

Exploding Atoms Trained To Do Science Wonders

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Atomic Energy Commission is training exploding atoms to run automatic factories.

Trigger alarm bells the moment a fire breaks out... Power unmanned weather stations remote from civilization... Supply electricity for the radio voices of robots ranging far out in space.

These exploding atoms, called radioisotopes already are performing wonders for science, industry, medicine, and agriculture. The AEC has launched an "isotope development program" to make them do even more.

Radioisotopes are plentiful and becoming more so. The AEC manufactures some. Others it plucks out of the vast quantities of "hot waste" from its nuclear reactors.

Because they emit easily detectable rays, they lend themselves to a host of uses in everything from thickness gauges to process controls in automatic factories.

For example, consider the atomic fire alarm. It consists of a chamber containing air made electrically conducting by rays from a tiny batch of disintegrating atoms. Says the AEC: "It will sound an alarm if smoke enters the chamber since this alters the electrical characteristics of the air and upsets a balanced circuit."

For both medicine and industry radioisotopes provide compact sources of intense radiation similar to X-rays.

For hundreds of uses, extremely small quantities suffice. The five-watt generator exhibited recently at the White House is powered by less than one-ninth

teenth of an ounce of radioactive material.

This tiny amount emits as much radiation as 6 1/2 pounds of radium—and there is only about 4 1/2 pounds of refined radium in the world.

The AEC estimates the value of industrial use of radioisotopes at about \$350,000,000 a year and predicts this figure will rise to \$1,000,000,000 soon.

The AEC said Saturday in its semiannual report that it distributed 228,000 curies of radioisotopes last year compared with 166,000 the year before. Since it started its isotope program in 1946 it has shipped more than 600,000 curies.

The curie is a measure of radioactivity—the activity of one gram of radium. This means that the artificially-produced radioisotopes dispensed by the AEC in the past 13 years were comparable in activity to 14,520 pounds of radium.

The sensitivity of radioisotope tools is fantastic. The AEC reported a new gadget that can measure the thickness of silver plating to an accuracy of a hundred-thousandth of an inch.

By developing ways of separating useful radioisotopes from reactor wastes the AEC has been able to bring some prices down to 10 per cent of what they were. The commission is looking for even cheaper production.

Underground atomic explosions may provide it. Materials lining the shot chamber would be made radioactive by the explosion.

The AEC hopes to test this theory with an experimental explosion deep in a new Mexican salt bed some time in the fiscal year starting July 1.



JAMES E. SOWDER, leader of the U.S. Forest Service research center at Bend since 1949, has been promoted to be in charge of the station management division at the Lakes States Forest Experiment Station, Saint Paul, Minnesota, effective February 22. Sowder worked on the Modoc National Forest from 1939 to 1949, except for a two-and-a-half year period of service with the Navy.

Democracy Advances In Latin American Lands

By CHARLES STAFFORD
AP Newsfeatures Writer

Constitutional government is slowly stamping out one-man rule in Latin America.

Dictatorship has become perilous. When Gen. Fulgencio Batista fled from Cuba in the early hours of 1959, he became the seventh dictator in five years to be tossed out of office—by revolution or assassination.

Only three are left: Gen. Alfredo Stroessner in Paraguay, Generalissimo Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, and Luis Somoza in Nicaragua.

The dictator toll reads like this: June 30, 1954: A 12-day civil war in Guatemala ended with the flight of strong-man Jacobo Arben Guzman.

September 19, 1955: Dictator-president Juan Peron was ousted in Argentina after a brief revolt.

September 23, 1956: Gen. Anastasio Somoza, dictator-president of Nicaragua, died of wounds received at the hands of an assassin.

December 12, 1956: Paul E. Magloire, Haiti's strong man, was kicked out after trying to retain the presidency beyond the time specified in the country's constitution.

May 10, 1957: Gustavo Rojas Pinilla, dictator-president of Colombia, was forced out of office by a revolt.

July 27, 1957: Carlos Castillo Armas, Guzman's successor as Guatemalan president, was assassinated. Though not a confirmed dictator, Castillo Armas was running his country with a firm hand.

