

REPOSITORY

DOE Farrestal

COLLECTION

Markey Files

BOX No.

2 of 6

FOLDER

Univ. of Wash. (45-1) 1781

Galvin Paulsen



WASHINGTON CIRCLES

by *Sonia Adler*

703921



Donald Hodel

Richard Ottinger

RADIATION BOMBSHELL

Incredible revelations dealing with radiation experiments on prisoners by an arm of the U.S. Government beginning in 1945 are about to explode from Rep. Richard Ottinger's House Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power. While investigating Department of Energy policies on health and safety, Committee counsel Jeanine Hull came across documents, some still classified, that describe non-therapeutic experiments on prison volunteers anxious for release. Without telling them of the hazards, prisoners allegedly had their reproductive organs radiated in a bizarre procedure that reminds one, if true, of experiments carried out in Auschwitz by Hitler's medical butchers. DOE, formed in 1977, is the surviving agency allegedly in possession of the documents describing the experiments. Because of the potential bombshell effect of the revelations DOE Secretary Donald Hodel has been handling the matter gingerly, telling the Committee that DOE needs more time to study the documents, many of them still classified, before they can be released. The Committee is now pressing DOE hard and has given Hodel a deadline. The main questions disturbing Committee investigators are: Who authorized the experiments? On what authority? What happened to the prisoners? How many were there? Have they been followed up?

MEDIA WARS

The local media scene heated up this summer as two media heavies began a poison-pen exchange that we all hope continues for years. In a letter to Ben Bradlee, no shrinking violet himself, the flamboyant Allen H. Neuharth, whose letterhead actually bears two titles of Chairman, of both Gannett Co. and USA Today, took umbrage at the Post coverage of a story which declared that Gannett stock, because of financial losses at USA Today, was being removed by at least one analyst from its recommended list. Among the letter's

choice tidbits were: "It is by no means a request for a retraction, correction, or clarification. (Your clarification column already threatens to become the most rapidly growing section of your newspaper and I do not wish to add to that burden.)" and, "I don't expect all your financial reports to have the same sophistication as the business reporters for the Wall Street Journal, or the New York Times or USA Today." and, "... in the spirit of brotherhood, if you are interested in having some of your business staff people sit in on an elementary lesson on Wall Street Analysis 101, I'll be happy to arrange it." The blistering "personal" letter closed on a rather earthy note with Neuharth offering the Post a temporary "loaner" or two concluding, "The offer is not based on any worry that your folks might again pee on us poor people across the Potomac. It is prompted by my genuine concern about that unsuspecting public out there that doesn't understand how a good newspaper can sometimes be so bad."

But the really wacky punchline in Neuharth's letter was this one: "By-liner Michael Shrage reported that Gannett stock closed at 40 3/8 down one quarter. Your own stock tables on following pages showed Gannett closed at 40, up one eighth." But who's counting? We weren't

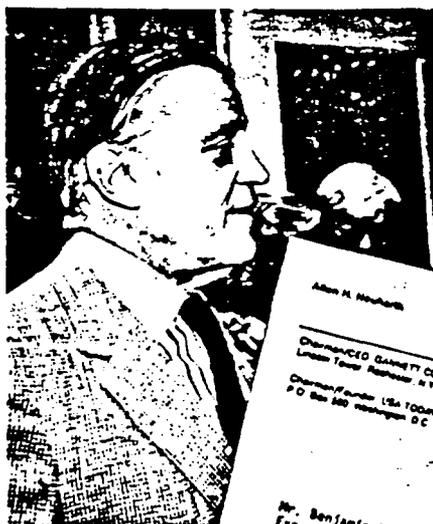
that good in math anyway.

In response, Bradlee called Neuharth's missive "condescending and fundamentally unpleasant" and warned, "You cannot expect to be covered (in Washington) as you were covered in the Rochester papers" (owned by Gannett).

DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

Confidential memos allegedly circulating in the White House are questioning the political fallout from any more support for the Moon organization and from playing cozy with the local Moonie newspaper. With the James Whelan defection and Moon in the pokey, nervous GOP operatives are seeing nothing but trouble ahead in sharing Moon's bed. Conservatives, too, are beginning to jump ship and candidates have been warned of a backlash on accepting proffered help from the cult or its enterprises.

• Biggest unanswered question: Where is the money coming from? By his own admission, latest Moonie paper editor Smith Hempstone has said that the paper has already lost \$150,000,000 and could not possibly show a profit (if it stays in business) for 10 years at least, meaning ultimate losses could tote up to more than half a billion bucks. Where, indeed?



Ben Bradlee (above left), Allen Neuharth (right) and Neuharth's "unpleasant" letter



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Mr. Benjamin C. Bradlee
 Executive Editor
 The Washington Post Co.
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 Washington, DC 20007

July 24, 1984

Dear Ben:

I've spent the last couple days, after returning from the San Francisco Demo bash, catching up on reading of old news and old non-news, published hereabouts while you and I were away.

In the letter category, I thought you might be interested in a factual of circumstances re the attached Washington Post story about Gannett's removal from your business section on July 20, under the heading "From List of Stock Buys."

The story and headline were contrived by Ed Dunne, Gannett's reporter.