

pressure and weakly accepted by the Kennedy Administration, merely provides that the State Department be "advised." Congressman Celler offered an amendment from the floor giving the President the same veto power over this new communications corporation that he has over the Civil Aeronautics Board insofar as international transportation is concerned. This was brushed aside. To all such sobering considerations there was a continuous mythical refrain. "This," as Congressman Roubenush (R. Ind) said in a paean of support for this give-away bill, "is the free enterprise way; this is the capitalistic way; this is the profit system way; and this is the American way." This equates Big Steals by Big Corporations with "the American way." No satirist could top that one.

The Reason for the Rush

The reason for rushing the bill now is to give the monopolists the inside track in this first great peacetime space venture. This is really a New Frontier, but in confronting it the Kennedy Administration shows its incapacity to think in terms which fit the phrase, the very banner it has chosen. Mr. Kennedy gave up the battle in his letter last Feb. 7 to those other two pioneering pillars of this Administration, Vice President Johnson and Speaker McCormack, when he said space communications was a subject "which, by nature, is essentially private enterprise in character." From this patent fallacy flowed the surrender to A.T. & T. Communications have long been notoriously monopolistic on earth, and the whole idea of handing over communications in space to the same private monopolists will strike other nations as absurdly anachronistic.

But He Voted For It

"We are in a desperate cold war struggle with the Soviets, not only for the minds, but for the markets of free and neutral nations. If we are to be crippled with the dead weight of monopoly, managed prices, limited production, and unjustified profits, we cannot win. We are doomed to failure."

—Chet Holifield (D. Cal) opposing the Communications Satellite give-away bill on the floor of the House May 2—the day before he voted for it.

The only chance to block this steal now is in the Senate where seven Senators led by Kefauver are proposing that a publicly owned Communications Satellite Authority be established to guarantee technological progress and the public interest in the skies. An even more fundamental issue is involved. It is whether our country can, on great occasions other than the making and preparing for war, mobilize its full strength free from doctrinaire considerations, whether it can operate in the pragmatic way which is supposed to be our best tradition. In the years to come, in competition with the forced draft industrial expansion of the socialist countries, our country's future growth and greatness will depend on its ability to plan in a big way, and to carry through vast enterprises under public direction, for peaceful purposes. The issue is not public vs. private enterprise. The problem is to free real enterprise, public and private, from short-sighted private monopolies. This is the full magnitude of the issue soon to come before the Senate.

Chairman Celler On the Greed of A.T. & T. and the Weakness of FCC Regulation

"Under the pending bill, the ground stations can be owned jointly or separately by the communications carriers. In addition, HR 11040 [the space communications bill as passed next day with Celler voting for it, despite rejection of his amendment on this crucial point—IFS] provides that the FCC [Federal Communication Commission] shall lean over backwards to license these stations to the carriers. . . .

"Much of the revenue from the satellite system will come from handling the messages on earth. Under my amendment the ground stations of the American part of the space satellite system shall be owned and managed by the corporation. This safeguard is necessary to enable the new corporation to make money, rather than handling its main source of income on a silver platter to the communications carriers. . . .

"A.T. & T. has been boldly picketing the halls of Congress advocating that the communications companies should be the sole beneficiaries of the communications satellite system. To grant the carriers the ground stations would make a gift to a few companies of a potential multi-million dollar a year monopoly. . . .

"A.T. & T. does not come before the bar of the Congress with clean hands. It is an old offender. In 1953, the FCC negotiated with A.T. & T. a rate increase of approximately \$65 million a year in long distance telephone rates. . . . The FCC granted this increase because it believed A.T. & T. was entitled to a 6.5% rate of return on net book cost.

"Since 1955, however, A.T. & T. has enjoyed a rate of return far in excess of 6.5%. . . . In the years from 1955 through 1961, if A.T. & T.'s rate of return had been limited to 6.5%, long distance telephone users would have saved approximately \$985 million. Thus, over the past 7 years, A.T. & T. has overcharged the American public by nearly a billion dollars. . . .

"Late last month the Bureau of the Budget released a report on the FCC by a team of management consultants.

This report, like the [Celler] Anti-Trust Subcommittee concluded that the FCC 'has established no firm criteria governing such rates of return. . . . ' Moreover the report noted that in 1960 Bell System's purchases from its wholly owned subsidiary, Western Electric, amounted to \$1.8 billion 'which amount becomes part of the rate base on which the Bell companies expect a rate of return. Apart from occasional review of periodic reports, no examination of the books of Western Electric or other leading telephone equipment manufacturers has been undertaken to determine the reasonableness of charges to the Bell System.' This is a barbarous situation. Is the American public paying for this unexamined, high profit? Remember Western Electric is a wholly owned subsidiary of A.T. & T. . . .

