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# There's More Talking Than Thinking

A RECENT newspaper headline reported: "More Said than Done in Session to Correct Prison Problems."

A few days afterward a national magazine headline read: "The U.N. — Where All Is Said . . . and Said . . . and Said."

There's no telling how many times somebody has risen in a meeting to declare: "We ought to sit down and talk this over and do something." Once a committee member responded, "Well, we're already sitting down," but nothing happened anyway.

On the other hand, when a person comes into a meeting with a well-thought-out proposal, in writing, he has a good chance of having it adopted. It may be the only advance thinking done.

Talking is not thinking. Neither is listening, although that could be a good place to start thinking. So could reading.

The business world hires people for two types of work: Thinking and doing. Only a few hire people for just talking. Plenty of workers are

available for the doing but there never seems to be enough who are competent to figure out what to do.

It is now possible to hold meetings without bringing the participants together by using conference telephone arrangements, sometimes with facilities for them to appear on videotubes, too.

This has advantages, but the arrangement only makes the talking more convenient and less costly. It does not determine the amount of thinking that may be done individually or by the group.

The notion of building a computer that could think was mentioned years ago, but scientists didn't build one. They said it would take a computer as big as a large office building and require tremendous amounts of electrical power to operate it.

Transistors and microchips have solved problems of size and power but a genuine "thinking machine" still hasn't been built. Nobody knows how the brain works and how to duplicate it.

Conditions have been listed as fa-

vorable for a human brain to perform well at thinking. These include intelligence, a system for thinking, a goal, access to information, and a climate favorable for thought. Computers just don't have all it takes.

Modern inventions make it possible for us to have more information available than ever before, but the same devices may lull us into allowing others to do our thinking for us.

Conversations often are limited to sports comments, brief bits of news, and entertainment seen on the video tube. These may be all some people want, but they are not a substitute for thinking.

A science magazine said that "literacy may soon mean being able to access, manipulate and store information in a computer." This might make people functional, but it isn't thinking.

Computers are being sold in great numbers for business, personal and recreational purposes. Automation and robots are displacing millions who are talkers and doers only. It seems to be the thinkers who aren't being replaced by computers — yet!