

CONSERVATION

Conservation Help Asked

➤ A YEAR-ROUND army of conservation workers has been proposed to attack two national problems: juvenile delinquency and conservation of national resources.

A Youth Conservation Corps could be the answer.

Some conservationists believe such a group of young men could help curb juvenile delinquency by giving teen-agers some constructive work to do. At the same time, manpower would be made available for conservation work.

The nation needs workers to take care of its parks and national forests. Millions use these public recreational lands each year and there is an urgent need to expand and improve the facilities.

Legislation currently before Congress has a good chance of solving both problems. Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D.-Minn.) has proposed a 150,000-man Youth Conservation Corps made up of 17- to 23-year olds. These young men, given proper guidance and training, could do the nation a great service. They would also be earning good salaries and learning important lessons in caring for national resources. Tentatively

the bill (S-3582) calls for the young men to sign up for one year, although shorter periods of time would probably be possible.

The Youth Conservation Corps, or whatever other name would be given to the group, would be designed to operate under the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Plans are being pushed to get a hearing for the bill before the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, Sen. Humphrey's office told SCIENCE SERVICE. So far, all comments concerning the proposed legislation are very favorable and there is a chance at least some action will be taken this session of Congress.

In contrast to the Civilian Conservation Corps of the early 1930's, proponents of the bill point out, there must be no recession or "make work" stigma associated with the new proposal.

The young men are needed for the service they can do their country. Conservation is a big, and growing, problem and working to solve it does not mean accepting a "dole."

Science News Letter, July 5, 1958

ENGINEERING

Soviet May Outproduce Us

➤ BY 1970, Russian factories may be better than ours unless there is a change in United States thinking.

Nevin L. Bean of the Ford Motor Company, Livonia, Mich., a member of a U. S. team that visited the Soviet Union to see what the Russians are doing in automation and other technical developments, made this prediction to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers meeting in Detroit.

"If plans we saw are carried out," Mr. Bean said, "Russian factories will have the machinery and techniques to make giant production strides by 1960. By 1965 many of their production facilities will be comparable to ours, and by 1970 their production facilities and techniques may be superior to ours unless a new emphasis is placed on automated production in this country."

Mr. Bean credited an organization in Moscow known as the Experimental Scientific Research Institute for metal-cutting machine tools ("ENIMS") as the driving force behind the Russian effort in automation. "ENIMS" controls the design of all machine tools made in Russia. Its overall mission, Mr. Bean stated, is the improvement of machine tools. To this end it sees that Russian industry builds and uses only the latest industrial improvements, including automation.

The American automation specialist also reported the following about the present comparisons between the two nations:

1. On the whole, the Russian plants visited were not as productive as U. S.

plants. They are not as well-organized, not as clean and not as well-lighted.

2. Much of the machinery is old, but most of it is in good condition and being used to good advantage.

3. Many of the adverse conditions in Russian factories are being changed rapidly.

4. Over all, the interest in automation appeared to be greater in Russia than it is in the United States.

5. The Russians no longer build manual production machines if automated lines can be made.

Science News Letter, July 5, 1958

MEDICINE

"Physician, Heal Thyself" Doctors Need Physicals

➤ DOCTORS ATTENDING the American Medical Association, meeting in San Francisco, were advised to have regular physical examinations.

A review of the results of annual physical examinations given to the doctors at the last three A.M.A. meetings indicates that doctors' health records are rather poor.

Of the first 3,228 electrocardiograms, measures of the activity of the heart muscle, 18% were found to be either "definitely abnormal or borderline." Of 2,749 chest photofluorograms, 18% showed suspected or definite abnormalities including tuberculosis, chest neoplasms and cardiovascular abnormalities.

Previous studies of physicians' health

have indicated similar percentages of difficulties and have also shown a higher annual death rate, especially from diseases of the heart and coronary arteries, for physicians than for their counterparts in the general population.

Dr. Charles E. McArthur, Olympia, Wash., further explained to colleagues attending the meeting the reasons for the higher death rate due to heart disease are nervous tension, insufficient exercise, inadequate or incorrect diets, and the doctor's lack of attention to his own health.

For the general practitioner, the recommended treatment was to see only one kind of patient, such as obstetrical patients, one morning of the week. This may relieve nervous tension.

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