

## We Must Keep Atom Bomb Stockpile Edge Over Soviet Until It's Needless

By BRUCE BLOSSAT

The United States never has revealed how big a stockpile of atom bombs it has or how many it is producing yearly. These facts have been closely guarded secrets and speculation about them has not been specific as to numbers.

Now, however, the United States News has come forth with some bold estimates. It guesses the current stockpile to be at least 250 atom bombs and predicts that by 1952 he figure will be 850. Output is calculated at around 200 bombs a year.

The magazine goes on to state that this production rate is considered to be the peacetime maximum for the nation by Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of the bomb's developers.

No authority is quoted as a

source for these vital figures. The estimates are offered flatly, presumably as informed guesses. The only clue the News gives is that the atom bomb article was prepared at Lake Success, site of the United Nations and affiliated agencies.

Since the specific figures appeared, no denial or confirmation has been issued by any government source. There is no way of knowing how accurate the estimates may be. But it is nevertheless worth noting that a national magazine has felt sufficient confidence in its information not only to print the figures in the body of a story but to splash them across its cover page.

The U. S. News was not content to estimate American atom bomb output. It said that by 1952, when the U. S. is supposed to have 850 bombs, Russia will have about 100. "That is the considered estimate of a number of U. S. atomic scientists appraising the capabilities of Russia," added the magazine.

If we suppose the estimates are soundly based, then what do they mean?

At first glance, a 1952 margin of 850 U. S. bombs to 100 Russian ones would seem to be decisive. But UN officials are said to believe the U. S. advantage is not really great. The argument is made that atom bomb targets are chiefly limited to big cities and that Russia has about a dozen fewer of these than the United States.

Thus, it is contended, the United States would be hard put to

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## Soup Hubby's First Love, Wife Obtains Divorce

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 8 — (AP) — Soup, or rather, not enough of it, is the latest grounds for divorce.

Mrs. Violet Stern, 27, obtained a decree Tuesday after she told the court her husband, Max Stern, 33, Culver city restaurateur, loved soup more than he did her.

"It might sound silly," she testified, "but my husband's chief complaint against me was that I didn't make soup often enough."

A settlement requires Stern to pay \$140 monthly support for their two children and awarded Mrs. Stern \$12,000 in assets. They were married in 1939 and separated 18 months ago.

bring its numerical edge to bear upon the Soviet Union in the event of war. On the other hand, Russia's supply of bombs would definitely be enough to use against all major city targets in this country.

Offhand, it looks as if there were much room for debate in this field. It is quite an assumption to declare that atom bombs will be useful only against industrial and other targets in large urban centers. The weapon has been a reality for just three years and perhaps it's a bit early to speak with too much finality about its uses. Conceptions of strategic and tactical bombing are altered steadily.

Until the atom bomb has been an element in military planners' thinking for longer than a few years, there can be little point in writing off so casually a better than 8 to 1 advantage or whatever margin the U. S. may actually enjoy over Russia in the period just ahead.

To suggest that our stockpile edge is of no real value is virtually to propose that this country spend its atom-bomb funds on some less costly and more fruitful enterprise. Americans know too little about the likely nature of a future war and about the intentions of their probable enemies to consider such a course anything but a bad risk.

South Americans make "mate" a tea-like drink out of the leaves of one species of holly.

## Valuations' Hike Reduces Millage Rates in Cities

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene—(Special)—A spectacular increase in the assessed valuation of some cities has decreased city millage rates of many cities despite an increase in the dollar amount of city tax levies, according to information contained in a bulletin prepared by the bureau of municipal research and service, University of Oregon, comparing city tax levies throughout the state. Reassessment and annexation, as well as new construction, were important factors in the increased assessed valuations. Dayton in Yamhill County and Oakridge in Lane County are cited as outstanding examples, with the 1949-50 assessed valuation more than double that of last year. An increase of over 50 percent in assessed valuation is reported for ten cities.

For the cities of the state as a whole, however, tax levies have increased at a slightly more rapid rate than assessed valuation, with the result that the state-wide average tax rate for city purposes increased from 18.4 mills for the 1948-9 fiscal year to 18.6 mills for the current fiscal year. City levies for the 1949-50 fiscal year total \$15,417,192, which is an increase of \$1,864,385 or 11.4 percent over the 1948-49

## Boy With Cancer Of Eye Offered Free Operation

PORTLAND, — (AP)—Doernbecher hospital has offered a free eye operation to Dean Ault, 2 1/2-year-old Seattle boy who is suffering from cancer.

A Seattle doctor advised the boy's parents that he must have the eye removed or he would die.

A spokesman for the hospital here, where an Elkes-sponsored eye clinic is located, said the operation would be performed without cost, but the boy's parents, because they reside out of Oregon, would have to pay hospital costs.

More than half of all the fertilizer produced in the United States is used by farmers in the Cotton Belt.

The assessed valuation of cities was reported at \$824,966,190 in 1949-50, an increase of \$78,588,903 or 10.5 percent.

Of the 208 active incorporated cities in the state, only seven did not make a property tax levy for 1949-50. City millage rates increased in 82 cities and decreased in 106 cities. The assessed valuation increased in 190 cities, but decreased in 14. Complete details regarding city property tax levies for the current year as well as an analysis of trends appear in the new bulletin which will be distributed to city officials and civic groups throughout the state this week.

Thurs., Dec. 8, 1949—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 3

## World's Biggest Christmas Tree Giant Douglas Fir

BELLINGHAM, — (AP)—Bellingham's biggest Christmas tree in the world, a giant Douglas fir, was felled Sunday on the Sumas plains in an hour and a half process watched by hundreds of spectators.

It started its 35-mile journey to this city on two logging trucks, traveling 100 feet apart.

Crews worked a day and a half

rigging the tree, with expert loggers in charge, headed by Glen Corning, lumber operator, and Al Knowles, veteran high rigger. The butt measures 54 inches in diameter, cut from a five foot stump, and the tree contains 7,500 board feet of lumber. Its height is secret until it is erected, but it tops last year's 134-foot tree by some 20 feet. It is a junior chamber of commerce project.

## A New Year's Resolution

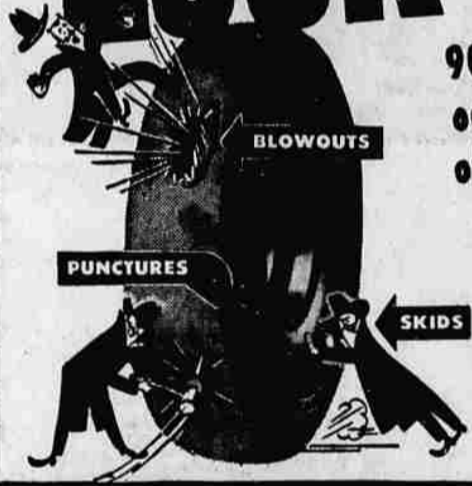
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