

# Editorial Page

## Objects In The Sky

Half of all man-made objects which have been launched into space have since fallen back into the atmosphere and either been destroyed on re-entry, or recovered intact. But that other half—the objects still in orbit around the earth or the sun—is beginning to worry space scientists.

At latest count, 509 satellites or pieces of launching debris were in orbit. Some will disintegrate in weeks; others have a life expectancy of millions of years. Considering the relative infancy of space activity, the rate of space debris accumulation is bound to increase from here on.

Aside from the natural hazard a piece of space hardware poses to future spacecraft, the job of tracking a particular vehicle becomes more difficult when the tracking devices are cluttered with unrelated debris.

Not all objects in orbit are junk, although all those launched by the Soviet Union have ceased functioning. Thirty U. S. satellites are still capable of transmitting back

to earth, along with three others jointly sponsored by the U. S., Britain, Canada and Italy.

One of the most famous vehicles of all so far launched, the Explorer I satellite, is still in orbit. This 18-lb spacecraft, launched by the U. S. Army on Jan. 31, 1958, was the first satellite launched into orbit by the United States. It discovered the Van Allen Radiation Belts, considered the greatest single space discovery to date.

Most of the 509 objects are space junk—parts of satellites which disintegrated in space, pieces of launching boosters and units cut loose from spacecraft after they had performed their functions.

It will be many decades, possibly centuries, before space becomes truly cluttered with no traffic, but the nuisance of keeping track of hundreds of useless objects in order to identify a few valuable ones has come early to the space age. It might even be called the first permanent problem.

## The Leaning Tower

Science teachers in the junior grades have seldom experienced trouble explaining how Galileo dropped those balls off that tower without having them hit a ledge on the way down.

After all, he dropped them from the Leaning Tower of Pisa and all he had to do was make sure he was on the proper side when he let them fall.

It now appears the Leaning Tower of Pisa will fall over any day—or then again it may

last another hundred years. The tower has been a-tilt for eight centuries and each year it leans just a little further. It is now 11 or 17 feet off the vertical depending on where one reads about it.

When it falls the crash of the Leaning Tower of Pisa will make a news story dear to every editor's heart. Is it too much to hope that scientists will decide with reasonable accuracy when the tower will fall so it can be photographed while doing so?

### RALPH de TOLEDANO ...

## Proposal Suggests RR Be Nationalized

Many years ago, a prominent labor leader said to me, "The trouble with socialism is that it deals in squeezed lemons." By that he meant that socialization—or its cousin, nationalization—is the remedy for sick or dying industries. Even then, it merely offers artificial respiration, rather than a new life.

Now comes the National Railway Labor Conference to propose that America's railroads be nationalized. Behind this proposal is the annoyance of the railroad brotherhoods which have fought against progress in management and lost. Had they won the battle, the railroads in time would have really been a squeezed lemon. They are now showing that given a slightly sympathetic treatment they can set their house in order and contribute to the American economy as they did in the past.

Those who cry for nationalization forget that at one time, the federal government did experiment in control and operation of the railroads during World War I, the government took over the roads and ran them at a deficit of almost \$2 million per day even though it raised fares and rates. During World War II,

the roads remained in private hands—and were so profitable that they contributed more than \$3 million a day in federal taxes. As the Association of American Railroads points out, "The difference to the public between government and private operation in the two wars was \$3 million a day—nearly \$2 billion a year."

The call for nationalization, however, involves factors other than profitable operation. If the government were to take over the railroads, it would have to pay for them. What this would mean to the taxpayer is no mystery. Under New York's reform Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, the city took over the subway—then operating at a 5-cent fare—and has been paying through the nose ever since. Fares are now 15 cents, and service gets worse all the time. The price paid by the city was, in reality, just a first installment.

What would it cost the federal government to pay a fair price for the nation's railroads? It is estimated that replacement value close to \$50 billion. Unless the government could make an overwhelming argument in favor of nationalization, it is hard to believe that Congress would au-

thorize the purchase. The Congress, faced with a choice, would be required to say that it was willing to pay the equivalent of 50 per cent of the national budget for the privilege of taking over the headaches, losses, and responsibilities of management.

