

Refueling Of Jet Fighter Planes On Wing Now Regarded Feasible

By ELTON C. FAY
WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—(AP)—Some air force experts think that the refueling of jet fighter planes while in flight is entirely feasible. If the aerial refueling technique—already in use for B-50 bombers—can be applied to jet fighters it will go a long way toward solving the problem of providing jet fighter cover for long distance bomber missions. The range of fighters thus can be extended by hundreds or thousands of miles.

Technicians say there is no mechanical reason why fuel can't be pumped from a tanker plane to a jet fighter, just as it is from the B-29 tankers into the B-50 bombers. They point out that tanker planes can operate in the 200-300-mile-an-hour range and that the high speed jets can be throttled down to that speed without losing control or approaching the stalling point.

The aerial refueling system used by the USAF now is based on the British method of attaching a flexible hose line from the tanker to the receiving bomber, then letting it flow by gravity. However, there have been recent reports that a new, faster and safer method of mid-air refueling has been perfected.

Boeing Has Own System
The trade publication Aviation Week reports it has learned that Boeing Aircraft company, makers of the B-29s, B-50s and other combatant and cargo military planes, has developed its own refueling system.

As described by Aviation Week, the method is this: A Boeing C-57

cargo plane is equipped with tanks to carry between 6,500 and 7,000 gallons of fuel.

From the tail of the C-57 a hollow boom extends to carry the fuel.

At the tip of the boom are airfoils similar to the control surfaces of an airplane. A man, riding in a blister of the transport, guides the boom as the transport maneuvers into position in front of the bomber, using controls to the airfoils to "fly" the boom into contact with the nose of the bomber where the fuel intake is located. Rapid transfer of fuel is obtained by the use of pumps to develop pressure.

The magazine says Boeing now is changing nose assemblies on B-50 bombers to take the new refueling equipment.

Air force officials declined to discuss the report, saying only that no orders have been placed with Boeing yet.

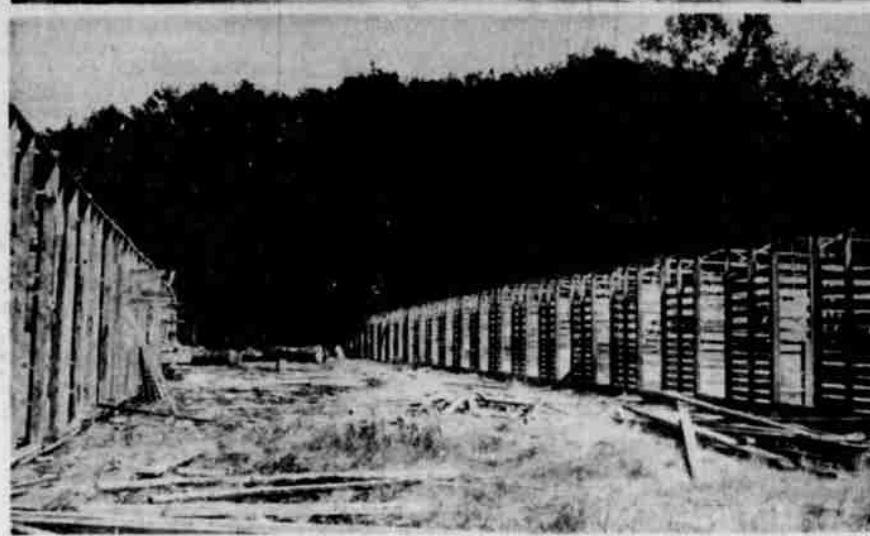
Not Too Early To Consider 1950 Committee Task

Here in Douglas county, farmers are faced with important decisions concerning acreage adjustment, crop loans and other price support efforts, conservation and many other phases of the nation's production and marketing program.

With the increase in work and responsibility, Chairman J. F. Bonebrake of the county agricultural conservation committee again calls attention to the fact that the committeemen who make these decisions are elected by the farmers. Each year, elections are held in each farming community and the time is approaching when the farmers will elect their committeemen for 1950.

"It is of the utmost importance that the committeemen elected truly represent the farmers of the community," says Chairman Bonebrake.

