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VIEWPOINT

THE POSTAL CUTBACKS

We've talked on occasions about urban congressmen not understanding the problems of rural America, yet outnumbering those from the hinterlands

Rep Virginia Smith makes the same point in a different sense about recommendations for postal revisions

Looking at the matter as a rural patron, she notes about the membership of the Commission on Postal Service

It appears the commission could not conceivably understand the special needs of rural America, she said "Looking at the commission membership there is not one who is from further west than Chicago and not one who comes from a rural area "

And it is apparent that their recommendations had to be seen through urban eyes

Mrs Smith is particularly upset about the commission's recommendation that the Congress enact legislation to allow the Postal Service to close post offices under certain conditions

That quite apparently would affect only post offices in less populous places

Similarly she notes that elimination of Saturday mail service would mean an end to Saturday newspaper deliveries Since we have a vested interest in that we'd naturally be concerned, but Mrs Smith is looking at it from the viewpoint of the postal patron

The urban dweller who gets his newspaper by carrier on Saturday or Sunday or who can run to the drugstore substation to buy stamps on the weekend or who knows that if he drops a letter in a drop box it will be sent out weekend or not has an entirely different conception of mail service than the rural resident That person may wind up running to the county seat to mail a package — during post office hours — instead of being able to do so a few miles down the road, as well as facing the other inconveniences the Grand Island Daily Independent said

The Congress is going to have to take a long, hard look at this report and make some substantial changes before any legislation that is fair to rural America is delivered," Mrs Smith says

Hopefully those urban congressmen will listen, even though their constituents may not be very vocal about the changes



". . . as soon as we find a place to plug it in . . ."

THE AMERICAN PRESS: An Enviable Freedom

Press, state battle over secrets

By NEA London Economist News Service
(First in a series)

"Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press ' On those few words of the first amendment to the constitution ultimately rest the remarkable rights and powers of the American press It has more effective freedom today than the press of any other country

It can comment uninhibitedly even mistakenly on public persons, it can publish what the government wishes to keep secret it can investigate suspected wrongdoing regardless of court proceedings It can do those things under the Constitution, but all the Constitution has to say on the subject is that one grand, Delphic statement in the First Amendment

It is the judges of the United States, and especially of the Supreme Court, who have defined the freedoms of the press By way of interpreting the First Amendment, they have created a complex structure of law to which they are still adding

In the years of Congress's decline, before Vietnam and Watergate, the press took up much of the duty of scrutinizing the executive Indeed, it became customary to speak of the press as the fourth branch of government — a misleading cliche, since the press is in theory and must remain in practice outside the formal political institutions In any event, increasingly aggressive reporters and editors — and the defensive reactions of officials sincere or otherwise — led to legal confrontations

The judicial focus has shifted recently in a fundamental respect The guarantee of the First Amendment, for free speech and press, used to be a freedom to express unorthodox ideas The Supreme Court divided over the rights of such far-out groups as Communists and Jehovah's witnesses, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes spoke of "freedom for the thought that we hate "

Nowadays there is little disagreement about freedom of opinion As Justice Lewis Powell of the present Supreme Court put it, 'Under the First Amendment there is no such thing as a false idea" — one, that is, that the government can constitutionally suppress

The main battleground has become, instead, the right to obtain and publish the facts of public life

The United States has no equivalent to Britain's Official Secrets Act Instead of that act's much-mocked presumption that no government information of any kind may be disclosed without authorization the American rule of thumb is that anything may be disclosed unless it comes within a very narrow category of national defense material

The strictest statutes prohibit communicating secret atomic data and facts related to codes Beyond that, there is a collection of espionage laws dating back to the first World War Their language is so turgid, the legislative purpose so obscure that law reviews have spent hundreds of pages trying to puzzle out their meaning

As a rule the government has successfully invoked these criminal statutes only when defense information was given with intent to injure the United States or aid a foreign power

There is a classification system, and millions of documents are routinely stamped secret or top secret But classified material is just as routinely leaked in Washington — or used openly by officials Leaking is part of the process If it goes too far, the official involved may be disciplined, or there may be a political outcry But apart from codes and atomic secrets, the disclosure of classified information is not in itself a violation of law

When Theodore Sorensen took classified papers with him on leaving the White House and used them in writing a book, he broke no law or regulation, he did what many before him had done

The Pentagon papers case was the first time the government had ever gone to court in an attempt to keep a newspaper from publishing alleged national security secrets — a fact that is itself a comment on American press freedom

The attempt failed, broadly speaking, for two reasons One was the presumption against prior restraints The government, the court said, carried "a heavy burden of showing the justification for the imposition of such a restraint." The second was another general doctrine: that the president (or his agents in the executive branch) must have specific authority in legislation passed by Congress before taking action that may impinge on constitutional rights

Congress had enacted no law explicitly authorizing the executive to get this kind of restraint on publication Those two doctrines, together with the general aura of First Amendment freedom, produced a 6-to-3 decision allowing publication of the Pentagon papers to continue

The dissenters warned that American security might be gravely damaged, but six years later hardly anyone can even remember what the papers said

