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Dropout Dilemma

Take the top 30—the brightest—of every 100 pupils entering our bulging high schools this month. Three of them will fail to graduate. Only 20 of them will go to college. Probably only 13 of them will stay in college until they get the baccalaureate degree.

This is the meaning of statistics prepared for the National Science Foundation on the awful waste of school dropouts.

The trouble begins in high school. Of males in the upper 30 per cent of ability rating, 55 per cent never become college graduates. One fifth of these—20 out of every 100—do not finish high school. Among girls in the top 30 per cent, only 9 per cent fail to finish.

TAKE the top 10 per cent of the ability range. From this group 9 per cent are not graduated from high school. (And of those who do graduate in the top 10 per cent, one-fourth do not go on to college.)

The Baltimore "Sun" recently called attention to a federal study showing that 63 per cent of that city's white adults had less than a full high school education. The like figures for Negroes was 80 per cent.

Of 21 other cities in the study, only St. Louis equaled Baltimore's high school dropouts among whites. Three other cities had higher proportions of Negroes lacking a four-year high school achievement—Cincinnati, 81 per cent; Atlanta, 81 per cent; and New Orleans, 85 per cent.

WHY do they drop out? Some of the answers are surprising. The National Science Foundation concludes that the financial problem constitutes "the largest single reason for failure to enter college." But what about high school?

The Maryland Department of Education last year conducted a state-wide survey. It showed that the largest percentage of dropouts left school at age 16 and that almost exactly half of them—49.8 per cent—were average or above average in mental ability.

THE Federal Government agreed on Feb. 11 to provide funds for a demonstration project aimed at retraining high school dropouts in high unemployment areas of New Haven as industrial draftsmen and laboratory technicians. A similar project already is under way in New York City.

The Washington "Post" reports that "reading improvement" classes have saved many potential dropouts. But thousands of students in the nation's capital are not getting the reading training they need because District schools have not been given the necessary teachers.

President Kennedy has cited "inadequacy of the supply of scientific and technical manpower" as one of the most critical problems facing the nation. If the problem ever is to be solved, some new way must be found of salvaging the great potential talent represented by the high school dropout.—E.R.R.

Railroads and Automation

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected on Monday to announce whether it will review a lower court decision holding that the nation's railroads have the right to change work rules currently enforced by five unions representing on-train workers.

Featherbedding, according to the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, causes railroads losses in "wage costs for unneeded employees occupying redundant positions, pay for time not worked, compensation that was not commensurate with the value of the services rendered, and the cost of owning and maintaining equipment and facilities that would not be required apart from the restrictions placed upon the efficiency and economy of operations."

THE United States Supreme Court is not likely to overthrow that Appeals Court decision of Nov. 28, although it is being asked by the five on-train unions to do so.

If the court rules against the unions, thus ending the legal phase of the 3½ year old controversy over rail union work rules, a strike is threatened in the rail industry. But the purposely intricate machinery of the Railway Labor Act would put off that eventuality for many months.

Whatever the outcome of the court battle, and even the strike if any, the sign at the end of the long tunnel says automate. The pressures on railroads to modernize at the expense of jobs are intense.

THE "Wall Street Journal" reports that between 1950 and 1961 "the railroad share of inter-city freight traffic dropped from 56 per cent to 43 per cent." In the same period, average per-hour compensation for rail employees jumped 68 per cent, helping to squeeze profits on the reduced share of that business.

The cluster of injunctions in rail labor-management disputes pendant on the Supreme Court decision in the current proceeding make it clear that the decision will set a pattern for the industry. The railroads contend that automation will make their lines more competitive by cutting costs and rendering better service.

The alternative seems pretty clear. Now, just as 30 years ago, doubt about the ability of rail carriers to survive without public assistance is widespread.—E.R.R.

