TREE-CLIMBING AUTO — A car can go forward, it can go backward, it can go uphill and it can go downhill. And as Jeff Butts, Healdsburg, Calif., now knows, it can climb a tree. Butts parked his car to go deer hunting near Healdsburg and when he returned he found it in this tree. The car had rolled downhill, hit an embankment and bounced up there. (UPI)

Stockpile Report Recommendations Lost in Squabbling

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The recommendations of the Symington report on the nation's strategic materials stockpile have been lost in a flurry of partisan squabbling which attended their unveiling.

A. Robt. Smith

At the heart of the squabble is the attempt by Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) to indict a handful of Eisenhower cabinet officers as though they were cut from the tattered cloth of Harding's "Ohio gang". Nothing in the investigation makes this a believable determination, even though it is asserted by Symington and two Democratic colleagues who served on the investigating committee.

The loud dissent by the committee Republicans would not have been possible had Symington's report been more tolerant of the problems faced by the stockpilers of the past and less hypocritical about who was applying political pressures to influence policy.

For example, the report seeks to indict Arthur S. Flemming, as director of the Office of Defense Mobilization which regulated stockpile purchases under policies of President Eisenhower; the late Douglas McKay, who had left the cabinet to run for the Senate in Oregon; and Felix Wormser, one of McKay's assistant secretaries at the Interior Department. Flemming, now president of the University of Oregon, was head of ODM from 1953 to 1957, after which he served in the cabinet.

The report cites the following episode in the government's program to stockpile chromite mined in Oregon:

In 1956 ODM was evaluating whether to extend the chrome program, begun in 1951, beyond its 1957 deadline. A Flemming aide recommended against extension because the minimum goal had been reached and domestic ore in Oregon was costing the U. S. $110 per ton compared with $45 per ton if it were bought on the world market. Flemming asked Wormser, who was in charge of minerals at Interior, for his opinion. Wormser on March 19 agreed it should be stopped.

Asked To Reconsider

On May 14 Flemming asked Wormser to reconsider. By this time McKay was running for the Senate. Termination of the program would have meant closing the government's chromite purchase depot at Grants Pass. On June 18 McKay asked Flemming to extend the program. This time Wormser recommended extension, and on June 25 Flemming wired McKay that the chrome program would run another two years. The Symington report says:

"When confronted with this flip-flop in his opinions, Wormser indicated that he had written the second letter because he had been pressured to do so by members of Congress from the western states."

McKay's letter was cited as "evidence of political pressure."

The report noted that the chrome acquisition program brought 199,961 tons into the stockpile at a cost of $18.5 million. It contends that because the price paid for Oregon chromite was 2 to 2½ times the world price, the "paper loss to the government . . . was $11.5 million."

Chief Ingredient

The Republicans are entitled to cry "foul" when a report takes such pains to mention prominent Republicans but carefully avoids naming prominent Democrats in Congress and among the Washington lobbyists who also applied pressure. Pressure, delivered in written or verbal requests for favorable action, is a chief ingredient in the way democracy functions here. Yet the Symington report treats it like a snake at a school picnic.

Congress is not only entitled but duty bound to examine the defects of the stockpile effort which followed the Korean war. It should insist on tough administration in the face of pressures; and if it rebukes weak-kneed administration, it should likewise rebuke senators and congressmen who try to subvert the purposes of a program to favor interests in their home states.

On the whole, it is hard to sustain a convincing case against the stockpilers, with all the costly defects of the program in the past, when the charge is that they bought too much at the expense of the taxpayers. The stockpile was and still is a kind of national security insurance — and nobody could know just how much was enough. In fact, nobody today knows that answer.

'Maginot Complex'

The Eisenhower policy was to set stockpile quantity goals based on the needs of the nation in a five-year war. The Symington report claims this produced a "Maginot line complex."

Nevertheless, the Kennedy administration bases current stockpiling on a three-year war assumption. The report calls this "an anachronism if not an absurdity" because the "NATO alliance assumption for a conventional European war is one of 90-days' duration; and there has been considerable discussion to reduce this to 30 days."

