

## Introducing Brooms With Long Handles Called Major Project in India

By PATRICK J. KILLEN  
 United Press International  
 New Delhi—UPI—If India's army of house and street sweepers ever march into history stiff-backed and proud, the credit should go to Prime Minister Nehru and India's leading American housewife. Both Nehru and Mrs. Ellsworth Bunker, wife of the American ambassador to India, are attempting to straighten up the sweepers by putting long handled brooms in their hands.

For centuries, India's lowly sweepers have bent forward from the hips or squatted to use their short, handleless brooms. The result has been generations of bent-backed sweepers, their lungs coated with dust.

**Local Legend**  
 According to a local legend, the position of India's sweepers was first called to Nehru's attention by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt on one of her trips to India. Whatever the incentive, the hardworking prime minister went after the problem in earnest this year.

In a letter sent on June 12, Nehru instructed the chief ministers of India's 15 states "to take up this matter with your municipalities and corporations and insist on long handled brooms . . . being given to their staff of cleaners, etc."

The prime minister wrote that all over the world long handled brooms are used. "Why then do we carry on with a primitive, out-of-date method which is inefficient and psychologically wrong? Bending down in this way to sweep is physically more tiring and encourages a certain subservience in mind."

**Became Interested**  
 Mrs. Bunker told United Press International she first became interested in the problem shortly after her arrival in 1957. Her sweeper—a vital cog in any Indian household—used a typical Indian broom, a two-foot bundle of bamboo splinters tied together at one end.

Mrs. Bunker promptly gave her sweeper a long handled American broom and a few instructions. Today the sweeper handles the broom like an upright housewife.

For the past three years, Mrs. Bunker has spent her spare time developing an impressive variety of Indian-made long handle brooms. Working with her have been an Indian broom maker, a furniture manufacturer and the Vivekananda Horticulture Research laboratory at Almora which grew broom corn at her request.

The Ambassador's lady turned over five long handled samples to the president of the All India Women's Congress last March. She also encouraged American housewives in India to have their

servants use the stand up models.

To date, the progress has been encouraging. As the result of Nehru's letter, the Punjab state government has ordered staff members to use the long handles and the Delhi municipal corporation is conducting trial sweeps.

The Times of India has suggested that sweepers themselves take the initiative. In an editorial, the newspaper said, "They (sweepers) must insist that the next time they take the floor, it shall be with a handle of some respectable length. Only thus can they ensure that the government succeeds in carrying out what will no doubt be its most sweeping reform to date."

## Mansfield Wants Newsmen in China

Washington—UPI—Senate Democratic whip Mike Mansfield (Mont) has urged that the State Department use the Edgar Parks Snow case as a springboard to get more American reporters into Red China.

Snow, representing the Cowles publications and Look magazine, was cleared by Washington and Peiping last month to go behind the Bamboo curtain which has effectively barred a host of other applicants.

Mansfield told United Press International the State Department should now vigorously renew negotiations with China to permit entry of the U.S. newsmen or else establish a system of exchange.

The Montanan argued that national interests would be served by having impartial American newsmen reporting first hand on developments in Communist China. He said the present system of relying on British newsmen and listening posts outside the Chinese mainland "is wholly inadequate."

## Actor Tony Curtis Plans Country Club

Hollywood—UPI—Actor Tony Curtis and his wife Janet Leigh plan to build a country club in Palm Springs.

Curtis said today he and his wife purchased the 38-unit Desert Sides Hotel for \$600,000 and planned to spend \$1.5 million to remodel it. Their plans also call for easing of 40 acres of land next to the hotel, he said.

## TYPHOON SUBSIDIES

Taipei—UPI—Torrential rains from Typhoon Shirley forced 10,800 persons, including 120 Americans, from their homes here Sunday night, police said. Rain still was falling today but the worst of the storm was believed over.

# Agricultural Attaches Are Among Most Important U.S. Officials Abroad

By GAYLORD P. GODWIN  
 United Press International

Washington—UPI—Agricultural attaches are among the more important officials the United States maintains abroad. They are so regarded by the agriculture department.

The principal functions of an agricultural attache are to report on agricultural production, trade policy, and market development.

In short, he is representative of the American farmer abroad. He works constantly to find markets and promote good will for American farm products.

The United States is the world's biggest exporter and the second biggest importer of agricultural products. This fact makes the work of the attache of utmost importance.

The American farmer and farm industry are dependent to a large degree on foreign markets, and the American consumer is dependent on many agricultural products that are not grown domestically.

To keep American farm products and trade interests alert to the agricultural situation in all parts of the world is a job which falls largely on the shoulders of the attache.

