

Medford Mail Tribune
Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune
Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.

Subscription Rates
By Mail - In Advance
Daily and Sunday - 1 year \$18.00
Daily and Sunday - 6 mos. 10.00

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
March 24, 1953 (Tuesday)
Thunderstorm, just prior to noon, drenches Medford; street lights are turned on; hail reported in some areas of the valley.

20 YEARS AGO
March 24, 1943 (Wednesday)
Medford residents desiring to plant Victory Gardens can have their plots of ground plowed up free of charge by the Coca-Cola Bottling company.

30 YEARS AGO
March 24, 1933 (Friday)
More than 185 citizens ask that their names be withdrawn from the membership of the Good Government Congress.

40 YEARS AGO
March 24, 1923 (Saturday)
Medford now has third largest chamber of commerce in the state with membership at 638.

50 YEARS AGO
March 24, 1913 (Monday)
Police chase 19 "moochers" out of town.

What's Your I.Q.?
Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

McNamara's Troubles

On the Senate side of the Capitol Hill bear pit Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara is continuing to have his troubles. It seems he no sooner got his differences about the RS-70 with Uncle Carl Vinson (D-Ga.) and the House Armed Services Committee papered over than he began receiving the attentions of a Senate Investigations subcommittee.

The result of the current hearings—basically on McNamara's decision to award the contract for a Tactical Fighter Experimental plane (TFX) to the General Dynamics Corp. rather than the Boeing Company—could determine the Secretary's usefulness to the administration.

THE TFX controversy shapes up something like this: At stake is the largest tactical airplane contract since World War II. Production orders eventually would come to at least \$6½ billion.

Military advisers in the Pentagon wanted a plane proposed by the Boeing Company. They were overruled four times between January and November, 1962, by McNamara, Air Force Secretary Eugene M. Zuckert, and Navy Secretary Fred North.

The civilians instead awarded the contract to General Dynamics in association with the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp. On the surface the Boeing bid would have saved the taxpayers as much as \$100 million.

McNAMARA says the contract was awarded to General Dynamics because their plane could be used by the Army or the Navy with only slight changes in the basic design—it had greater "commonality" than the Boeing proposal. He says also that placing the program with General Dynamics in the long run will save as much as \$1 billion.

Through all the investigations there has been a welter of political charges and countercharges. On the one hand it is alleged that the hearings were inspired by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), who is up for reelection next year. Boeing is based in the state of Washington—but planned to build the TFX at Wichita, Kan.

On the other hand it is charged that the contract was awarded to General Dynamics because it is based in Secretary North's home town, Fort Worth, and Vice President Johnson's home state. (A rather feeble jape in Washington designates the plane not as TFX but as LBJ.)

ESSENTIALLY THE TFX controversy looks like a pull between the civilian chiefs in the Pentagon and the military.

One is reminded inevitably of a passage in President Eisenhower's final radio-TV message to the nation. "In the councils of government," Eisenhower warned, "we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

Congress in this tug of war acts as a not necessarily impartial referee. The Constitution gives Congress the power to "raise and support armies," but nowhere gives it the power to select weapons.

The Defense Reorganization Act of 1958 gives the Secretary of Defense authority to "assign or reassign" weapons systems development to one or more branches of the armed services.

Whatever the military value of the TFX alternatives, the script calls for the buck to stop short on McNamara's desk—or else, improbably, to be passed to the White House.—E.R.R.

Ten Years of a Miracle

Poliomyelitis—infantile paralysis—is a relative rarity today. In 1952, the year before the development of the Salk vaccine was announced, 57,740 cases were recorded. In the decade preceding the use of the vaccine, 30,000 to 40,000 cases of polio were recorded in this country every year. Last year, according to data made available by the U.S. Public Health Service, 708 paralytic cases were reported out of a total of 889 cases.

Figures on immunology are not entirely trustworthy, but with this caveat the Health Service estimates that as of last December, 90 million persons had received some Salk vaccine.

As for the Sabin vaccine, some 40 million had received Type 1, 15 million Type 2, and 30 million Type 3. The Service now views the orally administered Sabin live vaccine as more practical in mass immunization programs, but leaves individual decisions to local health departments and physicians.

THE National Foundation—the name was truncated with the virtual disappearance of infantile paralysis—now is backing Dr. Salk and others in the projected Salk Institute for Biological Studies at San Diego, Calif.

His own work on killed-virus vaccines has convinced Salk that there is no theoretical obstacle to the ultimate production of "a single, absolutely harmless vaccine which, administered early in life, might protect the individual against 10, 50, or 100 virus diseases."

Meanwhile, the triumph over viruses continues. The federal government is about to license two types of measles vaccines. Measles is not the killer and crippler that polio was 10 years ago—only 380 persons died of measles in 1960—but its incidence is much higher. In 1961, 420,919 cases of measles were reported in the United States.—E.R.R.

