

Editorial Page

Hospital Patients

One of the more promising steps taken in recent years to slow down soaring hospital costs is to release certain patients to rehabilitation clinics or rest homes for less expensive recuperation.

Almost any physician will admit that hospitals have patients taking up valuable facilities and attention whose conditions do not warrant either, but because they are not well enough to be discharged from a doctor's care and because there is usually no alternative to a hospital available, there they remain.

No national studies of the problem have been made which reveal the extent to which hospitals devote their time to patients who could do with less formal surroundings, but local studies show the waste in scarce talent and unnecessary costs to be enormous.

One of the latest studies undertaken by the New York County Medical Society esti-

mates that 10 per cent of the medical, surgical and pediatric patients in general hospitals could be sent home and treated there.

As an example of the cost savings possible, the study cited 863 patients who had been sent home for recuperation and the \$20,000 in doctors' fees alone they saved. Under the home-care plan, these patients received regular nursing care when required, doctor visits and medicines. They saved the cost of the facilities they did not need, in addition to room and board.

Home-care service has a long way to go before its potential is developed. But in removing patients from the fixed costs of a hospital as soon as they may be moved, the medical profession is saving itself some of the harassment of too many patients in too few beds treated by too few doctors.

Kind Word For People

The next time some conspicuous act of cruelty, violence or selfishness prompts you to wonder what's happening to the human race, please consider these evidences that people aren't all bad:

— More than 200,000 persons sent messages of sympathy and encouragement to singer Nat King Cole when his serious illness became known.

— Even in these days of the population explosion there are many more adoption requests than orphanages and similar institutions can fill.

— In city after city, time after time, news stories of individuals or families in dire need invariably evoke heartfelt responses—and much of the help comes from people who have pitifully little themselves.

— When President Kennedy was assassinated, contributions flowed in from all over the country not only for the widow of the policeman who also was shot down by the assassin, but for the widow of the assassin.

— Any stray dog in the city pound whose plight is publicized in print or on the air is almost certainly assured a good home—and the offers come from scores of families.

— Anyone who has experienced sorrow or misfortune cannot soon forget the kindness and help of friends and neighbors.

It is true that some people are cold and selfish and that some are indifferent. But the evidence is overwhelming that the kind and warmhearted folks so far outnumber the others that the only objective conclusion has to be that the old world is a pretty good place to live, after all.

OUR READERS WRITE ...

Letters To The Editor

Candid Remark

At the inaugural ball in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Mark Hatfield was interviewed by a newsman. He asked her who she thought might be the next Republican candidate. She said, "Whoever it is it will be better than this."

Free speech is one of our most precious possessions. Mrs. Hatfield should be commended for her courage to speak her convictions. Instead some Oregonians are trying to dim the stature of our first lady. I say "Congratulations, Mrs. Hatfield."

Rae Wilkins, Keno, Ore.

This remark has stirred considerable comment. Freedom of speech is one of the most precious items of our heritage. On the other hand the President of the United States, members of the cabinet, our governor and others in high office more respect publicly by people of stature. Especially if we expect youngsters in school to respect the flag, authority, etc.—Editor.

Train Crews

I speak for a group of railroad people that wish to bring about a better understanding of the letter you refer to in railroad officials.

The most serious aspect of this problem is not so much the number of men losing their jobs, although to each it must seem so, but the fact that the great loss of pay which faces a large number of firemen.

The S.P. Company does not explain to you the kind of jobs that will be offered men with 10, 20 and 30 years of service. A thorough investigation shows that the elimination of firemen even though gradual will reduce the pay of many, not \$200 or \$300 a month as I stated before but an average of \$400. To maintain one's standard of living with this decrease in pay would be impossible and you can be sure the reduced income repercussions would be felt in every railroad center in our state.

Perhaps the simplest way to explain the effect of this change is that men of many years seniority would be reduced in earning power in respect to the man he replaces. Some firemen would replace the

two-year men who hold the lowest paid jobs. Each man thereafter would be demoted leaving the higher paid jobs vacant. Firemen would not be required on these locomotives.