"Although elections are still several months away, it is not too early for farmers to give serious thought to whom they want to administer the various farm pro-



CONSTRUCTION AT FAIRGROUNDS—New tunnel through south section of the grandstand is being constructed for the 10-day horse race meet, opening Aug. 17. Booths for placing parimutual wagers will be located here. Judges' stand is seen at far end. Lower picture shows new horse stables under construction. These are adjacent to the original stables on the west side of the fairgrounds. Another unit of stables, like these, are located on the east side. (Pictures by Paul Jenkins)

grams in 1950. If the present committeemen are doing the job all right, they are entitled to a vote of confidence. If they are not—now is the time to give careful consideration to replacements. "Committeemen are farmers elected by farmers to do a vital job of administering the agricultural conservation and related

programs. In the aftermath of war their decisions will affect the operations of every farmer in the county."

HUGE FIRE DAMAGES
AUSTIN, Texas, Aug. 1.—(AP)—Fire burned four hours early Saturday in the big Calcasieu Lumber Co., causing \$250,000 to \$500,000 damage. The blaze at the million dollar yard was controlled at 6 a. m. A fourth of the plant covering two city blocks was destroyed. A mill and large building, recently the offices, were left in ruins. The cause was not known.

All Seed Stocks Used; None Stored To Affect Prices

Stocks of grass and legume seeds acquired by the government in recent years have, with no minor exception, all been distributed for use by farmers, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The one exception is alfalfa clover which is adapted to a limited section of the deep South. Therefore, E. Harvey Miller, chairman of the Oregon State PMA committee, points out, there are no seeds in the hands of the government that might influence the price of this year's seed, either as it is bought from producing farmers or as it is sold to "using" farmers.

Practically all of the stocks of seed that the government has had in its 10 years of operations have been acquired as a part of the Agricultural Conservation Program. In the early years of the AAA the stocks of seeds were purchased directly by the government to aid and encourage producers located mainly in the Pacific Northwest. The seeds were used mostly in southern states where they were made available to farmers for planting winter cover crops. Later the government made no direct purchases but established support prices to encourage growers to produce the seed needed for cover and forage crops.

Life Savers in Past
Stocks of Austrian winter peas held by the government at one time amounted to approximately 150,000,000 pounds. The common rye grass and blue lupine seed stocks a year ago were life savers for the entire cover crop program as a result of reduced production in 1948. The slightly over 21,000,000 pounds of common rye grass and 13 million pounds of blue lupine were sufficient to sow a nearly normal acreage of winter cover crops last fall.

Support prices are in effect now on practically all cover crop seeds to encourage the production of seed used in the Agricultural Conservation Program. Despite the great increase in recent years it has been estimated by Agricultural Conservation Program committeemen that for good soil practices the acreage of cover crops should be four times greater than at present.

The total land area of the United States is 2,977,128 square miles.

Sherwood Bulb Gardens Accused Of Fraud, Misrepresentation In Sales

SALEM, Aug. 2.—(AP)—The State Agriculture department charged Monday that Sherwood bulb gardens owned by Leslie E. Marcus, is guilty of fraud, deception and misrepresentation in selling bulbs and nursery stock.

The department's hearing on Marcus's application for renewal of his nursery license opened here with the department putting on nine of its 20 witnesses at the morning session.

Witnesses for Marcus will appear later, probably today.

The department has been investigating the gardens for two years. The gardens conduct one of the northwest's biggest mail order bulb businesses.

Dr. H. A. Scullen, Oregon State college professor, said he ordered gladioli bulbs, but they were much smaller than were advertised in Portland newspapers.

Mrs. Merle Holman, Jefferson, said she placed a big order, and received fewer items than she had paid for, and that some of them were dead.

A charge that he got small, inferior and diseased bulbs was made by J. E. Ganger, Canby.

Miss Marry L. Beach, 3717 N. E. 16th Ave., Portland, said the gladioli bulbs she got were less than three inches in circumference. She said they were advertised as 5 to 7 inches.

Another witness, M. T. Madison, Salem, said he paid for a begonia order May 2, and hasn't received anything yet.

Jack F. Hurd, Oswego, who worked for the Sherwood gardens in 1947 and who now sell his own bulbs, said the gardens

had made many refunds, but that it received no complaints from the Portland Better Business bureau.

He said the gardens were started in 1946, and the business grew so fast that it was impossible to fill orders rapidly.

Hurd said that Marcus approved all advertisements, and that sometimes the ads featured items which were not in stock.

George W. Eade, Sumner, Wash., chief nursery inspector for Washington state, said he found a gladioli bulb shipment from the gardens in which almost half the bulbs were diseased.