The attache has to hunt markets for American goods. He is busy with agricultural reporting and analysis, trade promotion and market development. He negotiates with foreign governments. He advises the American ambassador. He assists official visitors and traders. He tries to break down trade barriers, and he reports dangerous infestations and outbreaks of such epidemics as foot-and-mouth disease in animals.

The United States always has been vitally interested in agricultural conditions in foreign countries. Even during colonial and revolutionary times, diplomats, scientists,

and travelers made it their business to find and to bring back seeds or animals that showed promise of adapting to American climate and soil. As U.S. agriculture developed, farmers became even more interested in finding new strains to improve crops and livestock. And as agricultural production increased, farm and government leaders turned to the problem of finding and developing markets for U.S. abundance.

**Important Mission**  
 At all times, of course, diplomats, agricultural explorers, special agents, agricultural commissioners, and finally agricultural attaches have cer-

ried out an important mission. Today the American agricultural attache serves his country with a degree of technical competence and broad agricultural knowledge that is unmatched in history.

Christopher Columbus took samples of tobacco back to Spain after his voyage in 1492. But the credit for initiating the first American agricultural export industry goes to John Rolfe, husband of Pocahontas, who shipped American tobacco to England in 1613.

In 1770, Benjamin Franklin sent mulberry cuttings and silkworm eggs home to Pennsylvania from England, hop-

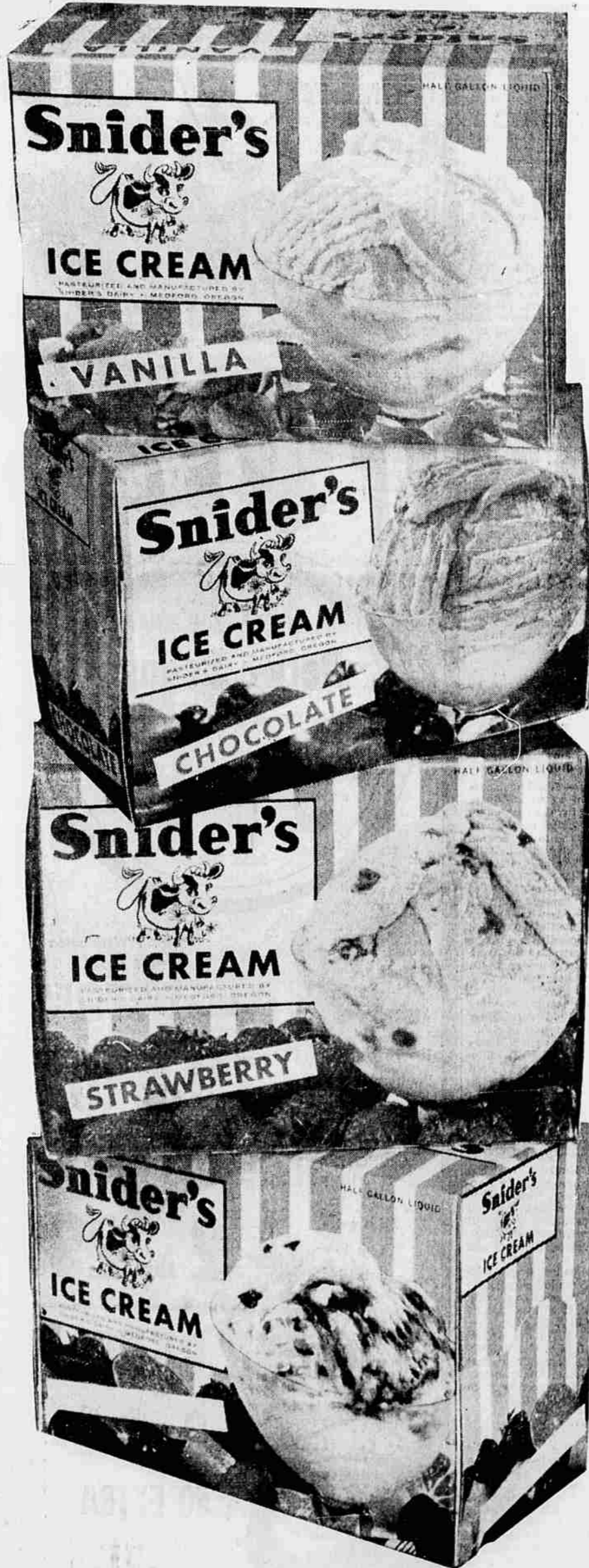
ing to create a silk industry. Other diplomats emulated Franklin by sending home foreign varieties of seeds and animals for development in the new country.

These early emissaries act-

## CONSULATE MADE EMBASSY

Washington—UPI—The American Consulate at Abidjan, Ivory Coast, will become an embassy Aug. 7 and will represent the United States to each of four neighboring countries becoming independent—the republics of Dahomey, Niger, Upper Volta and Ivory Coast—the State Department announced Saturday.

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