Jan. 22, 1958: Marcos Perez Jimenez, dictator-president of Venezuela, was expelled by revolution.

January 1, 1959: Batista fled in the face of Fidel Castro's advancing revolutionary forces.

With the exception of Nicaragua—and withholding judgment on Cuba, where the issue is still in doubt—constitutional government has followed the path of the dictator. The progress toward political maturity has not brought with it any automatic love of the United States, the "Colossus of the North."

Dr. Milton Eisenhower, in a recent report to his brother the President, found Latin Americans criticizing the United States for granting too little credit, for fixing prices and for supporting dictators.

To bolster relations with Latin America, the United States already has agreed to take part in a commission to study stabilization of coffee prices, scheduled meetings to discuss regional economic problems, agreed to take part in an Inter-American Development Bank which promises an answer to Latin American demands for easier credit, agreed to support a Latin American "common market," voted funds for an educational exchange with Latin America, and expanded activities of the U.S. Information Agency in Latin America.

The life of democracy south of the border depends, to a large extent, on the United States. A stable government does not follow automatically the adoption of a constitution.

Argentina, for example, is near bankruptcy in the wake of Peron's long rule. President Arturo Frondizi has ordered a two-year austerity program. He has warned that many of the 1,800,000 government workers—out of a total population of 20 million—will lose their jobs and meat will be scarce while cattle herds are being rebuilt.

In an effort to help, the United States has granted Argentina 329 million dollars in economic aid.

But this may not prevent the fall of the Frondizi government, for labor unions still loyal to ex-dictator Peron plague the nation with strikes.

Other governments also are in trouble. Haiti, stricken with poverty, is moving toward dictatorship. In an effort to strengthen the economy, the Haitian Congress granted the president near-dictatorial powers.

In Venezuela and Colombia, new democratic governments are opposed by the military. Thus far, however, the opposition has not been subversive.

Inflation plagues the Brazilian government. And the Bolivian government has put down two revolts in the last year.

TO ATTEND COUNCIL

ALTURAS—The District Council of Northern California and Nevada Assembly of God Churches will hold its annual council in Sacramento, February 24 through 27. The Rev. C. Clifford Catledge, pastor of the Alturas church, plans to attend.

Yreka Chamber Endorses School Bond Proposition

YREKA—With a vote of eight to three, the board of directors of the Yreka Chamber of Commerce gave endorsement for the passage of the elementary school bond and state aid propositions, which are to be voted on by Yreka citizens February 17.

The vote was taken at a meeting of the board held on Monday evening, February 2, following a discussion on the pros and cons of the necessity for four extra classrooms for the Yreka elementary school system.

Warren Tormey opened the discussion by citing the need for the extra classrooms this fall, saying that if Yreka did not get the extra rooms that it was possible that the kindergarten would have to be eliminated.

He also stated in part that the use of a church building, which had been considered for classrooms, would not, if available, pass the fire marshal's rulings as it had only one entrance and exit. He further indicated that the use of the old high school building was not feasible, since he had information that the high school had received orders to be moved from those buildings at the end of the year. He also had understood that the state had allocated funds for its destruction.

The directors agreed that there was a need for more room in the elementary system, but felt assistance should not be asked through state aid programs, but should organize a junior high school district. Also one question posed was relative to how the citizen's committee figured there would be an increase in kindergarten enrollment, to which Tormey stated that figures had been compiled, which showed that over an eight-year period there was an average increase of 62 students.

The discussion was concluded with acting chairman, Del Pillard calling for a secret ballot, which was requested by some of the members of the board, and he announced the results as being eight yes, and three no.

Tax Increase Plan Fought By Merchants

NEW YORK (AP)—Retail merchants here are fighting the prospect of an increase in the city's 3 per cent sales tax to 4 per cent. They say it would be catastrophic for business.

But it may be a losing battle for the 150,000 storekeepers.

City Hall estimates that it needs an extra 145 million dollars to cope with a budget of about two billion dollars for the 1959-60 fiscal year.