Obviously, the Kennedy Administration doesn't want to reduce the stockpile that drastically and take the risk of getting caught short, any more than did Flemming and his colleagues in the Eisenhower administration.

Epidemic of Flu Expected in State

PORTLAND (UPI) — The State Board of Health said today an epidemic of Asian flu can be expected in Oregon this fall or winter.

Oregon escaped big Asian flu outbreaks last year. The board said flu follows a pattern of moving into new areas the next year and that the West Coast would be a "prime target."

Dr. Grant Skinner of the board said the flu which struck the Oregon State football team last week was being looked into.

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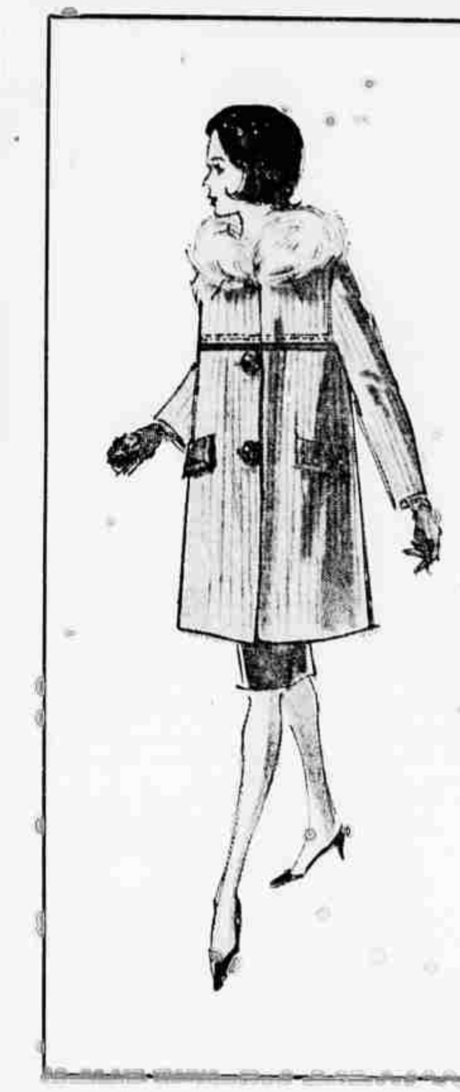

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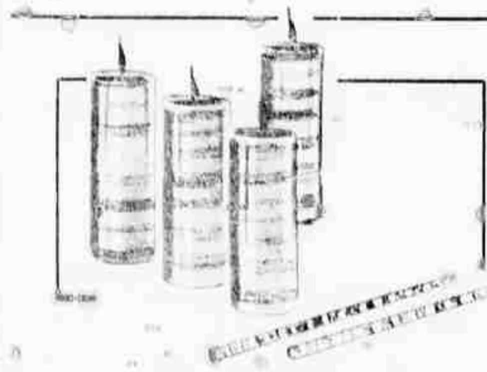

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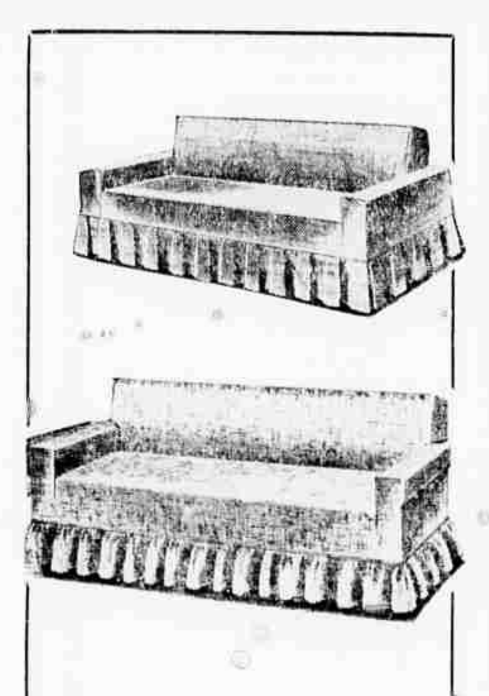

