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Associated Press

Influenza Upsets Whole Community

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Outbreaks of mild influenza have upset community routine in various parts of the country, closing schools, dropping production, delaying justice, and perking up the sale of pills.

Secretary of Welfare Arthur S. Flemming said Tuesday that nine states had reported outbreaks. In four, the variety was Asian flu.

Flemming named Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, California, Nevada, Utah and Hawaii.

There were signs that other states might be added soon. The epidemiologist for Seattle, Wash., was concerned that it might hit his area.

"There has been a moderate spread of flu carried back to Seattle from Los Angeles by people who went to the Rose Bowl football game," Dr. R. T. Ravenholt said.

Gas Co. Continues With Testimony

RALEIGH AP — The president of Piedmont Natural Gas Co. continues his testimony today in support of his firm's petition for a rate increase of more than half a million dollars a year.

Buell G. Duncan of Charlotte began testifying at a State Utilities Commission hearing Tuesday. He said the boost, if approved, would fall short of matching an increase in expenses caused by a rise in the wholesale price of gas.

The North Carolina Assn. of Launderers and Cleaners is protesting. The association says it wants a lower rate.

Piedmont put its new rates into effect Nov. 18, but made an agreement to reimburse its customers if the commission refuses to approve.

Duncan said Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corp., Piedmont's wholesaler, increased its rates \$535,113 annually. He said Piedmont's increase would fall short of matching the new Transco rates by nearly \$25,000.

Another Piedmont witness, John F. Watlington Jr., director and chairman of the firm's Finance Committee, said the hike is needed "if the company is to continue to be in a position to serve its customers and to contribute materially to the economic expansion of our area."

Piedmont has headquarters in Charlotte. It serves Winston-Salem, Hight Point, Charlotte, Salisbury, Spencer, East Spencer, Greensboro, Burlington and Graham.

Adenauer Appeals To West Berliners

BERLIN AP — West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer flew back home today with an appeal to West Berliners for confidence in West Germany and the Western powers.

His three-day visit included his first speech to the West Berlin city Parliament. In it he came out strongly against renewing Western proposals to the Soviets for a ceiling on the number of Western troops in the divided city and for the curbing of propaganda on both sides of Berlin's little Iron Curtain.

After Secretary Flemming's announcement, Dr. John Porterfield of the Public Health Service said that Asian flu had been confirmed in Tennessee, Ohio, Michigan and Hawaii.

"We do not think there will be as many cases as in the previous outbreak and they will not be as universal," he said.

Two years ago, a winter epidemic of Asian flu spread over most of the country.

In Los Angeles County, the "Q-flu" kept 20 per cent of city employees, 15 per cent of industrial workers, 10 to 15 per cent of students, and 10 per cent of the teachers at home.

Illness struck judges, jurymen, prosecutors, witnesses, and defendants, causing a logjam in the courts.

Health officials termed the virus the "Q-flu" because it has not been identified. The Q stands for question mark.

Influenza closed schools in Tennessee's Perry County from Dec. 18 until last Monday.

Columbus, Ohio, druggists reported a thriving pill business as many residents walked about sneezing and coughing with bad colds or more serious infections.

Dr. Joseph G. Milner, the Detroit health commissioner, said the flu has hit the Detroit area in serious proportions. His department is conducting a series of tests to determine the type, potency, and prevalence of the influenza.

Hospital Wing To Be Constructed

WASHINGTON AP — A new hospital wing being constructed in Charlotte, N.C., with federal aid funds will be operated on a nonsegregated basis, a Welfare Department spokesman said today.

The spokesman said Charlotte Memorial Hospital and the North Carolina State Medical Care Commission had so assured Secretary of Welfare Arthur S. Flemming.

Flemming had asked that state agency to look into a complaint by Clarence Mitchell, Washington director of the National Assn. for Advancement of Colored People. Mitchell had charged that the Charlotte hospital discriminated against Negroes, but was receiving federal hospital construction funds.

The spokesman said \$3,243,000 in federal funds had been committed for the new hospital wing, which will cost an estimated \$3,600,000.

He added that state agencies are required to get assurance from local sponsors that proposed hospital facilities will be integrated before they forward recommended projects to the public health service for approval.

Foot Discovered On Trash Dump

HAMLET, N.C. AP — A severed human foot was found on a trash dump Tuesday. Police, without any clues to the person involved, have asked the FBI to investigate.

A few months ago, children were found playing with a human hand here. It was claimed by a medical student who said the children had taken it from a garage laboratory.

Western World To Consider United States Proposal

PARIS AP — The major trading powers of the Western world met today to consider a U.S. proposal for a new economic organization with global responsibilities.

The proposal was formally submitted to the 20-nation meeting by U.S. Undersecretary of State C. Douglas Dillon, who wants to set up group of "wise men" to work out the plan.

The two-fold purpose of the American proposal is to heal the rift between the two West European trade blocs and coordinate Western aid to underdeveloped countries.

Dillon is understood to believe it will take 15 months to get a new "North Atlantic economic organization" going. He wants a smaller interim group to begin coordinating aid and goading the other powers into patching up trade differences.

While most of the 20 participating powers are agreed on these goals in principle, the underlying differences could spell trouble when it comes to dollars and cents bargaining.

