

## Right Name, Right Face, Wrong Man

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—Aides to Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin Thursday spotted a man at the next table in a Revell highway restaurant whom they thought to be James Keely, president of the Baltimore Orioles.

But they couldn't be positive. He looked a little older.

Albert W. Quinn, assistant to the governor, introduced himself and found the man was indeed Jim Keely, but he was surprised to find anyone knew him in this area.

His card showed he was associated with an electronics laboratory in New York City. He hadn't heard of the Baltimore contract and baseball executive of the same name.

# New Machine Selects Best Course Of Action

By RAY CROMLEY  
NEA Staff Correspondent  
PITTSBURGH (NEA) — If you have trouble making up your mind, take heart.

Scientists are now developing a machine that could make your decisions for you.

In some dream future, you might ask one of these electronic devices to "settle" an argument between you and your wife. The question: "Shall we go to the mountains or the seashore?"

You could ask, "How can I become more popular?" or, "What career should I follow?" The machine would come up with a recommended course of action.

Within the next two years the computer will be usable for industrial problems such as, "How should I vary my factory production from hour to hour to make the biggest profits?"

Many years hence it could be used by the State Department in recommending solutions to, "What should the U.S. do about Quemoy and Matsu?"

There's no guarantee, of course, that anyone will pay any attention to its answers.

The gadget has one weakness: To give you the right answer, it first must guide you into some failures. The machine uses these failures to lead you to bigger successes. It can't help if you can't afford a mistake. Don't ask it, "Should I take a swing at that cop?"

At present, this electronic machine works in the same way as an old-fashioned cook. She puts in a pinch of this and a pinch of that. She sees how it works out.

Then she adds a dab of this and a little more of that. She observes how this affects the taste. She continues this trial and error operation until she's satisfied with the result.

Scientists say this is the way most persons reason, whether it's thinking about personal problems, business or foreign affairs.

What's the advantage of the machine? Scientists say it can operate faster than a man can think. It is more consistent, more decisive, "smarter," less likely to give up. Says one developer: "The machines will never answer, 'Oh shucks, what's the use.'"

This comparatively simple, electronic device, named the Opecon, is the development of research scientists at the Westinghouse Electric Corp. Dr. Robert Hooke was a leader in its origin. Albert Kerstukas and W. G. Evans have played leading roles in developing practical uses.

Opecon is much simpler than the giant problem-solving machines that are often in the news. It also

operates differently.

Given a task, Opecon first changes something in the way an industrial process operates, then looks at the results.

If the results are better, the machine makes another decision in the same direction. If the results are worse, the machine changes the industrial process in another direction and observes the results.

The machine keeps trying out these differences by trial and error until it comes up with the best solution it can find. It doesn't make these changes hit and miss. It follows a trial and error order likely to secure the answer after the fewest trials.

Westinghouse engineers are now developing ways to use Opecon in practical industrial problems. They're experimenting with a miniature chemical plant, using Opecon to keep quality high and output large at the same time. They are also working on a way to use Opecon to regulate daily production in an oil refinery at a level that will make the most money.

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



(Photo by American Hereford Association)

The 1,800 head of Hereford cattle shown in the Wyoming drive above represent the total number of animals registered each working day at headquarters of the American Hereford Association in Kansas City, Mo., during the last fiscal year. Registrations during the fiscal period, ended August 31, totaled 453,632, an increase of 22,681 over last year and more than 223,000 above the combined registrations of other major beef breeds for the last year reported.

## Sgt. Invents No-Skid Specs

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A sergeant at Walter Reed Army Medical Center has invented a way to fit eyeglass frames to the individual. He guarantees that whether the wearer hops, skips or jumps, the specs will stay firmly in place.

Staff Sgt. Cecil T. Butler has been making artificial dentures for 15 years at Walter Reed's Central Dental Laboratory. All these years he's been thinking about the problem of slipping glasses. So he perfected non-skid specs.

Butler has a patent pending on his invention, for, like the man who invented a better mousetrap, he finds such interested parties as optical firms beating a path to his door.

The sergeant reasoned that if individual fittings can do wonders for dentures, the same thing could be accomplished with eyeglasses. He makes snug, smooth-fitting ear pieces by a custom-tailored mold from a plaster cast impression of the area behind a glass-wearer's ear. The special fitting takes only about one hour and the expense is very little since the cost of materials is negligible.

Butler reports that he has gone swimming wearing his snug-fitting glasses and did not even have to readjust them after diving.

### SCHOOL SITE

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP)—A rural school district in Campbell County has whipped the school building shortage. It purchased a 42-foot house trailer, remodeled and converted into a classroom large enough to accommodate its three students and one teacher.



**DOG MEETS DOG**—Good pals are Shadow, right, pet dog of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Hudgin, of Welch, near Midland, Tex., and Pop, left, one of two prairie dog pets of their son, Lance. The four-month-old prairie dogs are kept in a cage with a wire-mesh bottom so they can't burrow their way out of captivity.



**BONGO, BONGO, BONGO**—Envy of all the world's zoos will be the Cleveland (Ohio) Zoo when the critter above arrives from Africa. It is a bongo trapped by a Cleveland Zoological Society expedition in the high mountain forest areas around Mt. Kenya. It is the only one in captivity in the world. This specimen, a female about four months old, will grow to a height of nearly four feet at the shoulder and will sprout horns. It is reddish chestnut color with white stripes and markings.

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