

**Pronouns Flubbed**

**Translation Machines Not So Smart; They Have Trouble With Spelling**

BY DICK WEST  
WASHINGTON (UPI) — As a drowning man will grasp at a straw, I never lose an opportunity to seize upon something that human beings can still do better than machines. Recently, I have been reading quite a bit about the development of translation machines.

These are electronic computers that are multi-lingual and can make rapid translations from one language to another. The big show-offs. I was gratified to note, however, that the machines are having trouble with spelling, pronouns and idioms, even as you



TAPPED — President Kennedy said he would nominate Lt. Gen. Wallace M. Greene, top photo, to be Commandant of the Marine Corps when Gen. David M. Shoup, bottom photo, finishes his term Dec. 31. (UPI)

**Mme. Nhu Urges Viet Nam Visit**

ROME (UPI) — Mme. Ngo Dinh Nhu, preparing for her trip to the United States, again has invited top American officials to see for themselves what is going on in South Viet Nam. The more senior officials come to Viet Nam to see the situation, the better it is," she told a news conference here. "They are more responsible than the people who are sabotaging our officials." She was referring to the on-the-spot assessment to be made by U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman of the U.S. Chiefs of Staff. President Kennedy has ordered both men into South Viet Nam to find out if the government's religious-political dispute with the country's Buddhists is affecting its battle against the Communists. Italian youths demonstrated against South Viet Nam's first lady while her news conference was going on.

**Area Bank Debits Increase in Month**

The Southwestern Oregon area, including Curry, Jackson and Josephine counties, experienced an increase in bank debits in August, compared to the same month in 1962. The University of Oregon bureau of business research has reported. Debits for August, 1963, totaled \$25,145,001. For the preceding year the August total was \$17,416,370. Total debits for Oregon in August, 1963, came to \$2,533,914,536. The previous year the state total for August was \$2,414,397,257.

and I. In fact, they can't begin to handle idioms as well as human translators, as witness the following two examples:

1. A human interpreter employed by the United Nations to translate English into Spanish ran up against the phrase "once in a blue moon." A literal translation would not have meant much in Spanish, so he changed it to "every time a bishop dies."

2. A translation machine was given the expression "out of sight, out of mind" to convert to Japanese. It came up with the Japanese characters for "invisible, insane."

This was a clear cut victory for the human race. Such victories are rare these days and we should cherish them while we can.

At a recent hearing by a house education subcommittee, examples were shown of a computer's handiwork in translating Russian and Chinese into English.

In places, the poor thing's spelling was atrocious. It rendered "rapacity" both as "capacity" and "capaciyi" before finally settling down to eight letters.

But what amused me the most was the way it flubbed the pronouns. Being unable to decide which pronoun was correct, it would occasionally list all the alternatives.

Thus, when a pronoun was encountered, the machine would print "him-his-it-its" or her-it-hers-its." Which, of course, is the coward's way out.

I have often wished that I could handle "who-whom"

Ugh. Computer speak with forked tongue.

Among the material translated by the machine was an article originally printed in Red China. One of the key paragraphs came out like this:

"Soviet Union successfully launch artificial cosmos stellar body but American imperialism then many times failure."

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**Paper Shuffling Necessary Before Treaty in Effect**

WASHINGTON (UPI) — U. S. Senate ratification of the nuclear test ban treaty still leaves considerable international rigamarole to be completed before the treaty formally goes into effect.

Since there is no international custodian of treaties, countries signing such pacts designate one or more governments as "depositories" to keep the official copies.

In this case, the depositories are the three original signers of the test ban treaty—the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union.

The treaty goes into effect when each of these nations has placed notices of ratification in

all three "depositories," which means nine acts of shuffling paper.

Following Senate action, President Kennedy has to sign four identical "instruments of ratification." Three are the "deposit" copies—one for London, one for Moscow and one to be kept in a vault at the U. S. State Department.

The fourth copy is what might be called this country's personal copy and will be kept either at the State Department or in the U. S. National Archives.

When each of the three countries has forwarded its notice of ratification to the other two,

and will be forwarding notices of ratification to depository governments. But this only affects their own legal status. It does not affect the three big powers.

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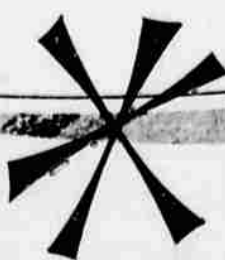
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**Records Sought In Portland Case**

PORTLAND (UPI)—Attorneys for accused slayer Robert Evans, 26, Honolulu, have filed a second motion in Circuit Court here asking for records in Evans' case.

Evans, a Hawaiian-born mechanic, is charged in the strangulation death of Mrs. Irene Davis, 41, Payette, Idaho. The body of Mrs. Davis, a wealthy cattle heiress, was found in a room at the Portland Hilton Hotel Aug. 6.

The motion asked for a court order directing the Multnomah county coroner's office to turn over to the defense all records and reports made in its investigation. The motion said these were necessary in preparation of a defense.

An earlier motion asked all records and documents in the hands of Portland police, the district attorney's office and the pathologist be turned over to the defense.