

# Nixon Sees Need for Public To Receive Scientific Education

Washington (Science Service)—The need for scientific education for the public is critical and urgent, Vice President Richard M. Nixon told Science Service in an exclusive statement.

A general public with "a high degree of scientific literacy" is as necessary for the maintenance of the national scientific effort as are highly trained scientists and engineers, he said.

Science and technology play an increasingly important role in political, economic and social areas. Public understanding of the interrelationship is essential to support for "sound, long-term national policies and programs." The Vice President stressed the importance of achieving bal-

ance in education in the fields of both science and the humanities in order to produce citizens capable of meeting the challenge of this new age.

**Text of Statement**

"We must avoid turning out future generations of scientific materialists or automatons," he warned. "By balancing scientific and humane education, our aim must be men and women in every field who are ready to assume the total responsibility of citizenship in a free society."

Following is the complete text of the Vice President's statement:

Nothing could be more obvious than the impact of science and technology on our national life—indeed, on our very survival.

But because our attention is focused so largely on the dramatic and the spectacular—on satellites and missiles and space exploration—we may tend to lose sight of the almost routine inter-relationship of scientific advance and our day-to-day lives: in the fields of health and nutrition, communications of every form, business and industry, and all the processes of an abundant and positive living standard. The potentials opened to us by our material convenience and our cultural growth—are limitless.

This close and constant interrelationship raises two great problems for all of us. The first, of course, is the critical need to train scientists and engineers, skilled in the latest developments of this new and revolutionary age and prepared to push still further ahead.

**Decisions Involved**

But there is a second and equally important area of concern. We also need scientific education for the general public. If our national scientific effort is to be maintained, the American people must have deeper motivations than simply a desire for immediate practical benefits. This new age will require of the public generally a high degree of scientific literacy and the blending of science into our

total culture and way of life. Increasingly, major national decisions—political, economic, and social—involve scientific and technological decisions. Obtaining adequate public support for projects with obvious military value is relatively easy. But we need a high level of public understanding to develop sound, long-term national policies and programs. It is not a question of making every citizen into a scientist; what we must try to do is provide for the non-scientist the insight and understanding with respect to science that we have historically sought to give all our citizens in the general field of the humanities. What we need is continued public support for basic research.

This will require a judicious sense of balance. We must avoid turning out future generations of scientific materialists or automatons. By balancing scientific and humane education, our aim must be men and women in every field who are ready to assume the total responsibilities of citizenship in a free society.

**View Held by Scientists**

This, I find, is a view which is held by all our top scientists. They well recognize the need for highly trained scientists and engineers if we are to maintain our position of world leadership. But we must not and will not depend on forced-draft or on arbitrary selection. The scientists and engineers who have contributed so much to America's greatness chose their careers freely. They realized the importance of this work; they

were challenged by its vast frontiers; they saw its opportunities and were willing to undergo the rigorous preparation. They made their choice with greater freedom than is allowed anywhere else in the world. This is the crucial ingredient of America's scientific and technological greatness up to now—and so it must continue to be.

**Recklessness Major Cause of Accidents**

Washington—Half the boating accidents last year were due to recklessness, safety authorities said in their annual pre-season warning.

These were the other causes of major boating accidents:

Obstructions, 10 per cent; overloading, 8 per cent; fire and explosion, 8 per cent; failure to display lights, 6 per cent; and miscellaneous, 18 per cent.

**Always Room for One More in Jail**

Minneapolis — No, thanks, Hamilton Smith said when the judge sentenced him to jail—"The weather is too good right now and anyway the prisons are full."

The judge gave him three months inside anyway for maliciously smashing a plate glass window.

The bold country look will be yours this fall in new diversified sport coats. A whole new world of authentic tartan plaids will represent the newest.



REPUBLICAN HUDDLE—Republican Presidential and Vice Presidential Nominees Richard Nixon and Henry Cabot Lodge talk over campaign strategy with President Eisenhower during a visit to the President's summer White House at Newport, R.I., Tuesday. (UPI Telephoto)

## New Telegraphic Idea Undergoes Final Tests

Washington (Science Service)—An electronic transmission method that reduces telegraph and data transmission costs 60 per cent is now undergoing final tests.

Named "thin route tropo," because only a thin radio band is needed to carry signals to their destination, the new system uses tropospheric scatter—a method of bouncing radio signals off the troposphere, several miles above the earth—as the main transmission method.

Previous scatter equipments have been thick route systems engineered for multi-voice channel capacity. This includes the world's longest one-hop scatter system, a 700-mile Air Force message carrier in the Arctic.

**Reduces Power Cost**

Unlike the Arctic design, which uses 120-foot antennas, the "thin route" employs an antenna only four feet wide and eight feet high, weighing less than 50 pounds. The new system on the 152-mile route between here and General Electric Company in Lynchburg, Va., also brings to many thousands of watts of power necessary for the thick route designs.

Chief use of the new concept in the immediate future will be for teletype-data transmission by Federal agencies and military services. Although these are the only ones that can now apply for frequencies, in the future TRT might be available for commercial applications.

