

METEOROLOGY

**More Support Urged
For Weather Service**

► **ADMINISTRATION REORGANIZATION** ideas for government bureaus and departments can be cheered by at least one of them—the U. S. Weather Bureau. This appears from the report of the Department of Commerce Advisory Committee on Weather Services to Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks.

A bigger budget, an aggressive research program, return of certain research, climatological and observing functions from the Armed Forces to the Weather Bureau, and the addition of more forecasters are among the committee's recommendations.

Decentralization, encouragement of state and local governments to take part in some programs and encouragement of private meteorology are other recommendations.

High praise for the Bureau's present chief, Dr. Francis W. Reichelderfer, and for the "frugality" of its operations is given.

"We know of no other governmental agency that has been so economical in the expenditure of its funds," the committee declares.

Per capita cost of U. S. Weather Bureau services is, roughly, 18 cents, compared to 20 cents in England, 47 cents in the USSR and 50 cents in Canada.

The committee was composed of eight non-governmental meteorologists under the chairmanship of Joseph J. George of Atlanta, Ga.

The Weather Bureau needs more funds for such projects as a national radar storm detection network and electronic computers in forecasting, the committee said.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

**Colored Flint Further
Pitldown Fraud Evidence**

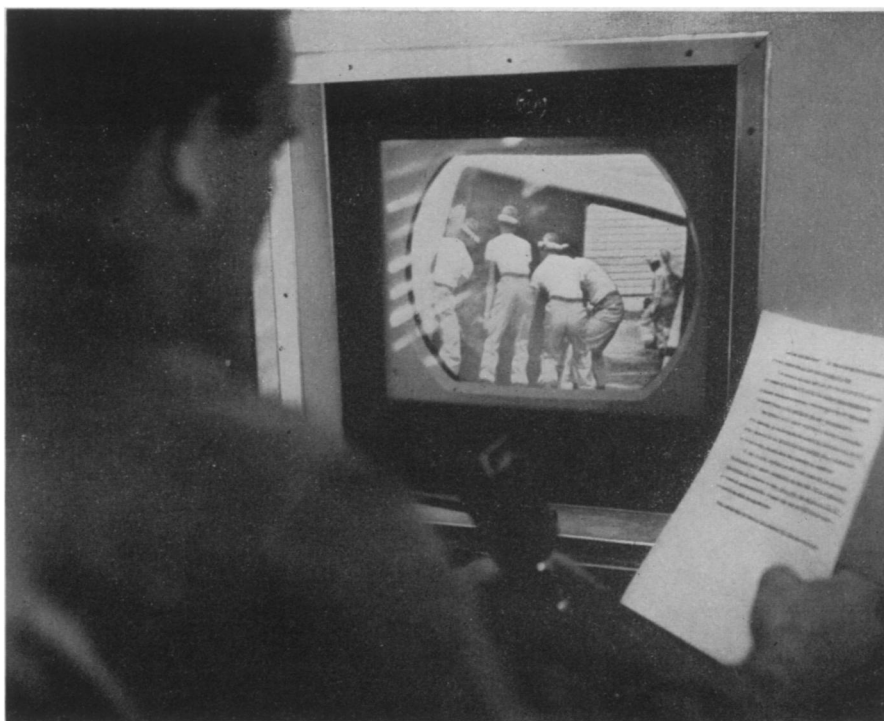
► **MORE EVIDENCE** has been produced that the Pitldown Man discovery was in part a deliberate fraud foisted upon science.

Drs. K. P. Oakley and J. S. Weiner, British scientists, reported previously that the jawbone was that of a modern ape stained with chromate to make it appear ancient. Now they find that one of the so-called flint implements similarly was stained with chromate, although other flints also supposedly recovered from the earth layer just above the fossil skull were stained only with iron, as they would be by weathering.

This flint must have been "treated in that way by a forger requiring it to be of a certain color," the scientists report in *Nature* (Dec. 12).

When the stain was removed by acid, this flint was indistinguishable from a mechanically broken piece of flint such as can be found in any plowed field in the southern England area where Pitldown Man was unearthed in 1912.

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TRAINING BY TV—A member of the Signal Corps mobile television section gives a brief description of an airborne loading operation being televised by the unit as part of a class instruction program.

MILITARY STRATEGY

TV As Battlefield Aid**See Front Cover**

► **THE ARMY** Signal Corps is experimenting with television as a weapon of warfare to save lives, time and money in future conflicts.

Battle commanders may be able to switch tactics almost instantly when the occasion demands it if they can watch on video screens the progress of their strategy at the front 10 miles away.

This would give the U. S. an advantage, especially if the enemy depends upon the usual verbal reports from the front—reports that often are conflicting and inaccurate, the Army points out.

Although television offers promise as a tactical tool, emphasis in experiments now under way at the Signal Corps' Pictorial Center, Long Island, N. Y., is being placed upon television's value as a training aid.

Through the video medium, the Army can instruct larger classes than it can accommodate in present auditoriums with good results. For instance, a one-hour lecture was delivered from a laboratory containing the radio equipment under study. It would have been difficult to squeeze all the soldiers into the small lab.

By watching a televised version of the lecture, each man was able to hear the instructor and see the small radio dials and

knobs almost as clearly as if he were standing next to the electronic gear.

Complex field problems can be explained to military students through the eyes of TV cameras. By way of a closed-circuit telecast, which could not be picked up on home receivers, a group of West Point cadets watched an amphibious assault exercise off the Sandy Hook, N. J., coast.

The TV cameras in this case were carried aloft in L-20 liaison airplanes flying 3,000 feet above the beach. The picture was broadcast to the Signal Corps mobile station at Camp Wood 10 miles away. There it was "distributed" to 10 television receivers being viewed by the visiting West Pointers.

Shown on the front cover of this week's *SCIENCE NEWS LETTER* is such experimental television camera mounted in an L-20. The camera has a special lens mount to resist high winds. Before take-off, the pilot and cameraman check the problem to be televised in regard to terrain, flying hazards and safety restrictions. During the flight, an intercommunication system is used to maintain contact between the pilot and cameraman.

Army video also offers promise as a technical tool. It is able to monitor areas contaminated with radioactivity that would present a hazard to human life.

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