AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Whenever an aisleway begins to be continually cluttered and blocked with carts and flats Goodstone Aircraft Company will quickly hang a huge sign there emphatically prohibiting the leaving of carts and flats in the aisle, just as Goodstone immediately leaves DO NOT CROSS HIGHWAY, USE THE TUNNEL signs on the corners of intersections where droves of employees are starting to regularly cross. just as Goodstone puts up YOU WOULDN'T THROW TRASH AROUND IN YOUR OWN LIVING ROOM SO WHY DO IT HERE? signs in areas of the shop where the floor is beginning to be chronically covered with things like plastic cups and wadded-up potato-chip bags, just as Goodstone puts up those big FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS, OR GET THE DIRECTIONS CHANGED posters in those areas of the shop where it's getting to seem like no one does what the paperwork tells them to do. Don't blame it on Goodstone. AS I AM BURIED DOING THE WORK OF 2 MACHINISTS Tim the layout man wanders over to my machine and motions with his head toward the new machine next to me that has sat useless and unhooked-up for a month, saying, "Yeah you know Goodstone's got to go through ALL that red TAPE before they can hook that machine up, they got to go an'get CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL before they can even begin to THINK about hooking it up, everyone's got to have a piece of paper sitting on the right desk in the right building first" and I nod frowning and Tim grins at me happy like a cat torturing a grasshopper, knowing the red tape won't REALLY begin

until after they hook the new machine up and have to go through all of the proper channels to okay

someone running it.