

Specialized Weather

PROLIFIC

When Dr. Edward Teller, the California scientist known as the "father of the hydrogen bomb," appeared before a Senate investigating committee earlier this week, the major part of his testimony dealt with his appraisal of Russian progress in the creation of modern war weapons.

He did take time out, however, to sound a warning in another direction. The United States, he contended, must step up its activity in the field of weather control or face the gloomy prospect of having Russia gain the advantage there, too.

"What kind of world," he asked the inquiring senators, "would it be if Russia could control the weather and we could not?"

In such a situation, he claimed, the Russians could produce rainfall in their own country and thereby, perhaps, rob the United States of the moisture it now receives.

Dr. Teller's comments serve to illustrate the obsolescence of Mark Twain's observation in another generation that "everybody talks

about the weather but nobody does anything about it." An increasing number of people are now concerned with doing something about the weather.

Indicative of the trend in this direction is the formation by the American Meteorological Society of a committee to set up standards and compose regulations governing the certification of its members.

AMS members, to be precise, are not exclusively interested in "doing something" about the weather. They are, however, vitally concerned with teaching people how to get along with it better than they have in the past.

The society is composed of "private" weathermen; that is, meteorologists who are not in the employ of the federal government. They provide consulting services to private industry on a host of problems associated with the weather, modification of which through such devices as cloud-seeding being only one aspect.

Typical of the services provided is an incident involving an electric power station along the Mississippi River. Power flowing



through the installation suddenly bypassed the insulators and the station was knocked out of operation.

Private weathermen were summoned. They determined that the weather was at the root of the mystery and not the weather in its more forceful manifestations such as storm or flood.

Ordinary prevailing winds, it developed, picked up chemical discharges from the main power plant. Carried over the substation, these chemicals reacted with drops in a fog to produce a conductor that carried the voltage around the insulators.

Subsequently, the substation was enclosed to prevent a recurrence and a firm of private meteorologists was hired to help in the selection of future plant sites.

This example illustrates the activities of an endeavor, now employing about 600 weather experts on individual industry payrolls as well as more than two dozen consulting firms, that has come into being largely during the past decade.

Industry and agriculture, it is estimated, pay about 15 million dollars a year for services which, consultants claim, save their clients more than 200 million dollars annually. The savings, it is believed, might approach half a billion dollars a year with greater utilization.

Assuming that Dr. Teller is correct in his evaluation of the situation, practitioners of this infant service may, in time, become the nucleus of a science that will produce "made-to-order" weather.

Broadway

Danton Walker

Alarming news for Madison Avenue: In a test by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, 15 monkeys were subjected to an electronic experiment to give them the equivalent of "executive authority" in human beings. Nine of the simians died of ulcers during the test . . . Some 700 pounds of mail were lost on the Pan-American plane that went down in the Pacific, much of it intended for servicemen in the Far East . . . Before the National Chinese Ballet left Formosa for its current engagement in Paris,

The Once-Over

H. I. Phillips

"EXTRA! EXTRA!
HORSE TRACK BITES MAN!"

A racing addict, barred from New York track, took case to New York Supreme Court claiming that constant attendance for 15 years has made daily visit "part of my lifeblood." He lost but any racing fan can understand the heartache that comes from being deprived of a chance to make wrong choices, go for crazy hunches and drop a bankroll in the open air. A horse player can endure much. His feet and legs go early. But his spirit can be broken only when stopped from tearing up mutuel tickets in the style to which he has become accustomed.

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Fifteen years at a horse oval should constitute a suitable eligibility test and blood test, too. Perhaps schedules should be posted at all tracks so a fan would know whether he had been a cash customer long enough to be permanently acceptable to the betting windows. In barring a 15-year horse player it should be realized how deep the thing is in the heart blood. They would provide for a warning and perhaps a probation. (This was tried once, we hear, but a staff of probation officers assigned to race tracks became addicts and had to be thrown out for hysterical hunch-playing.)

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Shudda Haddim, famed hoss player, is worried. He's a 20-year man at the tracks and should be immune from the heav-ho. But who can tell. "I'm five years up on the guy who has put only 15 years of his lifeblood into wrong guesses. They should take my blood the first ten years or not at all," he complained. There are a lot of one and two-year characters at race tracks who qualify for disbarment more than the veterans. They have not become true addicts yet and it would be charitable to give them the boost before they are too far gone.

From Cincinnati comes the latest report of an angry wife ramming her husband with an auto. This is an argument for the two-car family, so both mom and pop will have a balanced missile program. (We keep a third car in our family for a referee.) In a two-car home, both cars should be of the same size, speed and weight. It would be unfair for a wife to go at her mate with a heavy station-wagon while he had to stage a counterattack in a small jalopy. A fair armaments program in the home may become a neces-

