

Food Fads Top Racket In Nation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Food fads have boomed into one of the smoothest and best organized rackets in the nation, a Harvard University professor charged today. He said thousands of health conscious Americans fall victim to it.

Dr. Fredrick J. Stare, chairman of Harvard's department of nutrition, said combating the crackpots and faddists seemed to be a never-ending task. The racket is so big, he said, that one firm employed 15,000 canvassers to sell "vitamins" made from parsley, watercress and a "secret" alfalfa base.

Stare told the closing session of the 2-day National Congress on Medical Quackery that more people fall for false food promotion than for any other product in the health field.

Sea Water Popular

Sea water has become particularly popular with the food quacks, he said. Its success is based on the misconception that because sea water contains many minerals it is healthy to drink some every day.

"From this it is only a step to flagrantly false claims that sea water is a panacea for all the diseases of mankind," Stare said in his prepared remarks.

The cost of food fakes cannot be measured in dollars alone, he said. They create a major health problem by fooling Americans into buying such things as garlic pills to cure high blood pressure and grapes to cure cancer.

Urges Vigorous Action

"There are times when people actually create or contribute to dietary deficiencies by abandoning normal diets and turning to so-called health foods," he complained.

He urged the federal government to take more vigorous action against the nutrition racket, and said the Federal Communications Commission should take a hard look before renewing the licenses of radio and television stations which permit nutritional quackery to be poured out to an unsuspecting public.

Press Pace Has Changed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Publisher Otis Chandler of the Los Angeles Times says that "presidential palship with the press is impossible."

He told the Rotary Club Friday: "We (the press) must all be treated alike, or else the press will turn on the President, which is what is now happening, and circulation and competitive pride will become more important to the nation's future."

"It is one thing to play pranks and poke ribs with newspapermen traveling on your campaign train and leak them stories one by one—especially if they happen to have the same editorial policies as the candidate."

"But if and when the candidate becomes president of the United States, the pace changes, the scene shifts, and the booby traps explode and the risks of intimacy become lethal to a president."

Chandler said he believes the press recently has been subjected to much unfair criticism, most of it from "that most famous living ex-newspaperman, President Jack Kennedy."

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Grade School Children Can Learn More Than Education System Asks

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Grade school children are able and anxious to do much more work than the average school demands. All they need is the opportunity."

Carl F. Hansen, District of Columbia superintendent of schools, thus reported Saturday on his pet project—an experiment in rigorous education in the elementary grades.

Hansen, chief architect of the "Amidon Plan" which has attracted attention and stirred controversy among educators, said in Washington that children learn letters in kindergarten, and to start writing compositions in the first grade.

Here, as outlined in Hansen's speech, are some of the main ideas of the plan:

"Some principles of geometry are now incorporated in the kindergarten and first grade studies. Phonics and reading are taught in the kindergarten—which is no longer a play school but an integrated part of the total program."

"Written compositions of many kinds should be required from the first grade."

"Grammar should be taught systematically, beginning with the fourth grade."

"A system of phonics should be taught to pupils beginning at the kindergarten level. When they begin to read, kindergarten and first grade children should learn how letters and syllables make up words."

"U.S. history should be taught in chronological order in the fifth grade. That replaces an indefinite curriculum organization that included units on such themes as transportation, inventions, and cereals."

Along with the new and tougher curriculum, Hansen said, the teacher has a new and tougher role to play in the Amidon system.

"The simple truth is that the teacher is in the classroom to teach," he said, instead of being there as "a learner along with the children, a moderator of endless panel sessions, a passive and subdued adult in a situation where adults are to be seen but not heard."

"Under the Amidon concept, the teacher returns to the front of the room with chalk in hand."

Indian College Students Double In Past 6 Years

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of American Indians enrolling for education beyond high school has more than doubled in the past six years.

Reporting this Saturday, the Interior Department also said that Indian tribes are now spending more than \$300,000 annually from their own funds on scholarship aids for their young people.

Indian Bureau statistics showed that during the academic year 1954-55 about 2,300 Indian boys and girls attended college or advanced vocational school. During 1960-61 the number had increased to almost 4,900.

Twenty-nine tribes now provide funds for advanced education of their most promising youth.

By states the tribes include: Idaho — Nez Perce, Oregon — Umatilla and Warm Springs, Washington — Makah, Spokane, Tulalip and Yakima.

Most of the funds have been voted by the tribes from monies received from the sale of oil or mineral rights, income from timberland or livestock, or from government awards.

Scholarships are ordinarily provided for students in nursing, secretarial and other vocational schools as well as at liberal arts and technical colleges.

Barbituric acid and its derivatives are the major cause of fatal poisoning among adults of the 25-64 age range.

Beer Stein Simile Out

NUERNBERG, Germany (AP) — A Bavarian court has ordered a West German newsmagazine to stop saying Defense Minister Franz Josef Strauss looks like a stein of beer. Strauss is 5 feet 9 and weighs about 200 pounds.

Publisher Rudolf Augstein of Der Spiegel (The Mirror) argued that such a description of the chunky Cabinet minister fell within the privilege of freedom of the press.

The court ruled Friday that an article comparing Strauss to a beer stein was slanderous.

Strauss, 46, was granted an injunction to prevent further distribution of the magazine carrying a long story which he said "completely misinterpreted my personality."

Among the statements the defense chief objected to were that he is a skilled panic maker, that he is filled with ruthless ambition, and that he wants nuclear weapons for the West German army in order to be able to draw the United States into a war with the Soviet Union.

Publisher Augstein, whose magazine is widely distributed in West Germany, contended it was within the rights of the press to criticize a public official.

But the court ordered a ban on this particular article about the defense minister.

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'Stretch In Jail' Cure For Medical Quackery

WASHINGTON (AP) — "There is nothing so educational as a stretch in jail" to stop medical quacks, a health official said today.

The official, Milton P. Duffy, chief of the California Bureau of Food and Drug inspections, proposed stiffer penalties for medical fakers in an address for the National Congress on Medical Quackery.

The American Medical Association and the Food and Drug Administration sponsored the two-day meeting in a drive aimed at putting medical confidence men out of business. Some 500 medical men attended.

Duffy proposed jail sentences "or a stiff fine which takes the profit out of profiteers" to combat medical quacks.

Duffy said in California, elderly persons suffer most at the hands of medical fakers.

"It is this class that most frequently becomes the target for extensive exploitation and which is subjected to enormous financial strain," he said.

He said California authorities have acted against quacks producing a cancer salve which caused chemical burns while supposedly curing the disease and a musical cancer treatment in which wires from a tape recorder were attached to electrodes placed on the body of the patient. Duffy said the device was supposed to disintegrate tumors by carrying music to the site of the cancer.

Dr. Harold E. Jeevey Jr., former president of the Federation of State Medical Boards, complained about light penalties imposed on quacks.

Korean Living Not Improved

SEOUL, Korea (AP) — Joseph K. Kim, president of the Korean National Association in Hawaii, says he sees no improvement in the living standards of South Koreans since he was last here 11 years ago.

"Wherever I have been, the suffering remains the same," Kim told newsmen. He is with a group of Koreans living in the United States and Japan on a visit at the invitation of the new revolutionary government.

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