

EDITORIALS

Furse's Fresh Flashes

DRIVERS AND EYESIGHT

In a recent test involving over eight thousand motorists, in greater New York, checkers were surprised to learn that more than twenty per cent of the drivers tested had sight defects. This is a poor commentary on driver qualification laws in that area, but it is probably equally true elsewhere.

The two defects found most among those tested was poor vision and slow reflexes. Those whose vision had dropped below 20-40 safety minimum often scored no better than 20-60 in tests. Many relied almost completely on one eye (the better one) for visual aid in driving. Official examiners say this distorts depth perception, and could cause serious misjudgments on the part of the driver involved.

Those whose reflexes were found to be especially slow were often unaware of the toll exacted by advancing years in this field. Many were so slow they demonstrated their inability to cope with a sudden highway crisis requiring reasonable quick applications with hands and feet on the controls. Yet they were unaware of the fact that their reaction was dangerously slow.

There is little room for sentiment in this sort of business. Those drivers with physical defects which make them highway hazards must be removed from behind the wheel.

CONGRESS BACKTRACKS

Just a few months ago everyone on Capitol Hill (it seemed) was talking about cutting the nation's deficit by reducing the amount of money spent on foreign aid programs. Most of the talk came from Republican members of both houses but Southern Democrats also said the same thing.

On almost every interview on the subject or every radio program, Senators and Congressmen would estimate that as much as two billion dollars could be whacked from the five billion plus program of the year before.

From Majority Leader Robert Taft on down there was big talk about big economy in this field. And yet today, President Dwight D. Eisenhower has reduced this sentiment to a minimum.

Ike has managed to win over some of his own party's legislators by working quietly and consistently to build up harmony behind the White House viewpoint on the government's foreign aid program. He has made progress, and with the help of men like Senator Alexander Wiley, Wisconsin Republican, he has been able to assure himself of a good split among Republicans. (At one time it looked as if Ike would get beaten badly in the voting division in his own party on the hill, on this issue).

HARRY TRUMAN, CITIZEN

Whatever faults former President Harry S. Truman might have, one of them is not being unhuman. Perhaps as much as any other President, the Missourian likes to play the role as an average American, enjoying the everyday pleasures of life like most other Americans.

High office, the thrill of making history and the drama of international crises and affairs, all of which Mr. Truman experienced, have not dimmed his enthusiasm for the ordinary experiences of daily life. This is a good demonstration of a man little affected by the high office he has so recently held.

While there was much in Mr. Truman's philosophy and programs with which we did not agree, we have always admitted that he is, first of all, a human being and a patriotic American. And there is little doubt that he has a genuine

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Conduct thyself towards thy parents as thou wouldst wish thy children to conduct themselves towards thee. —Isocrates

The Plattsmouth Journal

Official County and City Paper

ESTABLISHED IN 1881 — Published Semi-Weekly, Mondays and Thursdays, at 410 Main Street, Plattsmouth, Cass County, Neb.

Three Times Winner Ak-Sar-Ben Plaques for "OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE" 1949 — 1951 — 1952

Presented Nebraska Press Association "GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD" Second in 1951 — First in 1952 (In Cities Over 2000 Population)

RONALD R. FURSE, Publisher

HARRY J. CANE, Editor

FRANK H. SMITH, News Reporter

ALBERT E. BACK, Advertising Mgr.

SOPHIA M. WOLEVER, Society Editor



Entered at the Post Office at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, as second class mail matter in accordance with the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$3.50 per year in Cass and adjoining counties; \$4.00 per year elsewhere. In advance, by mail outside the city of Plattsmouth. By carrier in Plattsmouth, 20 cents for two weeks.

Youthful automobile drivers should learn that it is better to be "chicken" than a dead duck.

What has become of the annual row over women's skirts?

One thing about the poor they can tell their creditors they are flat broke without lying about it.

A scientist says the world is held together by protons, photons, electrons and neutrons. He forgot to mention morons.

It was a lot safer driving back in those good old days when horse power was confined to horses.