As for the safety of trains not being mentioned in management's letter, be advised that decreasing the size of crews automatically affects safety.

They go hand in hand. However the number of men in an engine cab, although important, is not the main issue. It is "who" is in the cab. A fireman is trained to make regular tours of locomotive units, inspect and correct malfunctions. They happen daily on many trains and some are of a dangerous nature. No other man is qualified to perform this service except an engineer and he is not allowed to leave his seat. In such instances if no fireman is aboard the only alternative would be to delay the train until a maintenance crew could be sent out. If four or five engines had trouble in one it would pose quite a problem.

June Stalnbrook, 2042 Eberlein.

Almanac

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 1965 with 324 to follow.

The moon is approaching its full phase.

The morning star is Mars.

The evening star is Jupiter.

Russian author and poet Boris Pasternak was born on this date in 1899.

On this day in history:

In 1933, a new feature in telegraphic service was introduced — the "singing telegram."

In 1937, the Chinese Communists offered to end their 10-year civil war with the government of Chiang Kai-shek in favor of a "united front" against the Japanese invaders. Kai-shek refused.

In 1942, the last civilian cars for the duration rolled off the assembly lines in Detroit as the industry was converted for war production.

In 1961, an Australian aircraft carrier and a destroyer collided in the Tasman Sea with the loss of more than 100 lives.

A thespian for the day: Austrian writer Fra Kafka once said: "There are two cardinal sins from which all others spring: impatience and laziness."



BRUCE BISSAT ...

WASHINGTON (NEA)—This capital today is overflowing with state air. It has what's called a gray look that winter's overcast can't account for.

More than ever it is a gathering place of problems. Yet most of them—large, lingering unemployment, educational deficiencies, racial unrest, urban sprawl, rising crime, a deteriorating South Viet Nam—are of the creeping, crawling variety.

Crises demanding bursts of commanding leadership are missing from the scene. There is no "great occasion" to which a leader can rise. There are simply many smaller occasions, which neither singly nor together

seem to draw out extraordinary stewardship.

Taken as a whole, the problems of a creeping nature appear nevertheless to require immense attack. Set in a matrix of unparalleled prosperity, these difficulties are not readily accepted for what they are. Still, they demand attack.

No one in Washington is giving that attack any sense of urgency—if that is possible. President Johnson sends to Congress a cascade of messages calling for action. But a perfunctory stoniness surrounds them. They are quickly swallowed up in a city that pours out words by the millions.

"Just Don't Stop for a Cup of Coffee!"



RALPH MCGILL ...

Lincoln & Inflation



On Feb. 25, 1862, Abraham Lincoln signed an act authorizing the printing of legal tender paper notes, called greenbacks because of that color on their backs, in the amount of \$150 million.

This was the first time in America that anything but coin issued by the federal government had been used as legal money, and that act was hotly attacked as unconstitutional. It was a drastic move, initiated by President Lincoln, who needed money to finance the War Between the States, then going very badly indeed. A bond issue had failed. The people simply did not buy.

In June 1863, with the war picture even darker, a bond issue again died within days, and again additional money was printed to pay soldiers and war-purchase obligations. In January 1864, there was not enough money; so the President signed for a third issue. This brought the greenback total to \$449,338,502.

This was inflation and the interesting thing about it was that every one understood it. The new money was not popular nor was it "sound," despite the government's backing. Through 1864 greenbacks could be bought for about 45 cents on the dollar. In July of 1864, when old Jubie Early's men could be seen across the Potomac, they dropped to about 30 cents.

In 1868 the Congress moved to reduce the greenbacks with the further view of eventually withdrawing all paper money. The first reduction was to \$356 million. There the amount stayed, until 1872, when it began to increase.

A curious but quite understandable thing had occurred. Farmers in the West had been enormously prosperous during the war. Heavy government purchases, plus the payability of mortgages in the greenbacks, which could be bought so cheaply with coins, had combined to make the farmer think prosperity had been caused by the greenbacks alone.

