The Medical Roundup

by Walter Alvarez

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Children Who Fail at School

Because so many mothers write asking what can be done for a difficult and possibly ill child who is failing at school, I was interested in the report by R. W. Deisher, M.D., C. O. Cressey and T. D. Tjossem, Ph.D., of their study of some students who were failing in a high school.

Alvarez

Eleven of these boys and 1 girl said they weren't interested in school work; they were bored and indifferent. Six boys and three girls admitted that they disliked school and they disliked most adults.

Several of these youngsters had already had a run-in with the juvenile authorities. Because of several misdemeanors, most of them had been on probation a number of times. The attitude of many of them was that of defiance; they were against discipline of any kind, and to them any order from a parent or teacher was an insufferable insult.

An interesting point is that these were not stupid children; only 10 of them had an IQ below 100. If they had wanted to, they could have graduated from high school. The trouble with many was that they read so slowly and poorly that it was no fun—as it is for so many very bright children. Children who cannot read easily find school work so uninteresting and boring and difficult that they tend to drop out.

As many experts say, although most of our people are "literate," in the sense that they CAN read, they read with such difficulty that they can never enjoy even the "funnies," or a movie magazine. They would rather sit on the front porch. What is sad is that so many of these non-readers can be only day laborers, and they so hate this life that they soon take up criminal activities — the only ones that are left to them.

Eight of the students who were having troubles needed psychiatric help, and one even needed to be put in a mental hospital. Of each 10 students who dropped out of school three were girls. Some of these girls settled down; they got married and they became good mothers. Five boys who dropped out went into the Armed Forces and did well; three just sat around at home, doing nothing. One boy who was expelled from school soon had two stretches in jail for felonies. Like most criminals, he refused to see a psychiatrist. He could not be bothered.

1918 Influenza Virus

Years ago it was discovered that the terrible virus which caused hundreds of thousands of deaths in this country in 1918 died out in human beings, but it could still be found in swine. The disease kept flaring up in such animals every fall. According to Dr. Richard E. Shope, of the Rockefeller Institute, swine has a "lung-worm" which carries virus, and the lung-worm gets it from the earth-worms which are eaten by the swine. The farmer is concerned about this because pigs that are affected by the 1918 influenza virus cannot be fattened; 2 per cent of them die, and the pregnant sows abort.

Few laymen who are not farmers realize how often a disease which affects us human beings keeps living in a "reservoir" in cattle and swine, or perhaps in some wild animal. For instance; rabies (hydrophobia) is now being kept going by foxes, coyotes, skunks, and bats.

Food Prices for Last Half of Year To Be Unchanged

Washington – (UPI) – The housewife should plan to spend about as much for food in the last half of the year as she did during the first half—and get about the same amount.

The Agriculture Department, in a review of the national food situation, said retail food prices for the last half of 1963 are expected to remain, on the average, about the same as they were during the first half.

Retail food prices in the first half rose about 1½ per cent above those of a year earlier.

Meat prices, the department said, are not expected to follow last year's strong upturn in the final quarter of the year. Prices of fruits and vegetables likely will decline seasonally from mid-year but remain above a year earlier.

Demand Supported

The department said a generally rising level of business expenditures and consumer incomes in the first half of 1963 supported the continued strong demand for food. Food expenditures in 1962 totaled $73.6 billion, up 3.8 per cent from 1961. For the first half of 1963, the increase was estimated at 3 per cent above a year earlier.

The department said total use of food in 1963 likely will rise around 2 per cent from 1962. A small increase in food consumption per capita is anticipated. Per capita consumption of beef in 1963 may be up 4 per cent, and consumption of chicken may be up even more. Declines are anticipated on a per capita basis in consumption of fish, fruit, and eggs.

DEGREES RECEIVED

Eugene – (UPI) – The University of Oregon summer graduation class of 559 received degrees at the second annual summer commencement exercises Saturday.

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THIS WEEK

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INSPECTS EQUIPMENT—Soviet Technician V. A. Novikov, shown above in this picture taken recently, inspects telegraph equipment, part of "hot line" communication system to be installed for use by the Soviet Premier and the U.S. President, which will be sent to Washington. (UPI)

Small Expenditure May Avert Nuclear War, Diplomats Hope

By DONALD H. MAY
United Press International

Washington–(UPI)–Diplomats here hope that a ridiculously small expenditure the United States is now making—about $32,000—will some day avert nuclear war.

