Down-To-Earth Approach

Agriculture Department's Method Of Inspection Straightforward

BY DICK WEST

Washington –(UPI)– A quality that I greatly admire is straightforwardness. I like things laid out in one-two-three order. Cards on the table. Open and above board. In short, I like the Agriculture Department's proposed new standards for food container inspection. They take a down-to-earth, mince - no - words approach that is all too rare in the federal bureaucracy.

West

Suppose, for example, that you were inspecting some food containers and you noticed that one of them was leaking. In your usual slipshod manner, you probably would mark it down as defective and let it go at that.

Well, sir, under these new standards, you wouldn't get by that easily. If defects were found, you would evaluate them under a defect rating system. Then you would classify them as "minor," "major" or "critical."

In my opinion they are neo-classical in their logic and simplicity. They go like this:

"A small dent in a metal can which doesn't affect its usability is a minor defect; a tear in a fiber carton which does materially affect its usability is a major defect; and a leak in a can or jar is a critical defect."

Now that is what I call laying it on the line.

Once you have decided whether the defects are minor, major or critical, the next step is to determind whether they are "related defects" or "unrelated defects."

Related defects are defind as "defects on a single container that are related to a single cause."

"A can may be a leaker and also seriously rusted," the department explains, but only one defect is scored against it if "the rust condition can be attributed to the leak."

The defect that counts depends on "whichever condition is the most serious." In this example, the can would be scored as a "leaker" rather than "seriously rusted."

On the other hand, if the defects are "unrelated"–as when a can is rusted, dented and unlabelled–all of them count.

The next step is to determine the "total defects," which are defined as "the sum of critical, major and minor defects."

Then you establish the "acceptable quality level (AQL)," of the containers and compare the number of defects in each rating with the "acceptance number (AC)" and the "rejection number (RE)."

If the minor, major, critical and total defects do not exceed the AC of the AQL, the containers are accepted.

That is all there is to it. I think the department is to be congratulated for making it so clear.

Astronaut Job Deadline Extended

Houston – (UPI) – Civilian pilots have four more days to apply for jobs as astronauts, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said today.

The deadline for applications was originally July 1 for civilian applicants and July 15 for military applicants.

The spacecraft center said, however, it had not intended to stop receiving applications from civilians July 1.

The new deadline for both military and civilian applicants will be July 15.

More than 175 civilians, including two women, have applied.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Arnold M. – This time I won't let my mother talk me out of marrying.

Mrs. H. M. – He'll never be happy with a hard-hearted woman like that.

* * *

Arnold M. – I'm an only son and it's taken me a long time to realize that my mother keeps objecting to girls I date, not because there's anything wrong with them, but because she doesn't want me to leave her. I'm 40 now and I thank Elsa for opening my eyes. I'm going to marry her before she, like other lovely women, slips away from me. These ex-girl friends marry my friends and make them happy. Elsa's for me.

Mrs. H. M. – Aside from what will become of me, I'll warn Arnold of what he's letting himself in for. I never stopped him from marrying–he's been free to do what he wants. Those other girls probably didn't go after him the way this Elsa does. She's a widow of 45 with a 25-year-old son. She's sold Arnold on his need for moving far away from me. She's ready to turn his life and mine topsy-turvy.

* * *

The Council: Oh, Mrs. M., you're years behind in your maternal "homework." One of the lessons you haven't mastered is The Art of Letting Go. It's done gradually, and begins way back when you let your son walk across a room alone instead of holding his hand. Each year there's an increasing liberation until by, say 18, he's off to Army, college, job, and a few solvent years later, to marriage and his own family. And so, how come you're still (figuratively) holding Arnold's hand at age 40? Why is your own life so bereft of enthusiasms that you must be sustained by a pipeline to your son's excitements? And where was Arnold's sense of Self all these years? To help him maintain his new clear-eyed spunk, he'll need the support of a counselor, for his mother will undoubtedly assail him with charges of desertion. He must be fortified with the right answers, as well as with gentle ways to propel her toward the normal transition from mother to human being.

AWARD FOR CHEVALIER

Paris – (UPI) – Maurice Chevalier was presented with a "Gold Record" award Wednesday by a representative of the UN High Commission for Refugees in recognition of the sale of one million "All Star Festival" records. Artists from all over the world joined in making the records, proceeds of which go to help refugees.

NO MORE BLISTERS

London – (UPI) – The British army, in another move to make military life attractive to recruits, is going to issue blister-proof socks to its men. An announcement Wednesday said the socks are made of layers of plastic mesh which renders them shock absorbent and keeps the feet warm in winter and cool in summer.

