

## U. S. Air Force Trying to Expand Its Operations

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23—(AP)—The Air Force is trying to stretch the global reach of both the present workhorse of its bomber force, the B-29 Superfortress, and the giant B-36.

This was disclosed in two developments:

1. Word that fleets of flying "tankers" are planned for six of the groups of strategic bombers operated by the Air Force. These converted B-29s will be used to refuel the Superfortress bombers along their route to a target, thus extending their range.

2. Tests of a B-36 with new engines of more power and presumably greater fuel economy to provide more speed and range.

The Air Force has high hopes for the aerial refueling system. Air Secretary Symington told a Congressional Committee last spring that with such a system B-29s could bomb any part of Russia from bases in Alaska or Labrador.

Techniques and equipment developed in Air Force experiments for more than a year are believed to have evolved a system whereby a Superfortress could be filled with virtually a full load of gasoline in fifteen minutes while flying along the course to a distant target.

At the time of his statement, Symington said Air Force units would be equipped for refueling by early 1949.

It was learned today the current plans contemplate equipping six groups of Boeing B-29s for aerial refueling. In doing this, the size of the groups will be expanded not only by adding the tanker B-29s but by putting more combat bombers in each group.

The Air Force is described as proposing to keep the composition of a B-29 group at three squadrons, but each squadron would have 15 instead of 10 bombers. The total number of bombers and tankers in a group would be 65 instead of the current 30 bombers only.

The Air Force announced that flight tests of the six-engined B-36 will be completed about mid-December.

The tests are being made from the Fort Worth, Tex., plant of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation with a production model of the huge bomber. The model is fitted with six Pratt and Whitney engines developing 3,500 horsepower each on take-off. Earlier models have used a 3,000 horsepower engine.

The new engines, said the Air Force, have improved the B-36's performance, including rate of climb, ceiling and speed.

The Air Force has ordered 24 B-36s, some of which have been delivered.

### Officers Elected By Grange at Elkhead

Annual election of officers for the Elkhead Grange was held Wednesday evening in the Elkhead hall.

The Home Economics Club served a fried turkey dinner for nine charter members, namely, Walter and Emma Record, Fred and Josephine Reeves, Kittle Jobe, Delmar and Edith Record, Paul and Mabel Allen. Thirty-six members were present for the meeting.

The following officers were elected:

Master, Jack Broady; overseer, Van Hutcheson; lecturer, Nelva Rust; steward, Amos Welch; assistant steward, Jesse Freeman; chaplain, Anne Hutcheson; treasurer, Mabel Allen; secretary, Ida Pinkston; gate keeper, Paul Reeve; Ceres, Marguerite Maddox; Pomona, Ethel Reeves; Flora, Edith Record; lady assistant, Bess Broady; executive committee, Lloyd Pinkston, Paul Allen, Dick Maddox.

### TRAFFIC FINES LEVIED

Fines were imposed on three persons for traffic violations in the Municipal Court Monday, Municipal Judge Ira B. Riddle reported. He said they included Douglas G. Ashman, 1122 N. Jackson St., \$5 for unlicensed motorcycle and void operator's license; Robert A. Otis, Roseburg, \$5 for vehicle with no Oregon license plates; Leon Jay Meskell, 717 W. Mosher St., \$2 for failure to stop at stop sign.



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