The government would inherit a Pandora's box of problems with the railroads. At present, the major issue dividing the management and labor is featherbedding. The unions, like it or not, insist on manning the railroads as if they were still operating in 1914. Faster trains, new methods of shipping, new techniques—all these things are ignored. The unions still insist that handicraft work rules apply to a production-line era.

If the government was in control, the moderately successful efforts to modernize procedures would stop. After all, a voter would have to decide whether skyrocket and service would all decline—all for the dubious virtues of government owned railroads. This process can be measured by the French experience. The railroads in France run at a 20 per cent deficit—with the French equivalent of the one and me making up the difference. In the United States, the railroads—saddled though they are by outmoded ways—are paying five per cent of their take into the federal Treasury. This means a 25 per cent gain to those who must support the three.

It can be pointed out that nationalized railroads benefit no one. Benito Mussolini, whose fascist-style socialism governed economic policy in Italy, boasted that he made "the railroads run on time. This was a good propaganda line—but it happened to be untrue. Italy's railroads were inefficient despite the fear of reprisal and Mussolini's great corrective, castor oil.

Looking ahead, it can also be asked if the taxpayer is willing to shell out—in addition to \$50 billion for purchase—the \$1.4 billion annually being paid by the railroads into modernization. I doubt it. I suspect the White House knows it. But the best argument of all against nationalization is simply this: Should the government take over the railroads simply because the unions aren't getting as much as they want in their collective bargaining? You answer it.

## Letters To The Editor

### Troubled Viet Nam

In commenting upon the state of the world as well upon the state of the union, President Johnson said, "We will not, and should not, assume it is the task of Americans alone to settle all the conflicts of a torn and troubled world." I think a good place to put such noble words into immediate application would be in "torn and troubled" Viet Nam. I feel that an effort must be made to find humane, positive, and non-military alternatives to the present tragic impasse there.

As a specific example of a possible project of cooperative international action I would like to call your attention a proposal which has been made to President Johnson by the American Friends Service Committee which could end the war in South Viet Nam. This proposi-

al calls for international collaboration in advancing the economic welfare of peasants who long months ago had enough of terror in the night. This plan calls for extensive land and water development in the Lower Mekong Basin. It introduces human considerations into the Vietnamese situation, and provides a practical approach which appeals to self-interest as well as opening the way to a new dimension of peace-making... the idea of internationalization based on economic rather than political objectives.

You read about this proposal in an article by Gilbert F. White which appeared in the December issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, entitled "Viet Nam — The Fourth Course."

For seven years, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and South Viet Nam have been working with

little publicity and without disagreement on a huge development program. These four countries, which do not cooperate on anything else, have reached accord on development of the Lower Mekong Basin. Work already is underway in drawing engineering designs, moving earth for dams, building power plants, cultivating pilot farms, and training village technicians. Even guerrilla troops have been halted field work. Planning for the Lower Mekong was begun by a committee of the four countries under auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in 1957. The total U.S. contribution to the Lower Mekong planning has cost less than four days of military aid in South Viet Nam.

Surely if the President meant what he said, that it is not the task of Americans alone to settle the world conflict, he ought to

welcome constructive proposals that look toward a negotiated settlement.

Winifred Lambie,  
2545 Homestead Road,  
Texas And The Sick

An Associated Press news release from Olympia, Wash., recently told of Gov. Dan Evans' proposal for extensions of the state's sales tax. Governor Evans' hopes for extensions would be in the form of a four per cent surcharge on virtually every service an individual buys. This would not end with a four per cent addition to haircuts, beauty shop services, architects and lawyer fees. This sales tax extension proposal even included a four per cent charge on bills sent by doctors, lawyers and rest homes. Evans said the extensions would raise an additional

## Our Readers Write

\$75 million in the next two years.

Think of that: a tax for the sick! Those of us who might tax as a form of increased or restricted source of state revenue would never fall in line with such a tax if this can be the ultimate outcome. It is well known that any tax, once started, continues in but one direction. Long before our need for additional revenue rises to the point of taxing the sick and miserable we must look to more ways of reducing our state and federal budgets and expenses to meet our "governmental pocketbooks." I have to do this personally. Don't you?