The Democratic party saw that if all bank and corporate money were withdrawn, and federal greenbacks issued, the money system would

be more flexible and credit "easier." This led to the formation of the "Greenback Party," which elected some 14 congressmen, though its national vote total never grew above about 200,000. This produced also the national controversy over "hard money." No one today would consider returning to coins only. It was the convenience of paper money that won it, whereas those not otherwise interested in the controversy.

In our time, of course, we are doing what President Lincoln did, although on a much larger scale, dealing in billions where he was troubled with millions. This is why we have inflation, which we can't entirely check, though we have slowed it.

While people understood what President Lincoln was doing in the 1860s, and responded in the self-supporting money market, the people do not understand today.

Now we have a very serious problem. We have prosperity,

but our dollars are being spent abroad in greater amount than we are receiving. Inflation is a constant threat. Our currency is, in part, backed by gold. Once we had enough gold to "back currency" with 50 per cent metal. But the world supply is down. Russia and South Africa are the big gold producers. France, in an action that is in part vindictive, is moving to increase the percentage of gold "backing" for her money. The Swiss, with a relatively small amount of currency, have a "backing" of about 80 per cent.

Things cannot go on as they are without some grave international and domestic problems. There must be some international agreements in the monetary field, or this country will need sharply to reduce expenditures outside the country. The Lincoln program worked well because the expenditures were domestic. Even so, there were severe money "panics" in the post-Civil War years.

When Defense Secretary Robert McNamara entered Bethesda Naval Hospital with an up-to-the-minute respiratory ailment shortly after President Johnson received from his famous old, reporters asked Pentagon information chief Arthur Sylvester when his boss would be back at work. The answer: "The doctors say two to four days. But I don't know what McNamara says."

Asked for his reaction to President Johnson's inaugural address, Idaho's Republican Gov. Robert Smylie paraphrased Mar Anthony's speech following Julius Caesar's assassination: "I have come to inaugurate a president, not to praise him."

Gov. Smylie brought, three aides to Washington with him. Knowing that the entourage planned to head to Chicago for the Republican National Con-

gress was a glacier of white marble, whose motion is imperceptible in a time when change, driven on by science, whips the nation in daily revolution.

On Capitol Hill the once familiar towering figure is not seen. Not for years has a truly great speech been heard in the two legislative halls.

Congress never has pretended to be a collection of superior men. One young veteran guesses that no more than 100 of 435 House members know well how that body works, and barely 50 do the real labor. Among those 50, as among their counterparts in the Senate, we find

Some observers say further that this nation and this capital have no stunning leadership because society does not want such uncomfortable governing in an age enervated by affluence.

Nonetheless, granite should tell if it is here. Britain after World War I did not "want" Sir Winston Churchill. He spoke to his view of the rightness of things anyway. And suddenly, in 1940, a solitary figure complaining against trends was a nation's champion, turning a strong life.

Washington, a good window on the country, is a place of problem-solvers. Yet the grappling with problems, while generally earnest and sometimes dedicated, is most often unimaginative, unexciting, uninspiring.

If the age is atomic, it would seem the energies of men

should be at least electric. The problems gathered here are taken day by day, in a curiously floating, surface atmosphere. A nation increasingly mobile and rootless is "budding" by men who themselves appear rootless, linked to last week and last month but no more.

February is the month Republicans call up Abraham Lincoln and Democrats speak of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson. It requires no clairvoyance to forecast that this summing up of greats will be, as in prior years, perfunctory and unreal. No American speaks with genuine force and devotion to these heroes—or of Washington, James Madison, John Quincy Adams, the underrated James Polk, the sturdy George Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson. These makers of the nation are not invoked by today's gray figures, whose visages, beyond 1960, are

Many who watched their screens the last tribute to Sir Winston Churchill are saying it may have been the final glory of old Britain. But this renewal of human touch with the sheer greatness was also an embarrassment to Americans. It was a hard reminder of our dull skies and nearly leveled plains.

The problems of an era rushing on headlong are ever fresh. Yet the air does not tingle with freshness. We are engulfed in no big motion, and evidently no one in the land to provide it.

WASHINGTON NOTEBOOK ...



