

American Liberty Said Threatened by Electronic Devices

San Francisco - (UPI) - A builder of electronic computers warns that the most insidious peril facing American liberty today is the memory and storage computer.

Bernard S. Benson told the Society of Technical Writers and Publishers, Americans don't realize it, but more and more information about them is being stored in some electronic memory bank.

Benson, president of the Benson-Lehner Corp., Santa Monica, Calif., predicted the day will come when every scrap of information will be collected and fed into one giant machine.

School Records Listed

"Your FBI record, your childhood diseases and the attitudes of your parents will be available," he said. As if that weren't enough, throw in "your school records, employment records, tax records, contributions to charity and even the records of your charge accounts and credit cards."

With that, Benson added, the individual's privacy will be at the mercy of who or what controls the machine.

He pointed out that while individually each record is helpful in maintaining health, reducing crime, getting work and providing other reasonable data, together they form an almost embarrassing intimate picture of each American.

Benson was pessimistic about the future. He said Americans either didn't realize, didn't care, or both, that their hard won privacy was being stripped from them layer by layer.

Like Coming From God

In driving home how incredibly dangerous he thought computers could be, Benson said:

"If I make a statement about someone, you may or

may not believe it. If I write it in an article, you'll believe it more. In a book it becomes nearly sacrosanct. But if the statement comes from a computer — mama mia, its like coming from God!"

The machines have to be controlled, but Benson does not have much hope "because the average slob doesn't seem to care and it's hard to convince him mechanical efficiency is the great enemy of freedom."

Urban Affairs Department Planned

Washington - (UPI) - President Kennedy was expected to ask Congress today to set up a new Cabinet-rank Department of Urban Affairs to oversee problems of housing and transporting Americans.

It was reported the message envisions shifting the Housing and Home Finance Agency into the new department. It would try to solve the need for mass transportation systems in metropolitan areas.

Kennedy said in his March 9 housing message to Congress he would recommend such a department, in view of the fact that "urban and suburban areas now contain the overwhelming majority of our population."

Trade Association Conference Opens

Portland - (UPI) - The 45th general conference of the Pacific Northwest Trade Association opened at the Multnomah Hotel today.

Gov. Mark Hatfield, Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges, and Gerald W. Frank are among the speakers on the two-day program.

Secretary Hodges will give a luncheon address Tuesday.

Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mrs. B. D. - The doctor wants him to get psychiatric help in a hospital.

Hugh N. - I'm afraid if I go in, I'll never get out.

Mrs. B. D. - Hugh is my cousin and, since he has no one else in the East here, I'm his next-of-kin. He's only 38, but he looks and acts as though his best years are behind him. In the past year he's been going downhill physically and emotionally.

Six years ago his one big love affair went snafu. He buried himself in his job and withdrew from meeting people. Although he visited my husband and me frequently, I could never get him to parties or dances. He lives alone in a residence club.

Lately he's been treated by our doctor for a combination of symptoms such as insomnia, high blood pressure, and indigestion. Two weeks ago he was referred to a psychiatrist who says he's acutely depressed and should be treated in a hospital for a couple of weeks. After that, he can be helped by psychoanalysis.

But Hugh hit the ceiling at the word "hospital." He says he'll take a cruise instead and be okay.

Hugh N. - I'm ready to agree that the root of my aches and pains may very well be the heavy blues which I can't seem to shake off. But I'd rather try another psychiatrist, one who wouldn't insist that I enter a hospital. Or maybe I can lick this with an ocean voyage, or a month on a farm. But my cousin wants me to check into the hospital and have it over with.

And that's exactly what I'm afraid of - that it'll be over with forever, so far as my chances are of getting out are concerned! Once they get you into those places they forget about you and let you rot. I ought to be able to be helped on the outside, like others.

The psychiatrist said I need some preliminary conditioning before he can work with me, and that this can only be obtained in a hospital. He mentioned tranquilizers and electro-shock treatment. But I'm not that sick! I don't need the men in the white coats. I'm not a psycho, just a sad sack.