Earl Tabor,  
4318 Oxy Ave.

### A Reminder

The present age has been called a host of names. Perhaps all fit. It could be called "The Last Days of Pompeii" and I think it would. Bierce, poet-journalist of the late 1800s saw it coming in his poem "An Invocation" published sometime prior to 1912 and read at San Francisco in 1888 on Independence Day.

Below are four stanzas of that poem, 28 stanzas in length:

Give thou or more or less, as we  
Shall serve the right or serve the wrong.  
Confirm our freedom but so long  
As we are worthy to be free.

But when (ah, distant be the time)  
Majorities in passion draw  
Insurgent swords to murder Law,  
And all the land is red with crime;

Or—nearer menace! when the  
Of feeble spirits cringe and plead  
To the gigantic strength of greed,  
And fawn upon his iron hand,

Nay—when the steps to State  
Lies worn  
In hollows by the feet of thieves,  
And Mammon sits among the sheaves

And chuckles while the reapers mourn,  
I have quoted only that part applicable to the present. No one ever hailed him as a seer that I know of yet the poet, the late Edwin Markham, who knew his words: "He had in him the intellectual barb of Swift, the terseness of Aesop, the weirdness of Poe, and a gleam of the Gulliver of Swift perhaps this prophetic poem was known to him as such. His 13 volumes of verse appeared in 1912 according to Mr. Markham and "two years later the author mysteriously disappeared in Mexico."

Ambrose Bierce, a native of Ohio, spent much of his life in California.

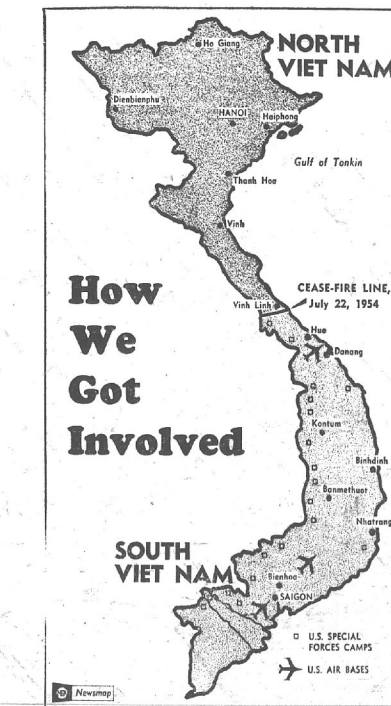
It is never too late to alter the trend of history or of politics but it will hardly ever be done by listening to the decays of the lustful power-hungry, wherever they be, in government or out of it, and the 17th century method used to defeat their opponents!

Hazel R. Pauls,  
308 North Tenth.

### Religion

I personally am very grateful for the weekly articles giving the beliefs of various religious denominations. I have heard many say they have found these articles very informative and because of them become more understanding of other faiths.

Mrs. Elsa Rueck, Pres.,  
Klamath County Unitarian Fellowship.



### BEFORE 1954

During the 10-year war between France and Communist forces, the United States kept a small group in Viet Nam to oversee military and economic aid programs for France. The French were defeated in May 1954 at Dien Bien Phu in Viet Nam. In the two months later divided Viet Nam along the Hai River (17th parallel).

### 1955-1960

After the French left, several hundred American military and economic advisers started working under Ngo Dinh Diem, first premier of the new South Viet Nam.

### 1961-1964

U.S. military buildup increased sharply during this period with thousands of American troops dispatched to the war-weary country. Communist Viet Cong infiltration continued at a rapid pace.

### AUGUST 5, 1964

First direct confrontation between American and North Vietnamese troops ordered by President Johnson after Red torpedo boats fired on U.S. ships in Gulf of Tonkin. U.S. planes bombed Red naval bases in North Viet Nam.

### TODAY

Mid pro quo fighting continues. When Communists attack U.S. installations in South Viet Nam, U.S. fighter-bomber squadrons attack North Vietnamese outposts. American dependents have been ordered to leave Saigon. Shipments of military hardware—including missiles—and personnel have been increased. Nearly 30,000 American servicemen are now scattered throughout South Viet Nam.

### FULTON LEWIS JR. ...

## U.S. To Host Red Visitor

WASHINGTON — The State Department will soon entertain a ranking member of the Polish Politburo on an official state visit.