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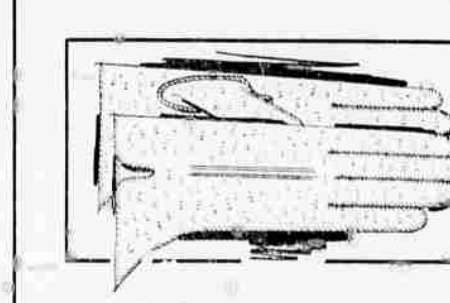

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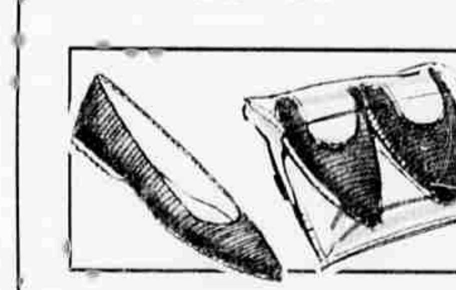

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Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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Sylvia Porter, whose financial column is a daily feature of the Mail Tribune, has been called to the bedside of her ailing mother on the West Coast.

A special series on the significance of the income tax reduction bill now under consideration in Congress was being prepared at the time the emergency developed. The series will be released as soon as Miss Porter is able to return to her New York office and finishes the copy.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a 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.)

Frank B. — He's breaking my mother's heart with his plans.

Bertram B. — Why should they dictate whom I should marry?

• • •

Frank B. — My brother was honorably discharged from the Air Force last March. He found a nice job in a big office and some girl there gave him a rush. He began to take her out, soon it was a steady thing, and now he tells my parents they're going to get married. She's not of our religion, and not at all right for him. It's all too fast.

Bertram B. — There's a long life ahead, I hope, and I have the right to decide with whom to spend it. I'd like to bring my parents home a girl they'll accept as a daughter, a sister for Frank, too. I wish they'd try to see Millie that way, but it's more important that I have found the right girl for myself. Or rather, she found me.

The Council: The road sign we'd raise here for Bertram would be slow. We won't wave the stop one yet. Looking and listening should help Bert reach the right direction. . . . Fresh out of the service, he virtually "fell into the lap" of the first girl he met. No matter what chain reaction of pit-a-pat she set up within him, he should have made it his business to meet other young ladies and widen his field of selection. The fact of her divergent religion makes this even more advisable. Regardless of protestations that "it doesn't matter, believe us, it does. Aside from what it does to family relations, the couple have much "hashing out" to do on this topic before they can hope for a successful intermarriage. It isn't easy to bury a whole childhood upbringing with a signature. . . So we say to Bert: Wallow in time. Delay a commitment. Look around. But if, after a year say, you're 100-foolproof sure this is THE it in your life—well, the family must respect your decision. But many who hesitate find a new, and more suitable, mate.

Prisoner Denied Move To Hungary

PORTLAND (UPI) — A request by a state penitentiary inmate that he be allowed to renounce his American citizenship and move to Communist Hungary was denied by Federal Judge John F. Kilkenny Monday.

The request was made in a petition by Richard Lee Dornack, 25, who has served 2 years of a 10-year sentence for robbery.

Dornack called democracy a "big sham" and said his rights had been encroached by government officials.

The judge said Dornack was not qualified under federal law to renounce his citizenship "and probably will be compelled to carry throughout his life what he claims are the ugly scars of a citizenship which he thoroughly detests and we do cherish and admire."

WHOOPS! WRONG HOUSE

CAINE, England (UPI) — When an ambulance driver showed up at her home Monday to take her to a maternity home, Mrs. Edith Taylor told him there must be some mistake.

"I told him I had finished with those places long ago," Mrs. Taylor, 73, said. "my youngest son is 46."

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