

GENERAL SCIENCE

Free Flow of Information

SURVIVAL of this country as a democracy demands the free flow of information needed to make "life-or-death" decisions affecting security, Rep. John E. Moss (D.-Calif.) said in Washington.

The best security is attained through "superior achievement" not by clamping the secrecy lid on ideas, the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Government Information told the Jet Age Conference. Rep. Moss charged that "overzealous" government censors, trying to avoid disclosure of information that might possibly give "aid and comfort to the enemy," spend most of their time trying to halt information that would give "aid and comfort to the American taxpayer."

He cited the transistor, the tiny replacement for the vacuum tube for many uses, as an example. If misuse of security restrictions had been applied to the transistor's development, he said, many of today's compact defensive weapons would not have been made nor would industry have been able to make the vest pocket radio and the hidden hearing aid.

He noted that the subcommittee "most certainly" does not advocate disclosing any

information that would endanger national security, such as details about weapons systems or war plans. The most reliable security system, Rep. Moss said, is "limited to those items directly bearing on real military secrets."

When security regulations are continually abused, Rep. Moss charged that the system becomes a sham, creating contempt for the entire process.

"The complexities of the new age of jets. H-bombs, intercontinental ballistic missiles and man-made satellites make it ever more imperative that the picture be clear and undistorted," Rep. Moss said. Without it, he noted, "the nation's survival could become the pawn of demagogues and propagandists."

Gen. John E. Hull (ret.), president of the Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc., and a member of the Defense Department's Committee on Classified Information, said the committee had recommended a "determined attack" on over-classification. He pointed out that putting a secrecy label on a document was an "easy process," while removing it was "very complicated."

Science News Letter, March 2, 1957

NEUROLOGY

Punch-Drunk "Sluggers"

► THE TYPE of boxer most likely to get punch-drunk from his career in the ring is a second or third rate performer who can perhaps be looked upon as a "slugger" rather than a scientific boxer, Dr. Macdonald Critchley, neurologist at Kings College Hospital, reported in the *British Medical Journal* (Feb. 16).

Punch-drunkenness is much commoner among professionals than amateurs and is very rare among colored boxers, he reported. It has been found in fighters of all weights

but most characteristically in small men who had not been particular about the size of their opponents and had taken on contestants heavier than themselves.

Dr. Critchley defines punch-drunk fighters as those amateurs or professionals who have undergone gradual physical and mental deterioration as a direct accumulated result of their careers. He prefers to call the condition "chronic progressive traumatic

encephalopathy of boxers." It is usually a matter of years before punch-drunkenness shows up but once it does it is irreversible and usually advances steadily, Dr. Critchley reported.

The victims may admit to few if any disabilities but complain of headaches, dizziness, deafness, poor vision, intolerance toward alcohol, unsteady gait and shakiness. In some cases speech becomes slurred and memory is affected.

Electro-encephalography, or the recording of the weak electrical waves transmitted by the brain, has been widely used lately to study punch-drunk fighters, he reported. Although the findings have mainly revealed a non-specific type of disordered rhythm in the waves, the test may prove to be a more "delicate index" of poor brain functioning than clinical study and lend itself to use as a screening device.

Valuable information might be gained by submitting boxers to this test before a contest and after a contest, whether or not there was a knock-out involved, Dr. Critchley reported.

Science News Letter, March 2, 1957

AERONAUTICS

Supersonic Look in Air Force Bombers

See Front Cover

► THIS NEW flight photo of America's first supersonic bomber dramatizes the four powerful J-79 turbojet engines that propel the pencil-thin, delta-wing Convair B-58 "Hustler" faster than sound and to stratospheric heights. Slung beneath the B-58's wing, these General Electric powerplants, with afterburners, are among the mightiest yet developed for military aircraft.

The new Air Force bomber, shown on this week's cover of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, is about 95 feet long with its delta wing span about 55 feet.

Science News Letter, March 2, 1957

MATH IS FUN

By Joseph Degrazia, Ph.D.

Here is a treasury of brain-teasers. You need not be a mathematical genius to solve these problems and puzzles. What you need is to know how to THINK LOGICALLY—how to REASON. This is practically a "course" in applied logic and reasoning—besides being an immense amount of fun that will keep you absorbed for many hours. You will find not only that MATH IS FUN, but also that learning math can be fun!

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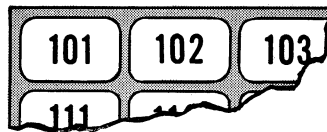
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