Eade said he has been watching closely the shipments from the gardens, but that he has found no more in which there were a large percentage of diseased bulbs.

However, he criticized the firm's method of packing strawberry plants, asserting they died enroute.



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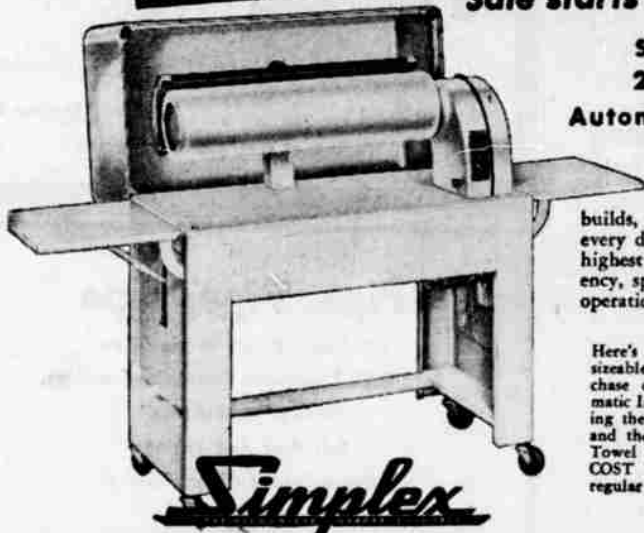
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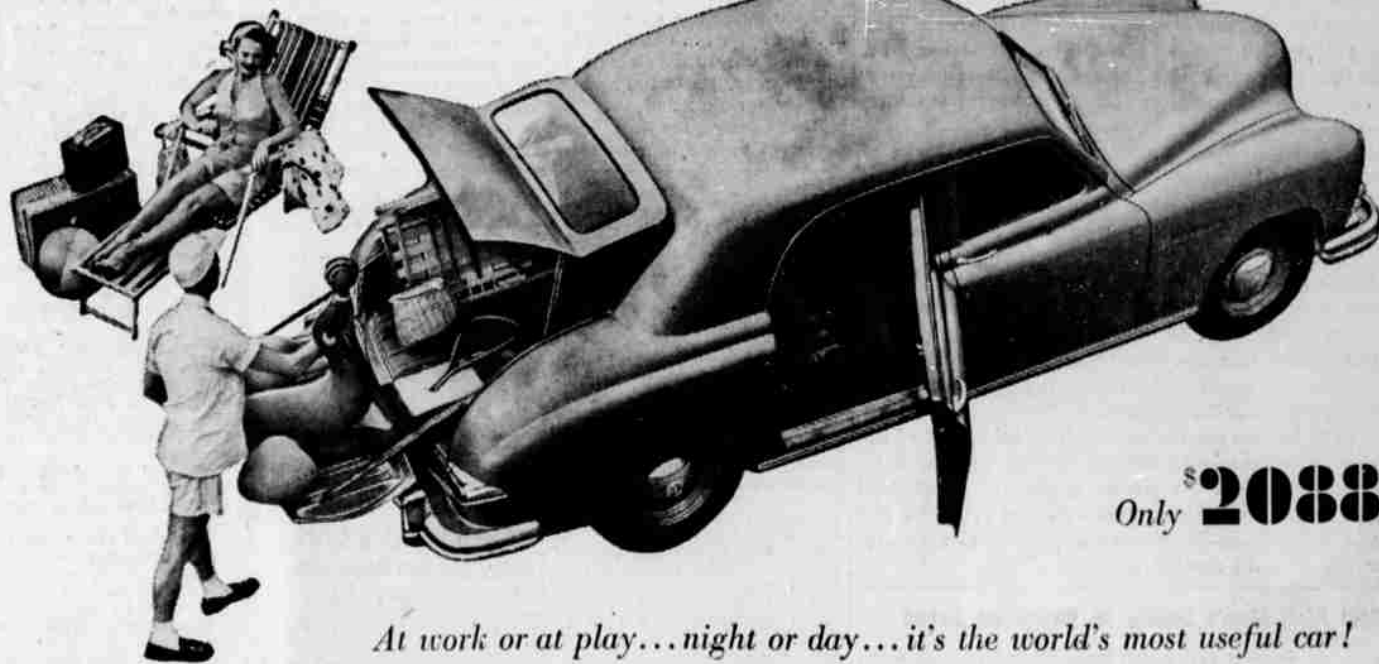
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