Advice Given About Changing the Weather

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
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Washington — (UPI) — Man some day may find out how to make big changes in the weather.

But before he attempts to do so, scientists warn, he had better:

— Make certain that the changes will be beneficial. Ill-advised messing with the weather could generate appalling disasters.

— Plan nothing except by international agreement. Any large-scale alteration of the weather patterns will affect many — perhaps all — of the world's nations.

This advise was given by two U.S. authorities in a paper prepared for a recent United Nations scientific conference in Geneva. The authors were the late Dr. Harry Wexler, director of meteorological research of the weather bureau, and Dr. Thomas K. Sherwood of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Progress Made

They said "notable progress" has been made in the past five years in developing mathematical models of large-scale atmospheric conditions which "bear amazing similarities to the real atmosphere."

With the use of computers it has been possible to vary components of the mathematical model and observe what the effect would be on atmospheric circulation.

For example, the machines reported that a certain change in the pattern of solar radiation falling on the northern hemisphere would wipe out a whole family of storms covering 10 million square miles of the earth's surface.

Altering the Season

Feeding a hypothetical radiation change into computers is easy. But making the same change in the real world would amount to altering the season, and "no one has suggested practical means" of doing that, the authors said.

It takes a colossal amount of energy to manufacture weather. It has been estimated that the energy in the winds of the entire world at any one instant is equal to about seven million atomic bombs of the kind used in World War II.

The energy of the winds streaming across the middle latitudes of the United States during one year is equivalent to 40 million H-bombs, or to all the power America's electrical plants could turn out in 3,000 years.

So man is not yet ready to change his weather by brute force; his energy resources are far too puny. Will he ever find a means of triggering vast changes with the expenditure of relatively little energy? After all, it takes only the gentle pressure of a foot to send a 200-horsepower automobile hurtling down a highway.

It is tempting at least to search for a trigger method of dealing with the weather and with its more stupendous manifestations, such as hurricanes.

Hurricanes are "prodigious producers of fresh water," Wexler and Sherwood noted. It has been estimated that Hurricane Carla in 1961 caused more than 40 billion tons of rain to fall on the Mississippi valley in a single day.

Supplies Fresh Water

This was enough to have supplied the fresh water needs of the United States for more than two months. If hurricanes could be steered, and forced to dump their water into reservoirs, the nation's growing thirst could be more than satisfied.

But hurricane seeding experiments have produced no evidence that this is feasible. An alternative to triggering techniques, in the attempt to modify the weather, might be vast engineering works.

Many have been suggested—warming the arctic with infusions of Pacific ocean water, changing the flow of the warm Gulf stream, creation of an immense artificial cloud cover with clean H-bomb explosions to prevent loss of heat in cold regions.

Could Be Desert

But scientists have repeatedly pointed out that for all anybody knows a climate change that made arctic lands green might well turn Mediterranean Europe or southern United States into a lifeless desert.

Even if such grandiose engineering schemes could be carried out — they would cost many billions of dollars — "The end results," Wexler and Sherwood said, "would be unpredictable in detail at this time."

They will not be predictable, the authors said, until "major advances in the atmospheric sciences" have been made.

"Progress in this field," they said, "will require a high degree of international collaboration."

County Residents Carry $8,760 Worth Of Life Insurance

As of 1962, Jackson county residents were found to be carrying more life insurance than they ever did.

According to the latest figures, the average amount of coverage, per local family, was $8,760.

The new high is the result of a steady build-up in recent years in this form of protection. Such a development has been noted in the areas of the country where incomes have been on the rise.

Increasing Protection

Increasing their life insurance protection is one of several steps that people have been taking to add to their financial security. Another has been to put money aside into savings.

The trend has been in these directions, despite the fact that most people are covered by Social Security, with its provisions for old-age pensions and disability insurance.

Figures on the subject are reported on a national and state basis in the current Life Insurance Fact Book.

It shows the American people to be insured to the tune of $685 billion, of which $5,390,000,000 represents coverage in the state of Oregon.

In terms of the average family, what does this amount to? Related to income levels throughout the state, as detailed in the latest Sales Management report, it is equivalent to 18.4 months' net earnings, after taxes, per household.

Applying this yardstick to Jackson county, where net income per household averages $481 per month, the amount of life insurance owned per local family is approximately $8,760.

The grand total, for the entire community, comes to $213,836,000.

Attributed to Market

The sharp rise in the past year has been attributed in part, to the setback that occurred in the stock market. Many investors, who had been building up funds there for particular purposes, such as a child's college education, were made more aware of the hazards that were involved.

They began putting more money into insurance and into savings accounts.

Another part of the increase, it is noted, was due to the rapid growth of group life insurance, which is usually job-connected insurance. More than two out of three non-farm workers are now so-covered.

Two Patients Are Flown to Hospitals

Two patients were flown to hospitals for treatment by Mercy Flights Inc., Friday.

Lt. Col. Ellsworth, J. Winner was flown to Travis Air Force base, Calif., from Grants Pass where he has been a patient at Josephine General hospital since suffering a heart attack 10 days ago.

Flown from Lakeview to Portland for possible surgery at Providence hospital, was Mrs. Gloria Kness, Bly, who suffered bullet wounds of the leg and shoulder in a family argument Tuesday.

This brings to 1,529 the number of patients that have been flown by the non-profit air ambulance service since it was started.

Juveniles Being Held for Burglaries

Two juveniles, 12 and 13 years of age, were lodged in Jackson county juvenile detention home Friday night on charges of burglary.

The boys, brought in by a Jackson county deputy sheriff, were charged with burglarizing cabins in the Prospect area.

Several calls were received by the sheriff's department reporting entries of cabins in the Prospect region before the boys were brought in, the sheriff's office said Saturday. One call was received at 11:07 a.m., the second at 1:25 p.m. and the third at 2:30 p.m. The boys were brought to Medford about 4:50 p.m.