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MSC FARMERS' WEEK SPEAKERS

Outstanding speakers have been arranged for the annual Farmers' Week program at Michigan State College, January 24 to 28. Dean E. L. Anthony announced. Sen. J. W. Fulbright, left, former president of the University of Arkansas, will speak Thursday afternoon, January 27. The Arkansas senator was author of the Fulbright resolution in congress which was a forerunner to establishment of the United Nations. Miss Rachel Martens, associate editor of Farm Journal, Philadelphia, Pa., is featured on the afternoon program for Homemakers on Wednesday, January 26. Wednesday's general session speaker will be Fred W. Heinzel, right, Columbia, Mo., president of the Missouri Farmers' Association.

WASHINGTON DIGEST

(Continued from Page Two)
speech instructors don't go deaf. I suppose speech teachers also teach that most useful corollary art — the use of words to conceal one's meaning. It is one I practice ardently.

After a decade and a half of broadcasting, most of my listeners haven't the slightest idea of what my politics are.

One point which was stressed at the speech conference was that the competition for power which ends in strife — domestic, industrial, international — is due, chiefly to improper communication. I agree with that assumption.

There is no excuse for this in this day and age. It was different when Cro-Magnon appeared at the door of a Neanderthal cave in the year 23,000 B. C. — the mastodon on which he was riding having broken a tusk or ankle or something — and all the poor man wanted was to borrow an extra tusk. But since the Cro-Magnon was unable to communicate his perfectly peaceful desire, and before he could present his driving license or his membership card in the loyal order of moose, for identity, the Neanderthal, after shoving his wife in the corner and calling his dogs, would attack visitor with a hearty wallop on the cranium.

The result was probably a war between the Neanderthals, and the Cro-Magnons in which the Neanderthals had a fifty-fifty chance of eating Cro.

Even if the innocent visitor had been able to grunt without presenting his driving license and incensing his labials, and even if his inhospitable host had listened to him, that host probably could not have digested the idea — as easily, at least as he later digested him.

We have words to work with, and thus are able to fashion the tools of communication. But unless the speech teachers (and all teachers) furnish the skills for the use of those words, the effort is in vain.

Unless the idea behind what we believe in can be communicated, (and it can't be, unless we agree on the meaning of words) it withers on the vine.

Thus, the speech teacher must teach his pupils not only the method of communication, but the means of using it — and convince them it has concrete value.

In the field of labor relations at home, or international understanding abroad, we never can hope to achieve a real bulwark for democracy unless a mental contact can be made, communications established — words and ideas joined so that they have a universal meaning and the message they convey can be digested.

As Eric Peterson, general secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Machinists, put it: "The need for better lines of communication between labor and management, and between the conciliator and disputing parties is a dis-

ting challenge. For basically, the failure of these two groups to iron out their disputes without ill-will or violence is part and parcel of the broader problem of discord which plagues the world today in its quest for peace."

Peterson went on to say that a starting point for speech teachers might be to pay less attention to Demosthenes who became a great orator by practicing shouting until he could be heard above the roaring of the waves, and a little more to developing men whose voices may not be loud, but whose skillful persuasion can be heard above the misunderstanding in men's hearts.

Speaking for management at the conference, Robert Chester Smith, director of industrial and personnel relations for the Pullman Standard Car Manufacturing company of Chicago, expressed his belief that each of the three members of the industrial triangle — the investor, the manager and the laboring

man — "has been and continues to be too shortsighted. Each has been looking at the problem through its own specially conditioned glasses, and has been unable to see either upward, downward or sideways, and unfortunately not very far ahead."

John Q. Jennings, head of Industrial Relations for the Singer Manufacturing company, told an interesting story about how New York's great tugboat dispute last winter

Death Takes Mother Of City Official

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Loomis of Farmington recently journeyed to Brighton, Ontario, to attend the funeral of Mr. Loomis's mother, Mrs. George L. Loomis.

Mrs. Loomis was 82 years old, and had resided in Brighton all her life. She had been ill for the past year.

Surviving besides Mr. Loomis of Farmington are John L. Loomis of Brighton, Ontario, a son, and Mrs. Floyd Clarke, a daughter, of Hamilton, Ontario, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

had been settled. The negotiations had dragged on for hours until well after midnight. Management and union men had basically agreed on the point at issue, but whenever they tried to phrase the agreement on paper, they got entangled in a maze of complicated terminology.

Shortly after 1 a.m., one of the negotiators happened to say in simple language what everyone else was trying to say in technical language. Somebody had a brilliant idea:

"Why not put it just that way in the contract?" They did — a two-sentence paragraph in ordinary rank and file English was inserted — a departure Jennings described as something brand-new in union contracts.

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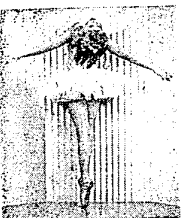
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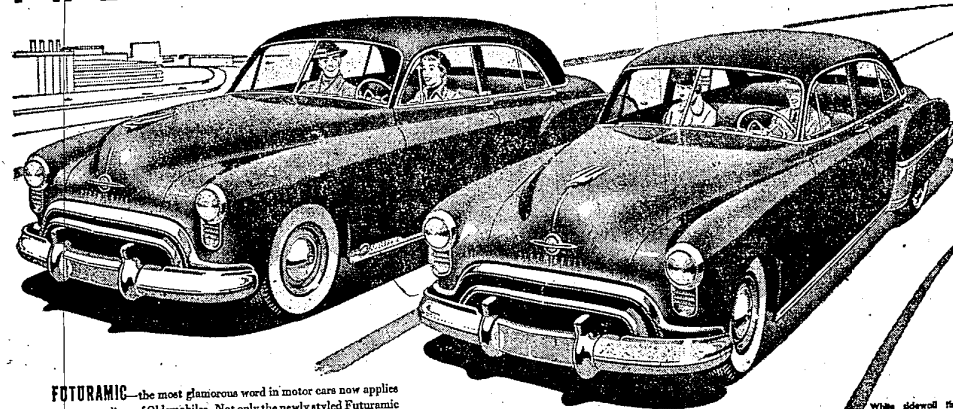
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