

A Neighborly Gesture

We all pride ourselves on being neighborly. Within the circle of our community, the helping hand is extended to those in distress. But being a good neighbor just in Torrance is not enough; there are many mutual problems facing all of us that can be solved only on a national level.

The scourge of polio is one problem that cannot be solved locally. Victory can be won only if every community voluntarily supports a coordinated national attack against the disease. This requires a national organization to lead the fight—that organization is the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

For 16 years, the National Foundation and its county chapters have spearheaded the attack against polio through the March of Dimes.

The March of Dimes campaign is on in Torrance this month under the direction of Postmaster Clara A. Conner. In past years Torrance has responded enthusiastically to the appeal for dimes to fight the crippling disease, and during the past 12 months, a number of Torrance children have been stricken with polio to serve as a notice that the dimes are still needed.

This year, 1954, is being heralded as a big year in the fight against polio, but it costs money. Our dimes will help pay for the expensive research, the countless hours of treatment for victims, and the barrels of medicine needed this year. This is our chance to be a good neighbor.

Civil Defense Costs

Federal Civil Defense Administrator Val Peterson recently said he would ask Congress for \$650,000,000 next year. The Civil Defense Administration asked for \$125,000,000 in the last session of Congress and received only \$46,000,000.

Peterson said next year's program, despite the greatly increased appropriation, was a modest one which was altogether necessary. He said if the American people realized the danger they faced, concerning the possibility of atomic attack, they would see to it that the money was provided.

Much of the money would be used to build up supplies of medicine and equipment to help citizens fight fires and treat victims in communities which suffer from sudden enemy attack.

Peterson also said that the best way to avoid casualties in an atomic attack was to remove "the people from areas of probable attack through the aid of an adequate warning system." Distance, he contends, is the only way a citizen can avoid destruction from an atomic attack, if it comes close enough to home.

We are inclined to view Peterson's arguments with sympathy, although we think it highly unlikely that he will be given \$650,000,000 by the second session of the Eighty-Third Congress. No doubt the United States will not adequately organize its defenses until it has been attacked, as is customary in our history, and no doubt the first atomic attack will take a heavy and partially unnecessary toll of life and property.

Auto Safety Rules

An exhibit of the American Medical Association in St. Louis recently stressed the theme that thousands of lives could be saved in automobile accidents if the driver and passengers wore safety belts. The exhibit even suggested that 453 people, out of a total of 633 persons killed in one year in Indiana, would probably have survived the accidents if they had worn safety belts.

It has long been known that most people are not killed by the destruction of the automobiles, but die from injuries caused when they are thrown against the side, top or windshield or windows. Stunt drivers long ago learned that safety belts and crash helmets enabled them to endure fantastic crashes without serious injury.

This question is somewhat like that concerning backward seats and parachutes in aircraft. The public does not want to bother with safety belts in automobiles, just as the public does not want to worry about para-

chutes on a passenger aircraft. Yet, if passengers were seated in seats facing backward and given parachutes on aircraft, quite often a number of them could save their lives.

Likewise, if safety belts were furnished in automobiles and possibly other safety devices, it is entirely possible that more than half the people being killed on the highway today could be saved.

Whether the airlines, the Government regulators and the automobile companies take the proper steps to provide more safety for passengers depends upon the attitude of the public. If that attitude becomes one of demanding such safety devices, then manufacturers will supply them. However, we see little hope at present that such safety devices will be put into use, since the public is not yet sufficiently aroused to the carnage being caused on the highways, and sometimes in the air, by inadequate safety devices. That is a reflection on the intelligence of the average American traveler.

Keeping Junior In School

In East St. Louis, Illinois, an experiment is being tried which should prove interesting. The City Council there recently passed an anti-truant law which makes parents and guardians liable to fines from \$5 to \$20 if they fail to keep their children in school.

Children between seven and sixteen years of age, enrolled in the public schools, cannot skip classes without a good excuse and those parents who fail to keep them in continuous attendance are now subject to the fines.

While we pose as no expert on truancy, we believe this experiment will produce results. When it gets down to the pocketbook, most parents are a bit more sensitive than they are on the question of a skipped class. We will be interested in seeing the results of this experiment over the next few months.

