the dynamite, or the nitrate.

**Originated in Ship** The Texas City explosion originated in the hold of the ship Grand Camp, possibly due to a lighted cigarette butt. The hold, loaded with millions of pounds of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, was closed while the fire smoldered.

Upon discovery of the burning nitrate bags, the ship's crew attempted to smother the flames with steam. Water might have ruined some of the cargo. Steam served only to make the hold hotter, and the nitrate blew up. A second ship exploded the following day, adding to the catastrophe that almost totally destroyed the city and killed more than 560 persons.

In the same year as the Texas City disaster, 1947, a ship also loaded with ammonium nitrate fertilizer exploded at Brest, France. Twenty-one deaths resulted, and major destruction spread over a three-mile area.

The worst of the ammonium nitrate explosions took place in 1921, at Oppau, Germany. About 9,000,000 pounds of the substance blew up. The blast left a lake one-third of a mile in diameter where a warehouse and a nitrate plant had been. Major damage covered an area of four miles. Some 1,000 persons died.

### Nearly Normal Temperatures Seen

Suitland, Md.—(Science Service)—Temperatures higher than normal during the next 30 days are predicted for the northeast section of the country by the U. S. Weather Bureau's long-range forecast experts here.

The 30-day outlook for the period from mid-August to mid-September calls for temperatures to average near normal along the Gulf Coast and in the upper Mississippi Valley, but above normal in the remainder of the nation's eastern half, with "greatest departures" in the Northeast. In the western half, temperatures are predicted to average below seasonal normals, except for near to above normal along the Pacific Coast.

Precipitation is expected to exceed normal in the north central portion of the country from the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains. Sub-normal amounts are predicted over the far Southwest, and also in a broad band from Texas through the southern Appalachian Mountains to New England. In unspecified areas, near normal rainfall is indicated.

**HOBO ROYALTY**  
Britt, Iowa—(UPI)—"Scoop Shovel Scotty" and "Boxcar Betty" were crowned king and queen at the annual hobo convention Tuesday.

### Far East Growth in Population Could Upset World Peace

Washington (Science Service)—Failure to control explosive population growth in the Far East "will certainly adversely affect the peace of the world," a population expert warns.

Robert C. Cook, president of the Population Reference Bureau here, foresees "social invention of the highest order" as the only way to cope with the problem. "Those countries which are prepared to attack this surpassing problem of the balance between births and deaths," he said, "should be given all possible technical assistance."

More than half of the world's population lives in Asia and the Far East, China and India accounting for almost 70 per cent of the total. Japan, Indonesia, and Pakistan, each with more than 80,000,000 people, are among the seven most populated countries of the world. Continuance of the present growth rate will double the population in Asia and the Far East in 30 years.

The only population-control success in this area has been achieved in postwar Japan with one of the most dramatic birth-rate reductions "in history." Unlike its neighbors,

however, Japan is an industrial, urban nation with high levels of education and large groups of technically skilled workers.

Cook attributes the drop in population growth to the Japanese Government's emphasis on family planning. Public interest in sterilization and abortion are at least partially responsible. Abortion now seems to be on the decline as a result of a vigorous information program on contraceptives.

Cook believes the other underdeveloped Far Eastern countries cannot match Japan's outstanding success, nor can they approach the problem in the same way.

"The varied social, religious, economic and political 'climates' . . . indicate that different approaches to the problem are essential," he says. "Just what these are remains to be discovered. Acute necessity may bring about some radical and effective social inventions."

Although most of the Far Eastern nations recognize the seriousness of their population trends, Cook says, they must produce results within the next two decades or face frustration of their hopes for a new life.



CLAIMING SHE IS DESTITUTE, Mrs. Opal Quisenberry, Atlanta, Ga., says she has given away several of her eight children and plans to offer others for adoption. She is being held on suspicion of abandonment.

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**SEE AMERICA LAST**  
Miami—(UPI)—Capt. Roy E. Keeler, senior pilot of Pan American World Airways with 30½ years, 27,000 flying hours and 6,000,000 air miles behind him, retired July 31 at the age of 60. His retirement plan? Travel. "Practically all my travel has been from U. S. gateways outward," he said. "Now I want to see the United States."  
Italy's area is about the same as New Mexico.

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Energy	New Blue Detergent Giant Size	59¢
Nu Lade Eggs	AA Large dozen	49¢
Marco Dog Food	1 lb. can 15 for	\$1.00
Sardines	Booth's Crescent 15-oz. tin	5 for \$1.00
Fruit Cocktail	Del Monte 303	4 for \$1.00
Cream Corn	Del Monte 303	5 for \$1.00
Catsup	Del Monte 12-oz. btl.	5 for \$1.00
Beans	Rose Cut 303	8 for \$1.00
Pickles	Del Monte Fresh Whole Dill 26-oz. btl.	3 for \$1.00

Bananas	Golden Ripe	13¢ lb.
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