"You're Doing Fine, Boy—Pretty Soon We'll Put You Up Against Some Sparring Partners"



Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

WASHINGTON—"I shall only say that the French nuclear force, as soon as it is operational, will have the somber and terrifying power to destroy in a few instants millions upon millions of men. This fact cannot fail to influence a potential aggressor, at least in some measure."

These sentences from Gen. de Gaulle's famous January press conference deserve to be weighed with minute care, for they appear to contain the missing piece in the puzzle of de Gaulle's European policy. Their crucial character was underlined, as it were, by a signal honor done to this reporter.

Immediately after the press conference, an article appeared in this space pointing out that the French deterrent was highly unlikely to "influence a potential aggressor," precisely because it would not have the "somber and terrible power" which Gen. de Gaulle claimed for it.

The appearance of this article in Paris caused the French Minister of Defense, Pierre Messmer, to call a caucus of the Gaullist members of parliament, in order to explain why the reporter was wrong and Gen. de Gaulle was right. Clearly, therefore, the highest importance is attached to the "credibility" of the French nuclear deterrent, and not just to its credibility in Soviet eyes, but also in French and European eyes.

BEYOND doubt, Gen. de Gaulle believes what he said in his press conference, and Messmer believes what he told the Gaullist deputies. And since they are also exceedingly anxious for every one else to believe what they believe, one must assume a political motive. The political motive is not far to seek, in turn, if you consider the character of the Gaullist grand design for Europe. The exclusive Europe led by himself, which is Gen. de Gaulle's aim, can never be realized while the defense of Europe depends entirely on the American military presence. De Gaulle cannot be first while Kennedy is first in Europe's defense. Hence American military withdrawal from Europe is ultimately essential.

But the danger of removing the American keystone of Europe's existing defense system will at least be vastly reduced, if France has means while acquired a nuclear force that is genuinely capable of "destroying in an instant millions upon millions of men."

SUCH a nuclear force will not have the smallest offensive value, when weighed against the infinitely stronger Soviet nuclear force. But according to the deterrent theory of Gen. Pierre Gallois, who is Gen. de Gaulle's chief advisor in these matters, the future French nuclear force will have another sort of value of great importance.

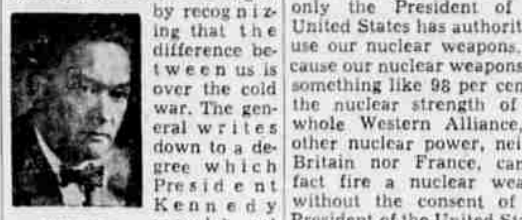
Place in Gen. de Gaulle's ruthlessly courageous hands this instrument supposedly capable of "destroying in an instant millions upon millions" of Russians—capable, in fact, of wiping out most of the major cities of Russia this side of the Urals. What then would be the situation of the Kremlin?

The French nuclear force could of course be put out of action with great ease, by a pre-emptive Soviet nuclear strike. But any Soviet nuclear strike, even against France alone, would be almost certain to trigger an American nuclear strike.

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

UNITY AT THE BRINK There would be less puzzlement about General de Gaulle, I believe, if we began by recognizing that the difference between us is over the cold war. The general writes down to a degree which President Kennedy would not dare do the military and political threat of the Soviet Union. That is why the general dares, as Mr. Macmillan said on Monday, "to bring the whole Western Alliance into great jeopardy."



In the general's view, the balance of power has turned decisively against the Soviet Union, and, consequently, the Western Alliance is obsolete and of diminishing importance. Once again, as is usual in human affairs, a wartime coalition begins to break up as peace begins to break out.

THE general, it seems to me, is acting today on what is likely to happen, but to happen only in the future. Surely it would be more prudent if in our dealings with Mr. Khrushchev, which are still very difficult and dangerous, the Western Alliance were being consolidated rather than disrupted. But the general has, of course, heard this argument. He is unimpressed by it.

