

PSYCHOLOGY

Mass Media Calmed U. S.

► MASS MEDIA, particularly television, acted as a catharsis for national grief over President John F. Kennedy's death and kept the nation on an even keel amid rumors of dark conspiracy, Stanford University reported in Palo Alto, Calif.

This and other analyses of the part played by communications on Nov. 22, 1963, will be published in "The Kennedy Assassination and the American Public: Social Communication in Crisis" (Stanford University Press). Thirty-eight social scientists and newsmen contributed to the volume, edited by Profs. Bradley S. Greenberg and Edwin B. Parker. Interviews with 1,300 persons in the week following Kennedy's assassination form the basis of the work.

From the time of Kennedy's death on Friday to his funeral on Monday, Americans spent an average of more than eight hours viewing television.

Such extensive coverage calmed people, noted Dr. Wilbur Schramm, Stanford University.

"If a suitable object for great national anger had emerged from the news of the crisis, it is conceivable that a mass uprising might have occurred."

Highlights of a summary by Profs. Greenberg and Parker are:

People varied in the strength of their reactions on the basis of class and sex. Women reacted more strongly than men and grieved more deeply. Men, however, showed more grief at work or in public than when alone.

Women's suspicions were more prevalent and extensive. Women were more likely to assume collective responsibility than were men and they were less certain that Oswald was guilty.

The working class and some middle class persons showed more intense sorrow than those with upper class incomes or occupations.

Race did not seem to determine reactions so much as political affiliation or personal preference. "Negro responses were more like those of white pro-Kennedy Northerners than like those of any other regional or political group," the report states.

Exposure to television and other media followed general partisan lines. Republicans were less upset and spent less time before their sets than did Kennedy supporters.

But the most important deduction, the summary concludes, is that "Americans trust their free press and their free broadcasting system. . . . These did not fail the people in any important way."

• Science News Letter, 88:260 October 23, 1965

GENERAL SCIENCE

Time Capsule II Deposited For 5,000 Years at Fair

► TIME CAPSULE II was lowered into a 50-foot steel shaft at the New York World's Fair on Oct. 16 to await its discoverers in the 70th century A.D.

At the push of a button by Westinghouse President Donald C. Burnham, an electrically driven hoist sent the 465-pound, torpedo-shaped vessel to its permanent resting place alongside the 1938 Westinghouse Time Capsule. Its message, chosen by world authorities, documents major achievements and events of the past quarter century in 117,000 micro-filmed pages. It also holds 45 objects selected for their significance to people in the distant future.

Fair President Robert Moses, New York City Park Commissioner Newbold Morris and Dr. Leonard Carmichael, vice president for research and exploration of the National Geographic Society took part in the lowering ceremony. Dr. Carmichael headed the committee of distinguished experts who selected the contents for Time Capsule II.

In the Time Capsule, men 5,000 years from now can find a record of civilization, a record which could be more priceless to them than the Rosetta stone, the Pyramids or the Dead Sea Scrolls have been to us, Mr. Burnham said.

Chemical tests of the Kromarc stainless steel used to make the Time Capsule, and of the soil where it lies, show that the contents will be safe from corrosion.

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Westinghouse

5,000 YEARS UNDERGROUND—
This Time Capsule, to be opened in 5,000 years, documents man's progress in the last 25 years. Sealed inside individual glass vessels, the contents will rest inside a large Pyrex cylinder in an inert atmosphere of argon gas at low humidity. The glass tube, wrapped with asbestos tape, will lie inside an airtight Kromarc stainless steel cylinder.

Questions

ARCHAEOLOGY—What North American waterways are pictured on the map drawn by an Austrian monk in 1440? p. 263.

ASTRONOMY—Which is the brightest star in the constellation of Pisces Austrinus, the southern fish? p. 266.

BIOLOGY—What kinds of organic compounds found on meteorites have been identified? p. 259.

BIOTECHNOLOGY—How is electrical current produced from coconut milk? p. 264.

NATURE NOTE—About how many species of flatworm are there? p. 267.

TECHNOLOGY—Where is the world's first land-based desalting plant using atomic power to generate electricity located? p. 261.

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