## 'Big Foot' Goal of Explorer Expedition in California

"Big Foot," either mythical or real, was the goal of a recent expedition into the rugged northern California region southwest of Happy Camp, Calif., by six Valley Explorer Scouts and two Scout leaders.

The group from Ashland Post 115, sponsored by the Latter Day Saints church, left early July 26 with a several-days supply of equipment and food. They first started for Bluff creek, a primitive area south of Happy Camp.

Their aim was to prove or disprove "the stories circulating about a king size version of a man-like beast roaming the wilderness area of Humboldt county," according to Advisor Ken Westwood.

**Leave Main Road**

Members drove to an area near Orleans, then left the main road to venture up Bluff creek. They made camp about 15 to 20 miles above the forks where the creek empties into the Klamath river.

Early the next morning, the explorers searched the creek area south of the camp, but found nothing except deer tracks and, occasionally, signs of bears.

In the afternoon, Keith Davis, another Scout leader, drove Westwood up the creek to a point about three miles above camp, where Westwood started down the canyon walls in search of possible evidence that might lead to the discovery of "Big Foot." According to Westwood, there were very few places in the stream bed where tracks would be left by any animal, and "... it was a very difficult and tedious

job working downstream."

In his own words, "The first two miles produced little sign of interest, but near the point where Westwood had decided to give up the search, he 'hit pay dirt.' Upon fording the stream to examine a short stretch of sandy beach, there ... embedded in the smooth sand was an enormous print of what appeared to be the fore part of a human track."

Thinking that this might only be a bear track, Westwood then proceeded over a pile of smaller rocks in the general direction the tracks seemed to lead. He found several faint prints, then found clear prints in the sand of the "creature."

According to the delegation, the tracks measured 15 inches long, 7 inches wide in front, and 5 inches wide at the heel. The length of the stride was 4 feet. They appeared to be shaped like a human foot, they added.

Examination of the prints showed that their depth in the moist packed sand could have only been made with enormous weight. A 200-pound man standing next to them could scarcely indent the ground beside the tracks, Westwood said. The animal-human tracks were embedded about 3/4 of an inch.

**Return to Area**

Returning to the area the next morning, the explorers attempted to record on film the "amazing" tracks. In backtracking the area, other similar tracks were found along the entire sand bar. Puzzling the investigators

were two things: (1) the tracks were in a straight line, not staggered as a man's tracks; and (2) the sand across the soft bar had been smoothed over as if by a willow branch for about eight feet.

Westwood said the smoothing had been done by humans either for the purpose of eliminating existing tracks so clear prints could be obtained or it had been smoothed off preparatory to leaving "fraudulent" prints of the legendary beast.

In either case, there is still a difference of opinion among the members of the exploring party, he continued. He concluded that only further and more conclusive evidence will determine whether or not "Big Foot" is a myth or a fact.

Reports of the human-like animal have been heard during the last few years, and articles about it have been written in True magazine and Humboldt county newspapers. Reports say that tracks have been seen from 14 to 18 inches in length.

Asked if he thought it was a joke, Westwood said he believed the tracks but wouldn't believe that the animal existed until he saw it. If, he emphasized, it is just a hoax, "they sure went to a lot of trouble."

A group spokesman said they talked with an Indian youth near the track site who said their Indian tribe had never seen the animal, although they believed it existed and had never entered its hunting grounds.

After returning Friday night, members of the group said they intended to make another trip to the area to try to locate more evidence, or the "beast" itself.

Making the trip were Keith Davis and Ken Westwood, advisors; Dallen Bounds, Fred Lisbonbee, Stanley Tobiason, Billy Brumble, Arthur Winter, and Dennis Elder.

## First Evidence Found for Dots in Sunspots

Washington (Science Service)—The first clear photographic evidence that sunspots, dark-appearing regions on the solar surface, contain white gaseous dots has been obtained from a balloon flown high above the earth's surface.

The photograph was taken by a Princeton University astronomy team, headed by Dr. Martin Schwarzschild, during the final balloon observations last Sept. 24. Earlier flights during last summer produced the clearest sequence of photographs ever taken of the solar surface and the areas immediately surrounding sunspots.

Because sunspots are more than a thousand degrees cooler than the sun's visible surface, or photosphere, they produce much less visible light. A different film was therefore used in the telescope-camera during the final flight to bring out the characteristics of the umbra, or main dark section.

**Convection Cells**

The white dots in the sunspot are believed to be less than 200 miles in diameter, compared to the 8,000-mile diameter of the umbra in which they were found. The dots may be convection cells.

Although previous astronomical observations had suggested the existence of such dots, clear photographic evidence had never before been obtained.

The photographs were taken with STRATOSCOPE I, a 12-inch balloon-borne telescope launched from Lake Elmo, Minn., in a project jointly supported by the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research.

## Woman Got Cussing—She Needed It

Casper, Wyo. — A woman complained a city employee used abusive language after giving her car "a good whack" with a broom.

City Manager Henry Rolfe said a street employee admitted "cussing" the woman.

