

Computer Now Guards Boss From Larcenous Employees



DOUBLE EDGED . . . Swords, the symbol of the American Cancer Society, are inspected by the Centinela Valley-South Bay chairman, Al Hughes (left) and Lawrence Sheehy, who is Crusade Chairman for Los Angeles County. Each man is manager of a Bank of America branch and has volunteered his service for the campaign which culminates in April.

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT
One of the most popular pastimes in America is stealing from the boss. Employee larceny is going on every day of the year, according to a report made to an association of marketing and sales executives by a leading security consultant, and is costing business more than a billion dollars a year.

Not all of the employee thefts involve money. Other principal losses are in stolen time and merchandise. These thefts involve almost three out of every four employees in the U.S. About half the business bankruptcies in the nation last year could be attributed to employee thefts, one expert has said.

In manufacturing plants, disappearance of "perishable tools" is a major factor. One large manufacturer has successfully reduced the loss of "perishable tools," which means any item of equipment that can be hand-carried, by modernizing its system for re-

quisitioning tools from stock rooms.
The new system requires not only an authorized signature on a requisition order but keeps a punched-card record of the equipment issued and the employee receiving it. When the cards are processed by a computer, management knows within minutes exactly what is being taken by whom.

'GLAMOUR CROP' — U. S. farmers in 1964 will need to increase soybean production some 50-60 million bushels over last year's record 700 million if this "glamour crop" is to continue its recent growth rate, according to M. D. McVay, vice president of Cargill, Inc., Minneapolis agricultural firm.

McVay notes that output of soybeans — from which are extracted high-protein meal and edible oil — has increased more than 14-fold in less than 30 years. However, continually

rising demand for meat, milk and eggs here and abroad means that farm animals could provide a market for protein meal from three million more acres of U. S. soybeans next year — "assuming the beans and meal will be competitively priced, as they have been in past growth periods."

McVay also notes that soybeans have been one of agriculture's greatest dollar earners. (In 1962-63, 98 per cent of the soybeans exported were paid for with dollars, compared to 24 per cent for wheat and flour.) And for every dollar's worth of soybean meal and oil sold by a processor, the farmer gets from 85 to 90 cents. The answer, according to McVay, is for more farmers to "get into soybeans."

COMMUNICATE, COLLABORATE — More effective communication between the laboratory and the production line can speed up the advance

of U. S. manufacturing technology, an aerospace research engineer recently told a seminar on manufacturing research in New York. Adolf Kastelowitz of Republic Aviation Corporation voiced the opinion that poor communication on the part of researchers often stymies newly developed manufacturing techniques. Research engineers, he said, must give greater consideration to the human relation factor if they are to overcome "traditional resistance to innovation."

"Research people have to convince their manufacturing colleagues that they are working with, rather than competing with them. This calls for a step-by-step flow of information from the very inception of the laboratory project to its transfer to the line," Kastelowitz said.

Kastelowitz, who directs Republic's manufacturing research study program for the

Air Force and the National and Space Administration, also discussed the relationship of manufacturing research to company management. Today's pace of technological advance and the increase in competition, he said, give such research an all-important role in long-range planning.

THINGS TO COME — Being readied for the outdoor sports season are junior-size (for ages 6 to 12) water skis that are 42 inches long and have special binders to lessen the strain on small and tender tootsies. . . . A new type of elastic mortar for use particularly in outdoor building surfaces is being introduced; it retains a certain amount of elasticity on drying, and has a life expectancy of 30 years. . . . A big chemical and firearms company is marketing an ultra-modern bolt-action rifle featuring an engineer-operated bolt and a de-

vice that turns aside gas blow-back when the gun is fired.

GOOD 'TIL JULY — Purchasing executives — the men who buy raw materials and supplies at the starting end of the manufacturing cycle — seem agreed that 1964 is off to a good start, and have geared their own actions to a continued healthy level of economic activity. But a good number of them are careful to point out that the second half of the year involves two uncertainties that call for caution. These are the effects on business to be caused by the election campaign, and the firming up in one direction or another of the current administration's attitude toward business.

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