

PRESS CONFERENCE

West Answers Self on Problems Of Covering Astronaut's Welcome

By DICK WEST

Washington — (UPI) — I spent several hours Monday trying to get around to all the places where Astronaut Alan Shepard was receiving the capital's acclaim for his ride into space.

When it was over, I sat down and held a news conference with myself, during which I asked myself the types of questions that Shepard faced everywhere he went.

The transcript of this session, known in space language as "de-briefing," went like this:

Q. What do you consider the most dangerous part of your experience in covering the astronaut's visit to Washington?

A. I would say the critical point came as I was trying to get across Memorial Bridge in the morning rush hour traffic. A wrong turn at this time would have put me in orbit around the Pentagon. In fact, I could have wound up in the Pentagon.

Q. What did you think about during that long countdown by the traffic cop on Independence ave.?

A. Actually, I didn't have time to think about anything. I was busy with my radio controls, trying to bring in a station that wasn't playing a Bobby Darin record.

Q. At what point did you experience the greatest stress?

Minimum Teacher Salaries Approved

Salem — (UPI) — A bill to increase salary minimums for teachers, thought to be dead in the Senate State and Federal Affairs Committee, Tuesday won 25-3 approval on the Senate floor and went to the House.

SB60 by Sen. Al Flegel (D-Roseburg) would set these new minimums:

—\$3,500 a year for those with less than a bachelor's degree. The present minimum is \$3,400.

—\$3,000 instead of \$2,700 for those with a BA.

—\$42,000 instead of \$40,000 for those with a master's degree.

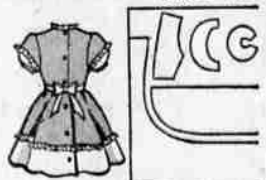
PAY HIKES VOTED

Salem — (UPI) — The Senate Monday afternoon approved \$13.9 million in salary increases for state employees plus a \$9.7 million building program for higher education.

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A. The greatest stress was felt during the congressional reception for Shepard in the old Supreme Court chamber in the Capitol. I was pinned against the podium by three senators, five congressmen and 16 television technicians.

Q. At any time did you have a feeling of apprehension?

A. Yes. I was apprehensive about the chances of getting a rib broken by a certain senator's elbow.

Q. What were you referring to when you exclaimed that something was "a beautiful sight"?

A. I was referring to the way that the chamber door locked when I finally reached it after the reception was over.

Q. On the basis of your ex-

perience, do you have any recommendations to make concerning visits by astronauts in the future?

A. Yes. I recommend that in the future all congressional receptions for astronauts be held in the baseball stadium.

Q. What would you say was the most difficult part about covering the astronaut's activities?

A. The biggest difficulty I had was flagging down a taxi outside the State Department auditorium after his news conference.

Q. At any time while you were in the auditorium did you notice any weightlessness?

A. Yes. I thought some of the questions that Shepard had to answer were totally weightless.

Riddle Nickel Pact Being Studied By Senate Committee

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent
Washington — (Special) —

The Senate Government Operations committee has decided to look

into the contracts between the M. A. Hanna Co. and the government under which nickel production has been under way at Riddle, Ore., since 1954.

There is nothing in the committee's quest to suggest that it is searching for wrongdoing. It is checking into suggestions made by U.S. Comptroller General Joseph Campbell based on an audit of the nickel contracts by the General Accounting Office.

Sen. Maurice B. Neuberger (D-Ore.) took note of the GAO audit report in a letter to Sen. John L. McClellan, chairman of the Government Operations Committee. She said:

"I am particularly interested in this report because it involves mining and ferromanganese processing operations in the state of Oregon. In addition, the GSA contracts with the Hanna group expire in 1962 and conditions existing at the time of termination will have bearing on continued operations which affect employment and our general economy."

May Acquire Title
"Unless some steps are taken in the period before contract termination, it appears the Hanna group will be in a position to acquire title for about \$1,700,000 to plant facilities costing the government in excess of \$22 million;

and the government will have an inventory of ferromanganese costing as much as \$75 million which it cannot sell. Before time has run out, it might be advisable to determine whether there should be further examination of the relationship to assure that equities of both parties are fully protected."

The contracts were worked out during the last year of the Truman administration with the Hanna firm, whose most noted officer was President Eisenhower's first Treasury Secretary, George M. Humphrey. The contracts call for Hanna subsidiaries to mine the ore and to convert it into ferromanganese, used in alloying for stainless steel and heavy plating. Two-thirds of the \$90 million worth of ferromanganese produced has gone into the government stockpile.