Because the justices wrote nine separate opinions in the Pentagon papers case, it is difficult to be sure what rule was laid down But Justice Potter Stewart probably expressed the prevailing view when he said that United States courts should not enjoin any publication said to threaten the national security unless convinced that disclosure would "surely result in direct, immediate, and irreparable damage to our nation or its people "

(Next Libel and privacy)

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AS TIME GOES BY

Authorities puzzled

FORTY YEARS AGO
—1937—

Authorities were puzzled by a rash of practically "lootless" burglaries in Otoe and Cass counties with no clues yet available Three tornadoes which struck small Missouri towns in the midst of rain and hail storms killed two persons and injured three others In a New York City ceremony, General Douglas MacArthur married Joan Faircloth of Murfreesboro Tenn The Wagon Wheel restaurant opened with special music under the new management of Irvin Schlotter

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO
—1952—

Roland Dean Sundahl, 21, died in the state's electric chair for the hatchet murder of a 16-year-old girl Percival, Iowa, still had a river on each side of the town due to Missouri River flooding A Boy Scout Board of Review passed Jerry Livingston for his Eagle badge Agriculture Depatment officials said the potato "famine" would last another month President Truman said the nationwide oil dispute was "very close to a settlement "

TEN YEARS AGO
—1967—

Jerre Tritsch president of the Student Council at Nebraska City Junior High, threw a shovelful of dirt on the tree planted at ceremonies at the school .Mr and Mrs Gerald Livingston of Nebraska City attended the footwear show in Dallas, Texas Orville Rettig of Nebraska City was one of the 31 members initiated at the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Exemplification Mrs Wayne Nicholson was selected as the Cass County Homemaker of the Year Singer Elvis Presley and his bride-to-be, 21-year-old Phyllis Anne Beaulidu took out a marriage license in Las Vegas, Nevada

News in Brief

SOUTHFIELD, Mich (AP) — A mother of two children has designed a T-shirt that she hopes will safeguard children in this Detroit suburb, where seven youngsters have been abducted and slain in the past 15 months The words "I Don't Talk To Strangers" are printed on the T-shirts created by Francine Gold, 35, a former kindergarten teacher, who has two children in Oakland County schools

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An electrical engineer has designed a more efficient electric motor which he says could save one to two million barrels of oil per day if it is put into wise use Cravens Wanlass told a new conference Monday that his "controlled torque" motor uses up to one-third less power than most electric motors State officials termed the motor a "major billion-dollar breakthrough for energy conservation "

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The Prayer For Today From the Upper Room

Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever for they are the rejoicing of my heart. Psalm 119 111

PRAYER Gracious Father, we thank Thee for Thy words of truth and comfort They are good words Enable us today to worship and live by them In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we pray the prayer He taught us, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever Amen."

Berry's World



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"Let's get this straight, my friend, I don't WANT to hear any more about the energy situation!"



Ivan D.E. Beaumont

THE BUCK ENDS HERE

Emotion at concert

A good shot —

There was a moment of emotion when Mrs Charlotte Mabie announced to the concert audience and students at Senior High that she had submitted her resignation as the vocal music teacher.

She was quick to return to the director's box and concentrate on music composition instead of emotional composure and her charges followed suit with some mighty fine pieces.

The second bombshell came when Gary DeBolt, the instrumental director, announced moments later that he too had resigned. Gary said the announcement made it look like a mass exodus, but he had not been aware of Mrs Mabie's plans.

Mrs Mabie will quit teaching and has some other interests. Among them is being lucky and not only at bingo. She's been a winner many times and the kids at high school know it.

The latest we heard was one of those $100 jeeps is still in the crate. We've heard that story regularly since shortly after Ike invaded Europe.

It's not that we're negative. We just plain think it's bunk. And.....if it is true, then we'll believe it if Mrs Mabie is seen driving a jeep on Central Avenue.

Best wishes also to Gary who will return to Torrington, Wyo., to enter business with the family and take on some additional work in a grocery store and motel-hotel management

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Commencement site —

The Nebraska City High School commencement exercises will be held at a park again this year, but it won't be Hayward Chairs and park benches will be moved onto the Steinhart park.

We've always liked the park commencements. For one thing they're a whale of a lot cooler than packed gymnasiums during the warm days of May.

This year's commencement site will be especially attractive with the surrounding facilities of swimming pool, tennis courts and ball fields.

Principal Carl Fielder said parents and friends are being asked to take chairs The graduates will be seated next to the swimming pool, and the band will be behind them inside the pool fence

That means all the visitors will be seated along the terraces next to The Lodge. The program lasts about 45 minutes, Mr Fielder said

And in case the weatherman doesn't cooperate, the commencement will move inside the gym.

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Voter turnout —

We can all learn from voter turnout. Seventy per cent of the registered voters in the Douglas school district went to the polls resulting in a "yes" margin of 149 to 43.

Superintendent Charles Hastings was especially pleased with the large turnout He said the result was the people telling school authorities what they want to do

The bond issue was for $183,255 for a one-story addition to the Douglas school It will include home ec, shop, music, kindergarten, first and second grades, locker room facilities and office space

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Double pleasure —

The Job's Daughters organization has what it calls a Secret Master Mason program. It's like a Secret Pal of many clubs, only in this instance, the girls are given the names of Master Masons and they follow up with notes and other surprises for several weeks.

