### EDITORIALS

RIVERS 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 misjudgements 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.

ONGRESS 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).

\* \* \* MARRY 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

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### Furse's Fresh Flashes

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 con-

fined 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

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, tells us that her freckles would make a nice suntan if they would psychological warfare expert, can carry 10 pounds. CARE, 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 him- der and floated up and into Czechoslovakia. The winds self as the little man's friend. While there is some controversy on this, from a political ways blow from west to east viewpoint, it is obvious that Mr. Truman drop the balloons into the chief enjoys life as Harry Truman, citizen, and that he expects little in the way of special treatment now that he has moved away people were going to work. from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Perhaps the former President will gain German civilian crews inflating more friends and a more general populari- the balloons, we were able to ty 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 against the balloons, we were able to most of the food had been removed by Communist collectivization, and a balloon were lets into Czechoslovakia. Administration, and how he says it.

But, as of right now, Mr. Truman message of friendship. They seems to be enjoying life and full of enthusiasm as an ordinary taxpayer. He has set an example for high dignataries and expressed the hope that 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. Schmidtmann of Omaha were mar- it would be difficult for them ried June 30 at the Dundee Presbyterian to fight in the first place and, 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 | department officials, with the of workmen back on the job . . . John Nottleman, farmer at Rock Bluffs, narrowly escaped injury this morning when his car posed. They argued that we was sideswiped by a hit and run cattle should not encourage restless- balloon with messages from truck . . . Miss Marjorie Freeman and ness behind the Iron Curtain Cecil Nickles were married at Rock Port, to free the people. 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.

Mrs. Leonard Fitch was elected pres- swept over Czechoslovakia to ident of the Legion Auxiliary, succeeding such an extent that Premier Antonin Zapotocky made a speech Mrs. Mary Nelson. Mrs. W. L. Eckles was on the floor of parliament denamed vice president, and Mrs. Joe nouncing them, and the offi-Abrams was elected secretary . . . Mr. and | cial Communist newspaper, Tor-Mrs. P. F. Rihn, residents of Union for toon showing Harry Truman remany years, have moved to Plattsmouth leasing balloons . . . First Presbyterian church was the

setting July 19 for the marriage of Miss Macel Kathryn Dunfee and Don Olson . . . the best way for the Communists to combat the balloons was to claim that they came from of a son born July 21 . . . Robert Yelick, the U. S. government, not from son of Mr. and Mrs. James Yelick, is going i private Americans, as was the to Hawaii where he'll be employed in de- rood Balloons fense work . . . Judy Sikora, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walt Sikora, fractured her whether the trial of Vice-Prearm in a fall . . . Lt. John Gayer, son of mier Rudolf Slansky and other Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Gayer, has graduated | Czech leaders, the riots in Pilfrom signal school at Camp Murphy, Flori- in Czechoslovakia were encourda . . . Rev. and Mrs. Willard Sherman, aged by our freedom balloons or pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical and Re- not. But I am convinced that formed church, are moving to Bellevue.

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

\* \* \*

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DREW PEARSON SAYS:

BALLOONS COULD CARRY FOOD TO EAST BERLIN; FRIEND-SHIP MESSAGES COULD ACCOM-PANY 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 | Many part of East Germany are. and who called the turn on Communist of course, some distance from reaction, today comes up with another fect would be electrifying.

idea for winning the cold war). WASHINGTON-Two years ago this ficult to launch. The four-foot



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

which has done a fine job of

feeding a good part of Europe,

already has several tons of pack-

These packages sent over the

border into East Germany by

balloon at the rate of 1,000 a

night, each balloon containing

a message, not from the U.S.

government, but from the Amer-

German village from which

with a message of friendship

from the Lions' Club of Detroit

or the Kiwanis Club of Bakers-

field, Calif., or the Rotary Club

hind the Iron Curtain.

Friendship Messages

of Charleston, W. Va.

people friendship.

effort.

The food which CARE already

has in Berlin, plus the \$15,000,-

ing, could be delivered to in-

terior East Germany in part by

sages, cost of ballooning, wrap-

ping, etc., should of course be

unless it costs some time and

riod we have been waiting for-

when one of the top Soviet lead-

ers has been purged and when

the great Soviet empire is be-

But in all international situ-

ginning to crack at the seams.

must be ridden on its crest, it

Cass County's

Greatest Newspaper -

The Plattsmouth Journal

tual war can be prevented.