The Communist-bloc visitor, Stefan Jedrychowski, will probably arrive in early spring. As chairman of Poland's State Planning Commission, he will confer with U.S. officials on East-West economic cooperation.

More than half a billion dollars in U.S. aid has thus far been proffered to Jedrychowski and his Polish comrades in the hope that they will steer an independent course in world affairs. The American policy is based on an infantile notion that dedicated Communists can be converted into willing allies by American dollars.

There is little evidence the Polish Reds have mellowed. At the United Nations, Polish delegates denounce American colonialism and consistently vote with the Soviet Union. Massive Food for Peace shipments have made it possible for the Poles to export food in a shambles because its largest items and ammunition have been shipped to North Viet Nam and Castro Cuba.

The Poles have extended considerable assistance to East Germany, whose economy is in a shambles because its largest industries have been meshed with Soviet and Czech factories in turning out rockets and nuclear arms.

Polish Communists had imposed upon the Catholics of his nation, "a slavery of a kind never known before." In a sermon at Warsaw, the cardinal spoke of the regime's systematic attack on religious freedom.

Cardinal Wysynski exhibited real courage in speaking out; members of his clergy have been jailed for criticizing the "people's government." Priests have been beaten and seminarians drafted into work brigades.

The Council of National Unity, an exile group representing 100,000 Poles living in Great Britain and Ireland, has urged the United Nations to probe the "blatantly inhuman" practices of the Warsaw regime. The group charged:

—All schools have been stripped of crosses and crucifixes.

—Teachers who conduct religious instruction classes for children outside the schools are liable to arrest and fines.

—Catholic priests and the churches are faced with heavy taxes "imposed by vigorous means as in the days of the Russian czars."

—Catholics who receive holy communion are often punished by being discharged from employment in government offices and factories.

—Patients in state hospitals have on occasion been denied the ministrations of a priest and died without the last rites being administered in time.

U.S. foreign aid has been used to send machine guns to Turkey and outboard motors to Morocco.

Thomson discovered, too, that \$10,000 worth of "Royal Bee capsules"—advertised as a sex rejuvenator—had been sent to Communist China. The capsules went \$800 worth of alcoholic beverages," he says. "To Korea \$9,000 worth of electric motors used in the manufacture of phonographs. To the Dominican Republic, \$1,000 worth of toys, suitcases, wallets, artificial flowers, and imitation jewels."

### DON OAKLEY ...

## Science Turns To People

Up to now, the spectacular successes of the age of science have been with things a n d physical events. It's the airplane, the atomic bomb, formulating the "laws" of nature.

Although every scientific discovery has contributed to the "revolutionizing of man's ways of living, and his ways of thinking about the universe, and despite advances in medicine and psychology, to a n o n being has remained pretty much on the outside of the test tube.

That is going to change, say the scientists. One of the latest to go out on a limb of prediction is Dr. John Turkevich, professor of chemistry at Princeton University. According to him, the dramatic discoveries of the

atomic age will pale alongside what will happen in chemistry and biochemistry in the foreseeable future.

Speaking at a symposium held by a life insurance company, he outlined his picture of the future.

—Diseases and maladies caused by man-created harmful living conditions will be eliminated.

—Virus diseases will be exterminated. (This includes the common cold!)

—Mental disorders will be rationally explained and effectively treated by drugs and psychology.

—Diagnostic techniques will be sensitive enough to enable doctors to head off illnesses long before they would show up.

—Transplantation of organs will be commonplace. "I can foresee," says Turkevich, "the establishment of monkey farms where we'll be raising high-grade monkeys so we can take and attach them to persons who need them."

—Hereditary diseases will be curtailed by premarital examination of a couple's chromosomes— the chemical carriers of heredity.

"The bride and groom will be told, 'Here are your chromosomes that you will have some congenital disease in your offspring. Act accordingly.'"

—That is the same advice scientists have always given us when they have handed us new wonders and new power. "It's a more than ever, now must be acted accordingly"— that is, with wisdom.



### BERRY'S WORLD



"This is embarrassing—I left my credit cards in my other wallet and all I have is cash!"