Mayor Robert F. Wagner, a Democrat, has proposed that offsetting be authorized, and taxed, to fill the gap.

But such betting, at city-supervised places outside the horse race tracks, would require approval of the Republican-dominated State Legislature. And the solons have indicated they would turn thumbs down on moral grounds.

In the face of that, the mayor has said that a sales tax increase appears to be the only feasible alternative.

The merchants have formed what they call the Anti-4 per cent Sales Tax Committee in hopes of blocking the increase. The committee is headed by Walter Hoving, chairman of Tiffany & Co., the jewellers, and president of Bonwit Teller, fashionable women's wear store.

Hoving contends the tax in crease would drive business to suburban counties bordering the city. The counties have numerous shopping centers.

African Racial Policy Author Dies Of Stroke

CAPETOWN (AP)—Dr. Daniel F. Malan, author of much of South Africa's racial policy, died Saturday after suffering a stroke.

The 84-year-old former editor and clergyman, who was the nation's prime minister from 1948 to 1954, defied worldwide condemnation to enforce a policy of apartheid that he insisted was the traditional policy of South Africa since the first Dutch settlers arrived in Capetown.

Dr. Malan, as the dominating voice for Afrikaner nationalism, was a controversial figure during his long political career. Critics accused him at times of attempting to become a dictator after he rose to power in 1948.

He opposed South Africa's entry into the second World War and in 1942 moved unsuccessfully in Parliament to withdraw the nation from the conflict.

In attempting to define apartheid, Malan said that white South Africans had maintained their racial identity among overwhelming majority of nonwhites for 200 years and were not prepared to surrender it.

He said the color consciousness of South Africa arose from the contrast between two irreconcilable ways of life—those of barbarism and the civilization of heathenism and Christianity.

"There is no parallel for the South African record of nonextinction, nonmiscegenation, and nonassimilation but of preaching practicing Christianity with the retention of racial identity and mutual respect," he said.

Bowmen Open Indoor Range

YREKA—A shoot contest between two teams of the Siskiyou Bowmen was climaxed with a pot-luck dinner February 1 at the new indoor range, 217 West Miner Street, Yreka.

Following the afternoon meal, the junior group held a shoot until 3 p.m., followed with the adult group shooting until 7 p.m.

Adults attending the dinner included Mr. and Mrs. Dean Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Feryl Hester, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Waggoner, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Williams, Carol Alameda, Kevin Broderick, LeRoy Bullis, Harvey Russell and Mrs. A. Temple.

Junior members included Dennis and Ronald Campbell, Danny Fraser, Kenneth and Leslie Foster, Albert Harrell, David Patrick, Hallie, Lynn and Tim Waggoner, and Laura and Debbie Williams.

Siskiyou Bowmen extends an invitation to anyone wishing to learn the sport of archery, or wishes to shoot, to attend meetings on Thursday nights after 7 o'clock, or Sundays after 3 p.m. Advisers will be present at all times.

Lake County School Plan Heard Without Dispute

FORT ROCK—Patrons of Silver Lake, Ana River, Paisley and Fort Rock school districts heard the Lake County Reorganization Committee proposal for a two administrative district plan for the county.

There was no dissension over the change from a three unit plan which would have placed Fort Rock and Silver Lake in a separate district.

The revision was made by the committee following a January meeting attended by D. W. Patch, state director of reorganization. At that time the committee feeling was that a plan with a third district would be rejected since the law provides for classes for grades one through 12 in each administrative unit. The high school at Silver Lake was 15 years ago, leaving secondary schools only at Paisley and Lakeview.

The major concern in North Lake County has been provision for high school students under the new plan. The committees plan for this area of concern was well received at the meeting here.

By means of recommendations to be included in the plan they ask for continuation of "the policy of the non-high board during the past 30 years and allow boarding high school pupils to attend the high school of their choice with tuition and board in lieu of transportation paid."

This would permit pupils, as now, to live with relatives or friends other than in Lake County if it were feasible for the welfare of the pupils.

