

National Printing Week Noted

Printers throughout the nation are celebrating Benjamin Franklin's birthday this week with a "National Printing Week" designed to acquaint the general public with the methods of printing and to better inform them as to the quality and volume of printing that is available to them today.

Printing is the basis of most human knowledge today, and it is the method by which the discoveries of one generation are handed on to the next.

It has even more widespread use each day, however, as a means of communication covering everything from the daily newspapers to wedding announcements, from medicine bottle labels to international diplomatic correspondence.

Paper used in America for the printed word amounts to 145 pounds for every man, woman, and child each year, and the printing industry is a \$8,000,000,000 business. The number of establishments in the industry makes it the third ranking business in America.

In the Harbor area alone, of which Torrance is considered a part, there are 105 printing houses which employ nearly 1000

persons. The annual payroll of these establishments is approximately \$4 1/2 million. These plants include both large and small printing concerns which employ both letterpress and lithographic methods of reproduction.

Although Benjamin Franklin, whose birthday Jan. 17 was the opening day of "National Printing Week," was one of America's greatest statesmen, he preferred to be known as a printer. By his own request, the tombstone of Franklin reads simply, "Benjamin Franklin—Printer."

Observance of the week is being marked by the selection of "Miss Printer" and other queens of the industry from coast to coast. Colleges have held special events to hail the special week, and Printing House Craftsmen's clubs have been busy compiling information about the industry to be passed on to the public.

Colonel George E. Sandy, president of the Harbor Area Club of Printing House Craftsmen, has extended an invitation to the public to visit the nearest printing house during the week to see just what the printer can do with his modern and up-to-date tools of the trade.



Child Labor Still a Problem

Though most Americans might not realize it, the problem of child labor, and of young children leaving school to go to work, is still a major problem in the United States. Those who thought the schools are today claiming all teenagers will be surprised to find that more children were working in 1950 than in 1940.

The increase in the last decade has been greatest among fourteen and fifteen-year-old children, and today one child in eleven is earning money on his own, whereas, in 1940, only one in twenty-three had a job. Of the one-in-eleven working today, seventeen per cent of this age group are not in school.

The National Child Labor Committee recently reported the attitude on part-time work for teenagers has changed completely since World War II and that it is now an accepted activity for school children. The Committee's annual report showed that, in the fourteen and fifteen-year age group, the State of Connecticut had the best record for educational

attendance and South Carolina the worst.

Some of today's problems may surprise the reader. Approximately 200,000 children are now working and not attending school, according to the National Child Labor Committee report. The report also showed a large number of children carry a work load of thirty-five hours a week and attempt to attend school too. Such a work load is sure to interfere with their proper education, according to the committee.

The committee urges all states to enforce properly the child labor laws, which require children of certain ages to attend schools. Not only should the laws be better enforced, but, in many cases, the laws can be improved, and since the future of this country, and perhaps the world, depends upon the younger generation, better school attendance and better child labor laws will be a good investment in the country's future.

Armed Forces Exodus

A committee named by Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson this spring recently reported that the alarming rate of resignations from the armed services was due to curtailment of benefits which were formerly a part of the career military service. The committee urged a pay increase, approval of distinctions in rank and living patterns and a restoration of fringe benefits.

This last recommendation is perhaps the most important of all. Fringe benefits for servicemen include such things as cheaper prices at post exchanges, which enable servicemen to buy cheaper than those who are not in the military services.

The group found that "pressure groups of business interests have enunciated many of these benefits," in speaking of fringe benefits, such as low prices at post exchanges. The armed services, it seems to us, can best check the exodus from the armed forces these days by providing its personnel decent housing, a good opportunity for the education of the children of service personnel, medical and dental care for dependents at reasonable cost, and a system of lower prices in post exchanges.

Contrary to other corrective measures, such as a pay raise, these benefits will cost very little and yet will mean much to the individuals affected. Since they will serve the interests of national defense, there seems to be no valid reason why action in this direction should not be taken at the next session of Congress.

Armed Services Morale

The latest from Washington on the status of morale in the armed services is the report of a committee studying the problem at the wish of the new administration. The committee, unlike a similar one several years ago, comes up with the conclusion that more respect and discipline are needed, not de-emphasis of distinctions because of rank.

In other words, the committee has decided that a policy terminating distinctions between officers and men and softening life for enlisted men in several ways is not conducive to good morale. What is needed, according to the report, is more respect and discipline between the various ranks and more stress on good physical condition and less on canteen and social life of GI Joe.

If wars have taught only one lesson, they have taught that armies and navies, and air forces, must be disciplined to win battles and campaigns. The greatest asset of German armies in two world wars was their discipline and training. The United States, for the first time in its history, now finds itself faced by a foe greatly superior in numbers and equipment, apparently arming with the one aim of eventually crushing the United States.

In such circumstances, we are inclined to agree with the latest committee report on morale in the armed services. Better physical condition, discipline, and a proper respect between the ranks will improve the efficiency of the military services, not lower it.

Review of 1953, Outlook for '54 THE SQUIRREL CAGE

January is the month for recapitulations. Business experts look back over the past year to see how their predictions panned out, administrators figure up their won-and-lost percentage, and the executive branch of the government reviews its conduct in the field of foreign affairs and presents a program for the new year.

Looking back over 1953, business prophets find they were wrong in setting the first six months of the year as the period for a recession. Later some of the predictions were changed to the latter half of the year but even some of these were off. In trying to piece together a clear picture for 1954 these miscalculations are now being taken into account by government experts, who see another good year in 1954.

The average administration leader in Washington is not pessimistic about business developments. Most of the top officials agree with Sen. William Knowland that business will be off less than five per cent in 1954, and many of them look for a business surge in mid-year.

