Herald and News

Editorial Page

No Excuse

The cruel words "unnecessary tragedy" have to be applied to the shocking collapse of an Air Force radar tower in the Atlantic 70 miles south of Long Island.

Both the Air Defense Command and the United States Senate should promptly convene their announced inquiries and seek to fasten responsibility for this disaster where it belongs.

We do not need an investigation, however, to tell us that this was an accident that need not have happened.

The individual or individuals who made the decision to keep this tower manned while it was in an unsafe condition were guilty of a careless risking of other men's lives. That the number of tower personnel had been reduced from a normal 75 does not lessen the offense, nor can it be comfort to the families of the 28 who died.

The elemental facts are plain. This tower off the New Jersey coast had been seriously weakened by the hurricane of mid-September, 1960. Its underpinnings, founded on the bedrock of the continental shelf, were so uncertain as to have earned the tower the rueful nickname of "Old Shaky."

The presence of 14 repairmen among the 28 on the tower is clear evidence that the structure's weaknesses had not yet been remedied. So are the letters crewmen had written to their wives on shore, complaining of the peril.

Obviously there is not the shadow of an excuse for this calamity. Whatever radar vigilance was provided by the continued operation of the tower, it should not have been bought at so high a price.

Certainly there were other means of keeping a proper alert to the possible approach of enemy rockets or aircraft. After all, our extensive eastern, southern and western coasts are not ringed by a chain of such towers. We have only two besides that which now lies at the bottom of the Atlantic.

Neither regular crewmen nor repairmen should have been asked to live on Tower No. 4 until it was entirely "seaworthy," fit to withstand the rigors of such a storm as brought it down on Jan. 15.

Many mistakes have in the past been charged to military inflexibility and thoughtlessness. This could rank as one of the worst.

Equalizing Opportunity

Our views toward federal aid to education are pretty well set—we do not like it in any form, and we have said so.

At the same time, it would be foolhardy to deny that our rather arbitrary stand is the final word in this vast field of discussion.

Our position is that education is better left in the hands of the various states. That is, controls and regulations should not be imposed at a level above that of the state.

A visitor who has been in education all of her life, and who knows whereof she speaks dropped in for a chat on our attitude, and raised some interesting points which we had considered previously, but did not outline in our editorial last week.

One point mentioned was that the land grant colleges have been operating under federal government jurisdiction since they were organized.

Another element for consideration by our friend was that without federal programs of some sort we will never achieve uniformity of education opportunity; the so-called "equalization" of opportunity throughout the various states and districts. Therefore, we have a situation where a poorer district cannot provide the type of education their more wealthy neighbor districts give their school children.

Another point was that, with federal control, we still maintain some control at the local level, because we can "throw the rascals out" in the next election if federal officials (elective and appointive) do not do our bidding.

These are all valid arguments, and many people think they override by a wide margin any other consideration in this federal aid to education controversy.

But, we're still not convinced that this is so. We believe that history and experience show that once the federal government gets its hands on a program, there is certain deterioration. There is ponderous muddling; there is tremendous waste; there is subjugation of the individual; rights of any group below the federal level are subordinated and gradually eliminated; standardization, uniformity and conformity are the rule of the day; there exists a tendency for the "professionals" to take over, and other objectionable considerations.

These evils, we think, exceed any advantages that might accrue from federal aid to education. The states cannot surrender their responsibilities in this field. Federal aid is a myth in any field—and the advocates of better education should confine their efforts to the local and state level to find the answer to equalizing educational opportunity.

JIM BISHOP: REPORTER . . .

Devil's Dictionary Was Bierce's Best Writing

Ambrose Bierce was at his best in the years 1887 to 1896, when he wrote for the San Francisco Examiner. He was bitter and amusing, but never a great success. His older son was killed in a shooting over a girl; his wife left him after 33 years of marriage; his younger son died of alcoholism. He wrote a lot more than The Devil's Dictionary, but his acidulous definitions are among my favorites:

FRIENDLESS: Having no favors to bestow. FRIENDSHIP: A ship big enough to carry two in fair weather, only one in foul. GALLOWS: A stage for the performance of miracle plays. GENEALOGY: An account of one's descent from an ancestor who did not care to trace his own.

HABEAS CORPUS: A writ by which a man may be taken out of jail when confined for the wrong crime. HAG: An elderly lady whom you do not happen to like. HANDKERCHIEF: A small square of silk or linen used at funerals to conceal a lack of tears. HISTORIAN: A broad-gauge gossip. HONEST: Afflicted with an impediment in one's reach.

