

will make the decision. Congress, of course, can alter the draft legislation as it pleases and will probably be more specific about who is to decide when to apply the escape clauses.

Opposition Active

Congressional action, though, will not come until some time next year. There would be only the slightest chance of the legislation getting through during the current brief session even if there were no opposition. In fact there is some opposition, which removes any possibility of Congressional action during the current rump session. O. R. Strackbein, who runs an all-purpose high-tariff lobby known as the Nationwide Committee of Industry, Agriculture, and Labor on Export-Import Policy, has informed the House Ways and Means Committee that he would like to testify against the treaty. The Scientific Instrument Manufacturers Association also opposes the treaty. There may be others.

The most active group lobbying for the treaty has been the book-publishing industry, which hopes the treaty will make it easier to sell American books in Canada. The book printers, and the printers unions, on the other hand, seem to have their doubts about the benefits, and some of them, at least, are against the treaty. (Book publishers do not normally own the companies that print their books.) It was in deference to the printers that the United States delayed for so many years before signing the treaty. The International Copyright Agreement was signed about the time the Florence Agreement was opened for signatures. That, too, provided for removing some restrictions on importing books, and the State Department accepted the printing industry's view that the industry should not be subjected to a further lowering of protection until the effects of the first could be gaged. The State Department has a tough fight on its hands every time the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act (i.e. lower tariffs) comes up for renewal in Congress, and it doesn't like to offend any more people than it has to. The British, for their own reasons, took a long time to get around to joining the International Copyright Agreement, and it therefore was not until 1959 that the State Department felt it had enough evidence to indicate the lowered import barriers were causing no discernible damage to the American printing industry.

Scientists Concerned over Fate of Congo Parks

It is a matter of grave concern to natural scientists the world over that the newly established Congo Government should take appropriate measures to safeguard the unique sanctuaries for Central Africa's fauna and flora that are now found within the Congo parks. It is hoped that the new government will not hesitate to call upon the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, to furnish it with scientific and technical assistance in carrying out a task which is of such concern to the world of science.

A great achievement in the field of the natural sciences has been accomplished during the past 30 years by Victor Van Straelen, a far-sighted and distinguished Belgian naturalist, with the support of the Belgian Government and the assistance of a small staff of dedicated Belgians and Congolese. More than 10,000 square miles of biogeographically differing territories of tropical Africa have been established in four great natural parks to protect the fauna and flora within these areas from outside influences and to preserve them for the future benefit of mankind.

The parks are the Albert National Park, bordering Uganda (3160 square miles); the Garamba National Park, bordering the Sudan (1922 square miles); the Upemba National Park, in Katanga (4581 square miles); and the Kagera National Park, in Ruanda and bordering Tanganyika (980 square miles). Altogether the parks occupy about 1 percent of the entire land area.

There is little awareness that no large areas in the tropics have been as intensively scientifically studied and inventoried as those that lie within these four parks, which have been administered since 1929 by the Institute of the National Parks of the Congo and Ruanda Urundi, with a board of directors made up of two-thirds Belgians and one-third conservation leaders from England, France, Holland, Portugal, Switzerland, and the United States.

The Congo parks, which include a wide range of habitats from high rugged mountains and active volcanoes to grassy plains and lakes teeming with animal life, have been largely protected against the influence of outside forces, including man. They have been administered in such a way as to preserve as

far as possible the natural balance of their biotic environment from the smallest microscopic worm to the largest elephant, from the largest trees to the most inconspicuous mosses. In fact, these parks represent what was defined by the London African Convention of 1933 as "integral natural reserves" or what we call in this country "primitive areas," areas that have been set aside within our national parks or forest reserves which are not usually open to the general public. In fact, it was the American naturalist, Carl Akeley, who encouraged King Albert back in 1925 to issue the decree first establishing the Albert National Park to protect the habitat of the mountain gorilla. In the Congo parks, such rare species as the northern white rhinoceros and the mountain gorilla have complete sanctuaries, as do hundreds of species of African animals, each filling its niche in a relatively undisturbed natural biotic community.

It should be pointed out that the Institute of National Parks has allowed limited access to certain sections of the parks to the tourist public, particularly in the Ruindi-Rutshuru plains area of the Albert National Park, which has attracted several thousand visitors and tourists each year with its antelope, buffaloes, hippos, lions, and elephants. However, as a general policy, in the rest of the parks access roads have been kept at a minimum, while a wide variety of scientific research has been constantly under way.

The scientific effort that has gone into the study of these parks is evidenced by the fact that back in 1956 the Institute had issued 262 scientific reports totaling more than 20,000 pages, including descriptions of 2467 new species. Their photographic record at that time included more than 50,000 prints. Sample subjects that were dealt with in these comprehensive scientific reports include fossils, plants, insects, reptiles, large mammals, soils, hydrology, geologic structure, and volcanoes.