GAO urged that more of it be marketed to industrial users instead of running up the stockpile beyond planned goals. It also suggested some attempt to work out a new agreement for Hanna to pay for continued use of the smelter, built with \$22 million in government funds, which it can buy for the salvage price of \$1.7 million.

Files Requested
"In the light of information disclosed by the audit," Senator Neuberger wrote Senator McClellan, "perhaps your committee will find it desirable to determine the extent to which recommendations of the Comptroller General to General Services Administration and the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization are being carried out for disposal of the government's inventory of ferromanganese."

Senator McClellan replied that the committee had requested the files in the case and planned to look into it.

He said it would also consider legislation requiring that the books of contractors receiving negotiated contracts of this sort be opened to government auditors.

One of the complaints of GAO was that the contracts with Hanna did not require the firm to reveal its profit

statements respecting the nickel operation.

"The office of the Comptroller General deserves commendation for the thoroughness of the audit," Mrs. Neuberger said, "despite the fact investigation was hampered by unavailability of vital expense and profit information."

SPECIAL NOTICE!!

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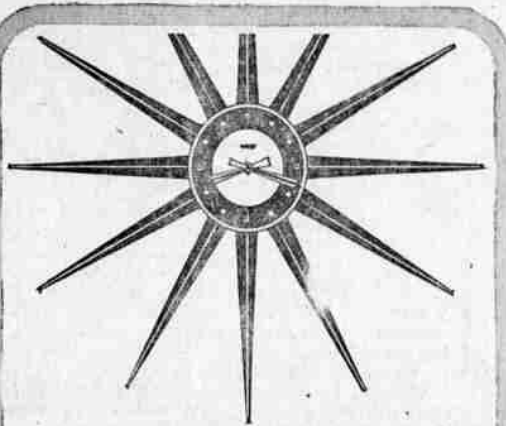
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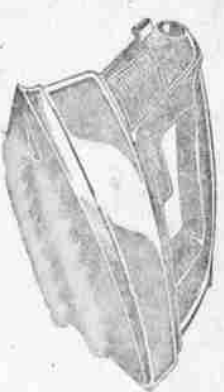
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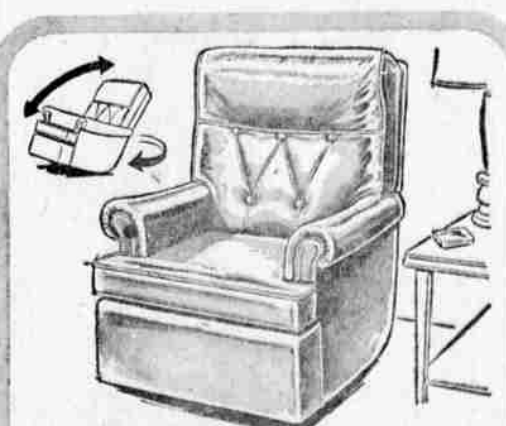
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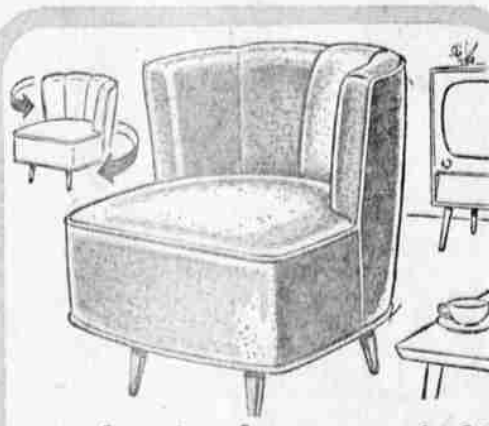


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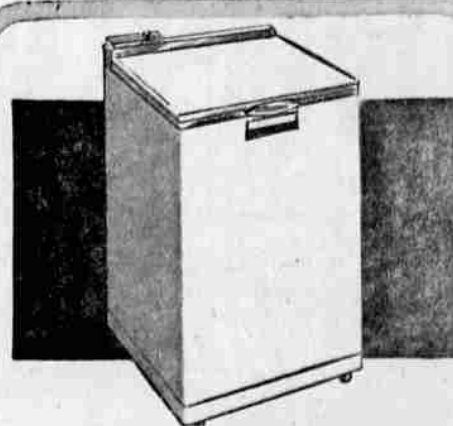


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