HUSBAND: One who, having dined, is charged with the care of the plate. HYPOCRITE: One professing virtues that he does not respect, secures the advantage of seeming to be what he despises. IGNORAMUS: A person unacquainted with certain kinds of knowledge familiar to yourself, and having certain other kinds that you know nothing about.

IMMIGRANT: An unenlightened person who thinks one country better than another. IMPENITENT: A state of mind intermediate between sin and punishment. INCOMPATIBILITY: In matrimony, a similarity of tastes, particularly the taste for domination. INFIDEL: In America, one who does not believe in Christianity; in Egypt, one who does. INGRATE: One who receives a favor from another.

INSURANCE: A modern game of chance in which the player is permitted to believe that he is beating the man who runs the table. INTIMACY: A relationship into which fools are drawn toward their mutual destruction. JEALOUSY: A concern about the preservation of that which can be lost only if it is not worth keeping. LAWYER: One skilled in circumvention of the law.

LITIGANT: A person ready to give up his skin in the hope of retaining his bones. LOVE: A temporary insanity curable by marriage. MAD: Affected with a high degree of intellect independence. It is noteworthy that persons are pronounced mad by officials destitute of evidence that they are sane. MAGDALENE: A woman found out. MARRIAGE: A master, a mistress and two slaves, making in all, two. MAUSOLEUM: The funniest folly of the rich.

MERCY: An attribute beloved of offenders. MIRACLE: An act unaccountable, as beating a normal hand of four kings and an ace with four aces and a king. MISFORTUNE: The kind of fortune that never misses. MISS: A female who is in the market. MOUTH: In man, the gateway to the soul; in woman, the outlet of the heart.

NEPOTISM: Appointing your grandmother to office for the good of the party. NOISE: A stench in the ear. NOSE: The outpost of the face.

NOVEL: A short story padded.

OPPOSITION: In politics, the party that prevents the government from running amuck by hamstringing it. PAINTING: The art of protecting a flat surface from the weather by exposing it to the critic. PARDON: To restore to a life of crime. PATIENCE: A form of despair disguised as a virtue.

PICTURE: A representation in two dimensions of something wearisome in three. PLATITUDE: A moral without the fable. PLATONIC: A fool's name for the affection between a disability and a frost. POLITENESS: Acceptable hypocrisy. POSITIVE: Mistaken at the top of one's voice. PRAY: To ask that the laws of the universe be annulled in behalf of an unworthy petitioner.

PREJUDICE: A vagrant opinion without visible means of support. PROOF-READER: A malefactor who atones for making your writing nonsense by permitting the compositor to make it unintelligible. PUSH: One of two things conducive to success. The other is Pull. QUILL: An implement of torture yielded by a goose and wielded by an ass.

RIOT: Popular entertainment given to the police by innocent bystanders. ROAD: A strip of land along which one may pass from where it is tiresome to be to where it is futile to go. SAINT: A dead sinner revised and edited. SIREN: Any lady of splendid promise and disappointing performance.

SUCCESS: The one unpardonable sin. TOMB: The House of Indifference. TRICHINOSIS: The pig's reply to pork chops.

Bierce's body has never been found. Wherever he is, you may be sure he's still south of the border. . . .

Treasures In Our Forests

(FROM THE PENDLETON EAST OREGONIAN)

With the largest stand of merchantable timber in any of the states, Oregon's economy will depend heavily upon the utilization of that wood. How, then, is an industry that has not been noted for its vision doing with this resource? Much better than many probably realize.

There is growing realization that timber must be treated as a crop and that it is a tremendously valuable resource because it is a renewable resource. More important, large sums of money are being spent in this state to get new products from wood. Numerous companies and research groups are active in "silvichemicals" research, concerned with chemical wood products.

An example of the wide variety of uses into which new chemical products of the tree are finding their way is furnished by Crown Zellerbach Corp., which says its silvichemicals are going into asphalt emulsions, briquets, ceramics, cleaning compounds, gypsum board, softboard, insecticides, linoleum paste, road binders, concrete admixtures, oil-well drilling compounds, paint, paint solvents and strippers, agricultural chemicals, synthetic fibers, rubber, camphor, wetting agents, resins, solvents, plasticizers and a host of other products.

