

Man's Inability To Control Self Cited by Seaton

Terre Haute, Ind. — (UPI) — Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton says that man's inability to control himself is the "one great hurdle" remaining for his total fulfillment on this earth.

Seaton spoke at the annual commencement at Rose Polytechnic Institute, an engineering school, and received an honorary degree.

"Man has made great progress despite all the doubters and derogators," Seaton said. "The truth is that the world today, hazardous and imperfect though it may be, is much better world than ever before. We have only to look about us for convincing evidence of that conclusion, whether we are considering matters of the spirit, of culture, or of a material kind."

Public Consciousness
"Today there exists the highest degree ever of public consciousness as to the value of scientific and technological endeavor. Nature's as yet undiscovered secrets are still so many and so formidable as to dwarf present human knowledge."

Seaton cited as an example of "the forward march of science and technology" his department's program to find a good and cheap method of converting salt water into fresh. Dr. Ralph Morgen, president of Rose Poly, is chairman of a government board working on the problem.

Seaton said that "water in ample supply would become our No. 1 domestic problem inside of 20 years." He said in 1952 the cost of converting salt water was above \$4 per thousand gallons and is expected to be less than \$1 when a conversion plant is in operation at Freeport, Tex.

New Methods Developed
"We have good reason to believe that . . . the cost of conversion would be less than 50 cents," Seaton said. "Entirely new methods, holding promise of even lower conversion costs, are under development."

Seaton urged the graduates to work toward "an environment of freedom for scientific inquiry and technological advance."

"Always we must be on guard against the centralization of education, in whatever guise," he said, "lest those in control have the opportunity to turn out a nation of carbon copies of themselves. The death of individualism could lead only to intellectual stagnation, if not to regimentation and thus to the ultimate destruction of our freedom."

Explosion of Dynamite High Over U.S. Planned

Washington — (UPI) — Military space scientists plan to explode a quarter-ton of dynamite in a balloon high over the United States next spring. It has been reported.

The weekly publication "Science Trends," said the purpose of the blast will be to find out what happens when high explosives are set off in the stratosphere.

The publication said a 300-foot balloon will be used to carry the big explosive package some 25 to 30 miles above the earth's surface. It said the balloon probably will be launched from the White Sands Missile range in New Mexico.

'Project Banshee'
The test, known as "Project Banshee," is being planned by Army, Air Force and Navy research teams under the direction of the Defense Atomic Support Agency.

"Science Trends" said strict safety measures will be taken to prevent loss of the balloon or an accidental explosion over populated areas. Checking this closely will be the Federal Aviation Agency, which polices the safety of the nation's airways.

The 500 pounds of TNT will be set off by an electrical signal from the ground. Then a complex series of instruments will measure effects of the blast in the rarified atmosphere.

Important Bearing
The publication said the tests could have an important bearing to current anti-missile defense planning and also to steps being studied to counter "unfriendly" or spy satellites.

The United States has made several tests in which rockets carried nuclear explosive high above the earth. These include the "Argus," "Teak" and "Orange" experiments in the Pacific.

However, the 1961 "Banshee" tests will be the first over the continental United States, the first to use conventional explosives and the first to be carried by balloon.



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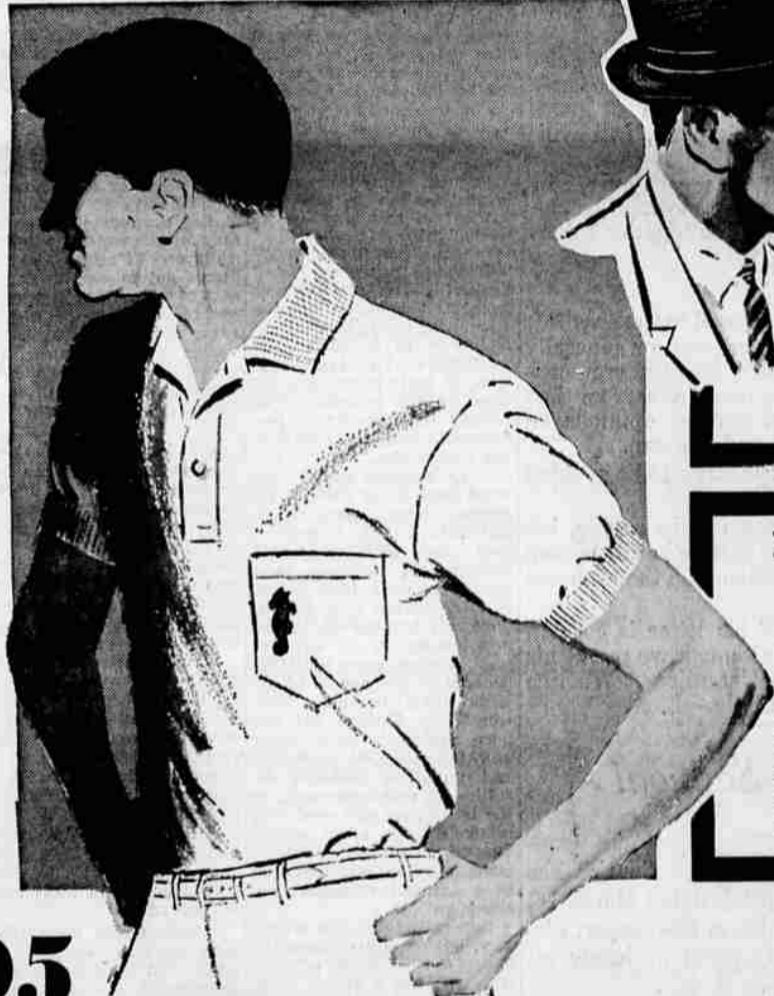
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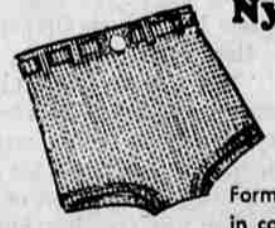
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