

By Jack A.

WASHINGTON - Senator Hubert Humphrey, D-Minn., the former Vice President, has just completed X-ray treatments for a possible malignancy. His personal physician, Dr. Edgar Berman, believes there is a 70 per cent chance that the pinhead-sized tumor has been destroyed.

Humphrey is a vibrant, irrepressible, intensely human politician, who is known affectionately to his friends as the "Happy Warrior." The X-ray treatments, which inflame the bladder and cause excruciating pain, didn't even slow him down. During the worst pain, without the slightest outward sign of his distress, he led the Senate fight for the foreign aid bill. Then he took off for Europe to attend an international food conference.

When we learned Humphrey was undergoing cancer therapy, he immediately opened his medical records to us and authorized his doctor to answer our questions.

Dr. Berman said he has given Humphrey periodic checks for cancer since the late 1960s when the then-Vice President reported bleeding from the bladder. A biopsy showed a benign but slightly abnormal growth.

The latest biopsy, taken in September, produced the pinhead tumor which appeared malignant. Dr. Berman consulted nine of the nation's top cancer specialists. Three said it would be safe to leave it alone and merely keep Humphrey under closer observation. Four called for X-ray treatments, and two urged surgery.

Dr. Berman chose the X-ray treatments, which he acknowledges is more preventative than curative. But he is 70 per cent sure it will rid Humphrey of any danger of malignancy.

INSIDE RUSSIA: Last October, President Nixon and Soviet leader Brezhnev passed truculent notes and ordered their armed forces on worldwide alert. Yet at the height of the crisis, the Russians threw open their space facilities for the first time to American space specialists.

In an internal "trip report," Deputy Space Administrator George Low has stated that the "international crisis" didn't even come up "during our visit."

He headed a scientific team which went to Russia to begin preparations for the joint Soviet-American manned space shot, which is scheduled for July 1975.

His team was taken through the Soviet Mission Control Center in the village of Kaliningrad just north of Moscow. It was, wrote Low, "a first for any Western visitors."

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See, I told you that most Congressmen are too big to carry a grudge around with them. Just before Rep. Phillip Burton left on the next portion of his j...ah, trip to American Samoa, he called up to make sure that we're still friends, and we're all not to get uptight about name calling. He said that his group learned a lot during their stay on Guam, and were especially interested in their conversations with the people of the Northern Marianas.

Oh yes, while Mr. Burton and his party have left, we haven't seen the last of congressmen—and congresswomen yet. A delegation from the Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs, including Patsy Mink of Hawaii, and Lloyd Meeds of Washington will be paying an "official visit" to some of the islands, Truk, the Marshalls, and Ponape.

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I confess nobody has ever accused me of having a green thumb, so the vagaries of the agriculture business escapes me completely. But I do know that there has got to be something wrong when bananas grow profusely and easily on this island (like in my back yard), but we still have to ship in bananas from the states, who get them from Central America. And at prices twice as high as they pay in the states. Yet in the Philippines and Taiwan everybody grows bananas for the Japanese market with no problem. It may be that our potential bananas growers are scared off by the occasional typhoon. But what really grows here is bamboo. I've never seen anything like the stuff I've got at my house. You can almost hear it growing like Iowa corn. Throughout Asia bamboo is very big, is eaten by humans, fed to cattle, and made into everything from houses to buttons. Taiwan alone has 21 million bamboo "trees" of commercial size and is harvesting an annual crop of nearly 50,000 tons. Exports of bamboo was over \$10 million, mostly for handicraft use. Bamboo, a type of grass, is resistant to fire and insects, can grow as much as six inches in diameter and rise more than 100 feet high. Faced by shortages of such materials as coral and jade, the handicraft industry of China is falling back on bamboo, making Christmas ornaments, baskets and handbags, as well as jewelry, earrings, bracelets and necklaces. screens, decorative

N-bombs will go there, or how much money will be allocated for the base building. I doubt if there is any money for Tinian in the recent bill signed by President Nixon. The point is I can't figure out how you can make an environmental impact study without knowing in detail what is planned for the area.

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Not everybody loves us newspaper types, mainly I guess, not everybody agrees on what, or how much should be printed, and what language restrictions should be placed for a family newspaper. But one of the funniest letters I ever read to a newspaper came out of the Pacific Island Monthly magazine, written to the Micronitor in Majuro. It was written by one Franklin P. Smith, Holiness Missionary, and said: "I have just recently arrived on your fair island, the generous gift of the Holy Almighty, and one of the first blasphemies that met my astonished eyes was your unholy sensuous blot upon the art of printing. I can tell you, sir, any newspaper editor that wished to enjoy the everlasting glories of slugging paeans of praise around God's Holy Throne will follow closely the art of printing as practiced by those blessed printers who first composed the immortal triumph of Holy Writ as represented in its only true form, the King James Version. Your printing, sir, is obviously inspired by Evil Satan himself..."

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