Weyerhaeuser Company is shooting for a full line of silvichemicals and is presently marketing quercetin, a brilliant yellow chemical derived from Douglas fir bark which protects certain products such as rubber, plastics, vegetable and animal oils, feeds and other commodities from spoiling or deteriorating. Company scientists are continuing their extensive research on bark components and whole-wood fiber products.

In Portland, Georgia-Pacific Corporation will soon start production of 200,000 to 300,000 pounds a month of cyanide chemicals in a major new chemical pilot plant which will use bark and sawdust. The new plant will turn out glycerin, copper cyanide, ferric ferrocyanide, copper sulphate and nickel sulphate worth an estimated $2,000,000 to $3,000,000 a year.

A new research and development center of Evans Products Co. at Corvallis is pushing research on chemical utilization of wood residues. The center is presently turning wood fiber into plastic-impregnated battery separators.

Western Pine Association's laboratory in Portland has developed methods for extracting arabogalactin, a sugar from larch which is useful as a pill binder and an ingredient for such products as ink and glue. The pine industry researchers have also improved extractive techniques for resin, a source of turpentine and rosin. Resin, which makes up some 5 per cent of pine trees, can be obtained from stumps, or lumber.

At Corvallis, the Oregon Forest Research Center, an industry-supported state organization, has isolated major chemical constituents from Western trees and has developed uses for extractives from Douglas fir bark such a tannins, waxes and dihydroquercetin. Scientists there are also studying lignin structure and are working with wood residues.

All this should be most encouraging to the citizens of a state that depends to the extent that Oregon does upon wood products manufacturing. But maybe we "ain't seen nothin'" yet.

Approximately 30 per cent of every tree in the forest consists of lignin—the glue which nature uses to hold the fibers of the tree together. Researchers have not yet fathomed its exact structure, despite their progress in obtaining a growing range of chemicals from it. Most of them believe that once they achieve the breakthrough in pinning down lignin's structure completely they will then have the framework with which to create a silvichemical industry comparable to the diverse petro-chemical field.

When the mysteries of lignin are no longer mysterious the door will be opened to industrial expansion in this state of a magnitude that few can measure today. And it may not be far off.

Save that tree. In a few years mills will not only want it, but any bark, limbs, knots and pitch pockets you have.

THE DOCTOR SAYS . . .

Water Retention Causes Discomfort

By HAROLD T. HYMAN, M.D.
Written for NEA

"I am 38 years old," writes Faithful Reader, "and, although my periods are regular, I sense a soreness in my breasts and a pain in my lower right side about two weeks before they begin.

"I have had several physical examinations but the doctors tell me they don't find anything wrong. Recently the discomfort seems to be worse. Could this mean that I'm developing cancer of the breasts or womb?"

I think I can assure you, sight unseen, that what you describe bears no relationship to cancer anywhere in the body.

Indeed since you say elsewhere in your letter that you have had this complaint for several years, you may be sure you haven't cancer for, if you did, you'd probably not be here to ask the question.

Your difficulties are almost surely due to a common disturbance that occurs midway between periods. When, as in your case, the pain is located in the lower right side of the abdomen, it resembles an acute attack of appendicitis so closely that an operation may be required before a definite diagnosis can be established.

You can help your doctor relieve you of this recurrent discomfort by observing your weight, each morning, before you take breakfast. Since the condition is due to retention of water in your body tissues, you will probably note a sudden gain of two to five pounds before you feel any distress.

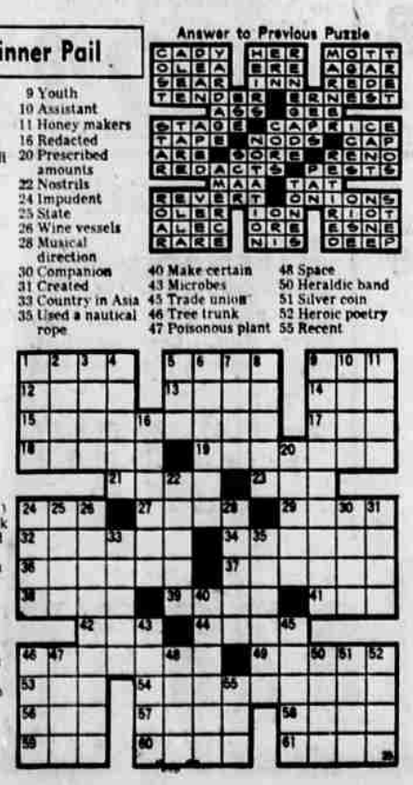
Now if you will make a little chart of your daily weight for a week or two and bring it to your doctor, he will be able to give you any one of several pills, now on the market, that will help to flush this water through your kidneys. By taking these pills, called diuretics, just before your expected weight gain, and for three or four days thereafter, you should almost surely obtain relief.

