

Science Forecast by HHH

► THE FUNDS available for scientific research have increased 800% in the past eight years, said Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, and apparently it is paying off.

Speaking in Washington to a delegation of students enrolled in the National Science Youth Camp, the Vice President made several predictions of the future fruits of research.

"If any age can lay claim to being a golden age of adventure and discovery," he said, "ours can. Yet we have barely begun. Here are some of the developments we can look forward to within the next 20 years:

"In agriculture, the large-scale use of de-salinated sea water; in medicine, the transplantation of natural organs and the use of artificial ones; in psychiatry, the widespread application of drugs that control or modify the personality; in education, the use of more sophisticated teaching machines; in worldwide communication, the everyday employment of translating machines; in industry, the extensive use of automation, up to and including some kinds of decision-making at the management

level; in space, the establishment of a permanent base upon the moon. . . .

"Experience shows," he added, "that it takes 10 to 30 years for a new idea to make its way from its inception in a scientist's mind to its general application in everyday life. Therefore, the world of 20 years from now already exists, in embryo, in today's advanced research establishments.

"For the year 2000 however, we can foresee some really far-out developments:

"The virtual elimination of bacterial and viral diseases; the correction of hereditary defects through the modification of genetic chemistry; the stepping-up of our food supply through large-scale ocean farming and the fabrication of synthetic proteins; control of the weather, at least on a regional scale; in space, the landing of men on Mars and the establishment of a permanent unmanned research station on that planet; the creation, in the laboratory, of primitive forms of artificial life.

"This can indeed be an age of miracles," he concluded. "It will be your age."

• Science News, 90:52 July 23, 1966

Why Are You Ignored When You Talk?

A noted publisher in Chicago reports a simple technique of everyday conversation which can pay you real dividends in social and business advancement and works like magic to give you poise, self-confidence and greater popularity.

According to this publisher, many people do not realize how much they could influence others simply by what they say and how they say it. Whether in business, at social functions, or even in casual conversations with new acquaintances there are ways to make a good impression every time you talk.

To acquaint the readers of this publication with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in everyday conversation, the publishers have printed full details of their interesting self-training method in a new book, "Adventures in Conversation," which will be mailed free to anyone who requests it. No obligation. Send your name, address, and zip code to: Conversation, 835 Diversey Parkway, Dept. 264B, Chicago, Ill. 60614. A postcard will do. (Adv.)

MILITARY SCIENCE

Civilians Run Army's Only Aircraft Repair Ship

► THE ONLY floating aircraft maintenance installation of the U.S. Army is anchored in Cam Ranh Bay, Viet Nam, not far from the sounds of war—manned by 130 civilians.

The USNS Corpus Christi Bay is operated by a civilian team from the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS). Helicopter landing platforms fore and aft, 32 repair and machine shops and 1,250,000 microfilmed, computer-filed technical documents fill the 538-foot vessel from stem to stern.

Formerly the USS Albemarle, the ship had been in mothballs for 12 years until it was brought forth in 1962 as part of Project Flattop—a scheme for using ships to back up soldiers in areas with inadequate repair facilities. More than 17 months were spent in the Charleston, S.C., Naval shipyard, outfitting the vessel for her new job.

The civilians are not the only personnel on board, however. They are outnumbered almost three to one by military men of the Army's First Transportation Corps Battalion, who actually do the repair work and run the shops.

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E. G. SHERBURNE JR., Editor

Watson Davis, Director Emeritus, Editor, 1922-66

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