The important thing to re-

summer, Harold Stassen, the balloons we sent over Czechoslopresent Mutual Security Admin- vakia carried three and a half istrator, C. D. Jackson, now Ike's pounds. A 10-12 foot balloon 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 borwhich in the upper altitudes alcities of Prague and Pilsen between 6 a. m. and 8 a. m., when

By picking our nights and working most of the night with

told the Czechoslovak people that the people of the Western world had not forgotten them eventually they might be free.

Preventing War

This was purely an experi-ment, and some officials in the state department frowned on it. For over three years I had been Charleston. And you would braska economy, its folk, and urging that we get behind the Iron Curtain with this type of propaganda. The only way we could avoid war with Russia, 1 said, was to make sure of the Rotarians, the Lions, and the people behind the Iron Curtain were our friends. If enough of them realized we were friendly, in the second place, would little suspicious of governments, cause trouble for the Red army but they appreciate people-toeven if war did finally come.

General Omar Bradley heartily agreed. But several state exception of Ed Barrett, then assistant secretary of state in charge of propaganda, were opuntil we were absolutely ready

However, the Czechoslovak experiment seemed to hit pay dirt. The American embassy reported that the freedomfriendship leaflets were tacked up on telegraph poles, put in the baggage racks of passenger mimeographed, even surreptitiously placed on Communist bulletin boards. They

Of course, Harry Truman had nothing to do with them. But

I have no way of knowing now is the time to repeat the experiment-in a different way -in East Germany, perhaps later in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and other countries.

It has already been demonstrated that President Eisen-hower'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.

Food balloons are not too dif-

### Capitol News

LINCOLN-The State Board of Jqualization this week began weeding through all the intor-mation 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 pos sibly 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 to it was last year's action which raised valuations of farmlands in 19| western Nebraska counties. But at the end of the hearby the counties and before

ed sesion 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 hear ings have proved that beyond

Crosby, chairman of the State Board, said hearing testimony from most of the 93 counties things

2. Many counties had their town real estate in their counassessments below the 5 percent ties since their own county mark called for by the new law, boards of equalization didn't do even though a majority of the the job. ages in West Berlin. Furthercounties this year insisted on more they are already wrapped calling their last year's valuin waterproof material such as ations 5 per cent this year. housewives use in their deep-

ican people, would have a tre-mendous effect on people beison of sales figures to the as-Imagine what would happen if you were living in some East | counties.

paring town with country real estate. He has used averages of ing carrying 10 pounds of food comparison purposes, but insisted that these would not necessarily be the final value-fix-

Parade You would not only jump with oy but you would have a mighty kindly feeling toward those thoughtful Lions in Detroit or those generous Kiwanians in son in the southeastern corn Bakersfield or the Rotarians in belt. The varieties of the Nehave exactly the reverse feel- its county officials were all aming toward the officials in Rus-

sia who had removed your food. hearings Some people joke about the gested Crosby call a special ses Kiwanians. But I who saw what they did when they rolled up their sleeves for the Friendship Train, have an exactly opposite

the present method of determining values-by sales prices-000 surplus food which Secretary was to be made again and aof Agriculture Benson is send-

groups of Americans. The mesawait legislative action. paid for by these Americans,

ed that land prices there are lone to work out its problems. since Ike is trying to balance pegged to the price of cattle the budget and since no gesture and since this has slipped disastrously in the past year, their at equalizing within itself seems traffic, operating tractors at exof friendship is worth anything land is worthless now. They estimated a 20 per cent decline in the price of land from March, to the 1953 assessment time in member in the European picture is that now may be the pe-

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.

real estate in many cases has' wasn't reached.

e State Board went into clos-

3. In a majority of counties paying taxes on a higher per cent of the value of their propedty than have people in town This, too, had been indicated

sessed value of the properties sold-were under heavy attack

It was a fascinating parade of counties, beginning with Sioux County in the far northwest catle country to Richardply presented in the six days of

One of the first speakers, Sen Monroe Bixler of Harrison, sugsion of the Legislature to make Crosby told reporters it was "obviously too late" and Bixler's felow-legislators felt the same way wen newsmen telephoned

But that same criticism of

The Supreme Court has said this is the basis for fixing values and that the remedy must County officials from the cess of equalization and the cattle country stoutly maintain-

Crosby, whose home county

ations, the wave of restlessness of Lincoln is in the west end. shook his head at week's end must not be allowed to subside. This is about the only way evenand estimated there would have to be some "drastic re-adjustment in some of those counties." lots and improvemente in many

# JER Word NTFI I GR

THE PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL

PAGE FOUR

1. Man has (32) (28) teeth. 2. (South American) (Afro-Asian) monkeys have

prehensile tails. Water (expands) (contracts) when frozen.

(Nixon) (Knowland) is vice president. Russia rules (East) (West) Berlin.