Full Dinner Pail

ACROSS
1 Vegetables
5 Fleshy fruit
9 Vehicle
12 Opera by Verdi
13 Monkeys
14 Hasten
15 Tourists
17 Suffix
18 Dried
19 Sewing tools
21 Eat
22 Slight bow
24 Cushion
27 Pastry
29 Fake
32 More level
34 Interstice
36 Ebb
37 Vended second-hand
38 Snare
39 Lateral part
41 Color
42 Scold
44 New star
46 Food servers
49 Eat away
53 Unclose (poet.)
54 There and back
56 Household god
57 Greater
58 Sailor's patron saint
59 Worm
60 Merganser
61 Dregs

DOWN
1 Butter squares
2 Ireland
3 Hebrew month
4 Rescued
5 Close friend
6 Kitchen tool
7 Simple
8 German city
9 Youth
10 Assistant
11 Honey makers
16 Redacted
20 Prescribed amounts
22 Nostrils
24 Impudent
25 State
26 Wine vessels
28 Musical direction
30 Companion
31 Created
33 Country in Asia
35 Used a nautical rope
40 Make certain
43 Microbes
45 Trade union
46 Tree trunk
47 Poisonous plant
48 Space
50 Heraldic band
51 Silver coin
52 Heroic poetry
55 Recent

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of the year with 340 more in 1961.

The moon is approaching its full phase.

The evening stars are Mars and Venus.

On this day in history:

In 1759, Robert Burns, national poet of Scotland, was born.

In 1858, Mendelssohn's Wedding March was played for the first time as Queen Victoria's daughter married the Crown Prince of Prussia.

In 1915, transcontinental telephone service was inaugurated.

In 1890, the United Mine Workers of America, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, was organized in Columbus, Ohio.

EDSON IN WASHINGTON

Tonight's Telecast New Reporting Step

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — The first live, nighttime telecast of a President Kennedy news conference, scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 25, is hailed by the radio and TV industry as the next logical step in electronic reporting.

The rules haven't all been set. And such conditions as have been agreed on will be subject to change for later shows.

There has been no decision whether correspondents asking the questions will have to identify themselves. It's an advantage to the President to know who's asking the question. But that encourages the show-offs and the pests to pose smart-alecky or loaded queries. Nothing will kill this conference faster than a lot of hams.

There will be no limitation as to subject matter. The President may or may not make some opening statement on a new development or on an idea he wants to put across.

First questions would presumably be on this topic to amplify or clarify it. Questions could then turn to any subject on a catch-as-catch-can basis, no holds barred.

For subsequent night conferences, the networks can file requests or the President can say when he would like to go on the air. Networks will be free to take it or leave it. But a presidential request will be hard to turn down at first.

Scheduling will be up to the networks and the time that can be made available before the real night entertainment programs and the movie reruns begin. The three networks will handle the show on a pool basis, in rotation.

If the conferences are held between 6 and 8 p.m., E.S.T., that will be 3 to 5 p.m., Pacific time. Video tapes will be cut for western stations to play back later as their schedules permit. The advantage is that stations can use as much or as little of the tape as they please.

One of the significant facts about the Eisenhower news conference recordings is that very little of them ever got on the air. One or two questions and answers were usually picked up for the news bulletins.

The suppertime pundits with 15 minutes to fill have used a few more. But the full half-hour conferences rarely got heard except by the technicians.

That may be the way the Kennedy night conferences will work out. If he has something to say and if the questions are good, the sets will stay turned on.

But if the President runs out of stuff or if the questions are as bad as they were in the Kennedy-Nixon great debates — the last previous great development in electronic reporting — these live news conferences may turn out to be the worst and the deadest turkeys ever produced by anyone.

They will have to be tried out to see if they work.

The new idea, which originated in the Kennedy camp, is already being viewed with considerable skepticism by other news media. Comments are varied.

A few press correspondents have talked facetiously about boycotting. "Why should we become unpaid extras for nighttime TV shows?" they ask.

