

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Something to remember: Beginning today be sure to put an extra penny on your letters.

THIS modern world note—on ailing Telstar and what cured it.

Engineers of the Bell Telephone Laboratories diagnosed the trouble, blamed it on radiation and found a way to restore the satellite—whirling around the earth goodness knows how many thousands of miles out there in space—to normal health.

Here's how it was done: The engineers determined that one transistor in its command decoder was running an electrical fever—and so, feeling out of sorts as people do from time to time, Telstar refused to act on command.

The remedy? The engineers devised a trick code which cut off the electrical fever, not unlike a couple of aspirins when taken by human beings who for one reason or another are feeling all upset.

When Telstar got rid of the fever, it went back to work—even as you and I.

A THOUGHT: The time may come when, feeling lousy, you'll merely phone your doctor, describe your symptoms, and he'll push a few buttons and set you up in business again.

It's getting to be quite a world, isn't it?

FROM Salem the other day: Steps to reduce the number of Oregon counties have been proposed by the legislative committee on local government. The committee called for creation of a special commission to study county consolidation.

It said present studies indicate that great economies may be achieved by consolidation into a lesser number of counties.

A H M E! How times do change! There was a time within the memory of many of Oregon's citizens who are still able to

get around without a cane when COUNTY DIVISION was a big issue in Oregon. The argument was that taxpayers shouldn't have to go so far and waste so much time getting to the county seat to transact their necessary business at the court house.

AND— At that time—

It was a logical argument. Considering the prevailing modes of transportation, it did take a lot of time in many of Oregon's larger counties for remote citizens to get to the county seat. There were a few automobiles, to be sure. But the prevailing roads were anything but good. When a remote taxpayer came to town in his tin Lizzie, he could never be certain that a rain wouldn't come up and make the roads impassable.

SO THE proposals to make little counties out of the big counties seemed quite reasonable, and county division projects were numerous. They were perhaps somewhat more numerous because of the desire on the part of many of the smaller towns to become bigger towns by getting to be county seats.

The existing county seats, of course, reasoned that county division might result in making them smaller towns. At any rate, the county division movement of several decades ago resulted quite a lot of blood on the moon in Oregon.

NOW, with good roads and fast cars, we're moving in the other direction. In the beginning, there was just ONE Oregon county east of the Cascades—mighty Wasco. In this area, there are now 18 counties.

AND— Because of better roads and faster cars it would now actually be feasible—even though it wouldn't be popular—to go back again to one big county in all of Oregon east of the mountains. It is indeed true that times and manners change.

Oregon AFL-CIO To Give Scholarships

Portland—AFL-CIO College scholarship awards totaling \$2,400 will be made this year by the Oregon AFL-CIO to six high school students in Oregon. Miss May Darling, chairman of the state labor group's standing committee on education, announced today.

Three winners of an examination on labor and industrial problems to be conducted in the schools on April 3 will receive cash awards of \$600 each, and three other \$200 each.

"The union organization has been providing the awards for 15 years," Miss Darling said, "and over that period more than 50 students from high schools in 22 cities throughout the state have been assisted financially to begin their college educations."

Determination of the scholarship winners is made upon the basis of ranking in the examination and general scholastic achievement.

The tests are graded by "a competent person" who is not connected with the labor movement, she said.



Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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By SYLVIA PORTER
'COMPROMISE' IS KEY TO 1963 TAX CUTS

In 1962 we asked ourselves one vitally right question about the U.S. economy: Is the oppressive income tax structure we created at a time of global war a key reason business has failed to grow fast enough in recent years to take up the slack in production and employment? In 1962, the answer "yes" emerged with remarkable unanimity among fiscal "conservatives" and "liberals," Republicans and Democrats, businessmen and labor leaders.

As a result of asking ourselves that right question and coming to that answer in 1962 the odds are the brightest in years that in 1963 Congress will overhaul our restrictive tax system, reduce tax rates across-the-board for both individuals and corporations.

Congress is about to convene. After the usual formalities, it will hear the President's message, get to work. Over-shadowing all other domestic legislation will be the call for tax reduction-reform.

It is already abundantly obvious that there will be major disagreements in Congress on the tax overhaul—its form, timing, size, impact on consumer and business spending patterns.

It is obvious too that getting tax deductions through this Congress will be no cinch in view of the facts that the new budget will be billions in the red for the third year in a row, the national debt is climbing to an all-time high and just the interest paid on this debt is now taking more than \$10 billion of our tax money each year.

Let's, therefore, put a few basic points in perspective.

(1) Just about every informed, objective observer recognizes the danger to our nation of budget deficits on top of budget deficits. Years of red ink in a nation's budget can undermine its credit and the buying power of its currency just as years of red ink in a family's budget can undermine its credit and buying power. When Senator Byrd, the Virginia Democrat who heads the powerful Senate Finance committee, warns of the perils of budget deficits, no one scoffs. The perils exist.

(2) Just about every informed, objective observer now agrees that our high income tax rates are a drag on our economy, that they blunt recoveries, encourage recessions, weaken incentives. The agreement on this is truly extraordinary.

(3) Just about every informed, objective observer realizes it is politically unrealistic to expect that federal spending will be cut as much as taxes are reduced—which is Byrd's demand. The President has said it plainly. Non-defense spending will be held near current levels but spending for defense, space and debt interest is going up. Regardless of how much you sympathize with Byrd's view, this is fact.

(4) Just about every informed, objective observer admits that if our economy continues moving as sluggishly as it has been for years, it will not produce enough taxes to cover government spending. We will pile new deficit on new deficit, our national debt will soar, our interest burden will rise even more, our unemployment rate will stay stickily high, our demands for goods will not be big enough to spur industry into hiking its spending for essential modernization-expansion programs.

(5) Just about every informed, objective observer emphasizes that the one stimulant we haven't tried—which has done the job in Europe and could do it here—is significant tax reduction to expand consumer and business spending and give businessmen the incentives to go into ventures that will create jobs, paychecks, profits.

Where do these five points lead? They lead to compromise.

The President already is compromising in public and private. No longer is he aiming at Jan. 1, 1963, as the effective date for the reductions. He has pledged major efforts to control spending and to finance the budget deficit out of our savings—the least inflationary way the government can borrow. He will submit tax-raising reforms along with his tax reduction proposals.

Surely, Congress in turn will compromise, for let this be clear. If Congress insists on a balanced budget before voting tax reduction, it will be insisting on the impossible and this will be equivalent to saddling us with our obsolete, punitive tax structure indefinitely.

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