We're about the worst public speaker in the country, but it's nice to know that we excel at something.

The trouble with most wives is they would rather mend your ways than your socks.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, tells us that her freckles would make a nice suntan if they would only get together.

See they are having a lot of trouble with Carter Lake—seems the lake is getting too far away from the shore.

affection for the little man, featuring himself as the little man's friend. While there is some controversy on this, from a political viewpoint, it is obvious that Mr. Truman enjoys life as Harry Truman, citizen, and that he expects little in the way of special treatment now that he has moved away from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Perhaps the former President will gain more friends and a more general popularity in the years to come than he did while in the White House. That, of course, depends on how much he says about the new Administration, and how he says it.

But, as of right now, Mr. Truman seems to be enjoying life and full of enthusiasm as an ordinary taxpayer. He has set an example for high dignitaries retiring from public life, which is something of an accomplishment.

Down Memory Lane

20 YEARS AGO

Miss Ida Reynolds of Union and Dr. Carl F. Schmidtman of Omaha were married June 30 at the Dundee Presbyterian church at Omaha. . . Lovisa Albert, Margaret Albert and Marjorie Arn of Plattsmouth are attending summer school at Peru State Teachers College. . . Nehawka quarries reopened this morning with two shifts of workmen back on the job. . . John Nottelman, farmer at Rock Bluffs, narrowly escaped injury this morning when his car was sideswiped by a hit and run cattle truck. . . Miss Marjorie Freeman and Cecil Nickles were married at Rock Port, Mo., on July 4. . . Mrs. M. M. Tucker has been named chairman of the Nehawka school board. John H. Steffens is secretary and George C. Sheldon, treasurer. . . Good progress is reported on the new school building at Murray.

10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Leonard Fitch was elected president of the Legion Auxiliary, succeeding Mrs. Mary Nelson. Mrs. W. L. Eckles was named vice president, and Mrs. Joe Abrams was elected secretary. . . Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Rihn, residents of Union for many years, have moved to Plattsmouth. . . First Presbyterian church was the setting July 19 for the marriage of Miss Macel Kathryn Dunfee and Don Olson. . . Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Payton are the parents of a son born July 21. . . Robert Yelick, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Yelick, is going to Hawaii where he'll be employed in defense work. . . Judy Sikora, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walt Sikora, fractured her arm in a fall. . . Lt. John Gayer, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Gayer, has graduated from signal school at Camp Murphy, Florida. . . Rev. and Mrs. Willard Sherman, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed church, are moving to Bellevue.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: BALLOONS COULD CARRY FOOD TO EAST BERLIN; FRIENDSHIP MESSAGES COULD ACCOMPANY FOOD PACKAGES; WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MOSCOW'S PROBLEMS.

(Editor's note — Drew Pearson, who one month ago urged President Eisenhower to send surplus food to East Germany and who called the turn on Communist reaction, today comes up with another idea for winning the cold war.)

WASHINGTON—Two years ago this



"THAT SETTLES IT - THE WALLS ARE ENTIRELY TOO THIN FOR US."

summer, Harold Stassen, the present Mutual Security Administrator, C. D. Jackson, now Ike's psychological warfare expert, and I were on the German border sending propaganda balloons into Czechoslovakia.

Large weather balloons, about four feet in diameter, stuffed with 3,000 leaflets each, were filled with hydrogen in a wheat field three miles from the border and floated up and into Czechoslovakia. The winds — which in the upper altitudes always blow from west to east — we had timed in advance to drop the balloons into the chief cities of Prague and Pilsen between 6 a. m. and 8 a. m., when people were going to work.

By picking our nights and working most of the night with German civilian crews inflating the balloons, we were able to launch about 2,000 balloons a night, and over a two-week period we put about 11,000,000 leaflets into Czechoslovakia.

The leaflets carried merely a message of friendship. They told the Czechoslovak people that the people of the Western world had not forgotten them and expressed the hope that eventually they might be free.