This is about what it will cost the U. S. government to install its half of the so-called "hot line" between Washington and Moscow, which will open soon, perhaps by Sept. 1.

The line will put President Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in almost instant communication. It is to be used only in times of grave crisis, to avoid misunderstanding which could lead to war.

The need for it became starkly apparent during last October's crisis over Soviet missiles in Cuba. With their defense establishments on nuclear alert, both leaders found they could not exchange messages fast enough through the usual diplomatic channels.

Both at times resorted to saying what they had to say in public statements to be transmitted by news agencies. At one point defense department sent instructions to U.S. flee units in the Caribbean "en clair"—that is, without using codes—so Russia would not misinterpret movements of vessels.

The story is told of one, relatively small message sent from Washington to Moscow during the crisis. It was drafted at the state department late at night, and a diplomatic official set out in a car to take it to the Soviet embassy.

Message Dispatched

When he arrived the building was dark, and no one answered his knock. With visions of perhaps serious misunderstanding following if the message were not delivered, the official banged repeatedly on the door in the darkness. Finally someone answered and the message was dispatched to Moscow.

The hot line—called "hot" because the circuit will always be open—will be a commercial cable link running from Washington through London, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki to Moscow.

At each end will be teleprinter machines equipped with devices for automatic encoding and decoding.

U.S.-Soviet negotiators considered making it a telephone circuit but rejected this on grounds voice messages might be more open to misunderstanding than written ones.

The coding system will use perforated tapes on which various groupings of punched holes represent letters. The United States will have a supply of master, each with a different code. Russia will have an identical set. Each pair of master tapes will be used only for one message and then destroyed.

In addition to the land circuit there will be a separate radio telegraph circuit running from Washington to Tangier to Moscow. This will be used for service communications and as a back-stop in case the main system fails.

The U.S. hot line terminal will be in the Pentagon's communications center. If Khrushchev sends a message the first signal will be a ringing of bells.

Translators on Hand

Moscow to Washington messages will be in Russian; Washington to Moscow messages in English. Each side will have translators on hand. U.S. officials estimate that, including translation time, a short message could be flashed to President Kennedy, wherever he is, within minutes.

The origins of the hot line are somewhat foggy. A number of private Americans, including a Sunday magazine, have claimed they thought it up.

It apparently was first formally proposed by the United States to the Russians as one part of an April 18, 1962, U.S. general disarmament plan. The Russians incorporated the idea in a Soviet general disarmament plan July 16, 1962.

The idea lay more or less dormant among other proposals to reduce the "risk of war" until after the Cuban crisis when the United States again pressed for it. Last April Soviet disarmament negotiators at Geneva accepted it in principle. Technical talks were held and the hot line agreement was signed between the United States and Russia in Geneva June 20.

Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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CLUB DUES—VI

(This is the sixth in a series of nine articles.)

Every business and professional man who has until now deducted club dues as a business expense is up against brand new deduction headaches.

Dues you pay to country clubs, golf clubs, athletic clubs, hunting and fishing clubs — in fact to any social or athletic club – must meet two tests in order to be deductible.

First, you, the taxpayer, must use the club primarily, meaning more than 50 per cent of the time, for the furtherance of your business.

Second, if the club is used over 50 per cent for your business purposes, you can deduct only that portion of your dues "directly related" to the active conduct of your business. This is the tough, "directly related" test for deducting entertainment expenses which I described in the third column of this series. Basically, the idea is that you have to talk business with your client or customer, not just have a general goodwill discussion, in order to qualify as "directly related." There's one important exception to this, explained below.

Here's how this rule would work out, assuming you paid $600 in dues to belong to a country club. To deduct any part of the $600, you would have to show that over half the days you used the club were for ordinary and necessary business use. Suppose you can prove (by your diaries and such) that you were at the club 50 days during the year and entertained business guests on 30 of them. You meet test one. Your records also prove that on 25 of the 30 business days, you also met the second, "directly related," test. You could therefore deduct 25/50 or one-half your club dues under the new rules.

There is an exception to the tough rule on deducting club dues, as I said in a previous paragraph, and it is a distinctly liberal exception.