"A.T. & T. has successfully avoided regulation on earth. Divine guidance will be necessary to regulate A.T. & T. if it is permitted to expand its domain into space. . . .

"A.T. & T. has proposed a low-random orbit system which would require scores of satellites and ground stations in order to obtain world-wide coverage. This proposal is made at a time when there is general agreement on the ultimate desirability of a system of three or four high orbiting synchronous satellites, which would give global coverage and would be cheaper both to set up and to maintain. If the existing communications companies are permitted to own and operate a system of their choice, they will have a strong motive to retard its development and use in order to protect their vast investment in existing equipment and facilities, such as the undersea cables which A.T. & T. is still laying to this day.

"Space satellites will revolutionize communications as the airplane revolutionized travel. Air travel as we know it today would still be a mere vision if Congress had delivered the budding airlines business into the hands of the existing and established railroads."

—Emanuel Celler (D. N.Y.) May 2.

Dr. Hans Bethe Tells the Weekly the Teller-Latter Calculations No Longer Reliable

How the AEC's New Handbook Hides the Truth About Teller's "Big Hole"

The Atomic Energy Commission is still hiding the truth about the collapse of Dr. Edward Teller's "big hole" theory of concealing nuclear tests with which he has bedevilled test ban negotiations for two years. The newly released edition of the AEC's "The Effects of Nuclear Weapons," which is supposed to be the authoritative manual for all such questions, has an appendix on detection of nuclear testing. In the advance copies sent the press, a new corrected page (689) had been hastily inserted. The correction admitted that Project Gnome showed that explosions set off in a hard rock like salt would be magnified by 2 and a half times instead of being muffled or diminished by 2 and a half as predicted by Teller and his collaborator, Dr. Albert Latter.

In Ludicrous Haste

This admission means that even if the rest of the theory is correct the maximum decoupling effect to be expected from a big hole in salt would be, not the factor of 300 they predicted, but only a factor of 48. Yet on the same page, uncorrected, the AEC's manual still gives the same table Dr. Latter offered the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy two years ago showing the size of the holes in salt required to decouple various size shots. Indeed in their haste the writers of the manual made a ludicrous change. Originally Paragraph C.24 explained that setting off the explosion in salt would muffle it by a factor of two and a half. The next paragraph then said a "further" decrease could be obtained by placing the explosion in a very large hole. The word "further" was taken out in the correction.

Actually even the correction as made understates the results of Project Gnome. According to the study of Project Gnome by Coast and Geodetic Survey that first nuclear explosion in salt gave off a signal that could be read as from 4.6 to 5.0 on the earthquake magnitude scale depending on how the data was used. Since 4.6 is the equivalent of about 12 kilotons and 5.0 of 40 kilotons, the Project Gnome shot as originally estimated (5 kilotons) looked from 12 to 40 kilotons. The magnification ran from two and a half to 8 times.

Since then the AEC has admitted that Project Gnome was only 3 kilotons "plus or minus one." It is thus possible, if

We Feel Safer Already

"We want weapons which are more rugged physically. . . . The military will be carrying nuclear warheads to various parts of the country to place in an Atlas or Titan or Minuteman missile, and we want them to be safe. We would not want an accidental drop to wipe out a portion of our citizens. Further, they might be stored in a silo ready for use, and we would hate to have a surprise attack from some other power land in the neighborhood with such a force that our own weapons are detonated. Hence, we make them stronger and try to guarantee that they will not be prematurely detonated."

"Why We Test and Talk," address by Senator Anderson (D. N. Mex) to the Rotary Club, Washington, D.C., May 2.

the shot was only two kilotons, that the magnification was as much as 20 times since the signal could be read as 40 kilotons. On that basis the decoupling effect would be reduced to 6 instead of being a factor of 300. That isn't much muffling to be obtained from the huge holes required.

Indeed in the opinion of mining experts who have examined the "big hole" theory the size of the excavations necessary take us into the realm of sheer fantasy. A hole 1,100 feet in diameter would be required for a 300 kiloton shot; one of 770 feet for 100 kilotons. The latter—the smaller one—would require the removal of 20 million tons of salt, or about four times annual U.S. production. The idea that earth movements on such a scale could be hidden or would be worthwhile is probably one of the biggest hoaxes ever perpetrated by any government on its people.

When the *Weekly* called the AEC "correction" and these facts to the attention of Dr. Hans Bethe, who had reluctantly accepted the Teller-Latter theory two years ago though doubting its practicality, he authorized a statement saying, "The large signal obtained from Gnome casts some doubt on the accuracy of the previous estimates of the decoupling theory from the big hole. It is very difficult to state any precise factors at the present time." Why does the AEC perpetuate such unreliable calculations in what is supposed to be an authoritative handbook?

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