The "wise men" planners proposed by Dillon would come from the United States, Britain, France and possibly one smaller power. These financial experts would consult the 18 governments of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation OEEC, plus the United States and Canada, during the 15-month organization period.

After consultations, the experts would work out a new economic organization acceptable to all 20 powers. This would replace the OEEC which now is out of favor with many European powers since it was involved in negotiations which left unhealed the present trade split in Europe.

The United States and Canada are not full members of the OEEC although they participate in its debates. They would be full members of the new organization.

New Engine Considered Dependable Way of Getting Rockets Into Orbit

CLEVELAND, Ohio AP — Scientists have run an ion engine long enough to consider it a pretty dependable way of getting space rockets up to speeds like 100,000 m.p.h.

That is a good space pace, especially considering that an ion engine has less push than the muffled echo of a butterfly's sigh.

An ion is an atom that has lost or gained one or more electrons, thereby becoming positive or negative, like profit and loss. Both kinds of ions can be made to go faster than money.

Ion fans and scientists will be interested in knowing that a test engine has been run for a total of 50 hours at the Lewis Laboratory of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Scientist Howard J. Childs says this is an encouraging sign that ion engines can be depended upon.

He also says this model is 55 to 58 per cent efficient. It is hoped that later models can be 80 or 90 per cent efficient.

People who are not ion fans or scientists might think that an engine with no more kick than a passing thought, yet capable of 100,000 m.p.h. on the speedometer, would be slicker than anything Detroit can turn out.

But the hot-rodgers may as well relax and go back to their internal combustion engines. Ion engines have their drawbacks.

For one thing, the current model uses liquid cesium—at \$600 to \$1,000 a pound—in a chemical reaction with tungsten to produce a stream of ions. It is the jet stream of ions that propels the vehicle.

There is an even bigger catch. Ion streams won't work in an atmosphere. Too much resistance. That means you have to get your ion buggy up into orbit. And orbits require a launching pad and tons of chemical rocket fuel.

Ike Brushes Aside Truman's Request

WASHINGTON AP — President Eisenhower brushed aside today a suggestion by former President Harry S. Truman that he should take Democratic advisers to the Big Four summit meeting in Paris next May.

He told a news conference he thought it had been a practice in the past to take representatives of the opposition party to a big international meeting when a treaty was to be signed. The way he said this gave many of his hearers the impression that he meant they were customarily taken along only when a treaty was envisioned.

New Social Security Bill Introduced

WASHINGTON AP — A North Carolina congressman introduced a social security bill today that would ease the standards for determining a totally disabled person.

Under the bill, introduced by Democratic Rep. Basil L. Whitener, a person would be considered totally disabled if he can not work at the last regular job he had before his illness or injury.

Whitener said that under present law "requirements are so rigid that many considered totally disabled by competent medical authority and employers find it impossible to secure disability insurance benefits."

In a speech prepared for delivery in the House, he added:

"If a person can perform any work, regardless of what it is or where it is or whether he has ever engaged in it, that person is precluded from disability benefits under the present law."

As prospects for the Paris meeting now stand, it is not expected to produce a treaty. Its task rather is expected to be to produce top-level guidance for further specific negotiations on such matters as disarmament. Those negotiations could conceivably lead to treaties if they resulted in East-West agreement on major issues.

Eisenhower said he is not the least bit disturbed about the effect of the Soviet missile power on summit negotiations.

He said he believes in the military power of the United States.

He made clear he is confident that this power is sufficient to support this country's foreign policy and prevent it from being pushed around by any other nation.

The President expressed these views after being told that some critics claim he will be at a disadvantage in negotiating with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev because the United States is "second best in the missile field."

Eisenhower said he wanted to assure his questioner that he is not frightened.

Search Continues For Valdes

WILMINGTON, N.C. AP — An extensive search for the body of Carlos Ramos Valdes, which is still missing from last week's crash of a National Airlines plane at nearby Bolivia, continued today.

But Valdes' striking 26-year-old blonde widow has departed. She left Tuesday for her Havana, Cuba, home after being persuaded there was nothing more she could do here.

Mrs. Valdes, who had been married only seven months, visited the wreckage scene, flew over the area in a chartered plane and trooped up and down Ft. Fisher and Kure beaches 15 to 20 miles to the east. It was on the beaches that some of the wreckage and the body of one of the 34 victims was found.

The plane, a four-engine DC-6B, crashed in the pre-dawn hours last Wednesday. It was en route from New York to Miami.

Mrs. Valdes had flown here from Havana to help search for her husband's body. She was accompanied by two officials of the Continental Bank of Cuba, of which her 33-year-old husband was a vice president. She spent four fruitless days looking for her husband's body.

Today 100 Marines from Camp Lejeune were to look for Valdes' body.

The Marines will be aided by two helicopters from Camp Lejeune. Tomorrow, an additional two platoons will be brought in from Camp Lejeune if today's search fails to produce results.

The Weather

NORTH CAROLINA: Mostly cloudy today, tonight and Thursday with showers developing later today and continuing tonight and Thursday. Warmer today and tonight and little change in temperatures Thursday. High today, lower 60s northeast portion to near 70 extreme west portion. Low tonight in the 50s.