"You Know What? Those Guys Act Like They Really Believe That"



Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann (c) 1963, The Washington Post

McNAMARA AND THE TFX

After swimming around for a while in the sea of technical detail of the TFX argument, I emerged dripping with facts and wondering, since there is so much that I do not understand, whether there is anything which I am entitled to write about.

However, while I have nothing to say about the use of titanium, of thrust reversers in supersonic flight, or even about high inlet ducts in the propulsion system, there is, I think, a simple and important question at the heart of the argument between Secretary McNamara and his critics.

There are, as I see it, no villains involved, and there is not a shred of evidence to show that the contract went to the General Dynamics corporation because the Vice President is from Texas, or that Senator Jackson has been doing anything improper because the Boeing company is from the state of Washington.

The crux of the argument is not technical, military or political, but economic. From the beginning, Secretary McNamara's conception has been governed by his intention to keep the defense budget, which is already enormous, from becoming uncontrollably larger.

IN ORDER to keep military spending within some limit, it is necessary to sacrifice perfectionism in the choice of weapons. If money did not matter, each of the three military services could be allowed to build for itself the most perfect specialized tactical fighter. But since money does matter, the Defense Department has to forego demanding the best weapons that unlimited money could buy and to content itself with the less perfect weapons that will do the military job.

Secretary McNamara's friction with uniformed hierarchy stems from his commitment to the basic proposition that if military spending is not to run wild, the weapons chosen have to be fully adequate, but less than perfect.

Thus, Secretary McNamara has, as Mr. Reston reminded us the other day, canceled the nuclear powered airplane and the Skybolt missile, he has opposed the all-out development of the RS170 and has given up two or three

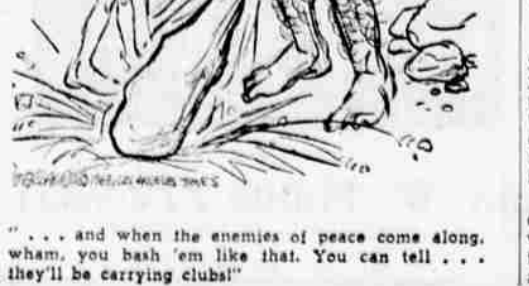
other very expensive projects which, in his judgment, are not necessary military weapons, but military luxuries. In the same way of thinking, he has been insisting that for the new supersonic tactical planes, which both the Navy and the Air Force need, every effort should be made to develop one tactical fighter plane that can be adapted to the needs of each service.

The whole controversy turns on this. The General Dynamics proposal is very much nearer to being one plane for both Navy and Air Force than is the Boeing proposal. According to Secretary McNamara, the Boeing proposal is in fact for two much more specialized fighter planes. The General Dynamics proposal is for "an airplane design that has a very high degree of identical structure for the Navy and the Air Force versions," whereas in the two Boeing versions, "less than half of the structural components of the wing, fuselage and tail were the same."

To illustrate how wasteful is overspecialization, Secretary McNamara tells us that the Navy now has a large number of aircraft out of operation for lack of spare parts, while the Air Force has a \$2.2-billion inventory of spare parts that are "already obsolete and practically worthless."

THE judgments which Secretary McNamara is making in the choice of these very expensive weapons are judgments which somebody has to make. Congress has the right and the power to hold him accountable for them, Congress is not qualified, and it hasn't the time to make those judgments itself. Congress, also, has opportunity to review the secretary's decisions. For these new complicated weapons systems take years to develop.

But the kind of judgment which Mr. McNamara is making is the kind of judgment the Secretary of Defense is meant to make. That is one of the main reasons why his office was created. We know from experience that it has not always been easy to find a Secretary of Defense who was competent to do that. In Secretary McNamara, the country has a Secretary of Defense who, in his training, in his practical experience and in his technical knowledge of production, is remarkably, perhaps uniquely, qualified to pass judgment on a problem like that of the TFX.



Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

(c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

FORCE OR FORCE?

Born-President Kennedy's project for a multilateral nuclear force attached to NATO was hastily improvised at Nassau, as a quick way out of the Skybolt squabble with the British. Yet this hurried impression was left with bits and pieces of old long-neglected plans has suddenly acquired an enormous potential, either for good or evil.

Either the President has half-unintentionally begun to grope his way towards a solution of the West's most deep-rooted problem. Or he has incautiously got the most dangerous sort of bear by the tail. It is quite certain that the President will find he has a bear by the tail unless he is willing to amend his project rather radically. As it now stands, the nuclear arms of the surface ships and/or submarines of the multilateral force will be controlled by a committee of all the contributing members. Each committee member, conspicuously including the U.S., will have a veto on the use of the force.