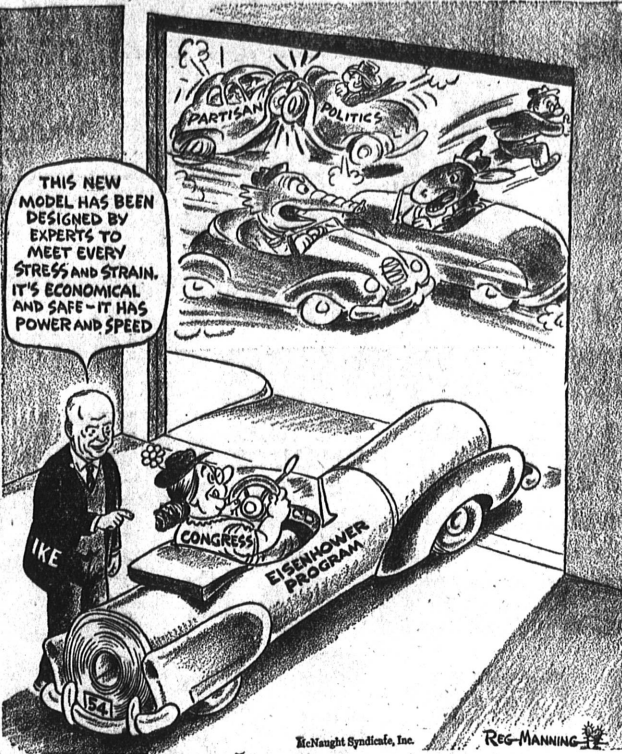
A Profitable Operation

The U. S. Government recently revealed it had completed one of the most profitable operations in the government's history. It had disposed of an asset, purchased almost twenty years ago, and received thirty-five times the price paid by the government.

The asset was a 1904 Cadillac. About twenty years ago the Secretary of the Interior purchased the car for use in a demonstration of highways, and cars, then and now. Since that time the government has retained possession, but recently it was decided to sell the car to the highest bidder.

The highest bidder, it seems, was Mrs. Robert L. Slaughter, of Fort Worth, Tex., and unless another higher bid is received as delayed mail, she will get the car. She offered \$3500 for the forty-nine-year-old one-cylinder job. The government bought it in the thirties for \$100. That's a gain of \$3400, or thirty-five times the cost.

We would like to see more government operations follow this pattern.



CAPITAL TALK

STANLEY JAMES

Stations Rush Video in Color

ATOMIC DATA EXCHANGE President Dwight D. Eisenhower recently declared that the United States should be free to exchange atomic data and weapons in any way that would best serve this country's interests. He indicated that he would ask Congress to grant him general authority to do this.

NATO NATO nations will have spent \$65,500,000,000 on defense during 1953 and it is expected that 1954 spending will be slightly greater than that figure.

DEFICIT Despite all efforts to balance the budget, defense spending and scheduled tax reductions probably will add up to a deficit figure of between two and six billion dollars for the fiscal year, which begins next July 1. Revised figures for the current year, ending next June 30, indicate spending of \$72,100,000,000 and revenue of \$68,300,000,000. This would be an administrative deficit of \$3,800,000,000.

TEXTILE EXPORTS The United States dropped to third place in the export of textiles, the first six months of 1953, with Japan first and Great Britain second. Japan's exports in the January-June period totaled 388,789,000 square yards. The United States exported a total of 320,000,000 square yards in the period.

Television stations are moving quickly to install color transmission equipment and it is estimated that more than twenty stations in every section of the nation are already equipped to handle color telecasts.

The figure may be even higher. The reason for the installation is moving so fast is the comparative simplicity of the problem. Normal TV black-and-white transmitters can be adapted to color transmissions with only minor alterations and additions.

The process, of course, was touched off in December by the announcement from the Federal Communications Commission that it had approved the new color system based on telecasts from electronic tubes. This system eliminates the necessity of a mechanical wheel in color receivers.

Several of the major producers were already well advanced in their production of equipment to allow operating stations to shift to color TV transmissions. The changeovers are being completed fast enough to make color television a thing of the immediate future.

