

Dear Santa:
How are you? I am fine. I would like a tractor, playmobile and a soap clock. Timothy is a good dog and he wants a red collar. I have been a good boy all year. Thank you very much.

David Seibert
Age 4

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New Car Telephone Developed

A new car telephone, designed for ultimate convenience and safety and featuring "hands-free" operation, has been developed by AC Spark Plug, the Electronics Division of General Motors, at its Milwaukie, Wis., plants.
The new system reportedly is the only car telephone on the market with a "hands-free" safety feature. Called the "Achieverone," the system eliminates the conventional telephone handset by utilizing a small boom-type microphone which pivots out from the ceiling of the car.
The "boom" can be positioned for the user's operating convenience, thus leaving the hands free from any contact with the telephone, according to Jack F. Steele, technical sales manager for AC Milwaukie.

The system operates through contact with telephone company base stations located in more than 350 areas in the country. A call can be placed or received between the car and any other telephone instrument within an approximate radius of 20 miles of any base station. The unit now is available through local telephone companies.
"The Achieverone is the ultimate in mobile communications service for the man on the move," Steele said. "What it amounts to is instant communication. You no longer have to wait to get back to your office to communicate with a customer, a field representative or a business associate. Or you don't have to wait for them to call you."
The telephone at your fingertips in your car makes it possible for you to keep that communication link intact at all times. It is the answer to long sought after, but hitherto immediate and constant contact.

The "PUSH-TALK" function normally associated with mobile radio-telephones is accomplished in the "Achieverone" by a foot-operated switch similar to that used in the "Hands-Free" Achieverone. The combination of the overhead microphone and foot switch frees the driver's hands for other activities.
To make the operator adjust the boom to a comfortable position and selects a channel that is not in use. The user then depresses the foot switch to establish contact with the mobile telephone operator.

Con-Con Report

COMMITTEES LOOK TO RECESS

LANSING — The Michigan Constitutional Convention moved deeper into the second phase of its deliberations in the past weeks.
The convention's nine substantive committees turned to the tedious task of formulating specific recommendations for changes in Michigan's 53-year-old basic law, hopeful of completing a major portion of their work before the Dec. 23 recess.
"Ideally we'd like to finalize as many non-controversial matters as possible before the holidays," explained Convention President Stephen S. Nisbet (R., Fremont).
The convention is working toward a March 31 target adjournment date. A resolution outlining a schedule for completion of various phases of work calls for: Dec. 21: completion of public hearings; Jan. 5: completion of hearings on delegate proposals; Jan. 31: completion of Committee reports. Adjournment on or before March 31.

MEANTIME, NISBET moved to counteract what he described as "growing public confusion" over the convention's work to date.
He singled out the more than 500 proposals for revision under consideration by the convention as the source of the confusion.
"Unfortunately many citizens have interpreted these proposals as final action," Nisbet said. "Others have been confused by conflicting proposals on specific issues."
"These proposals are only proposals and not final action," Nisbet emphasized. "They do not constitute final action."
"Each proposal must be given careful study and evaluation. Those deemed valid will be incorporated into committee recommendations and reported out to the general convention for further study and debate."

NISBET URGED citizens to withhold judgment on the issues until the convention has taken final action.
Dr. Charles W. Joiner, co-director of research and key figure in the Con-Con Preparatory Commission, backed up Nisbet's remarks and called public understanding "the ultimate key to the Convention's success."
"What the people must understand is that the State of Michigan has serious problems, and the convention is making a serious effort to work out real and lasting solutions to these problems," Joiner said.
"And I think the people can take great pride in the 144 highly qualified representatives they have chosen to perform this important responsibility," he added.

Dear Santa:
My name is Kurt Eickmeier. I am 5 years old. I have been a good boy. I help my Daddy and brother do the dishes. I pick up by clothes and do good work in school. For Christmas I would like a daisy smoke poggan, a doctor kit, a Johnny Reb cannon, a regular pop gun. I will leave a snacker for you on Christmas eve. Love, Kurt

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MEA Board Approves Legislative Program

The Michigan Education Association board of directors has approved the association's 1962 legislative program which includes \$22.5 million in state school support, Dr. E. Dale Kennedy, MEA executive secretary, announced this week. Representing more than 58,000 members throughout the state, the MEA adopted a legislative program which is considered by association officials as one of the most comprehensive programs in years.
Highlighting the list of legislative items is a request for an eight percent increase in state school support based on the net membership allowance (at a cost of \$22.5 million), removal of the 21-year age limitation in the definition of membership and a deficiency appropriation to guarantee full payment of state support to public schools.

DR. KENNEDY estimated that the total amount needed is about \$22.5 million, allowing \$10 million for growth in number of children, \$1,500,000 in retirement fund and \$10,000,000 for special appropriations.
The MEA will seek the extension of the distressed school district aid from its present maximum of \$11,000 to be paid on formula rather than by the present table. This bill would hike state support payments by about \$1 million.
The MEA will introduce an appropriation bill which would provide for an appropriation of \$300,000 to the public school adult education programs of the state, to be distributed on the basis of equated full-time memberships.
THE ASSOCIATION also will continue to support appropriations for higher education and for junior colleges.
The MEA will ask for an appropriation of more than \$900,000 for the programs of vocational education, to supplement the \$700,000 from the state school aid fund.

When one considers that the over-all average for personnel costs in industry amounts to only about 27 per cent, he said, "one can see that 'Health Care Costs' are a far cry from the 'labor costs' of virtually any other business or industry."
Speaking on rising hospital rates, Dr. Nelson said that although hospitals today have many new diagnostic machines and gadgets in the medical field, none of them does the kind of job industry thinks of when it speaks of automation.
"The personal nature of the treatment that you receive in a modern hospital means that these hospitals have very little opportunity to substitute machines for employees," Dr. Nelson declared.
INSTEAD OF lessening the need for personnel, new machines have created a need for more highly specialized people in hospitals, the former president of the Michigan Hospital Association said.
As an example he pointed out that the use of radioactive substances requires University Hospital to employ nuclear physicists. The tremendous increase in the use of laboratory tests has multiplied the number of technologists, he added.
Because of the higher skills hospitals are requiring, they are also confronted with higher wage scales. "The competition for employment opportunities for hospital people in many other fields makes higher wages a necessity if jobs in hospitals are to be filled," Dr. Nelson concluded.

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Personnel Costs Averaging 70% Of Hospital Bills
ANN ARMOR—Personnel costs at hospitals average about 70 per cent of your total hospital bill, according to Roger B. Nelson, associate director of The University of Michigan Hospital.
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