

### Influenza Outbreak Is Due This Winter If Schedule Is Followed

Washington, Nov. 14—If influenza keeps to its schedule health authorities say, a mild outbreak will occur in the United States this winter.

Researches have discovered two influenza viruses, A and B. They also have learned epidemics caused by them occur in cycles, the "A" type every two to three years, the "B" type every four to six years. The A type is due to strike this winter. It last appeared in strength three years ago.

The outbreak in 1918-19 killed an estimated 20,000,000 people throughout the world. There have been 17 epidemics since 1918, and none was nearly so severe as the first.

Many doctors believe they have a new weapon to fight influenza. It is a vaccine of the virus types A and B. It was made available to the public last year after being developed by the army.

Whether one of these was the type that caused the disastrous outbreak of influenza after World War I is not known. It wasn't until 1933 that one of the viruses, type A, was identified. Type B was discovered later.

"One can merely speculate that the viruses known today are related to the 1918 episode, says a member of the army influenza commission, working in cooperation with the office of Maj. Gen. Norman T. Kirk, the surgeon general.

But assuming the 1918 epidemic was caused by a virus related to the A or B types, the commission consultants predicted:

"It should be anticipated that the vaccine will be equally effective against such an eventuality.

"If total population groups could be vaccinated or if sufficient numbers of the population could be treated it should follow according to all epidemiological principles that the disease would not become epidemic and even the unvaccinated and those who did not respond to vaccination should be protected by virtue of reduced risk of exposure."

The army has been working on the vaccine several years. It was tried on 12,500 men in the army's specialized training program in 1943 during an outbreak of type A flu. The army estimated it reduced the incidence of influenza among these men by 75 per cent compared with unprotected men.

Last winter everyone in the army was ordered vaccinated—8,000,000 people. Officials say that during an epidemic that occurred last winter the army had not epidemic.

The doctors point particularly to two examples. At one university, out of a group of 1,100 unvaccinated servicemen, the disease sent 109 to hospitals. Among 600 vaccinated army men there were only seven cases. The commission reported flu was reduced 88 per cent by vaccination.

At another university 550 army men were vaccinated a few weeks before the flu outbreak. Another group of 1,050 servicemen were unvaccinated. There were three cases among the army men and 132 cases among the other servicemen, army doctors reported. The army influenza commission estimated flu was reduced 96 per cent by vaccination.

"When the respiratory disease experience of the army was compared with that of civilian groups and with that of other service units in which vaccination was not done, it was clear beyond doubt that the incidence of disease has been reduced," a commission report said.

How long effects of the new vaccine may last is not known. Apparently its protection starts about a week after it is administered.

Some doctors say it isn't necessary that the entire population be vaccinated every winter to escape influenza. They say vaccination is necessary only when an outbreak first begins to appear. They believe if this is done an epidemic might be confined to "pockets" and wouldn't spread throughout the nation.

### 64 OPA Offices Will Be Closed On December 1

Washington—OPA has thrown its liquidation machinery into high gear, announcing it will close its 64 district offices on December 1 and trim its payroll from about 34,000 now to not more than 15,000 by January 15.

At the same time the agency announced that 30-day dismissal notices will have been issued to about 17,500 employees by the end of this month.

The doctors emphasize that the new influenza vaccine isn't effective against common colds or any respiratory infection except the two known influenza viruses, A and B.

The recognized authorities say "there isn't anything new to report this season" about colds.

Some doctors have reported evidence indicating penicillin and the sulfonamides are effective in treating some of the diseases that may attack after a cold sets in. These include pneumonia and sinus infections. But there is no proof the drugs are effective against the cold itself.

The United States public health service reports "our knowledge of colds is so incomplete that an exact definition of the condition cannot be given."

But it makes these suggestions for avoiding them:

1. Avoid people with colds whenever possible.
2. Wash your hands often, especially before eating.
3. Avoid chilling and wet feet.
4. Eat well balanced meals.
5. Get plenty of rest.
6. Keep rooms well ventilated.

### IGNORES DOG'S WARNING ROBBED TWICE

Washington — It wasn't the fault of GI Joe, a Boston bull terrier, that his master, Earl Goodwin, was robbed twice in a short time. GI Joe barked a warning but Goodwin sleepily threw a shoe at him. The next morning Goodwin discovered that thieves had stolen two mattresses and two small rugs. The same thing happened recently, when Goodwin's living room rug was taken.

### GOP PROGRAM TO BE DELAYED TILL JANUARY

Washington — Senator Robert Taft of Ohio, forecast today that Republicans will delay final drafting of any party legislative program for the GOP-controlled congress until early in January.

Any such delay probably would lay the Republican proposals before congress after President Truman outlines his Democratic administration requests for legislation in the annual state of the union message.

Taft told a reporter the GOP senate and house steering committees probably will produce, a list of subjects which subcommittees will be asked to prepare recommendations or bills for presentation at conferences of all party members early in January.