Churchill Happiest In Courting Danger

WASHINGTON (NEA)—Many of the best stories about Sir Winston Churchill dealt with his penchant for courting danger. A little-known incident was his behavior when he went with Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to view the Allied crossing of the Rhine River in World War II.

Eisenhower was briefing war correspondents on the success of the operation. One of them asked: "What did Mr. Churchill do?"

He threw back his head and laughed. "The last I saw him," said Ike, "he was at the helm of a landing large scouting around our side of the Rhine. He seemed to be having a wonderful time."

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Gov. Smylie brought, three aides to Washington with him. Knowing that the entourage planned to head to Chicago for the Republican National Con-

mittee meeting after the inaugural ceremony, he observed: "Who's running the state while you fellows are traveling around the country?"

Answered one of the aides breezily: "Oh, we put it on an automatic pilot when we left."

At a press conference to answer questions about the 1965 budget, Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon and Budget Director Kermit Gordon formed a pretty smooth answering team.

Said Dillon at the beginning: "Kermit will take the expenditures and I'll handle the income. We'll split the difference."

Balding Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., has been taking quite a bit of ribbing since he showed up at the opening of Congress with a new hairpiece. The first person who noticed the "New McGovern" was a Senate elevator operator. His greeting: "Hi senator I see you got a new haircut."

Ever since he became postmaster general over a year ago, John Gronouski has been averaging about 15 hours a day on the job. When someone asked him what part the Post Office Department would play in The Great Society, he answered: "I know the President talks about The Great Society as 'a place where leisure is a welcome chance to build and reflect and a place where man can renew contact with nature.' But at the rate he has been working us, I'm beginning to get the idea that The Great Society doesn't include the cabinet."

What's needed is practical war policies, at which Americans are particularly adept.

BERRY'S WORLD



"I think the boss likes me— I was going out the door I saw him admiring my paper clip chain!"

MAY CROMLEY ...



Time Slipping In Congo

WASHINGTON (NEA)—Time is slipping by in the Congo.

The Communists have set up training camps in north-east Sudan and Uganda, brought in foreign advisers, upped their supply of weapons to the rebels.

This is the classic Communist pattern for a long-drawn-out, self-supporting money market, the people do not understand today.

U.S. officials are consoling themselves with knowledge that in their initial efforts the Reds have not achieved much success. They're reportedly having as much difficulty in instilling discipline in the rebels as the Belgians are in training the nationalist troops of Prime Minister M. Kasongo.

Some of these discipline rebel groups, in fact, are abandon-

doning their weapons in considerable numbers.

Within the U.S. Government there is a certain amount of optimism thinking that the Communists won't ever be able to weld the Congolese tribesmen into fighters.

Administration men also point out that some Congo rebel tribal groups are allied to unhappy minority tribes in the Sudan and Uganda. The leaders of these two nations risk the danger these arms will be turned back against themselves.

All this sounds bad for the Communist cause and gives good cheer to U.S. officials. But historically this is the hazardous way in which Red agents begin the takeover of underground movements. At the start, all is confusion. The hard

core starts building in the midst of this confusion. The Red agents see which leaders

pin out in the scramble, then back them if they're manageable. The Communists see to it that the unmanageable agents are killed in the turmoil.

If history repeats itself, the Red military advisers and political organizers will build a tough, disciplined cadre, if given enough time.

The Reds brought discipline to the Pathet Lao that old Lao hands still find unbelievable. In most countries, this building up has taken years.

The history of Communist movements in Korea, China, Laos, Viet Nam and elsewhere indicates the Reds are willing to spend a decade or more to establish the hard bases they

want.

But it is also written in history that the United States and the West traditionally have given the Communists the time they need to establish themselves before reacting strongly.

What we haven't given them time, the Reds have failed. It is still not too late for us to act in the Congo. If we are to be successful, it will be a long, slow job.

We need to build the administrative ability of the Congo government officials. But even more importantly, we need to teach the Congo government ways to draw minority non-Communist tribal groups into its political system.

What's needed is practical war policies, at which Americans are particularly adept.