He told Rolfe he lost his temper only after the woman: "Drove around a 'do not enter' sign, drove over freshly-painted parking area stripes and rammed him from behind, knocking him to the pavement. He said his broom flew into the air and landed on the car.

The matter was dropped.

## Faith in Science Urged Despite Predicted Dangers

London (Science Service) — Do not disrupt your work by worry over a devastating nuclear war or over world starvation from the population explosion. Have faith in science.

This is the advice given scientists by Sir Cyril Hinshelwood in his address as president of the Royal society at its tercentenary meeting here.

Faith in science, Sir Cyril told his colleagues, is not incompatible with other kinds of faith. He said that there seems to be no inconsistency in believing that scientific knowledge is itself one of the great instruments of higher ends.

Sir Cyril predicted that in the future a great upheaval of ideas may well cause a complete re-orientation of science in relation to philosophy and to the conceptions of possible worlds.

He said the Royal society's responsibility is to work as a smaller creative community within the larger its members have responsibility to mankind in general as well as to their native country and the Royal society.

The most original minds, Sir Cyril said, are those who continue the work done by their predecessors and whose own work is fulfilled by their successors.

He said that this trait is true not only of genius but of all men. This continuity is the stuff of history and is what the Royal society honors at its tercentenary celebration.

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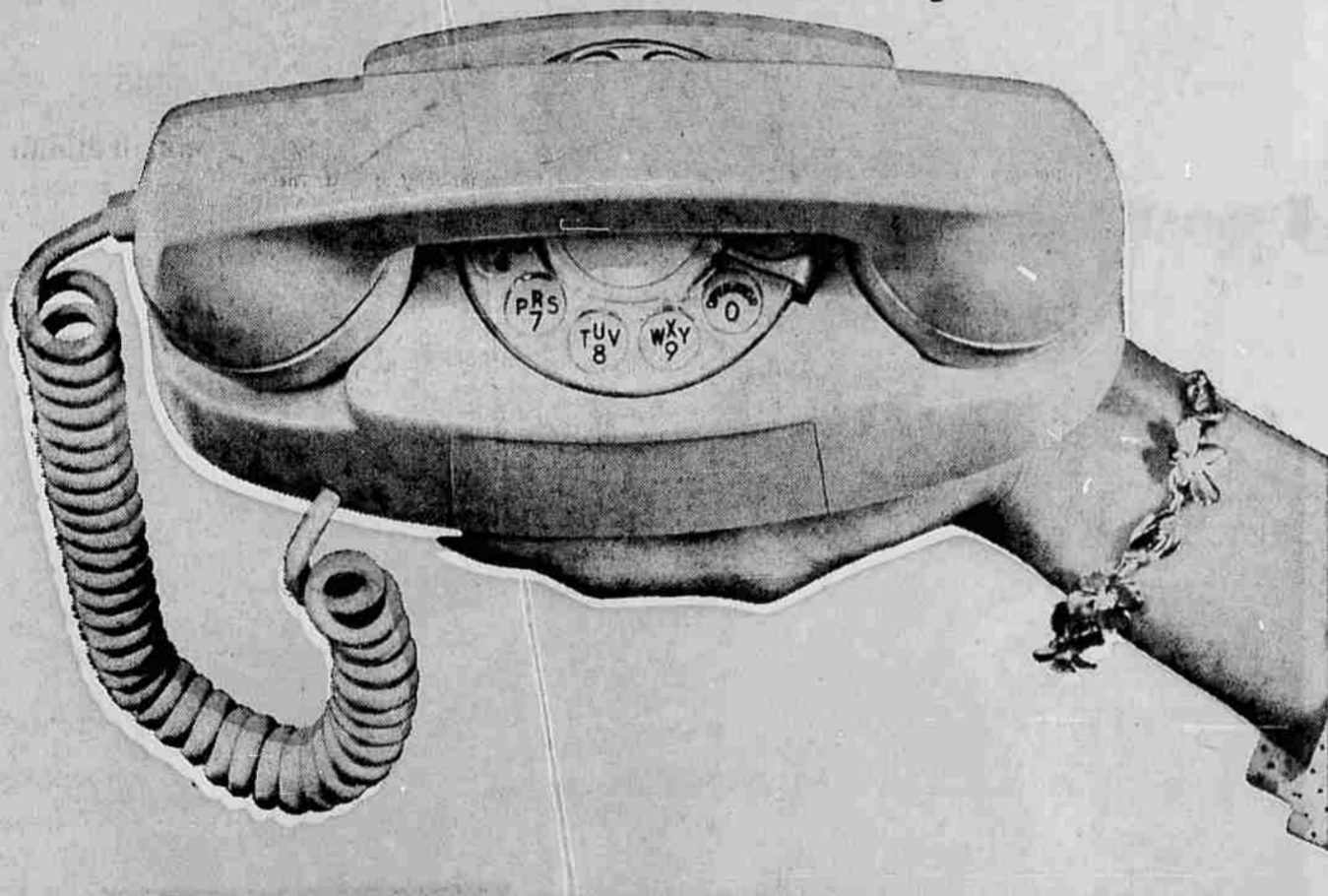
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