



# THE BLACK VAULT

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farmers in 14 states. The civil the dairy marketing coopera- of the largest in the U.S., via-Sherman Antitrust Act.  
(Story on Page 6)

can con... may not was listed tion's two leading makers. Can sold profit was off the fourth quarter and 23.9% 1971, while Continental Can 3% and 20.3% declines for the but sales of both were up in r and year.  
(Story on Page 4)

Gulf Sulphur raised its prices low mineral in the Southern re competition from low-ports has triggered dumping by Freeport Minerals Co. Mexican producers. Sources the unusual price increase Gulf's having its own Mexi-ction, although it denies that ing. The U.S. industry also it by a glut of cheap sulphur ada.  
(Story on Page 6)

approval of a far-reaching cos-try proposal for an experi-self-regulation is expected ite consumer groups' pro-companies would voluntarily d disclose secret formulas, he agency to spot hazards dangerous products off the but critics say that would ctive public protection.  
(Story on Page 17)

ia Gas agreed to have Apco own and operate for it a \$30 unt to make synthetic gas tha that New England Petro-d provide from its Bahamas ith California Standard.  
(Story on Page 4)

Steel's mill in Fontana, struck by about 6,500 pre-d maintenance workers in a er a plan for employes to production cost savings, the ustries unit said.  
(Story on Page 3)

Notes—  
by Productions—Reported higher nue in the fiscal quarter ended the new Walt Disney World in ing even.

Volume 10,000,000 shares. Dow 8's 901.79, off 0.33; transportation : utilities 115.90, off 0.92.  
w Jones 40 bonds 74.12, up 0.06.  
s — Dow Jones futures index spot index 143.10, up 0.03.

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ington, meanwhile, Attorney General Mitchell said he is opposed to merging suburban school districts with city school systems just to achieve racial balance.

A move to halt job-bias bill debate was rejected, 48-37, by the Senate. The key issue is the authority the bill would give the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission to issue cease-and-desist orders to enforce its findings of job discrimination.

A new round of trade talks, aimed at the elimination of trade barriers with the U.S. and as many other countries as possible, will be proposed by the six Common Market foreign ministers, sources said. The proposal is to be made tomorrow, and will include offers to help the U.S. sell some wheat, oranges and grapefruit stocks. One source described the new round of talks as being comparable to the Kennedy Round, which led to agreements on reciprocal reductions in tariffs.

Saigon fighter planes joined U.S. warplanes in bombing Communist supply trails in Laos, the Saigon command said. The announcement, the first official word the South Vietnamese were attacking by air into Laos, said the jets have been flying missions against the Ho Chi Minh trail since Dec. 1. In the ground war, two U.S. soldiers were killed and four wounded in three battles east of Saigon.

Daniel Schorr expressed skepticism over reports he was being considered last fall for a post with the Council on Environmental Quality. Schorr noted an FBI investigation of him, allegedly in connection with the job, was begun after his CBS reporting brought complaints from Nixon, GOP National Chairman Rep. Dole, and White House staffers. If the White House was considering him for a job under those circumstances, Schorr told a Senate committee, "it would have been an extraordinarily open-minded thing for them to have done."

Nixon and Sen. Kennedy were listed on Wisconsin's presidential primary ballot, but a Kennedy aide said the Massachusetts Democrat would ask that his name be withdrawn. They were among 16 politicians assigned spaces on the ballot. In Washington, meanwhile, Commerce Secretary Stans said Democratic contentions that Nixon has already amassed a \$50 million warchest were "an outright lie." He said the Democrats were hoping to discourage contributions to the GOP, which presently, he said, has a \$2 million treasury.

A photo album of Howard Hughes' aides was assembled by federal and Manhattan prosecutors. They will ask novelist Clifford Irving to try to identify one of the aides as the "George Gordon Holmes" he claimed served as a go-between during the writing of the alleged Hughes "autobiography." One former aide, John Meier, already has denied reports that he was the man who dealt with Irving. Meier is a candidate for New Mexico's Democratic senatorial nomination.

Twenty-two major paintings, including works by Cezanne and Picasso, were donated to the National Gallery of Art by the W. Averell Harriman Foundation. The gift is in memory of Marie N. Harriman, late wife of the former ambassador.

Died: Howard Barlow, 80, symphony conductor, of a heart attack in Bethel, Conn.

ally, signing off the measure might gradually change its resistance level enough to register on his lie-detector.

To his surprise he got an immediate polygraph reaction from that closely resembled that of a person under emotional stimulation. Wondering whether the plant would also produce a reaction similar to a human's if its safety were threatened, Mr. Packster decided to try burning a leaf. But before he could reach for a match, "at the split second that I had the image of fire in my mind, the recording pen bounded right off the top of the chart," he recalls. "It really shook me up."

Since then, Mr. Backster estimates he has made "several thousand observations, mostly pretty carefully done, but including a few sloppy ones, too," in his efforts to find evidence of perception capabilities in house plants, fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh eggs, mold cultures and human blood and tissue samples. Some of his observations have been as surprising as the first one.

#### When the Killer Appears . . .

Some samples:  
—Polygraph electrodes are attached to three fresh vegetables and someone picks one and drops it into boiling water; the one selected seems to "faint" before it is even touched (that is, it registers on the polygraph chart a sudden upward bound followed abruptly by a straight line), but the other plants don't react (their polygraph squiggles continue uninterrupted). Eggs similarly "faint" when they are about to be picked up and broken, and they also get nervous when another egg is broken nearby.

—Six students draw lots to see who will uproot and tear to shreds one of two plants alone in a room. Later, the surviving plant shows no reaction when five of the students reenter the room, one by one, but it faints when the plant killer returns.

—An automated device rigged up in one room randomly selects and dumps cups of tiny brine shrimp into boiling water; meanwhile, plants being polygraphed in another room react at the instant the brine shrimp hit the water and die.

—An egg, fresh from a nearby grocery store, is polygraphed and shows pulsations that closely coincide to the heartbeat of a chick embryo; but under microscopic examination, the content of the egg shows no evidence of the beginnings of a physical or circulatory structure that could account for the pulsations.

"These are startling findings," says William L. Bondurant, top executive of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation in Winston Salem, N.C., which has just given Mr. Backster \$10,000 to help further his research.

"It's a rather unusual grant for us," adds Mr. Bondurant; mostly the foundation's funds go to support Southeastern colleges and universities. "It's risky research, certainly. But his work indicates that there may be a primary form of instantaneous communication among all living things that transcends the physical laws we know now—and that seems to warrant looking into."

Mr. Backster started looking into it without benefit of academic credentials. He studied civil engineering, agriculture and psychology at Texas University, Texas A&M and Middlebury College in Vermont, but he still lacks about one semester's credits for a bachelor's degree.

He got into lie detection work during and after World War II, first as a Navy ensign in the South Pacific, then as an Army master ser-

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