THE political handicap of the American veto needs no underlining. But that is not the only difficulty. The one nation-veto rule virtually insures the neutralization of the proposed force, even if the U.S. should wish to give the order to fire away. There is really no answer at all to the argument made by German Defense Minister Kai-Uwe von Hassel to the President's special ambassador, Livingston Merchant.

"Suppose," said von Hassel, "the next British Prime Minister is Harold Wilson who is close to being a unilateral nuclear disarmer. What use will this force be then, with the veto rule? The fact is, at least one veto must always be expected in such a committee, no matter what the provocation may be."

This is why Gen. de Gaulle's nuclear advisor, Gen. Pierre Gallois, has called the multilateral force a "multilateral farce." As the project now stands, in truth, it is one of those Madison Ave. gestures for which American policymakers have always had a weakness.

THE Germans and other Europeans, who are being asked to pay a large share of the very heavy costs of the force, are not going to lay out so much good money for a Madison Ave. gesture. Yet the failure of the President's project at this time will be downright catastrophic.

Such a failure will be taken as a great personal triumph by Gen. de Gaulle, and will be acted on by him as such. As for the President, he cannot afford another grandiose start piddling out into nothing. His power to lead the West can be fatally impaired.

The simple remedy has been proposed, meanwhile, by the Germans. They want majority control of the multilateral force, not right away, but at a date some years hence when the force is coming into being and becoming operational. Majority control will

mean to intrude on family affairs, but if Mrs. Ethel Kennedy wants to practice, better lend her a knock-about fly reel. She used by Hardy reel last summer in Colorado and it's been frozen since.)

Be careful about live bait. True minnows are okay, but any rough fish like baby catfish will wreck the pond if they get loose and breed. A snapping turtle or two will keep the pond free of dead fish, but it occurs to me that Miss Caroline may want to keep ducks. In that case, no snappers.

About the garden—You'll probably have to spray out the honeysuckle, although I know Miss Rachel Carson won't like this. Don't confuse it with Virginia creeper. I expect you won't want the formal gardens they have at Glen Ora. Roses and wild azaleas are naturals in that soil on Rattlesnake. Mrs. K. might want to begin with laurel; she can transplant the wild bushes which she will find on the north slopes in the shade. She should look for the kind that flowers.

If you like quail around, here's a tip—when the Rural Electrification people come along to cut out the power line, see that they replant the area with bird food and cover like lespedeza and red-top. Check Fish and Wildlife Service on this; actually, you ought to subscribe to the monthly magazine of the Virginia Conservation Department.

I almost forgot—you won't need a county license to fish on your own property, but if you do put in federal fish,

any taxpayer is legally entitled to fish your pond. You will meet some pretty nice back-country folks this way, and if you drop a polite hint, they won't leave empty beer cans on the dam.

It won't take you long to get to know the best places to do your trading. Of course, for any heavy stuff like tractors, you'll want to start off right. Fred Wayland, on the Warrenton-by-pass, is always reliable and can arrange terms.

If Miss Caroline and Mrs. K. keep horses up there, I think any copperheads around will soon disappear; still if Caroline runs round in the high grass, I'd see that she wore boots, at least for a time.

Next to honeysuckle, your greatest problem will be groundhogs and what they may do to your stone fences and outbuildings. I guess you'll just have to find out about that as you go along; one of the real rewards of the back-country is learning as you live.

One thing, though—no matter how long you live there, you will never master the whipperwill problem. On hot nights, when you can't shut the windows, they're just going to cost you your sleep, that's all, unless you can use those earplugs things. I find them too uncomfortable. I find that auto horns and sirens are worse evils, anytime, than the call of the whipperwill.

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THINGS YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT IF YOU HADN'T READ THEM HERE

When Thomas Edison invented the phonograph, he didn't know that he was also inventing the juke box... Smokey the Bear has been arrested for arson at least three times... Iron does not necessarily contain spinach... World War III will probably be fought in anger... Newton's law, as it was first written, stated, "What comes down must've been up..." "June Bride" sounds fine but "June Groom" doesn't... People who stand on their heads to watch Route 66 are still talking about the last episode of Route 99... Some doctors feel that feet are the probable cause of bunions and corns...

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

A pretty famous Indian Chief once said of Portland, "It's a great place for scalping and fun for conventions but it would be a heck of a place to live." This opinion is evidently not shared by some 400,000 odd (meaning more or less and not what you think it means) who live quietly on the banks of the First National but continue to scalp each other and to hold conventions.

TAXES ON THINGS THEY HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF YET—BUT WILL

New babies at the rate of a dollar a pound. A dollar assessment for each time you mow your lawn and two dollars for each time you don't. A fresh air tax for people who think they're too good to breathe whatever else it is that the rest of us are breathing.