However much we may think that western unity is paramount and imperative, he does not in fact believe that western unity is paramount and imperative. We shall not move him by crying out that the Western Alliance is in danger and that American troops may be withdrawn from Europe.

THE further we get from the brink, the less do we have to think about unity of command (i.e., monopoly) and the more we can think of a committee of equals. For this reason, it is most unlikely that we shall find now a theoretical solution of the problem posed by our nuclear monopoly.

THE problem is most acute when war is not imminent. One can say that monopoly, or unity of command, may be tolerable in peacetime. But it is indispensable in wartime. The great controversy today about the monopoly is due primarily to the relaxation of the tension of the cold war. The controversy would evaporate if we were on the brink of a great war.

THIS is the right context, I would say, in which to study the question of "how," as Life magazine puts it, "we shift our western nuclear

POTLUCK

POT LUCK AWAY... Pass a French restaurant with a sign reading "English Spoken Here" and you can't be any place but Los Angeles. This is the many peopled corner of the United States that threatens to sink into the ocean from the sheer weight of being the biggest of everything.

It is here where people are no longer content just to be merely to you. Now they confide to you in a soft shrill that they're just getting over the "hard hysterics". Almost any place, you'll see an automated oil pump bobbing its animal-like head for thirsty gulps of smog juice. You can't help but think what a wonderful thing this would be to have in your own back yard.

Turn on a TV set at seven any morning and watch Broderick Crawford in the re-runs of the re-runs of "Highway Patrol". This is how L.A. wakes up after never having gone to bed in the first place.

Smile with smug country sophistication as you pass the dance palace where Laurence Welk plays for dancing every week end. Squares dancing? Laugh a little bit at the jammed, dirty "discount" stores where everything is absolutely guaranteed... until you get outside the door.

Browse a little in an unbelievably large book store a few doors away from Grauman's Chinese Theatre. Here you'll find a book on any subject. Step lightly for you might find yourself walking on a bare-footed toe of a book looker.

Feel your lungs wince a little bit as you take in a little breath of smog. Feel your stomach rebel at the taste of water not good enough to match Bear Creek water at low tide.

Feel sorry for your friend who lives 250 blocks from work on a four lane freeway capable of letting thousands of cars hurle along at five miles per hour.

As the sun sinks slowly into Farmer's Market, you head, but happily, for the Airport. POT LUCK ALOFT... Is it an air terminal or is it a temple? You look around



"This is where they used to measure world opinion. That's the trouble with being a powerful nation—you don't care what people think of you any more!"

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO

Feb. 17, 1953 (Sunday) A total of 184 pints of blood has been pledged in Medford and vicinity for the Feb. 24 visit of the bloodmobile.

Only one major gasoline distributing firm—Shell Oil company—was still selling gasoline at the old prices today.

20 YEARS AGO

Feb. 17, 1943 (Friday) Bob Hardy, Ashland, signs contract to pitch for Portland Beavers baseball team.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Only a week until March will decide to come in like a lion, or a lamb, or not at all."

30 YEARS AGO

Feb. 17, 1933 (Sunday) Eugene Circuit Judge G. F. Skipworth rules former Sheriff Ralph G. Jennings was legal write-in candidate for sheriff's office.

Approximately 2,000 unemployed persons registered in Jackson county; County unemployed council urges Gov. Julius Meier to appoint a Jackson county relief committee.

40 YEARS AGO

Feb. 17, 1923 (Monday) Councilman O. O. Alender named vice-mayor of Medford.

Rogue River High school basketball team defeats Hill Military academy 53 to 24.

50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 17, 1913 (Wednesday) Jackson County District Attorney E. E. Kelly assumes duties as county juvenile probation officer.

Some 60 national forest rangers attending regional conference in Medford.

What's Your I.Q.?

Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

- 1. Near what city is Santa Anita race track? 2. What vote of the Congress is necessary for proposing amendments to the Constitution? 3. What three principal metals are contained in stainless steel? 4. Name the capital of California. 5. What was Buffalo Bill's last name? 6. From what element are diamonds composed? 7. Name the artist who painted the famous "Blue Boy." 8. How many centimeters make up one meter? 9. Name two kinds of American sea fish which ascend rivers to spawn. 10. What is the lightest known metal?

- Answers: 1. Los Angeles, Calif. 2. Two-thirds of both houses. 3. Iron, nickel, chromium. 4. Sacramento. 5. Cody, William F. 6. Carbon. 7. Thomas Gainsborough. 8. One hundred. 9. Salmon, shad, herring and some eels. 10. Lithium.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From the San Francisco Chronicle. Under Secretary James K. Carr of the Department of the Interior is optimistic about the future of the government's saline water program.

STILL—We're not objecting to government research in the field of taking the salt out of sea water.

We'll even go so far as to suggest that a lot of federal boondoggling be abandoned and the money thus saved devoted to the problem of desalting the waters of the sea.

County Students Attend Tournament

Students from various Jackson county junior highs and high schools attended the Linfield college speech tournament in McMinnville Friday and Saturday.

Attending are students from Phoenix High school, Medford's junior high schools, Medford High school, Crater High school and Eagle Point.

The high school students competed in debate, extemporaneous oratory, radio speech, salesmanship, interpretive reading, reading of original poetry, impromptu and after dinner speaking.

New to the contest this year was the original poetry division in which students read poetry they had written.

Canada, U.S., Destined To Remain Close

By ERIC SEVAREID

Since the automatic reflexes of a self-conscious America are what they are, it is part of the current conventional wisdom to assume that President Kennedy's declared purpose of talking turkey to allies even as the risk of unpopularity has already come a cropper with the administration's famous statement scolding the Canadian government for not making up its mind on the acceptance of nuclear warheads.

Of course, Canada's fate is rather helplessly linked to ours; of course, Canada catches pneumonia when the United States sneezes. It can never be otherwise, given the facts of geography, of the vast balance of power, and the steady development of what is almost a common culture—indeed, almost a condition of common citizenship. One would have to look to the relationship between Belgium and Luxembourg, if not Britain and Ireland, for an analogous posture of sovereignties.

Beneath the current controversy, which represents wave-action, not a sea-change, is the natural yearning north of the

border to develop and project a "Canadian personality" in the world of nations, and the natural sense of being anonymously drowned in the flood of America's economic interests and popular culture, not all of which is civilizing or even wholesome.

Canada is chained to us by a trading system in which some 60 per cent of her exports are to the United States and some 70 per cent of her imports from the United States; by American ownership of all Canadian industry; by the saturating effects of American magazines, movies and television. Canada has it in her power to do something about all this, but she did not accept these chains at the point of a gun. She accepted them, one by one, because Canadians also like money and because they have not generated a contagious popular culture of their own.

In world affairs, the truth is not only that Canada has generally been treated with extraordinary consideration by Washington, but that Canada has succeeded, partly because of very able leaders in the past years, in cutting a swath far wider than her size would normally permit. Mexico has twice Canada's population, many times her influence on Latin America, and is a growing economic entity, yet we are infinitely less aware of Mexico's needs and demands than those of Canada.

One can almost say that if there is danger of America and Canada emotionally and intellectually drifting apart, in the future, it would be because we have been much too close together in the past.

But what cannot be said is what the generous-minded, normally very wise Canadian, Mr. Bruce Hutchison, is now saying—that "Canada is the supreme test of the United States' international morality." To act firmly, even bluntly, on our defense demands toward Canada no more involves our morals than did De Gaulle's recent blow at Britain—twice his morals.

In both cases, wisdom may be involved, but hardly morality. The supreme test of America's morality, in history, will be whether America effectively acts upon the supreme necessity of protecting and preserving the free civilizations of Western life. (Distributed 1963 by The Hall Syndicate, Inc.) (All Rights Reserved)