

Economic Vigor Makes West Berlin Better Able To Withstand Blockade

Berlin - (UPI) - During the 1948-1949 blockade West Berliners got four hours of electricity daily - two hours in the day and two at night.

A holiday dinner consisted of canned meat and dried potatoes. A 10-pound goose cost \$75 on the black market, if it could be found.

People crowded into "warming centers" because they had no heat at home. The "warming centers" were unused barracks, air raid shelters and restaurants provided with coal so Berliners could keep warm.

Children got so used to powdered milk they refused to drink the real thing when the blockade ended.

All that was long ago, but it is still remembered vividly. Talk to a Berliner about economic conditions and he'll mention food, electricity, coal.

West Berlin today is in a stronger economic condition than at any time since the war. This can be expressed in terms of gross national product, industrial production, employment figures.

But to the average West Berliner it means a glittering modern city with elegant

shops displaying goods from all over the world, shiny cars, huge new factories, bustling banks, swank restaurants.

It meant the ability to withstand a new blockade or the threat of one.

Have Morale

Politically, it means that 2,200,000 people have the morale and the determination to oppose Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's demand that the city be made ripe for a Communist take-over by stripping it of western troops.

The Berlin crisis, now more than two years old, has failed to shatter either the isolated outpost's economy or morale.

Last year was even better than 1959, and 1961 should be even better than 1960.

To Mayor Willy Brandt the city's economic boom is proof that West Berlin is not a center of unrest as the Communists claim.

He correctly points out that West Berliners want to live and develop in peace, that they will do nothing to provoke incidents that could threaten their well being.

The Berlin boom is best illustrated by the unemployment figures.

In 1950 the city had 310,000 unemployed. For every 19 persons employed there were 10 others seeking a job.

Those who hoped unemployment could be reduced to 100,000 were considered visionaries.

Last year unemployment shrank from 32,000 to 27,000 - just about everyone who wanted a job had one.

Industrial production climbed to a new high and gained more than in West Germany.

Here are other proofs of the city's economic health: -Gross product increased 13 per cent to \$2.9 billion.

Industrial turnover increased 14 per cent to \$2.1 billion.

Savings deposits increased, so did real estate sales and Berlin stocks more than held their own in the unprecedented German market boom.

All this, Mayor Brandt asserts, shows that the Soviet campaign to isolate the city has failed and West Berlin is thriving as never before.

Economics in Berlin, even more than in other places, is closely tied to politics, and Brandt says the gains could not have been made "without the good friends who protect us."

He meant that if the slightest doubt had existed of western determination to stand by the city there would have been a flight of labor, capital and savings to the West.

Brandt's handling of the Berlin crisis brought the 47-year-old mayor into the center of German politics, and the Social Democratic party chose Brandt as its candidate to run against West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in the parliamentary elections in September.

Brandt is elected chancellor, the city will be hard pressed to replace him.

Brandt's deputy, Franz Amrehn, is extremely able and popular. But he is a Christian Democrat like Adenauer and West Berliners usually vote Socialist.

Amrehn, like most West Berlin political leaders, puts the interests of the city above those of his national party and he often has supported Brandt in quarrels with Adenauer. This has not hurt him in Berlin.

Grants Pass - The Illinois Valley and Grants Pass and Josephine County Chambers of Commerce have announced that the name selected for a new lake three miles from Lake Selmac.

The name was submitted by Arthur Cribb, Kerby, and was selected because of "the nostalgic value and the future promotional possibilities of such a name."

The chambers said there were 572 entries submitted. People submitting entries said they wished to use the new facilities for fishing, swimming, and other types of outdoor recreation.

Dedication of the 160-surface-acre lake will be held in the spring.

Josephine Lake Named by Chambers

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Men in Japan Like Being Called 'Strong Drinkers'

Tokyo - (UPI) - A thumbnail sketch of a new cabinet minister or a new president of a giant industrial firm often says he is "a strong drinker."

This is not meant to be derogatory in Japan, but is an expression of envy of the man in question.

In Japan, any man who is a heavy drinker and can hold his liquor is a "real man" and a very highly respected man.

This common admiration probably started from an expression coined by someone many, many years ago when

he said, "Heroes love women and liquor."

There is, for instance, Masanori Fukushima who probably is better known today because he was a strong drinker than because he was one of the leading lords under Hideyoshi Toyotomi in medieval Japan.