NAMES MAKE NEWS

Edmil Kneec, Rue Thstark, Dikmoo Dee, Fran Quillon, Bentrow Bridge, Jereep Ollis, Gullit Oomy, Joaf Legal, Lube Ates, Huga Ennings, Jawmna Futt and R. Cheapears.

A LETTER FROM A READER'S DIGEST STAFFER:

Dear J.W.S.: Someone from the Digest's publicity department has just deposited on my desk a dog eared clipping which turned out to be your column with the kind words about me. Thanks so much. I couldn't have improved on the sentiments myself and I don't understand how you have kept up with my whole sordid saga by such remote control. Who are you, J.W.S.? I have been away from Medford so long I have no idea that anyone remembered me. I thought the few survivors of my misspent years there would be doddering around or would be hopeless Geritol addicts by now.

The picture at the top of your column doesn't furnish much clue to your identity. Just those steely eyes gazing out accusingly. I once knew a girl in Medford whose initials were J. W. S. but I detect no hint of false eyelashes in your abbreviated portrait so I presume you are not a girl. Despite the flinty gaze, your sentiments are downright benign and your subject matter couldn't be improved on.

It was also nice being bracketed with Seely Hall and Edison Marshall, although they might not enjoy that sort of guilt by association.

Cordially, John Reddy (We don't know what Reader's Digest pays but we pay at the rate of 1 cent per word and we have sent Mr. Reddy our check for \$2.07 and our thanks from a hometown very proud of his many accomplishments.)

1850, he came to California to hunt gold. Three years later, he assembled a regiment of soldiers and tried to conquer Lower California and the state of Sonora, both in Mexico. His attempt failed and he was tried by American authorities for violating our neutrality laws.

He was freed, and the following year he tried to gain control of Honduras, but failed and was executed by the Honduran government—with no protest from the U.S. Presumably, President Kennedy cites Walker's case as

assure that NEVER will Americans be permitted to interfere with the affairs of our sister states in the Western Hemisphere.

INTERESTING question: Does President Kennedy really MEAN BUSINESS in his flat statement in Costa Rica that if the Soviet Union doesn't get out of Cuba it will be THROWN OUT—presumably by the United States? If he does—And if he stands pat—It will be one of the Great Decisions of American history.

President Kennedy's New Home-Place

By ERIC SEVAREID

This is a sort of "position paper" for the President's eyes about his imminent move from the Glen Ora estate in Virginia to his new home, acres and pond on Rattlesnake mountain nearby. I should have gotten this off to him earlier, but I kept thinking that David Lawrence or James Reston would step in to advise Mr. Kennedy about his new home-place, as we would call it in that back country.

Reston probably figured that since his place has a run, not a pond, and is away over near Hume, he couldn't advise with authority; and while Lawrence's acres near Centerville are within line-of-sight of Rattlesnake, the President's record of following Lawrence's advice is thin, which probably discouraged Mr. Lawrence. So, since I know both Glen Ora and Rattlesnake and my cabin and pond are not far off, the duty obviously falls to me.

To begin with—of course you know, Mr. President, that you got stung on the acreage price, but we all do the first time we try to haggle with country-slickers. Ten years from now you'll laugh about it.

Now, about the dam—the county agent over at Culpeper will advise on the construction and figure the drainage area. He won't charge you

anything, even if he drives over on his day off. For goodness sake, don't try to build the dam yourself. Ed Murrow did, and it went out in the first flash flood—gave him an extra furrow in his forehead. You'll want a dock. Make it oak or locust, the pilings well creosoted. Get hold of a fellow named Stanley Brown; he can build anything and he's very reasonable.

Time magazine must be wrong about your putting perch in the pond. Keep it to large-mouth bass and bluegills, and don't even dream about trout in that mud bottom. I'd figure, say, 150 bass fingerlings to 1,000 bluegills. You can get application forms from the Interior Department and they will send the fish in milk cans from the hatchery on the West Virginia side of the Blue Ridge. It won't cost you a cent, because the government in Washington wants you to impound more waters against erosion, and encourage protein feed supplies for poultry. There's a manual you can get free from the Agriculture Department which proves you can harvest more pounds of food per acre of water than of soil.

In a year or two start fishing the pond hard as you'll have nothing but stunted fish from overpopulation and will have to drain the pond and begin all over again. When the bass are lunker size you may as well face this—you'll never catch them except, with luck, on live frogs. Up to about June 15, the bluegills take dry or wet flies well. I don't

mean to intrude on family affairs, but if Mrs. Ethel Kennedy wants to practice, better lend her a knock-about fly reel. She used by Hardy reel last summer in Colorado and it's been frozen since.)

Be careful about live bait. True minnows are okay, but any rough fish like baby catfish will wreck the pond if they get loose and breed. A snapping turtle or two will keep the pond free of dead fish, but it occurs to me that Miss Caroline may want to keep ducks. In that case, no snappers.

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