A reporter won't have to attend personally. He can sit in his office or at home, watch the show, make his notes and write his story from what he sees or hears. On these bases, only radio and TV correspondents would attend and it would be their exclusive beat.

Morning newspapers will probably report the conferences fully as part of their business in covering the night's news. But for afternoon papers next day they will be stale news. They will, however, still have the advantage of giving first printed coverage of the President's morning news conferences.

Perhaps the sourest comment is that introduction of live telecasts marks the beginning of the end of White House news conferences controlled by the reporters. From here on they will be nothing but propaganda for presidential programs, is one view.

If that develops, the Republicans can ask for equal time.

Other Editors' Opinions

Good Appointments

(THE BEND BULLETIN)

We note that a political reporter in Salem has indicated that Eastern Oregon is "lucky" to have some strategically - placed men on the committees which will handle legislative reapportionment.

This looks more like planning than luck.

Under Oregon law, there must be a legislative reapportionment after each federal census. The legislature is supposed to do it. If the legislature fails to do it, then the secretary of state is empowered to reapportion the state. If he fails, the Supreme Court then acts. Since Western Oregon areas, especially Portland and Eugene, gained the most population, they'll probably gain added representation.

Central and Eastern Oregon, now with six senators and 11 representatives, could drop to four senators and eight representatives. The basis for dividing the area as to representation becomes more important as we lose senators and representatives.

This is where the planning comes in.

And Sen. Harry Boivin, president of the Senate, is obviously the chief planner.

Boivin appointed Sen. Boyd Overhulse of Madras as chairman of Senate Elections Committee. Sen. Ben Musa of The Dalles is vice-chairman. Both men are from east of the mountains. This committee decides upon reapportionment.

In the House, Rep. George Analla, Hood River Democrat, heads the elections committee. He too, is from Eastern Oregon.

Boivin has obviously appointed Overhulse and Musa to insure that Central and Eastern Oregon get a fair shake in reapportionment. It's a bold political move.

In so doing, he must have made himself unpopular with senators from west of the mountains.

But Boivin obviously isn't overly concerned with senators from west of the mountains. This was evidenced in his fight with Alfred Corbett and Robert Straub for the Senate presidency.

Boivin has given Eastern Oregon a chance to take care of itself, if this is at all possible, in the new reapportionment program. It wasn't "luck," but planning. And it took a lot of nerve on his part.

Now it is up to Overhulse and Musa to follow through.

Senate Keeps Filibuster

(THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR)

Conservatives are saying that the Kennedy administration already has suffered its first setback in Congress. The Senate's postponement of a rules change is the basis for this estimate.

But the tale isn't ended. The Senate has lost a good chance to let three-fifths of those present and voting to cut off debate on any subject after 15 days. Vice President Nixon had aided the revisionist movement by ruling that a simple majority could make a change in the rules. This ruling could have been decisive because it would hold if supported by a simple majority.

However, the Senate voted 50-to-46 to send the question of rules changes back to committee. The Nixon ruling will not be available beyond January 20. After that Lyndon Johnson will be presiding. Presumably he would not so flatly reverse his former position as to accept the Nixon view. For as majority leader he put through an amendment to Rule XXII (concerning cloture) which specifically blocked the closing of debate even on a rules change by less than a two-thirds vote.

On its face the failure to obtain a rules change now appears to make a later change more difficult. And, other things being equal, this would give conservatives more leverage against major items in the Kennedy legislative program. But it should be recognized that the defenders of present rules that facilitate filibustering are primarily interested in racial issues. They are not equally opposed to all social-welfare measures.

Some of them might refrain from using the filibuster against minimum wage or medical-care bills—especially if assured it would be available against new desegregation proposals. It would be difficult to prove that any such assurances were asked or given. But Arthur Krock has reported in the New York Times that during the campaign the Democratic nominees gave assurances to Senator Harry Byrd that the platform pledge to curb right-to-work laws would not be pressed. Moreover, the Senate vote indicated a declining tolerance for filibustering abuses.

So conservatives may be premature in assuming that Senate failure to change rules spells a Kennedy setback. Votes on specific measures will be a more certain gauge.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—For how long did Knute Rockne coach the Notre Dame football team?

A—Thirteen years—1918-1931.

Q—How many languages and major dialects are spoken around the world?

A—At least 3,000, not including several hundred "splinter languages."