

## STATISTICS

# One-Way Street Outlook

➤ ONE-WAY STREETS seem to boost business.

Although this is not an iron-clad rule, reports from the District of Columbia and Sacramento, Calif., show that one-way traffic is going over big with businessmen on both coasts.

Not only do one-way streets sometimes jack up trade in shops, filling stations and department stores along their edges, but they also produce more safety as a by-product. This safety is shared by motorists and pedestrians at the temporary expense of city morticians.

Business is clipping along about as usual on two downtown streets in the District of Columbia recently changed to one-way lanes. Elsewhere in the nation's capital, the pulse of trade is throbbing a little more slowly than before the elections.

Sales-tax returns of merchants along Tenth and Twelfth Streets, Northwest, reveal business has remained good since work crews put up the one-way signs Feb. 15.

Shortly after those car-clogged streets had been changed, merchants complained that their business had fallen off. But the complaints rapidly died out.

Sacramento officials, surveying reaction

to their own one-way street experiments, report that local businessmen seem pleased. Groups of them now are prodding city officials to expand the one-way street system.

Business in downtown Washington generally has undergone a slight recession since the election, reports John Mitton, District traffic engineer. But tax records show merchants along the new one-way streets are "as well off or better off" than they were a year ago.

The cause of this business "boom" baffles Mr. Mitton. More parking spaces usually can be sandwiched in along one-way streets. This usually stimulates business in nearby stores. But so far the District's traffic department has not changed a thing on the streets except the direction of traffic. No extra parking has been provided.

Sacramento's study turned up some of the safety aspects of one-way streets. Seemingly a benefit to pedestrians, shopkeepers and motorists alike, they:

1. Boosted traffic volume 14%.
2. Cut the vehicle accident rate 15.5%.
3. Slashed pedestrian accidents 61.9%.
4. Raised traffic speed 24.4% during peak rush hours and 41.4% during other hours.

Science News Letter, July 18, 1953

## PSYCHOLOGY

# Learning a Language

➤ YOU DO not need any special linguistic talent to learn a foreign language. Even a very high IQ is not necessary.

If you are as bright as the average white collar worker, you can learn to speak Russian or Chinese or Spanish with as much ease as the highbrow with an IQ of 200.

This is what Dr. William J. Morgan, psychologist of Aptitude Associates, Merrifield, Va., learned in a study of the progress made by government employees studying Russian at Georgetown University, Washington.

The person of average intelligence or a little better can keep up with the rest even under the pressure of a modern intensive language course. More important than being a genius is to have certain work habits or personality traits.

Here is what you need:

Interest and enthusiasm. Ability to work and get along with others, and ability to grasp instructions and plans. You must want to improve your work and be able to obtain results and get things done. You must have initiative, but you must be thorough and must not neglect details. Judgment and common sense help, too.

This nation will some day wake up to the importance of foreign languages in the effective conduct of our international policies, Dr. Morgan predicts.

When that day comes, linguistic scientists should be ready for a great rush of people who want to learn languages in a hurry. In preparation, Dr. Morgan urges an alliance between linguistic scientists and psychologists to conduct research so that they will be better able to predict just how much a particular student is capable of, and how this optimum performance can best be attained.

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## ICHTHYOLOGY

# Sport Fishing Object Of Intense Research

➤ SPORT FISHING is becoming a major concern of scientific research, as the number of sport fishermen continues to grow prodigiously, while dams, pollution and—some say—overfishing, plus a host of other factors, seem to be reducing the number of sport fish available.

A list of more than 500 scientific projects currently under way on the sport fishery of the continental and territorial United States has been compiled and published by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the 133-page bulletin, "Survey of Fishery Activities, 1953."

About a quarter of the projects are re-

ceiving financial assistance from federal funds, under the Dingell-Johnson bill for aid in fish restoration. The others are financed directly by state agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, universities and other scientific bodies.

Typical of the programs under way in sport fishery are research on fish migration, spawning habits, food sources, age and growth, and effects of pollution.

Management projects include weed control, rough fish control, construction and maintenance of public fishing lakes, increasing food supply, and improvement of watersheds to stabilize stream flow.

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