During the 25 years from 1932 to 1956, 13 naturalists were engaged in repeated field missions, assisted by 34 additional scientists supported by funds of the Institute, with the result that the three biologically differing areas of the Albert, Garamba, and Upemba Parks were so intensively studied that their fauna and flora are actually more thoroughly known than those of any large African area, or in fact of any extensive tropical area in the world. The

identification of the vast collections that have been assembled there is still under way, and has involved taxonomists in many fields from various countries. From a scientific point of view, the inventories of the fauna and flora of the Congo parks, some of which have been published and many of which are still in preparation, make these areas particularly suitable for future ecological studies.

It should also be borne in mind that the Congo parks can be of great economic value, not only on account of their interest to visitors and tourists, but also because they furnish a reservoir of species of future value to the Congo as well as to other tropical areas of Africa. They additionally help to stabilize the climate and water resources for extensive agricultural lands adjoining the park boundaries.

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News Notes

Soviet Recovers Dogs from Orbit; U.S. Snags Capsule in Air

The Soviet Union has retrieved two dogs and other unidentified animals from an orbiting satellite; this is the first time that living creatures have been recovered from space. The cabin in which the animals traveled for 24 hours was equipped with television transmitters so that the animals could be studied while in flight. The 5-ton satellite circled the earth 17 times before the cabin was detached (on 20 August) and sent back to earth from an altitude of 198 miles. It landed within 6 miles of a precalculated landing site. All the animals are reported to be in good condition.

The Soviet success overshadowed a United States achievement of the previous day, the retrieval by the Air Force of an ejected Discoverer satellite capsule at an altitude of 10,000 feet, the first recovery to be made in the air. As it parachuted down, the 85-pound payload was snared by a plane equipped with hooks. Eight days earlier the Air Force had succeeded in making the first recovery of a man-made object from orbit when it retrieved from the sea an instrument capsule ejected by Discoverer XIII.

Rabi Attacks Secrecy in Government

I. I. Rabi, Columbia University physicist and Nobel Prize winner, says in the August *Atlantic* that he has been "forced to the conclusion" that many of this country's policy difficulties stem from distortion caused by "the exaggerated secrecy in the military field, and in the atomic field especially." Rabi is former chairman and now a member of the President's Science Advisory Committee. In his article on "The Cost of Secrecy" he warns that although most policy makers, amateur or professional, are not deeply interested in or capable of judging the technological situation, secrecy results in frustration, doubt, and timidity about the exercise of any independent judgment.

"The result," says Rabi, "has been that a number of less inhibited men of greater or lesser scientific or technical accomplishment, but with a low boiling point, have been gaining the public ear on the basis of prestige acquired through a technical accomplishment quite limited in scope. Their policy statements are given weight on the basis of skills not necessarily relevant to the dread subjects of war and peace, which they discuss with confidence.

"Were it not for the secrecy which hides the hard core of the matter, the intelligent public would be quite capable of judging the questions under discussion. The fear of being guilty of judgment based on a partial knowledge of the facts misleads many judicious people into accepting judgments by others whose knowledge is often even more partial but which extends into the dread domain of the top-secret."

Rabi points out that the government cannot act strongly without ample support from public opinion. He says:

"When secrecy intervenes, an informed public opinion can hardly exist. Too often we have, instead, a manipulated public opinion formed by leaks, half-truths, innuendoes, and sometimes by outright distortion of the actual facts. . . .

"The difficulty of secrecy within the government is that, unless administered with the greatest wisdom, it furthers confusion, which comes from ignorance or partial knowledge, and often results in inaction or unwise acts. The farcical snafu of the U-2 incident with all its overtones of tragedy shows how great the costs of secrecy can be, even in the highest echelons of government.

"We can now ask ourselves, what

have we really gained from our exaggerated secrecy in the way of real security? Actually, very little. The Russians are not far behind us in atomic weapons, but our allies have been left way behind, after expending an enormous treasure in trying to rediscover facts and techniques already known to the Russians as well as to ourselves."

International Nutrition Congress Holds First United States Meeting

Leading research scientists in the field of nutrition from 59 countries will present reports of their recent investigative work at the fifth International Congress on Nutrition in Washington, D.C., 1-7 September. In addition to a White House representative, Secretary Benson of the Department of Agriculture and Secretary Flemming of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare will welcome the 2500 or more specialists expected to be present.

W. Henry Sebrell, Jr., of Columbia University, chairman of the program committee, has announced that there will be seven half-day panel discussions led by 50 invited scientists from 20 foreign countries and the United States. There will also be 37 special sessions at which 370 ten-minute papers reporting unpublished results of original research will be presented by approximately 500 investigators from almost every country in the world. The congress will close on 6 September with an all-day symposium on world food needs and food resources, followed by an all-congress banquet. Headquarters hotels will be the Sheraton-Park and Shoreham.

Sponsors and Officers

This is the first time that an International Congress on Nutrition has been held in the United States. This fifth congress is being arranged under the auspices of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences, the American Institute of Nutrition, and the U.S. National Committee of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. Several agencies of the United States Government, as well as American foundations, institutions, and interested segments of industry, are providing financial support.

The organizing committee for the congress is under the chairmanship of Paul György, professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania, and C.