

Common Shrub Said To Produce Lead In Cancer Research

Chicago - (UP) - Three cancer research groups declare that a common, decorative garden shrub, the periwinkle, has produced a "new lead" in cancer research.

The groups, headed by M. E. Hodes, Indiana University; Roy Hertz, National Cancer Institute and Gordon H. Svoboda, Lilly Laboratories, made the report at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in Class of Chemicals.

The scientists said materials from the plant exhibit "encouraging anti-cancer activity in man and animals."

The activity was found in a class of chemicals never before tried in cancer clinics, the report said. One of these is a new alkaloid of periwinkle known as vincleukoblastine, or commonly referred to as VLB.

According to the scientists' reports, preliminary clinical trials, involving about 30 patients, showed that VLB sulfate has produced:

- Improvement in various acute leukemias, some of them resistant to other cancer drugs.
- Consistent reduction of white cells, which multiply wildly in the leukemias.
- Growth Suppressed
- Suppression of the growth and activity of certain solid tumors of the placenta known as choriocarcinomas. These tumors had spread in the body and were resistant to another drug.

The scientists said the new class of experimental anti-cancer agents was of "unusual interest to scientists because anti-cancer chemicals of plant origin are rare in medicine."

"The periwinkle discoveries are likely to stimulate much wider investigation of plants for anti-cancer activity," the scientists said.

Man Arrested for False Bomb Report

Indianapolis - (UP) - Waterman F. Brown Jr., 24, a Bendix Aviation Corp. representative, was arrested here on charges of making a false bomb report aboard a Lake Central Airlines DC3 en route to South Bend Monday night.

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Airplane Bombings Said Threat To Air Travel Insurance Firms

By LEROY POPE

New York - (UP) - The freak pattern of airline accidents in recent months, including bombings and suspected bombings, is a dangerous threat to a business that can ill afford it, according to a leading insurance executive.

For, according to William Churchill, manager of the Travel Accident Department of Associated Aviation Underwriters, the sale of 25-cent trip insurance policies still is a small business with a low profit margin.

"Moreover, we can grow only as fast as the air travel business grows - at present about 11 per cent a year," Churchill said. "We don't publish definite figures of our volume but I suspect the three groups in the field, ourselves, Continental Casualty of Chicago and Mutual of Omaha, may not exceed combined premiums of \$10-million a year from the 25-cent unit policies and the 60-cents per \$1,000 annual policies. So one big loss caused by a bombing or a freak accident can be a serious blow."

Interrupted by War

Started back in 1938 by Churchill's group, the sale of air trip policies was interrupted by the war and didn't start growing until machine sales began in 1948.

The introduction of counter sales at big airports has boomed the business a little more "but every airport terminal in the country big enough to support an insurance counter now has one," Churchill added.

Air travel trip insurance was a development of the train trip insurance by which the Travelers Insurance Co. and the Hartford Insurance Co. have done a small but profitable business for years. Some companies also write trip insurance for scheduled bus lines. However, it is not possible to get cheap trip insurance for traveling in your own car. That still must be bought on a term basis at a substantial premium.

The wave of suspected airline bombings to collect insurance and the few proven cases have a grim parallel in the history of life insurance. One of the big obstacles life insurance promoters had to overcome in the early 19th century was a rash of murders of children by their parents and guardians to collect insurance on them. In those days, most parents expected to lose one or more children by disease anyway, and, shocking as it may seem to our generation, many people took the deaths matter-of-factly.

Much Broader Loss

Paying off the 25 cent unit policies - \$6,250 in insurance for each 25 cents premium - actually can be the smallest part of the loss an insurance company must pay in the case of a bombing.

For basic aviation insurance is a much bigger business than trip travel policies and Associated Aviation Underwriters is in that field too, along with U.S. Aviation Underwriters, North American, and Lloyds of London.

This means insuring the aircraft and the liability for crew and passengers, collision and damage to property on the ground, and insuring cities and airport authorities for their damage and liability in crashes. Bombing of an airliner naturally can cause huge claims under this insurance as well as under the 25-cent travel policies.

Associated Aviation Underwriters was organized by the Chubb Pool of Marine Insurance Companies and companies affiliated with the Marine Office of America.

Firehouse Cook Forgot About the Hot Oven

Idabel, Okla. - A police radio dispatcher sent a car to the fire station with this message:

"Turn out the fire under the roast."

Seems the firemen had departed in a hurry to put out a weed fire and the cook forgot to turn off the oven.

Arizona claims 86 per cent of its days are sunny.



NAMED 4-H QUEEN-Marie Scovel, 15, of Gilroy, Calif., has been named the 1960 4-H Queen of California at the Junior Grand National Livestock Exposition at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. Riding in competition with representatives from 14 counties, the blue-eyed high school sophomore rode her horse, King Wimpy, to win the state title. Miss Scovel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Scovel, Gilroy ranchers, plans to major in animal husbandry when she enters college. (UPI Telephoto)

Parlaying \$1,500 Into Huge Contract Scheduled for Study

Washington - (UP) - A House subcommittee has announced an investigation to find out how organizers of a "non-existent" corporation parlayed \$1,500 into a million-dollar government contract.

Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.) said the deal would be examined in public hearings at Kansas City, Mo., on alleged "maladministration" of the General Service Administration's regional office at Kansas City.

Adlai Stevenson Acts Like Candidate

Charlottesville, Va. - (UP) - Adlai Stevenson, despite his denials, looked a good deal like someone running for president Tuesday.

Stevenson insisted in New York Monday he was not a candidate for the Democratic nomination, did not expect to get it and had no hopes he would be chosen for a third try at the White House.

He then flew here for a "non-political" visit but it was evident that Stevenson was flashing his best smile, shaking a lot of hands and preparing to take a slap at the Republicans.

He sidestepped an opportunity in New York to flatly reject the nomination with a joking remark that he might be considered a "draft evader."

Western Strategy Being Shaped

Washington - (UP) - The U. S., British and French foreign ministers Tuesday began hammering out Western strategy to meet Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's unknown plans for the summit conference next month.

With East-West disarmament talks bogged down in Geneva, speculation grew that Khrushchev was saving some new proposal on that subject for the heads-of-state meeting in Paris starting May 16.

Secretary of State Christian A. Herter mentioned a possible new Khrushchev summit proposal at his press conference last week. British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd, arriving for the meetings here, told reporters that such a surprise proposal was "certainly possible."

Board of Control Rejects Building Bids

Salem - (UP) - The board of Control has rejected all eight bids for a new food service and kitchen building at MacLaren School for Boys as too high. It ordered plans for the structure referred to the architect again for further trimming.

Brookings - (UP) - Vernon Herbert Ait, 40, engineer for the State Highway Department, took his own life Tuesday with a pistol, police reported.

Pilot, Crewmen Defect From Cuba

Miami, Fla. - (UP) - A Cuban pilot flying a four-engine passenger plane from Havana to Miami Tuesday on a regular run announced with Latin flourish over the plane's radio that he, two other crewmen and a passenger were defecting from the Cuban government.

The four men sought political refuge in the United States as soon as the plane, a Cubana Airlines turbo-prop Viscount, landed here.

Immigration authorities identified the four as Gonzalo Herrera, the pilot; Pedro E. Montero, co-pilot; Francisco Monnar, purser; and Angel E. Lopez, a passenger.

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