

The Story of Automation--Part V

Manufacturer Has Choice To Automate or Quit Business



SIGNS SCHOOL AID BILL. — President Lyndon Johnson and House Speaker John McCormack are shown here exchanging pleasantries during the White House ceremony for the signing of the Vocational School aid bill. The Chief Executive has just handed the Speaker one of the pens used in the ceremony. Left to right are Oscar V. Rose, Midwest City, Okla.; President Johnson; an unidentified man; Robert H. Wyatt, president of the National Education Association; and McCormack. (UPI)

Johnson Used 60 Old Fashioned Pens To Sign 'Morse-Green Bill'

By YVONNE FRANKLIN, Mail Tribune, Washington Bureau. WASHINGTON — President Lyndon Johnson used 60 old-fashioned dip pens this week when he signed into law what he called the "Morse-Green Bill" — the \$1.2 billion Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963. He singled out Sen. Wayne Morse and Rep. Edith Green for praise for their part in "working so hard for the passage of this legislation." The Oregonians stood smiling, directly in back of the President, as other members of congress and government officials crowded about during the signing. Johnson called the legislation "the most significant education bill passed by the Congress in the history of the Republic." He called the measure "a dramatic and concrete evidence of the national commitment to education as the key to the Nation's social, economic and technological progress."



Dennis the Menace. He seemed kinda upset. I sure hope he don't think I meant to get my bubble gum stuck in his beard!

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A person who urges a slowdown or halt to automation is engaging in an exercise in futility. The iron laws of competition offer the American manufacturer this choice—automate or go out of business. The Packard automobile disappeared from the highways of the nation because the company could not meet the competition from rivals who had automated. A flood of transistor radios from Japan forced six American companies to go in for automation. They were able to cut prices from \$39.95 to \$14.95, and the imports from Japan dropped 50 per cent in volume. So the inevitable prospect for the future is more automation, more sophisticated machines and more problems for the economists and sociologists. The time is not too distant when a worker will not have to pick up his paycheck. A computer will determine the amount due him on pay day, deduct Social Security, income tax withholding and insurance. Then it will notify another computer in a bank to credit the remaining money to the worker's account. Computers already are fighting wars against each other in the Pentagon. One group of them is in charge of officers leading the attacking Red army. The other is under the command of the defending Blue army. They solve problems of strategy, battlefield tactics and logistics, and when it is all over they tell which side won in this theoretical attack on the United States. Without computers, progress in the development of atomic energy would come to a dead halt. They operate valves and controls inside atomic reactors. A man who tried to do it would be killed instantly. The determining factor in whether automation will throw as many as 25 million persons out of work in the next 10 years seems to be the speed at which it is introduced. It is a common saying that there has been more technological advance in the last 50 years than there was in the previous 1,000. Ninety per cent of the drugs and pharmaceuticals in use today were developed in the last 10 years. The demand for a deliberate, planned slowdown is almost nonexistent. This reporter could find only one man who advocated it. He is Vaux Owen, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees who testified before the Senate subcommittee on employment and manpower. What he advocated was a "moratorium on all procurement or rental by the federal government of any additional automation machines except for the purposes of clear defense needs." This suggestion shocked the committee. They compared the idea with the Luddite movement in England—a group of workers who organized to destroy the machines that were forcing some of them out of their jobs. No bill providing for federal restraint on the progress of automation has even the smallest chance of passing Congress.

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Even if the next 10 years bring no big breakthrough in the development of machines, the problem of unemployment is worrisome enough. For some time now the rate of unemployment in the United States has been clinging stubbornly to around 5 per cent of the work force. The jobs and the number of people prospects seem to be that it born.

Klamath Falls Murder Hearing Nearing Jury

KLAMATH FALLS (UPI) — The defense was presenting its case in the first degree murder trial of Archie Foster, 26, Salem, today. Defense attorney Charles Burke, Salem, put his first witness on the stand Thursday after Judge Donald A. W. Piper denied a motion to dismiss first and second degree murder charges against Foster. Burke said he would call not more than four witnesses, leading to expectation that the case would go to a jury late today or Saturday. Foster is charged with shooting Mrs. Richard Biss, 37, of Beatty April 22. The last three prosecution witnesses Thursday were Klamath County Sheriff's Deputy Louis Bogart, State Police Corporal Larry Bergman and Ralph Prouty, assistant director of the State Police laboratory in Portland. Bogart described his investigation of Mrs. Biss' death and Foster's arrest two days later. He said the only weapon he was able to find was an 8 mm. Mauser in the trunk of the car in which the victim's body was found. Prouty testified that he believed Mrs. Biss was shot with a .25-35 Winchester. He said a 25-caliber bullet jacket was found next to her body, but no such weapon had been located. Bergman confirmed Bogart's description of Foster's arrest. The first defense witness was Mrs. Cookie Walker, a Beatty tavern owner who has one of the few telephones in the community. She told how she had been notified of the shooting late on April 22 and called authorities.

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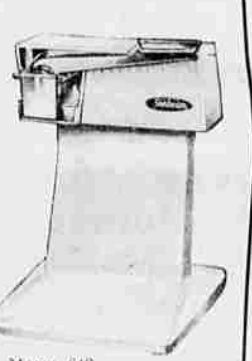
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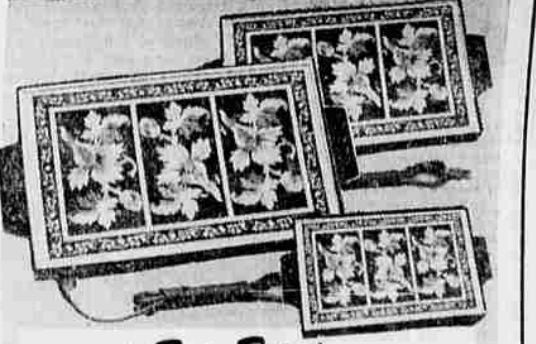
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