Then on the night of the box social, the Master Masons are invited to bid on the food. When they are declared the winner in the bidding they learn the identity of the young cook. Mine was Deanna Hall, daughter of Mr and Mrs Duane Hall.

Then later at the meeting, the girls all stand and introduce their Secret Master Masons of the past weeks or months. I had double pleasure The little girl who sent me the corsage, St. Patrick's boutonniere Easter gift and notes was the second daughter of the Hall family, Denise

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Coming home —

Mike and Peggy McCartan and their five children will be returning to Nebraska City this summer Mr McCartan will be processing manager at Morton House Kitchens, Inc

The McCartans moved to Kansas City three years ago and for three months have been living in Louisiana The McCartans have enjoyed Kansas City and Louisiana, but they are looking forward to returning to Nebraska City

So are we Welcome home.

Today In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, May 1, the 121st day of 1977. There are 244 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history

On this date in 1945, German radio announced the death of Adolf Hitler in Berlin.

On this date:

In 1898, an American naval force under Adm. George Dewey destroyed a Spanish fleet in Manila Bay in the Philippines.

In 1873, the U.S. Post Office put penny postal cards on sale for the first time

In 1931, what was then the tallest building in the world, the Empire State Building, was dedicated in New York.

In 1961, the first political hijacking of an American airliner to Cuba took place.

In 1971, an AWOL American marine, Raffaele Minichiella, was released from a prison in Rome, Italy after hijacking an airplane from California

In 1975, the Communist Khmer Rouge government in Cambodia was recognized by the United Nations.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Dean Rusk announced that 28 bids on peace in Vietnam had been spurned by the North Vietnamese government.

Five years ago: South Vetnamese forces abandoned the important center of Quan Tri, and 80 American military advisers were flown out

One year ago: Ronald Reagan defeated President Ford in a presidential primary election in Texas.

Today's birthdays: Singer Kate Smith is 78 years old Entertainer Jack Paar is 59

Thought for today: I am only an average man, but, by George, I work harder at it than the average man President Theodore Roosevelt, 1858-1919.

SAFETY VALVE

"...no air conditioning..."

EDITOR, News-Press: I would like to reply to the article written by Genevieve Betts and Ruby Clites, serving meals in the Memorial Building for SENCA.

The Memorial Building Basement is not air conditioned. This is one reason some of the activities are curtailed during the summer months.

In regards to the steps entering the north door there are two steps up from the alley and six steps down, and on the south there are 10 steps entering.

HAROLD DUKES
Custodian, Memorial Building



HEALTH

Lawrence E. Lamb, M.D.

Hearing loss woes

DEAR DR LAMB — Is there any way to treat nerve deafness with success? Do the very wealthy just put up with it and never find anything to help them? I'm not in this class but would be glad to spend some money if I could get some real help

I have had hearing tests at the hearing clinic and they tell me I have hearing loss from nerve deafness but they don't offer me anything for it They just say if I can't get along this way to return before getting any hearing device

My family doctor said the reason they didn't do anything was because hearing aids are expensive and many of them are no good and don't provide any real help

I'm 83 and in good health otherwise, but am quite unhappy with this hearing problem. Our present minister has a rather high, thin voice I have no trouble with TV programs and don't turn them up extremely high Very soft, thm voices and whispering are not for me I can hear the birds and most outdoor sounds

There are others who are troubled like me and a lot of folks would appreciate your comments Some say they have found a device which helps them and others say they are no good

DEAR READER — You would probably be hard to fit with a hearing aid that would really help you Your story tells me that you have a problem in "recruitment " That means that low-pitched tones are amplified by your ear and the high thin tones are diminished

A simple amplification of all sounds wouldn't work because the lower tones would be distorted and cause you trouble in distinguishing sounds

As you point out you can hear TV and other sounds If you had the same amount of loss for all tones then a device that would just amplify sounds would help but that is not the case

There are aids that amplify the high tones and do not amplify the low tones but these are expensive and difficult to match to the variations in tone loss and tone distortion associated with your type of deafness

Your friends who have devices that work for them probably have a decrease in hearing at all pitches of sound and simple amplification works for them but not for others with a mixed hearing loss

Your hearing clinic has given you good advice When your condition bothers you too much then just ask them to see if they can fit you with a special model that will help with your particular loss of high soft tones

Many people do waste money on hearing aids that are promised to provide miracles Some of these do work but too often the person doesn't get the help he needs as well as losing money The best advice I can give people with hearing problems is to let a professional test their hearing and decide what is needed — an operation, a hearing aid, if so, what kind, or if none of these will be helpful

There are a number of changes that affect people as they grow older — hearing loss, arthritis and others Some can be delayed, others helped Those who want information on osteoarthritis, also called degenerative arthritis can send 50 cents for The Health Letter number 4-10 Send a long, stamped self-addressed envelope for mailing Address your letter to Dr Lamb in care of this newspaper, P O Box 1551 Radio City Station, New York NY 10019

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