Preventing War

This was purely an experiment, and some officials in the state department frowned on it. For over three years I had been urging that we get behind the Iron Curtain with this type of propaganda. The only way we could avoid war with Russia, I said, was to make sure of the people behind the Iron Curtain were our friends. If enough of them were friendly, it would be difficult for them to fight in the first place and in the second place, would cause trouble for the Red army even if war did finally come.

General Omar Bradley heartily agreed. But several state department officials, with the exception of Ed Barrett, then assistant secretary of state in charge of propaganda, were opposed. They argued that we should not encourage restlessness behind the Iron Curtain until we were absolutely ready to free the people.

However, the Czechoslovak experiment seemed to hit pay dirt. The American embassy reported that the freedom-friendship leaflets were tacked up on telegraph poles, put in the baggage racks of passenger trains, mimeographed, even surreptitiously placed on Communist bulletin boards. They swept over Czechoslovakia to such an extent that Premier Antonin Zapotocky made a speech on the floor of parliament denouncing them, and the official Communist newspaper, *Torba*, carried a front-page cartoon showing Harry Truman releasing balloons.

Of course, Harry Truman had nothing to do with them. But the best way for the Communists to combat the balloons was to claim that they came from the U. S. government, not from private Americans, as was the case.

It has already been demonstrated that President Eisenhower's offer of food has had terrific repercussions behind the Iron Curtain. We were a little slow in acting on this suggestion, but even so, Communist leaders behind the Iron Curtain have been boiling with rage ever since the offer was made.

And East Berliners have been crossing into West Berlin, as I predicted they would, to get even the food sold them at cheap prices by suburban Mayor Willy Krassmann.

However, it seems to me the time has come to go one step further and send food packages into East Germany by balloon. Many part of East Germany are, of course, some distance from Berlin. Furthermore, the effect would be electrifying.

Food balloons are not too difficult to launch. The four-foot

Capitol News

LINCOLN—The State Board of Equalization this week began weeding through all the information given it by most of the 93 counties at assessment hearings, seeking the answers to this year's equalization effort.

Its decisions to raise valuations in many counties and possibly lower in a few cases will have a far reaching effect. It will mark the first time a State Board has taken so much action since the depression years when assessments in some counties were cut. The nearest it was last year's action which raised valuations of farmlands in 19 western Nebraska counties.

At the end of the hearings by the counties and before the State Board went into closed session to consider what to do, Gov. Robert Crosby said: "We must get the assessments of all the counties even as a tabletop. These six days of hearings have proved that beyond a doubt."

Crosby, chairman of the State Board, said hearing testimony from most of the 93 counties had convinced him of three things:

1. Degrees of inequality of assessment exist between the counties, proving the indication of this from computations by the state tax commissioner's office.

2. Many counties had their assessments below the 5 percent mark called for by the new law, even though a majority of the counties this year insisted on calling their last year's valuations 5 per cent this year.

3. In a majority of counties owner of farmland have been paying taxes on a higher per cent of the value of their property than have people in town. This, too, had been indicated by tax commissioner's computations.

The tax commissioner's figures which are based on a comparison of sales figures to the assessed value of the properties sold were under heavy attack by the representatives of many counties.

But Crosby said the hearings had convinced him that they make a "sound approach" for comparing counties and for comparing town with country real estate. He has used averages of sales of the past five years for comparison purposes, but insisted that these would not necessarily be the final value-fixing basis.

Parade It was a fascinating parade of counties, beginning with Sioux County in the far northwest and ending with Richardson in the southeastern corner.

One of the first speakers, Sen. Monroe Bixler of Harrison, suggested Crosby call a special session of the Legislature to make a new method of figuring values. Crosby told reporters it was "obviously too late" and Bixler's fellow-legislators felt the same way when newsmen telephoned them.

But that same criticism of the present method of determining values by sales prices was to be made again and again.

The Supreme Court has said this is the basis for fixing values and that the remedy must await legislative action.

County officials from the cattle country stoutly maintained that land prices there are pegged to the price of cattle and since this has slipped drastically in the past year, their land is worthless now. They estimated a 20 per cent decline in the price of land from March, 1951 to the 1953 assessment time in March.