The Council: Hugh is laboring under some old-fashioned bugaboos about psychiatric treatment in hospitals. Gone for the most part are the "snake-pits" and locked wards. In fact, more and more of our general hospitals now accept psychiatric patients on the same basis as they do surgical and medical cases.

The old and enormous mental hospital may soon be an anachronism. At any rate, no new ones are being built. Nowadays, a man like Hugh should be able to sign in at a general hospital in his vicinity. Of 180 large general institutions (over 500 beds), 80 per cent now admit patients for psychiatric treatment.

To hearten Hugh further, the emphasis is upon short-term therapy. The doctors are as eager to get them out, and on to outpatient care, as he is to get out himself. The usual procedure includes a quick intensive attack on the disabling phase of the illness, and then discharge and transfer to the case-load of a clinic or private psychiatrist. The average stay is three or four weeks.

It's too bad that the general public, Hugh and Mrs. D. included, don't know the drastic shifts in hospital treatment of mental and emotional disabilities. In addition to the relaxations mentioned above there are "day passes" for keeping a patient on his job, and "night passes" to permit him time at home with his family during the treatment period.

The good word for Hugh is that he can go in and out of a hospital and be treated as matter-of-factly for mental illness as for colitis. Even better, mental illness is one of the most curable ailments.

4-H News

Reese Creek Renegades The meeting of the Reese Creek Renegades 4-H club was held April 12 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall. We studied parts of sheep. Andy Northrup gave a report on animal breeding and Steve Marshall gave a report on Shorthorn breed.

Mrs. Marshall served refreshments. The next meeting will be April 28 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Moore. Dennis Phillips, Reporter.

Poor Forest Land Management Topic Of OSC Engineer

Forest management of poorly cut-over land or poor forest land was explained Friday at a meeting of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association.

Intensive forest management of approximately 11,000 acres of lands owned and managed by the school of forestry, Oregon State college, are now yielding between 2 1/2 to 3 million board feet of lumber annually, and netted approximately \$30,000 after operational costs were deducted last year.

These statistics were presented by William Davies, head of the forest engineering department, Oregon State college.

Such management methods are now being followed by Elk Lumber company on land obtained from the California Oregon Power company in the Prospect area.

Davies has been with OSC for 15 years, and has served as forest engineer and manager of the school forest lands for the last two years.

Largest tract under his management is the 6,800 acre McDonald forest, and the next largest the Paul Dunn tract of about 4,000 acres, formerly part of Camp Adair near Corvallis. Other forest

lands include the Blodgett tract, 2,200 acres, and a 160-acre parcel on Mary's peak.

Use priority of the lands includes education, research and operational. Davies said this requires coordination of thinning, salvage and reforestation operations with other college uses of lands.

Marvin Rowley, contract logger who logs the land under contract with the school of forestry, assisted Davies in discussing a series of slides depicting forest conditions and logging practices.

Davies explained that all production came from thinning or salvage operations es-

tablished in a 10-year program. At the end of this program a more complete logging job will be done on the mature stands. He anticipates 6 million board feet of allowable annual cut would be possible on a sustained yield basis.

Thinning operations on 20 to 25-year-old stands is on an experimental basis, the forestry engineer said. It costs about \$100 an acre, and would not be economical for a private land owner, unless timber stands were in the 35-year-range, he added. However, it might be possible to absorb thinning costs in an-

icipation of increased growth and yield from the remaining stand of trees "released," he pointed out.

Both Davies and Rowley favor use of crawler tractors in thinning or salvage operations over horse logging. This is contrary to some foresters' opinions.

But they defended their stand on the basis that a tractor with blade operated by a competent man with a conservation attitude was more efficient and economical.

"Very little slash burning is done," Davies said, "except in areas where unusual amounts of slash are encoun-

tered and in areas where slash is piled and burned, usually right at the time of logging, if weather permits."

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