

Man Still Goes On Dreaming

Washington, Nov. 17 (UPI)—One morning in 500,000 BC, John Doe Pithecanthropine grumbled at the rain, struck a spark to warm his cave and dreamed of being able to control the weather.

This morning his grandson, countless times removed, woke in an air conditioned room, drove to work in an air conditioned car, entered his air conditioned office, and dreamed of being able to control the weather.

It has been one of mankind's most persistent—and, so far, most illusory—dreams.

Modern man can control his environment to a considerable extent. Pithecanthropine's great grandson is rarely subject to the elements unless he wants to be—and even then in a sense he controls his environment through the expertly engineered fabrics he wears.

He seeds clouds to bring rain to parched fields; he shields his tobacco crops or his coffee beans from the sun to let them ripen more slowly, and he lights smudge pots in his fruit orchards to guard against freeze. He even sends Tyros satellites into space to warn him of storms.

His buildings are temperature-controlled. Even his fishing camp is likely to have a portable electric fan to stir up a breeze.

But a vast portion of his land area remains unarable desert and his polar ice caps represent thousands of miles of frozen wastes.

So man wonders: Why can't some of the moisture from the Antarctic ice caps be diverted to rainfall over the desert? And wouldn't the warming up of the ice caps also serve to moderate the climate of Greenland, and the Yukon territory of Canada, and Russia's Siberia to become

more hospitable to a mankind fast running out of living room?

Dr. Joseph Smagorinsky, acting director of the institute for atmospheric sciences in the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA), told UPI in an interview that serious proposals for diverting the polar ice were made as recently as three or four years ago, but do not now have a priority among weather modification scientists.

But he said possible new avenues of research currently are being studied by a panel under the sponsorship of the National Academy of Science.

The panel has been at work for two years and will be ready with its final report within the next two or three months. The report, he said, will contain recommendations for basic lines of research on both small and massive ways of tampering with the weather.

At the same time, Smagorinsky said the entire field of

Board Reports Production Up

Washington, Nov. 17 (AP) — The Federal Reserve Board says industrial production was

says industrial production was up slightly last month despite a decline in the steel industry.

Production stood at 43 per cent above the 1957-59 average and .6 per cent above October.

Production of iron and steel dropped 8 per cent during the month. This was attributed to the use of inventories accumulated in anticipation of a strike. The figures were announced yesterday.

Joins Cast

Hollywood (UPI) — Robert Ryan has joined Burt Lancaster and Lee Marvin in the cast of "The Professionals."

weather modification is being changed by the rapid perfection of computers.

Within the next 5 to 10 years, he predicted, it will be possible to simulate the actual natural circulation of the atmosphere to such an extent that proposals for massive tampering can be tested so accurately that results can be predicted to within a tiny degree.

Some of the long-standing ideas for altering climate include:

Melting the polar ice by laying down a carbon-soot covering on the ice to absorb the sun's rays and expedite melting. Drawback: The world's coastal cities would be devastated by the resulting increase in the ocean level.

Exploding a number of nuclear devices in the Arctic Ocean at a precise depth to create a mist so fine it would remain as fog overlaying the ice, thus acting as a blanket to prevent heat escape and create melting. Same drawback.

Joint Project

Building a dam across the Bering Straits so warm Pacific water could be fed into the Arctic Ocean and warm up the

north. A Russian scientist estimated the cost at \$17.5 billion, to be shared jointly by the United States and Russia.

Diverting the Gulf stream, perhaps through the explosion of hundreds of nuclear devices in the straits between Florida and Cuba. Obvious drawbacks:

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Of Controlling the Weather

You'd create so much radioactivity you'd off-set all you had accomplished.

But once the computer models are perfected, Smagorinsky said, these proposals could easily be tested. It also would be possible to ask purely hypothetical questions scientists would like to know the answers to: Like what would happen if you removed the Rocky Mountains; or what would be the result of cutting down all the trees in the United States.

Already the scientists are using the computers for a greater and greater degree of fidelity in reproducing the natural properties of the atmosphere.

This is helpful, Smagorinsky said, in assessing the long-range results of "inadvertent modification" such as the increase of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere from the automobile and industrial pollution;

the growth of cities with their very real warming effects; whether the imminent use of super-sonic transports in the stratosphere will affect the atmosphere.

Smagorinsky expects the answers to most or all of these within a year or two. It is essential to know these answers, he says, before it is possible to extrapolate results of the "purposeful modifications" which are man's deliberate attempts to alter the weather.

Right or Else

It is pretty well agreed that once man starts tampering with his atmosphere, he'd better be right. Disaster could result from an error that started small and magnified.

If, for instance, man managed to warm up his climate enough to melt the ice caps altogether, it might result in a dislocation of water-weight which could tilt

the earth on its axis and establish an entirely new configuration of land areas and oceans.

This would bring about the end of all of mankind's worries about the H-bomb because it would bring about the end of mankind period.

But one thing is probable: Whatever thinking creature inherited the earth as man's successor would have one great dream:

Being able to control the weather.

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