

## Cause Cited In Explosion Of Vessel

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP) — The Coast Guard was told Monday that the fire and explosion aboard the S.S. Amoco Virginia Sunday that killed 7 men and injured 25 was caused by a "huge pool of fire which swept upstream."

The captain of the tug Pan VI told newsmen he testified at a Coast Guard preliminary investigation at Port Arthur that the fire did not start "near our barges, tug, or the Amoco Virginia."

Capt. L. G. Hodges said he told the Coast Guard the fire "was being drawn upstream in the wake of another tug pulling a barge."

The Pan VI was tied up next to the Amoco Virginia at the time and Hodges said he watched as the sheet of flame—about 500 feet in diameter—swept toward the tanker.

Hodges said he cast off his lines as the fire approached and left the area. The fire and explosion happened soon after, he said.

Coast Guard Cmdr. Robert Flockhart, said an investigating team will start taking sworn statements here today.

Upper reaches of the Houston ship channel remained shut to traffic because of gasoline fumes seeping from the fire-swept ship.

R. J. Evans, port captain, said "We're just sitting on a lighted dynamite keg."

A Houston fireman drowned Monday while working to cool down the vessel.

Evans warned the public to stay clear of the Hess Terminal area where the smoldering, blackened hulk settled on the muddy bottom of the channel.

Evans said the danger lay in gasoline leaking into the waterway, and in thick fumes around the Hess Terminal area. The situation was especially critical, he said, because stocks of fire-quenching chemicals had been depleted.

## Red A-Boss Against Tests

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) — The Soviet Union's atomic energy administrator, Prof. Vasily S. Emelyanov, says he is opposed to atomic bomb testing of all types, including underground tests.

He also told a news conference Monday, that it is impossible to say at this stage of atomic development whether the Soviet Union or the United States is ahead.

Emelyanov heads a group of nine Soviet scientists touring U.S. atomic facilities under an exchange program he said he hoped would be expanded.

## American Education Week: Parents' Role In Schools

Editor's Note: This is one in a series of articles reviewing the work of our schools. It was written by Mrs. Ray (Marilyn) Dunn, president of the Klamath County Council of Parents and Teachers.

By MARILYN DUNN

During the past decade the public schools of the nation have been subjected to extensive and critical evaluation. At times criticisms of the schools have been quite unfair and destructive in nature. On the whole, however, this decade of educational debate and controversy has been good for public education.

Today we are experiencing an unprecedented public interest in education from the kindergarten through the graduate school of the university. Thoughtful and responsible citizens are engaged in constructive efforts to create and maintain schools that can meet the demands of the new age of atomic energy and space travel.

WITHIN THE next decade fateful decisions will be made concerning the future of education in the United States. The goals of education will be subjected to critical reexamination and reinterpretation. Efforts will be made to identify and serve the needs of gifted children without sacrificing the American ideal of the best possible education for all the children of all the people.

Proposals for changes in grouping and promotion policies will receive considerable attention. The need for better teachers will continue to be of major concern. The role of television in the facilitation of instruction will gradually be determined. The need for increased financial support of the schools will eventually be solved, as people recognize that a high quality of educational services cannot be provided at bargain-basement prices.

THE DECADE ahead promises

DANGEROUS TUSSELE

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Tucson police found a new wrinkle in feminine fistfights when they broke up a fight between two junior high school girls. Both girls, police said, had their hands tightly wrapped with adhesive tape, just like professional boxers.

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our schools are to be the image of what the American public wants and is willing to pay for. Good school systems have long been doing a great deal for the so-called gifted child, but now, with the swing of the pendulum, everybody is going to take years of math, much science, and three, four or five languages.

School administrators are getting pressure for such things. But if instead of swinging with the pendulum, parents, administrators and teachers would sit down together and talk about children as individuals, we could make the finest educational progress in history. As Governor Hatfield states in his letter to the parents of school age children in Oregon, "The PTA is the vehicle through which much can be accomplished for our educational system that is not possible through the administrator's desk, the teacher's classroom, the board session or the legislative lobby."

Objectives of the school education committee work within the PTA are worthy of note and study: (1) to develop and promote a deeper and more wide-spread understanding of the purposes, achievements, problems, and needs of our public schools; (2) to encourage greater participation by parents, laymen's groups, and the general public in developing plans, programs, and procedures for desirable improvements in our systems of public education; and to see that the needs of the schools are met by stimulating proper action toward that end.

Food for thought are these statistics: Since 1948 the American people have spent for tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and cosmetics 151 billion dollars. In this same period, we have spent 78 billion dollars for public elementary and secondary schools.

IN THE TASK before us one must admit the importance of the parent - teacher partnership not only to the child but to the school, the home and the community; good communication is essential if

Congress of Parents and Teachers full tuition scholarships. This program has grown from one scholarship in 1946 to approximately 100 each year. The PTA can and does do a real service in helping to recruit able young people for the teaching profession.

ALTHOUGH THE organization, meetings and activities of PTA and state branches vary as local and state needs and problems vary, all have common goals. These goals known as the objects of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers are stated in five brief phrases, packed with meaning for every parent and teacher. They are as follows:

1. To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church, and community.

2. To raise the standards of home life.

3. To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of chil-

dren and youth.

4. To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child.

5. To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in

physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

We must encourage ourselves with the thought that each effort has its part and place in the completeness of the onward parent-teacher movement in our country, and as partners we can ever be alert, with praise and appraisal of our schools, doing a lasting service for our children, our schools

and our community. For that reason let us continue persistently and patiently to do all we can.

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