Black (is) (isn't) a color. (Wellington) (Auckland) is New Zealand's

capital. 8. (Bartholdi) (Michelangelo) made the Statue

of Liberty. Joe Louis was boxing champion (8) (11) years.

10. Pluto is (visible) (invisible) without a tele-

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.

1. Degrees of inequality of as- real estate has. From a number was made by at least one county sesment exist between the coun- of counties, such as Boone, Hall, in every area of the state. He ties, proving the indication of Sherman, Richardson, and Otoe added he didn't intend to leave this from computions by the state tax commissioner's office. sak the State Board to hike

Some assessors had sharp words for the way merchants and industry owners in the bigger towns turn in their business owner of farmland have been inventories. Outstate assessors charge that Lincoln and Omaha businesses don't caryy their fair share of the state tax load be-cause full returns of property by tax commissioner's computaren't made. And Buffalo Coun-The tax commisioner's figures of Kearney, described by State which are based on a compar- Tax Commissioner Norris Ander week should be Tractor Safety son as "one of Nebraska's out- | Week. standing assessors," said that a spot check of business invenby the representatives of many tory returns in his county a- tributor to form machinery sta-

as to what to do about the scot-free the citizen who didn't | cent; Illinoish, 70 percent; and turn in what he should have. The governor said this was something he intended to study

strongly, however. Neighbors The counties came in by districts-which had the value of allowing officials to hear what in most studies made of this their neighors were contending, type of accident, with a loss of Chamber of Commerce propag- main reason for the side tipping

their time moaning about a decline in prices, insisting that the too close to ditches. Forcing past five years were special boom times in their counties and shouldn't be used for comparison purposes, and in gener- backward tipping accidents. Pu al tried to prove their counties ling heavy loads with improper

Counties which had done nothing to comply with the new fatalities. law spent much time either attacking th tax commissioner's comparison or trying to defend their own lack of action.

A familiar argument was that the county was still in the pro- operation of tractors on high-State Board should leave it a- tality rates on highways are But Crosby said, "just because a county has been a little slow to me no excuse for us as a State Board to do nothing' He added, "We can't permit counties which have done the

job to be damaged just because they did the law And ultimately those were the most compellinfg reasons for

equalization by the Board. Crosby warmly praised efforts death. in Dcuel, Logan, Box Butte, Buffalo, Harlan, Webster, Antelope, Dixon, Dakota, Thurston, Cuming, Keya Paha, Stanton, Madison, Colfax, Dodge, Burt, Washington, Adams, Hamilton, Polk, Butler, and Sarpy. He

convinced him of three borne twice as much of its The governor said he was hap gs. share of the tax load as town py to note htat "the full effort"

Monday, July 20, 1953

### Legislative SIDELIGHTS ..

BERNIE CAMP Information Director Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation

FARM SAFTY WEEK While officallly by Presidential Proclamation, July 19 to 25 is Farm Safety Week, every

Accidents studies indicate that the farm tractor is a major con-But Crosby said the hearings had convinced him that they had convinced him that they had convinced him "about 50 per cent are cheating by not make a "sound approach" for per cent are cheating by not with 86 percent of all farm manisting full returns." Crosby said he was at a loss chinery accidents in 1951; and as to what to do about the 36 percent of the total farm whole question of personal pro- fatalities. During a two year perty returns. A blanket raise period (1950-51) Minnesota stuof some personal property cat- dies credit 72 percent of farm egories such as household goods machinery fatalities to tractors. would only penalize the person For the same period, Iowa rewho was honest and still leave ported 80 percent; Ohio, 82 per-

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 The counties left all their control due to excess speed the ganda behind and mostly spent Other causes listed are; oper ation across steep slopes and tractors out of ditches or other spots where rear wheels become "lodged" contributes to most hitches or up steep slopes also contributes to backward tipping

More than one-third of the Towa and Minnesota tractor fatalities from 1949 through 1951 occured on highways. This, because of the relatively minor ways, indicates that accident fa much higher than in regular farm work. Slow-moving vehic les merging with high-speed cessive speed and ignorings rules of the road are principal reasons for high tractor acci-

lisions, the tractor operator is most likely to experience the most severe personal injuries and stands the greater risk of Tractors in the United States are beingg sold faster than

In tractor - automobile col-

dent rates on highways.

safe tractor operation. SKEPTICISM.

Greece, Turkey and Yugosla via have emphasized their skep-Also due for a raise were town | mended efforts made by num- ticism of Soviet "peace" moves erous other counties, even by officially reaffirming their eastern counties where farm though the 50 per cent mark treaty of friendship and military cooperation.