If you treat your business associate or customer or client to lunch or dinner in the club's restaurant or dining room, you come under the famous "quiet meal" rule, which doesn't even require that you actually discuss business at the meal. This rule not only entitles you to deduct the cost of the meals and drinks, but it also entitles you to treat the meal as a "directly related" expense for which you can deduct an allocable portion of your club dues (assuming you use the club more than 50 per cent for business over the entire year).

While this is a liberal rule, the big catch to it now is that no one seems to know exactly how to arrive at the portion of the year's dues which should be deductible because of the "directly related" meals.

For instance, suppose you were at the club only 20 times during the year. On 10 of those days, you used it only for a quiet meal with a business associate. On the other 10 days you not only had a quiet meal with your associate but you also golfed with him. Assume each meal took two hours, and each golfing session two hours. One way of figuring how much of your $600 dues is deductible as directly related would be on a daily basis. This would give you 10 full and 10 half days of business meals or 15 out of 20 days, entitling you to deduct 75 per cent of your $600 annual dues. Another way to figure is on an hourly basis which would give you 40 meal hours out of a total of 60 hours at the club and make only 66⅔ per cent of your club dues deductible.

Unless and until the Treasury speaks out, I suggest that you use the method which will give you the larger deduction.

Dues paid to Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Civitan or other business clubs, or to bar, medical or other professional organizations need not meet the tough new tests for deduction. They continue to be deductible as before, if they qualify as ordinary and necessary business expenses, as they generally will.

Next: Wives.

Postmaster Is Recommended

Congressman Robert B. Duncan (D-Ore.) has recommended Stephen N. Blackmore to fill the existing vacancy of postmaster at Cave Junction. The Post Office department requests a recommendation from Congressmen before making an appointment. The appointment must then be approved by the U. S. Senate.

Blackmore was the unanimous choice for the postmaster's job by all interested local groups, including the executive committee of the Josephine County Democratic Central committee and the Illinois Valley Democratic club. In addition he was endorsed by an overwhelming majority of individual members of the Josephine County Democratic Central committee. The matter has been pending for a number of months.

The Civil Service Examination for the position was held in November of last year, but the list of those eligible to be appointed was not received by Congressman Duncan until June 20.

Duncan said he has received letters and wires from many interested local people urging an early appointment. His recommendation to the Post Office department was made on Aug. 5, three days after receiving the letter from County Democratic Chairman Cliff Driscoll notifying him of the choice of Blackmore as the executive committee's choice.

The 4th District Congressman expressed appreciation to Mrs. Alice (Ott) Fowler for serving as acting postmistress of Cave Junction during the long process of picking the permanent postmaster. She took office in January, 1960.

MAN DROWNS

Gold Beach, Ore. – (UPI) – James Kelly, 37, Crescent City, Calif., drowned while swimming in the Rogue river 3½ miles east of here Saturday night.

More than one million cattle and one million sheep graze in the range lands of New Mexico.

Rotary District Governor To Speak

Dr. William C. Jones, Eugene, governor of district 511 of Rotary International, world-wide service organization, arrives here Tuesday, August 13, to visit the local Rotary club, one of the 27 clubs in his district.

In addition to addressing Medford Rotarians at their meeting, he will confer with Omar A. Bacon, president of Rotary Club of Medford, and other club officers on Rotary administrative matters and service activities.

Dr. Jones, who is dean of administration at the University of Oregon, is also directo of the University's Institut for College Teaching. He spent fall term, 1962, at Harvard university as Honorary Littauer Fellow in the Graduate School of Public Administration.

BREADBASKET BLOW

Paris –(UPI)– Frenchmen got hit a financial blow in the breadbasket today when the price of baguette, the long thin loaf, went up about half a penny.

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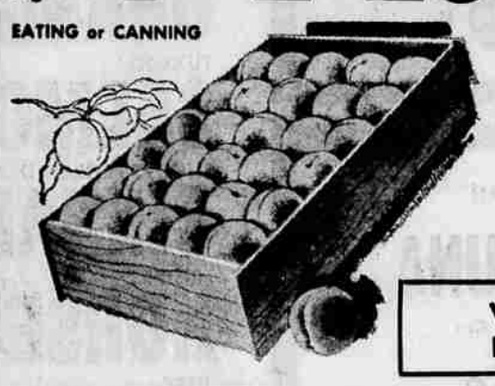

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