

Flaws Evident In War Potential Of Soviet Union

By JAMES THRASHER

The new report on Russia by the House Select Committee on Foreign Affairs contributes to Americans' knowledge of that country and its possible intentions, even though the statistics are not complete or of guaranteed accuracy.

From its apparently careful study, the committee concludes that Russia is now in a position to wage war if the need arises, and that American policy might be seriously wrong in thinking otherwise. To support this statement, the report reveals that the Soviet military budget is up 51 per cent from 1940, when war with the Nazis was at least a good possibility.

Military spending for 1948 is set at \$12,600,000,000, compared with the projected American budget of \$14,450,000,000 for fiscal 1949.

Russian coal output and industrial production are up to pre-war levels, the committee says. Industrial output in the war-devastated regions is off 50 per cent from 1940, but increased production in areas untouched by war has helped bring the total up to former peacetime levels.

Using German Brains

To these disclosures may be added some faint indications of Russian strength and advantage. Soviet expansion has added productive as well as protective territories to the Communist empire. This is particularly true of well-industrialized Czechoslovakia.

Russia has a great military advantage in her geographical position. In the event of war with America, Russia could march her troops in great numbers over the doorstep of free Europe. America, even fully mobilized, would still have to carry the bulk of her forces and supplies by ship.

Russia also has a great superiority today in mobilized manpower and in aircraft production. The Reds helped themselves to German brains and German inventions. Notable among the latter is a long-range submarine which seems able to defy any of our wartime detection devices.

On the other hand, there are some obvious factors that detract from the Soviet military potential. The committee report notes current shortages of steel and oil—though, in event of war, Russia could do much to remedy one of them by walking into oil-rich, defenseless Iran.

Production Short

While Russia's industrial output may be back to normal, her gross national product is still only about one-seventh of ours, according to the committee figures. And it may be assumed that the industrial inefficiency that has plagued the Soviets so long has not been cured overnight.

Russia had a good harvest last year. But farming is not nearly so mechanized there as here. In case of war, farm work would keep millions from more directly military activities. The committee also states that the Russians are hampered by a shortage of transportation facilities.

Then there is the big question of guided missiles, and the bigger question of atomic weapons behind the iron curtain.

From the available knowledge, it appears that the Soviet Union, mighty as it is in many ways, is also vulnerable in some vital spots. At the same time, the speed and direction of Russian recovery suggest that there may be danger in the calm assumption that Russia could not go to war within five years. They also suggest the danger of easing the speed of our own defense preparations to that assumption.

Efforts Won Them Pulitzer Prizes



Recipients of three of the 1948 Pulitzer Prize awards of \$500 included W. H. Auden (left), for a volume of verse, "The Age of Anxiety"; Reuben L. Goldberg (center), for distinguished cartoon; and Tennessee Williams (right) for his play, "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Beans Strong Rival Of Tomatoes As Garden Favorite

Beans and tomatoes, both natives of America, are the favorite home garden vegetables of this country, for the excellent reasons that they give heavy yields, are delicious to eat, and excel in food value.

The bean of our gardens is the snap bean, formerly called the string bean, but so improved by the plant breeders that varieties that have strings are almost obsolete.

Picked in the home garden when so young the seeds have not yet begun to form in the tender pods, a dish of round-pod green or wax beans is something for gourmets to rave about. They are easy to grow, provided you wait until the ground warms up, and danger of frost is over, before planting the seeds.

Four General Types

There are four general types of bean beans, the green and wax (yellow) each divided into flat pod and round pod. Market beans are usually flat pod, which yield better than the round pod; and the latter have the best quality.

Between the green and wax beans there are slight differences in vitamin content, the former excelling in vitamin A, the latter in vitamin B, but both are among our most nutritious foods. In recent years few wax beans have been seen in markets; but in the opinion of many they are more tender and of better flavor than green beans.

Pick Before Seeds Form

Bush beans are at the height of flavor and tenderness from the time they have just begun to form, until they begin to make seeds; and they deteriorate somewhat after that. Both for the table and for canning they should be picked before seeds form, and not more than an hour before they are cooked.

Canning snap beans requires special precautions to kill the botulinus germ, and before it is attempted the advice of canning experts should be sought.

If bean plants are kept picked clean, they will continue to bear all summer, producing several crops, as long as the plants are

U. S. Will Resume Dried Fruit Buying

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Agriculture Department announces that it soon will resume purchases of surplus dried fruits of the 1947 crop.

Processors will be invited to submit offers within a few days for specific quantities of dried fruits on a bid basis.

Fruits to be purchased include dried apples, apricots, dates, figs, peaches, prunes and raisins.

The fruit will be used in domestic school lunch and institutional feeding programs and for export to occupied areas and to countries receiving aid under the foreign assistance act.

The department made purchases of considerable quantities of these fruits during the winter. The buying was done, the department said, to prevent possible waste of the fruits.

The public is invited.

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Crime Role Actor Arrested as Real Crime Suspect

HOLLYWOOD, May 11.—(AP)—A real life tale that was something like real life led yesterday to the booking of a movie bit player—whose last role was in "G Men Never Forget"—for questioning in a \$30,000 Denver department store holdup.

Sgt. Dan B. Gilmore of the police detail identified him as Douglas D. Aylesworth, 40, and said he was held on a booking "fugitive for Colorado—grand theft," pending receipt of a warrant from Denver.

Aylesworth was taken in custody Saturday night at the Masquerade Club, exclusive gathering place for Hollywood actors.

He told a reporter today: "It was just a last weekend. I don't remember much of what happened."

In real life, in his latest role, Aylesworth played a police commissioner's secretary. But, charged Gilmore, in real life he is suspected of being a pseudo bank guard who walked away with the day's receipts from Daniel and Fisher's Department Store.

Gilmore said three other men already are under arrest in the case, and he learned that one of them, Earl A. Orms, of Los Angeles, had a hotel roommate who registered as Robert M. Thomas. Backtracking, Denver officers learned of a telephone call to nearby Burbank. This, Gilmore said he learned, was to Mrs.

Aylesworth, at a jewelry store where she worked.

Motor Vehicle Registration In Oregon Increased

Oregon motor vehicle registration for the first quarter of 1948 is up 12 per cent over the same period last year, Secretary of State Newberry has reported.

All registered vehicles totaled 512,224 to surpass the 457,925 recorded in the first three months of 1947. Passenger cars accounted for 397,094 of the total, an increase of nearly 40,000 and approaching the entire 1947 passenger registration of 407,111, Newberry said.

Registration fees were \$2,851,067.55, a decline of nearly \$1,000,000 for the period despite the increase in vehicles. This is explained by the new commercial vehicle law which reduces license fees but imposes a highway use tax on operators, the secretary pointed out.

The drivers' license division reported 17,009 original licenses and 68,228 renewals. All motor vehicles and drivers' transactions

produced an aggregate of \$3,172,877.61 in fees for the period.

The system of renewing old drivers' licenses progressively by serial numbers is working well except for the few who are unaware of the plan and find themselves with invalid licenses. Newberry declared. The program is nearing the halfway mark in replacement of the old licenses, after which all will expire every other year on the holder's birthday. Driver's licenses with serial numbers up to 5R396,000 will have expired by the end of May.

Complete renewal schedules may be obtained from examiners, police departments, and many service stations, the secretary said.

The effects of the Gulf Stream can be traced from the Gulf of Mexico to the ice-free harbor of Murmansk.

U. S. Democratic Party rules provides twice as many delegates to National conventions as do Republican party rules.

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