Many of these counties according to the tax commissioner's chart would need a big raise to pull them into line with other counties and with the 50 per cent remark.

Crosby, whose home county of Lincoln is in the west end, shook his head at week's end and estimated there would have to be some "drastic re-adjustment in some of those counties."

Also due for a raise were town lots and improvements in many eastern counties where farm real estate in many cases has

Ten Word INTELLIGRAM

Check the correct word.

1. Man has (32) (28) teeth.
2. (South American) (Afro-Asian) monkeys have prehensile tails.
3. Water (expands) (contracts) when frozen.
4. (Nixon) (Knowland) is vice president.
5. Russia rules (East) (West) Berlin.
6. Black (is) (isn't) a color.
7. (Wellington) (Auckland) is New Zealand's capital.
8. (Bartholdy) (Michelangelo) made the Statue of Liberty.
9. Joe Louis was boxing champion (8) (11) years.
10. Pluto is (visible) (invisible) without a telescope.

Check your answers, scoring yourself 10 points for each correct choice. A score of 0-20 is poor; 30-60, average; 70-80, superior; 90-100, very superior.

The governor said he was happy to note that the full effort was made by at least one county in every area of the state. He added he didn't intend to leave them "high and dry."

Legislative SIDELIGHTS..

by BERNIE CAMP Information Director Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation

FARM SAFETY WEEK While officially by Presidential Proclamation, July 19 to 25 is Farm Safety Week, every week should be Tractor Safety Week.

Accidents studies indicate that the farm tractor is a major contributor to farm machinery statistics. A 22-year study in Kansas shows over 50 percent of farm machinery accidents involve tractors. Kansas credited with 85 percent of all farm machinery accidents in 1951; and 36 percent of the total farm fatalities. During a two year period (1950-51) Minnesota studies control due to excess speed of farm machinery fatalities on tractors. For the same period, Iowa reported 80 percent; Ohio, 82 percent; Illinois, 70 percent; and Wisconsin, 63 percent.

Overturning account for over half of the fatal tractor accidents. Figures in come states run as high as 70 percent. Sideways and backwards over turns are about equally divided in most studies made of this type of accident, with a loss of control due to excess speed the main reason for the slide tipping. Other causes listed are: operation across steep slopes and too close to ditches. Forcing tractors out of ditches or other spots where rear wheels become lodged, causes a backward tipping accidents. Pulling heavy loads with improper hitches or up steep slopes also contributes to backward tipping fatalities.

More than one-third of the new and Minnesota tractor fatalities from 1949 through 1951 occurred on highways. This because of the relatively minor operation of tractors on highways, indicates that accident fatality rates on highways are much higher than in regular farm work. Slow-moving vehicles merging with high-speed traffic, operating tractors at excessive speed and ignoring rules of the road are principal reasons for high tractor accident rates on highways.

In tractor - automobile collisions, the tractor operator is most likely to experience the most severe personal injuries and stands the greater risk of death.

Tractors in the United States are being sold faster than safe tractor operation.

SKEPTICISM Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia have emphasized their skepticism of Soviet "peace" moves by officially reaffirming their treaty of friendship and military cooperation.

Panel 1: Peggy says "GEE, PEGGY!"

Panel 2: "I'M SORRY I'M LATE!"

Panel 3: "YOU DID? WHAT KIND OF DISHWASHER DID YOU GET FOR THAT?"

Panel 4: "I GOT ONE FOR ONLY TWO DOLLARS!"

Panel 5: "OH I DUNNO!"

Panel 6: "MY PAW, THESE DISHWASHERS ARE NICE, BUT THEY'RE SO EXPENSIVE!"

Panel 7: "YOU'VE GOT THE TWO BUCKS WAS FOR THE MARRIAGE LICENSE!"

Panel 8: "SHE DID BETTER, YET! SHE DIDN'T PAY ANYTHING FOR THE LICENSE!"