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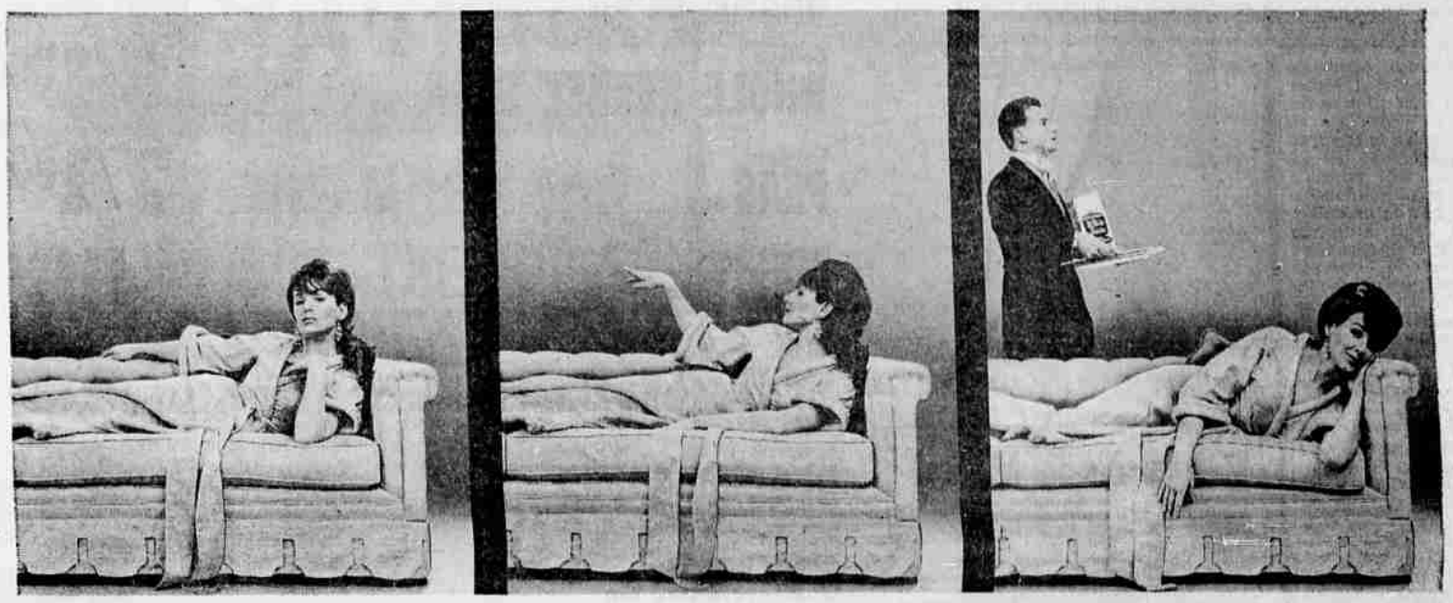

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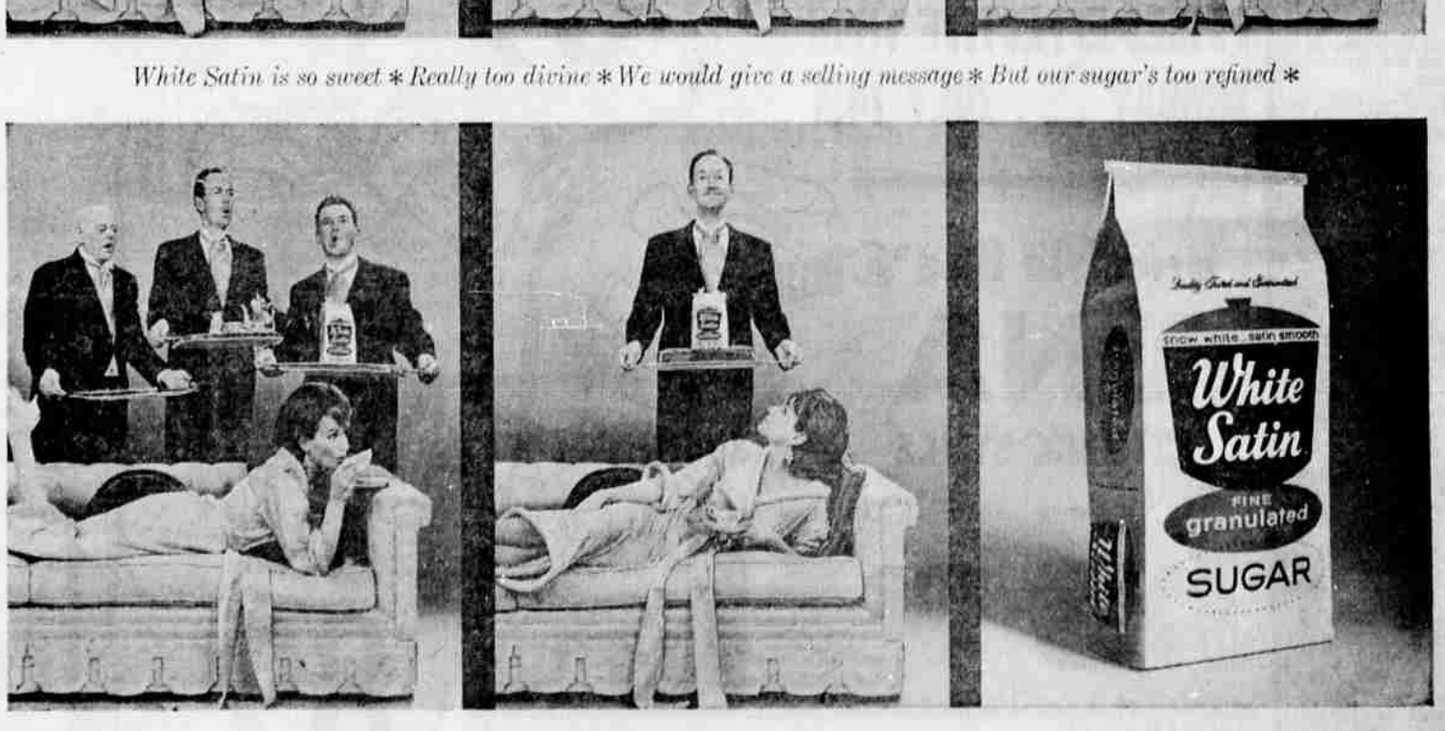

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