Several experimental programs have already been broadcast. But since color sets are not now on the market, and more important, not in American homes, the feasibility of sending out popular programs in color is limited.

IN TIMES GONE BY

FIVE YEARS AGO January, 1949 Torrance residents shivered in the New Year as the mercury hit a low of 25 degrees... Building during 1948 hit an all-time peak of \$7,979,825. Most of the permits were for new homes... Earlene Bird, daughter of Mrs. Earl Bird, 634 Sartori Ave., was the first baby born here in 1949... Charles Jones was named president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce... City buses carried 149 persons to the Pasadena Rose Parade, according to Bus Superintendent Marshal Chamberlain... A special census of the city was nearing completion... Amendments to the City Charter outlawing draw poker, establishing a city manager type government, and changing school board election dates passed the State Assembly.

TEN YEARS AGO January, 1944 H. C. Barrington was elected president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club... Gasoline was in short supply on New Year's Eve and only one Torrance service station was open to service a long line of autos... John J. Bruckshaw of Gardena and Wilford E. Jeffery of Lomita were named to the local draft board... Building Permit totals for 1943 were \$7,607,784. Swayze Johnson, on leave from the Torrance police department, reported to New Orleans for a new Navy assignment after training at the San Diego Naval Base... Jack Clayton and Bob Sleeth, both "somewhere in England" wrote home that they were together for Christmas.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO January, 1939 A mammoth task from an animal thicket to have lived between 25,000 and 100,000 years ago was uncovered when workmen were excavating for an oil storage reservoir at the General Petroleum refinery... Building reached an all-time peak of \$3,143,873 during 1938... John Stroth was named police chief in addition to his job as Director of Public Safety. John E. McMaster was made acting fire chief... Plans for the annual Factory Frolic were under way under the supervision of John E. Miller.

TWENTY YEARS AGO January, 1934 Civic leaders headed up by Bernard J. Donahue, high school coach, were making plans to establish an adult clubroom in Torrance as part of the city's recreation plan... Amendments to the City Charter outlawing draw poker, establishing a city manager type government, and changing school board election dates passed the State Assembly... Purchase of 2000 tents to house school children, including many Torrance, was authorized by the Los Angeles City Board of Education... City Attorney Julius R. Jensen, who had held that office for more than two years, died after a month's illness... Continental Markets at Carson and Cravens advertised butter at 21 cents a pound. Ben Hur coffee was priced at 31 cents a pound, a grind-it-yourself brand at 17 cents...

Dewey Influence Rising In Ike's Administration

WASHINGTON — When Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York had a conference with President Eisenhower the other day, two of the reporters covering the White House met in the lobby and one said to the other: "Why are you here covering Dewey?"

"I wanted to see if the President approves of the way General Eisenhower is running things," came the wisecrack reply. The exchange underlines the truth in the old saying, "There's many a true word spoken in jest."

To more than one Washington correspondent, the events of the past few days have indicated that Governor Dewey has more influence in the administration than he has had before. Dewey is the spokesman of the Eastern, internationalist Republicans who won the presidential nomination for Eisenhower at Chicago, snatching it out of the hands of the Midwestern, isolationist Republicans who favored the late Senator Robert Taft of Ohio. These same Dewey-type Republicans have been urging Eisenhower to lead as a "strong"

President in the tradition of Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, the two strongest Republican Presidents of the past. In particular, the Dewey group has wanted Ike to take the initiative against the Russians and to make a firm stand against Senator McCarthy.

On both counts, the President seems to have followed their advice. First, in his bold proposal for an international pool of atomic energy for peaceful purposes; second in his defense of the State Department against McCarthy's call for a boycott of all nations still trading with Communist China.

It is also quite possible that Dewey has influenced other administration decisions through his lieutenant, Herbert Brownell, who managed both of his own unsuccessful races for the Presidency and now is Attorney General. Brownell took the lead, for the administration, in the hunt for "Communist spies" by stirring up the Harry Dexter White case; and he placed the Justice Department firmly behind the administration's stand against racial segregation in the public schools.

TODAY'S FIRE SAFETY FLASH



Now, if you must smoke in bed... go ahead.

ONLY YOU Can Add More Power!



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