Just recently a television master of ceremonies wrote an article about Shinichi Yanagisawa, popular young singer and television actor. He devoted considerable space telling how Yanagisawa could drink beer, whisky and what not at one sitting and out-drink anybody.

The writer, Teiho Ichiryusai, probably would be sued for libel if he were in some other country than Japan. But it is quite possible that Yanagisawa felt very flattered and thanked the author for the publicity given him.

Roundtable television and radio interviews by reporters and commentators with personalities in politics, the business world or the theater, inevitably mention the "drinking ability" of their subjects.

Envy and admiration of the men who can hold their liquor may very likely stem from the fact that there are

so many drunkards in this country. You see them sleeping on the benches at railway stations when they should be home in bed.

Even the laws are lenient with persons who have committed crimes while "under the influence of liquor."

One person was acquitted of a murder charge because he pleaded he was drunk and did not know what he was doing.

But there is a movement, with women in the forefront, demanding stiff punishment for lawbreakers who give drunkenness as their excuse.

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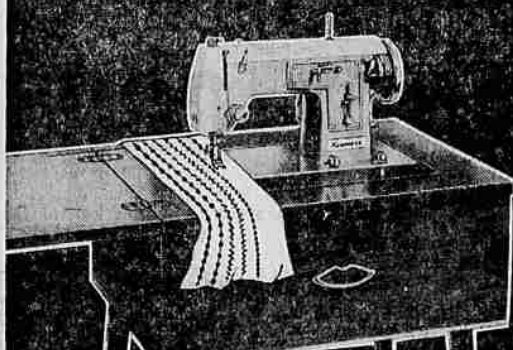
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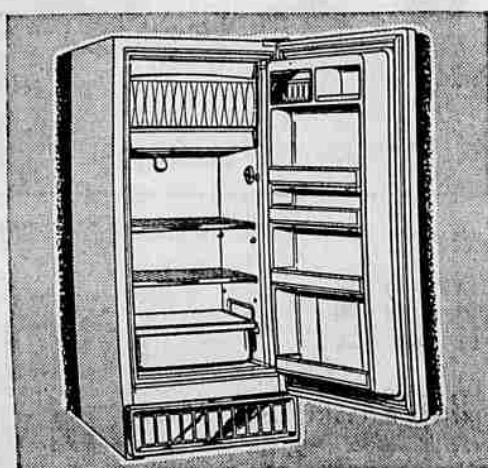
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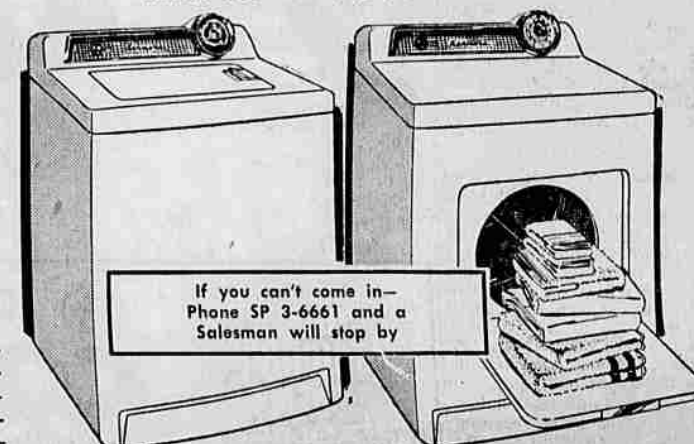
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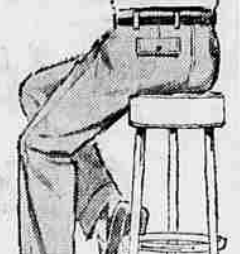
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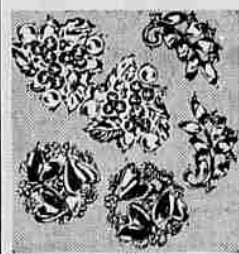
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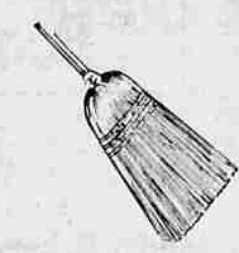
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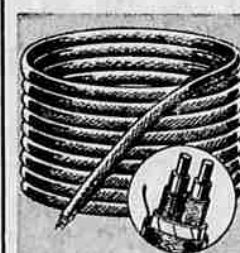
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