"The new members of the senate and house must have a full voice in deciding our policies," Taft said. "We hope to have recommendations to lay before them but the conferences will make the final decision."

The Republicans will proceed with their program without reference to any proposals the Democrats may make, he added.

The two GOP steering committees, meeting in separate sessions last week, and held a joint meeting Thursday.

Meanwhile senate and house GOP steering committees met for their first crack at organizing the congress.

All signs, however, pointed to a long delay also in resolving leadership questions, particularly since the house struggle is raging unabated against a backdrop of 1948 presidential politics.

Assembling for separate meetings, the 20 representatives and eight senators who make up the program planning groups were expected to discuss a wide field of prospective legislation in their new role as strategists for the majority party.

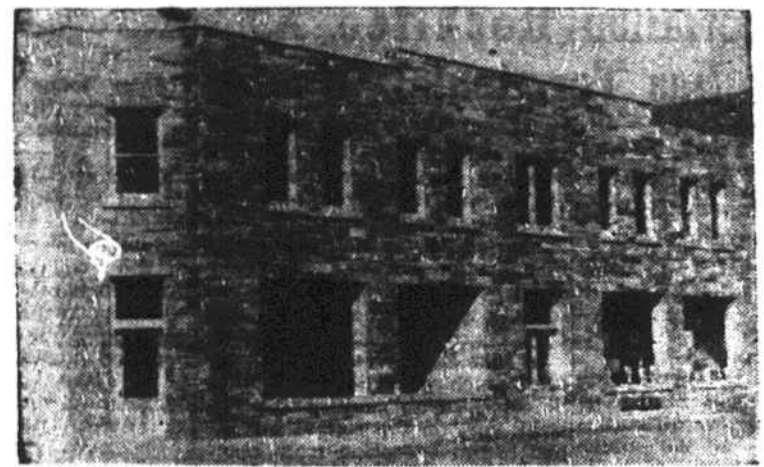
But Senator Wallace White of Maine, who may become majority floor leader, in his chamber, told a reporter he is urging his colleagues to center their fire on a few major issues.

"I don't think we ought to try to write a party platform such as might be produced by a national convention," he said. "We ought to say what we want to do about a half-dozen major issues and not spread our efforts all over the lot. We ought to make promises that we can carry out and then see that they are fulfilled."

### LUCKY FIND

Shawnee, Okla. —While flying at 400 feet in rough air near Pauls Valley, Okla., Lyle McKerracher, who patrols an oil pipeline from the air, lost his false teeth. On the next day, he drove to the area and found his teeth, undamaged.

Foreign policy unchanged by election, in contrast to 1918.



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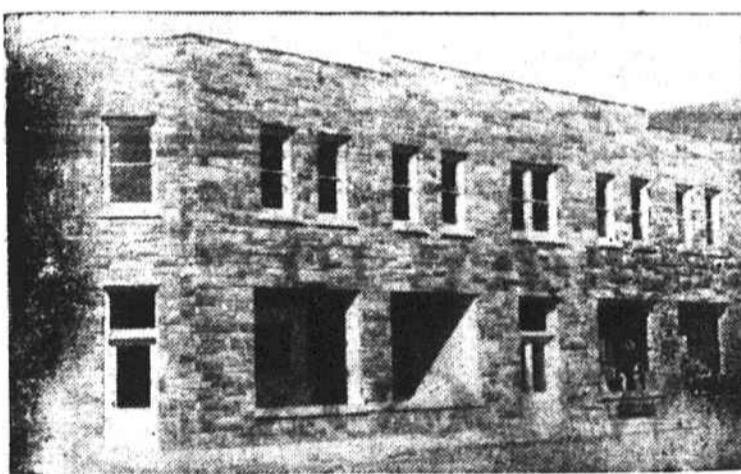
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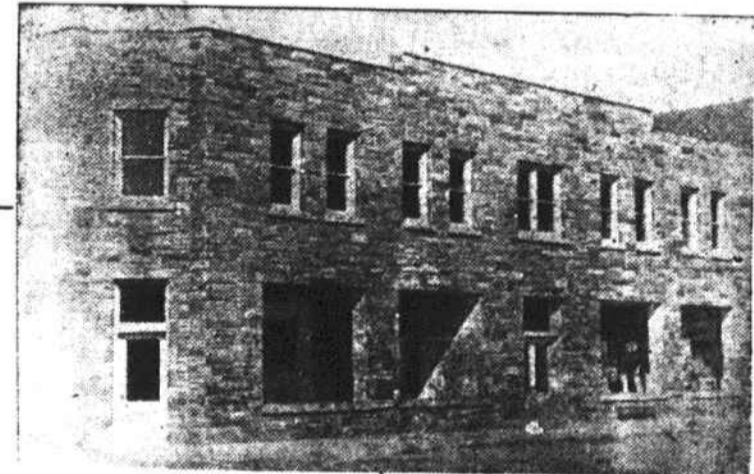
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