As far as peace prospects are concerned, the consensus in both business and government circles at present is that the outlook is its brightest in several years, at least since the dark days of November, 1950, when the Chinese entered the Korean War against the United States.

In Europe, the situation has been summed up by both General Alfred Gruenther and J. Lawton Collins (U. S. representative on the NATO Council) as being an improved one. War fears in West Europe are at a low point and the NATO defense force is now supported by atomic artillery and over 2000 aircraft, not counting the U. S. strategic Air Force.

Administration leaders feel that real peace with the Communists is a long way off but they also are confident that new U. S. military strength gives the free world a better chance for peace in the next few years than it has enjoyed for the last five. The old time table of maximum danger from the Soviet Union, in 1954, has been discarded. That was the official Chiefs of Staff schedule just a year or two ago. The Republican Administration is counting on tax cuts to stimulate business this year, just as they did in Great Britain after the Conservatives regained control, and if a solution can be found to ease the farm problem, there is no reason why the economy will not move along on a high and prosperous level for years.

In the field of foreign policy the Administration is confronted with urgent and diffi-

cult problems, though the toughest task was accomplished in 1953—the halting of the Korean fighting. Looking back over the year, the State Department sees success in Korea, continued stalemate in Indo China, trouble and even setbacks in Central Asia and failures and success in West Europe.

India is the big question mark in Asia. During the first half of the past year India seemed to be leaning toward the democrats. But in recent months the attitude of Indian leaders has been chilled by the prospect of a U. S.-Pakistan military pact, and late reports indicate the Communists are threatening to begin a guerrilla campaign in this vast country. To U. S. military leaders, this sound ominously like China, 1946.

In Europe 1953 brought a major success in West Germany, when German voters ratified the policies of Konrad Adenauer, but in France and Italy little progress was made in the effort to get a European Defense Community Army finally approved. Thus the new year opens with greater hopes for peace but with less cooperation from some of the major powers, whose cooperation is necessary if defense plans are to be achieved.

In the field of atomic energy great progress was made by the United States in 1953, but the world also learned for the first time that the Russians probably have the secret of the hydrogen bomb also. President Eisenhower went so far as to say publicly in late 1953 that the manufacture of weapons in the United States was an operation producing results (bombs) daily. It was the first time an official indication had been given that the mass production of these weapons had reached such a stage.

Mainly because of the growing number of these weapons and the increased destructive ability of them, the administration is eager to arrange some sort of conference with the Russians, and others, aimed at international control of atomic and hydrogen weapons. The Reds say they favor a ban on the use of these new bombs, on the order of the Geneva Agreement outlawing the use of poison gas.

Toward this end the administration is now moving, hoping that international control of these terrible weapons will safeguard U. S. cities and prevent the slaughter of millions of civilians sure to result in indiscriminate atomic warfare. If that goal can be achieved in 1954, the administration's foreign policy will have scored as heavily as it did in 1953, in bringing an end to the war in Korea.



LAW IN ACTION

Most of us never go inside a courtroom, unless perhaps to pay a traffic fine. Yet things take place there that affect the way you live. That's why we believe, that justice must be done in open court where all may see.

Why not visit a court soon, and see what goes on?

1. The Judge who conducts the trial will be glad to have you present. He sits on the "bench" behind a big desk. His job is to see that each party gets a fair hearing, to keep order, and to instruct the jury in the law.

2. The jury sits in the jury box below and to one side of the judge. The jurors swear to consider well all evidence. The witnesses who sit near the bench swear to tell the truth. They may be examined and cross-examined by the lawyers for the two parties.

3. The two parties in a trial are the "plaintiff" and the "defendant." In a civil action, the plaintiff complains that the defendant has infringed some of his rights. He seeks "redress." He usually wants the court to make the defendant pay damages for the harm he has suffered, or believes he has suffered.

4. Besides the clerk, the marshal or bailiff, and the shorthand reporter, you will find in your court room two vital things—a press table and seats for the public.

The reporters sit at the press table. Have you ever counted the number of legal hearings reported in your newspaper each day?

The newspapers and the public are represented in the court room for the same reason. Justice is public business, for what takes place in the court may affect everybody in the land. The pages of law and justice tell the long light to open the doors of our courts. They are open now!

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

WASHINGTON NOTES

LIQUOR INDUSTRY
The alcoholic beverage industry employs one of every 60 working adults in this country. It has more than 1,000,000 persons on the payroll.

HOSPITAL RATES
Hospital rates in general hospitals increased about 6 per cent during the year, according to the American Hospital Association, which said that the average rate for a single room was \$12.88 a day, for a two-bedroom at \$10.29, and for multi-bedrooms, \$8.95. The association based its figures on 2663 questionnaires filled out by general hospitals.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS
The number of women in the United States who are gainfully employed is now close to 20,000,000. More than half of these women are married and, of these, 24 per cent have children under 18.

MORE WOMEN?
According to the Census Bureau, there are more "eligible" females in this country than there are "eligible" males. For statistical purposes, the bureau called females of 18 through 24 years "eligible." Males were rated eligible at 21 through 27. Last year there were only 61 eligible civilian males in the 21-22 age group for every 100 girls of 18 and 19. There were 89 of such males for every 100 girls in 1950, but the armed services dipped into the supply.

STRIKE RECORD
Strikes during 1953 cost 26,000,000 man-days as compared with 59,000,000 in 1952, according to Secretary of Labor Mitchell. A man day is the time of one man for one day.

GOP MEETING
The Republican National Committee will meet in Washington, D. C. on Feb. 5-6 to plan for the 1954 Congressional campaign. Control of Congress is at stake in next November's elections.



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