



A FAMILY REUNION

Sen. and Mrs. Robert Kennedy are mobbed by six of their nine children as they arrive Wednesday in Washington from a three-week tour of South America. Eight of the nine Kennedy children ran up the ramp to greet their parents. Identifiable are: Kathleen, 14; Robert, 11; Joseph, 13, in background center; Kerry, 6, and David, 10.

EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS

Knowledge And Memory Transmitted By Needle

By ALTON BLAKESLEE
 NEW YORK (AP) — Some knowledge and memory now have apparently been transferred from one animal to another kind—by needle injection. The needle contained a chemical from the brains of hamsters trained to do a particular thing. Rats getting the injection, in their bellies, quickly showed some ability to do the same thing, without any training. This experiment, reported Tuesday by California scientists, marks a fascinating new step in research to solve the puzzle of how the living brain learns and remembers knowledge. Answers, when and if they come, might help humans learn and remember better, or could even lead to development of pills to spur faltering memories or possibly to wipe out painful memories. The experiments aimed at exploring the mechanism of memory are described in the November proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences by Frank R. Babich, Allan L. Jacobson and Suzanne Bubash of the department of psychology at the University of California at Los Angeles.

INSTRUCTS CELLS
 One theory is that memory is coded through subtle changes in a chemical nicknamed RNA, or ribonucleic acid. RNA is one chemical believed involved in carrying out the code of inheritance, the machinery by which each living cell is "instructed" what to do to be itself, and how to behave differently from other specialized cells such as liver or muscle or heart or bone cells.

Almost all cells, including human brain cells, contain RNA. The theory is that some fact—such as a name or skill—that is learned is retained because of slight changes in the pattern or arrangement of RNA molecules within brain cells. In earlier experiments, the UCLA researchers had injected RNA taken from the brains of rats trained to carry out a certain task into the bodies of other rats. Those rats then showed a marked tendency to perform the task the other rats had been trained to do. Now the scientists tell of jumping the barrier from one species of animal to another. Hamsters are rat-like creatures, but are distinct from rats. Eight adult male hamsters were trained to approach a food box when a mechanism clicked as it released food pellets. The hamsters were trained intensively for five days to do this at the clicking sound. They were killed and RNA was extracted from their brain tissue. The same thing was done with eight other hamsters which had not been trained to go to the food box. Sixteen rats got the RNA injections—eight from the trained hamsters, eight from the untrained ones. The injections were given in the lower belly. At time periods of six, eight, 16, 22 and 24 hours later—in 26 tests altogether—the food boxes were clicked, and two human judges watched the rats. Those getting the "trained" RNA went to the food boxes much more frequently than those receiving "untrained" RNA. The mean score for rats with trained RNA was 7.9, and that for untrained ones was 0.6. Both groups of rats were fed and handled the same way, both were observed at clicks when they were at least a body length away from the food boxes.

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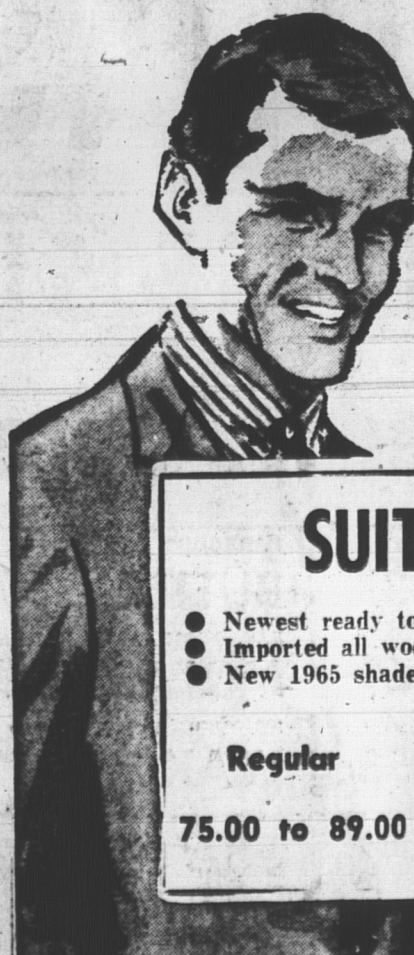


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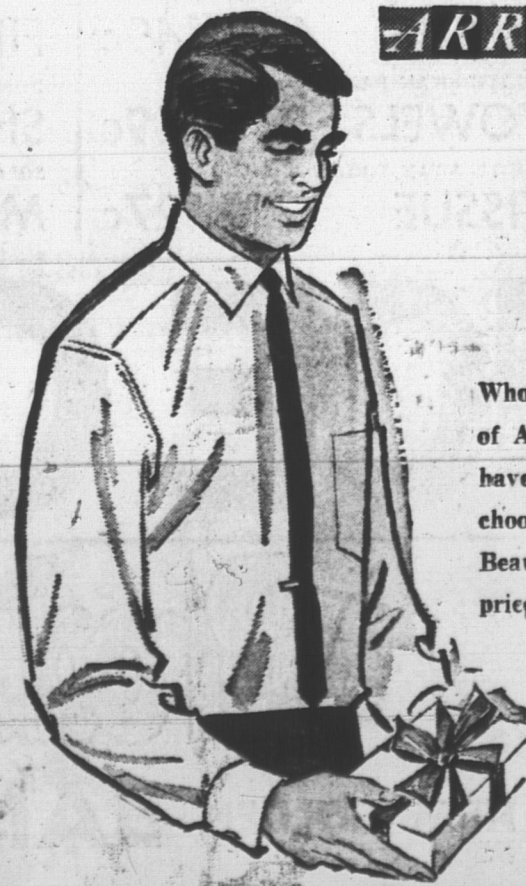
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