Further recommendation pointed out by Phil Quisenberry of Lakeview, chairman of the committee, include: "that each attendance area operate with a three person advisory committee to the administrative district board; that transportation be continued in the proposed districts."

The approximately 50 patrons attending favored a 7 person board for the north Lake County administrative district.

Upon acceptance by the state the completed plan upon which patrons will vote will include these recommendations.

Committee members attending the meeting were Quisenberry, Robert L. Weir Jr., and Roy Perry, Lakeview; Jess Penington, Summer Lake; Mrs. Maurice Ward, Fort Rock; Frank Pitcher, alternate, Silver Lake and Mrs. Anne Sprague, Lake County superintendent of schools, who is also committee secretary.

Lumber Firms Deny Charge

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two west coast lumber companies asked the Federal Trade Commission Friday for dismissal of charges that they have an illegal interlocking directorate.

The Booth-Kelly Lumber Co. of Springfield, Ore., and the Michigan-California Lumber Co. of Camino, Calif. denied the charge made by the FTC last Dec. 15.

The two lumber companies denied competing with each other in violation of the Clayton Antitrust Act which forbids any person to hold directorships in two competing companies, one of which has assets of more than one million dollars.

The FTC charged the two companies competed in selling fir and cedar lumber.

John W. Blodgett Jr. is a director of both companies and president of the Michigan-California firm.

Minister Wins Assembly Post

ALTURAS—The Rev. C. Clifford Catledge, the presbyter of the Assemblies of God in Modoc and Shasta counties, was one of the featured speakers at the Sacramento Sectional Fellowship meeting held in Redding.

The Rev. Mr. Catledge, pastor of the Assemblies of God Church in Alturas, will be succeeded by the Rev. Edwin Cole, pastor of the Assemblies of God Church in Chico, elected at the meeting.

SCOUT NEWS

CUB PACK 71

The pack met recently at Ferguson School, when the flag ceremony was presented by the Webel den, with William Kozak leading the salute.

Cubmaster Joe Sullivan presented awards to the following boys: Denner; Danny Sullivan and Bob Bergman, Assistant denner; Raymond Kolb; wolf gold arrow; Steven Swisher; wolf badge; Russell Morris; shoot the moon; Eugene Powell; den chief cord; George Webbe; Larry Sullivan and Jimmy Williams.

The newly elected Pack 71 officers for 1959 are F. K. Swisher, institutional representative; Arthur A. Phelps, chairman; Dale Pepper, Everett D. Peery, Clifford A. Clayton, Alex Kozak and William Hamilton, committee members; Joe Sullivan, cubmaster; Orville Musgrove and Stephen Sanford, assistant cubmasters; and Mrs. Orville Musgrove, Mrs. Robert Bergman, Mrs. Vernon Newlun, Mrs. Raymond Kolb and Mrs. Dale Pepper, den mothers.

A skit was presented by dens four to seven. Each den passed out little newspapers they had made. The meeting then adjourned.

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Boys Prefer County Jail

HARTINGTON, Neb. (AP)—The county jail here is a cozy place. You can take the word of Melvin 11, and Chester Booker, 14, for that.

Melvin and Chester are two Houston, Tex., Negro boys who about a month ago decided they wanted to go to New Orleans to see grandma and take in the Mardi Gras festival.

So they stowed away on a truck they thought was headed that way. It wasn't. It came up into the cold northland.

Two days later, at a weighing station near Laurel, Neb., the two boys were found cold and hungry and in their words "plain skinned."

They were taken in by Sheriff John Ribbe and he still has them. From Houston the boys' mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, told Ribbe she was trying to raise money to send for them.

In the meantime the boys have won the town. Hartington residents gave them warm clothing, invited them to home dinners and took them to high school basketball games.

As for the home in jail—let Melvin tell it: "I'll stay right here! It's cold out there!"



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Box 32-E, Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Truth broadcasts will be judged for appropriateness, clarity, sincerity and originality.

Competition closes March 31, 1959. All contributions go in their entirety to Radio Free Europe.

Published as a public service in cooperation with The Advertising Council and the Newspaper Advertising Executives Association.