

# Dwindling Supplies Of Steel Compel Auto Manufacturers To Work On Borrowed Time

By DAVID J. WILKIE  
Associated Press Automotive Editor

DETROIT, Oct. 19.—(AP)—The nation's auto industry is operating on borrowed time as far as its steel supplies are concerned. Shutdowns of three weeks and more starting early next month are not unlikely.

This was the word from an authoritative source inside the industry.

The car and truck makers had a four to six weeks inventory of steel when the steel strike began. But they have been eating deeply into these stocks and replacements have been cut off.

A top industry executive, who asked that he not be identified, said Monday:

"An important thing that seems to be overlooked is that if we keep going and use up all the steel we have on hand it will take three or four weeks to store up enough more to permit resumption of car and truck output.

"Shutdowns of three weeks or more are inevitable for many of the car companies if steel does not start to come through again by next Monday."

No one auto maker wants to admit his steel position is any worse than that of his competitors. But most car and truck companies, especially among the "big three" of General Motors, Chrysler and Ford, have been producing at record levels for many weeks. Most of the GM and Chrysler divisions have been their 1949 model runs.

Despite the threatened shutdowns, the industry is certain to break its 20-year-old production record within the next few weeks.

The record mark of 1929 was 5,358,420 cars and trucks. Factory output so far this year already is well over 5,100,000 units.

## Transcontinental Dial Call Takes 12 Seconds

NEW YORK, Oct. 19.—(AP)—The first transcontinental dial telephone call was made late Sunday in twelve seconds.

In two dialing operations, a n Oakland, Calif., operator put

through a call to New York. The call was from Mark R. Sullivan, president of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, to Dr. Oliver E. Buckley, president of the Bell laboratories, and Keith S. McHugh, president of the New York Telephone company. Ordinary transcontinental calls take about two minutes to complete. The phone company says this will be cut "to a matter of seconds."

## British Princess Raps Divorce Rate, Low Morals

LONDON, Oct. 19.—(AP)—Princess Elizabeth scolded the British people Monday for what she called a high divorce rate and falling moral standards. It was the strongest public statement by any member of the royal family in years. Speaking to a rally of the Mothers Union, the 22-year-old heiress presumptive to the throne said: "I would go so far as to say that some of the very principles on

which the family, and therefore the health of the nation, are founded are in danger. . . . When we see around us the havoc that has been wrought, above all among the children, by the breakup of homes, we can have no doubt that divorce and separation are responsible for some of the darkest evils in our society today."

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**ROCKET LAUNCHER?**—Motorists on the outskirts of Dallas, Tex., kept expecting this tall, rocket-shaped thing to take off. Having seen pictures of the rocket launchings at White Sands, N. M., they called the papers to find out when this one would be launched. The papers investigated and found the "rocket" was one of the legs for a huge water tower being built at a housing development.

## Ingrid Bergman's Spouse Agrees To Seek Divorce

ROME, Oct. 19.—(AP)—Ingrid Bergman's personal representative here said the Swedish film star's husband, surgeon Peter Lindstrom, has agreed to file divorce papers in California. A divorce would leave her free to marry the Italian film director, Roberto Rossellini, next year. Miss Bergman's representative, Joseph Steele, said the agreement ended months of negotiations between Rome and Hollywood. She formerly had sought to file for divorce here or in Sweden but legal difficulties were too great.

## Vishinsky Warns On Yugoslav Seat In U. N.

LAKE SUCCESS, Oct. 19.—(AP)—Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky declared Monday election of Yugoslavia to the United Nations security council would be an Anglo-American challenge to Russia which would have "painful consequences." Vishinsky told a news conference called by the Soviet delegation that he would not disclose now what the Soviet Union plans to do if Yugoslavia wins a council seat over Soviet-sponsored Czechoslovakia. He said the election to Yugoslavia would be neither "lawful nor just."

## Exiled King Leaves His Fate To Popular Vote

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Oct. 19.—(AP)—The exiled King Leopold has agreed to a vote by the Belgian people to decide whether he shall return to the throne. Senator Julius Huisie, announcing this Monday said the king will abdicate if fewer than 55 per cent of the voters favor his return. Previously Leopold had said the decision on his return was up to the Belgian parliament, and that any vote by the people would be merely advisory. Leopold has been in exile since the war.



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