

'Country Can Lick Recession' Ike Says In Economic Report

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower said Monday the country can lick the recession this year, pay in full the cost of meeting Russia's new challenge, and go forward to "real economic growth without inflation."

This economic report, third and last of the annual White House messages to Congress, carried a 42-point program of home-front legislation. Most requests were familiar, but Eisenhower said they are now "urgent."

He pledged that his policies will be shaped to foster the earliest possible business recovery. But he gave no hint that the administration is considering any such strong medicine as tax cuts, public works or deliberate deficits, and avoided even the words "recession" or "depression."

National Production Off

Eisenhower disclosed that the slump began sooner and hit harder than officials had expected. In the past three months national production dropped six billion, or 1½ per cent, he said, from the record rate of 439 billion a year achieved in the previous quarter.

And he underscored this warning: if "unwarranted" wage and price increases emerge from this

spring's bargaining, the prospective recovery could be delayed.

"The latest challenge of international communism will require a further increase in the economic claims of national security which are already heavy," Eisenhower said.

"Challenge Can Be Met"

"If we follow suitable private and public policies, this challenge can be met without distorting our economy, or destroying the freedoms that we cherish.

"Whatever our national security requires, our economy can provide and we can afford to pay."

The business-stimulating effect of enlarged defense spending already is being felt, Eisenhower reported, and the October reversal of the government's anti-inflation policy has noticeably liberalized credit and cut the costs of borrowing.

Other factors favoring a 1958 upturn are visible, he said, including:

Strong, sustained consumer demand; "very little" decline in incomes or total buying power; rising outlays by state and local governments; increased private spending on research and development; and strong business confidence, attested by the long-

range programs of corporations for expansion and construction.

Summing up, Eisenhower predicted:

Decline in Business

"As we look ahead in 1958, there are grounds for expecting that the decline in business activity need not be prolonged and that economic growth can be resumed without extended interruption."

Other official sources, more explicit than the president, said the downturn is expected to continue until a turnaround point is reached in the April-June quarter or the July-September period.

The message repeated with emphasis the administrations requests for a higher limit on the federal debt, a one-year extension on present corporation and excise tax rates, the farm program sent to the Capitol last week, and the new plan to aid science education.

The President urged enactment of Taft-Hartley Law amendments including a tightening of restraints on secondary boycotts and picketing—subject of a special message due later this week—and adoption of previously announced proposals to further loosen housing credit.

Unification of Tibet Red Chinese Aim

HONG KONG (AP)—Red China has undertaken the herculean task of uniting lofty Tibet's patchwork of semi-independent regions, sects and Buddhist monasteries.

It presumably hopes to bring them under the unquestioned authority of the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama, the two living Buddhas who nominally rule the country under Peiping's thumb.

In this way, the Reds plan to overcome widespread hostility which forced them last year to put off for six years the introduction of Socialism to "the roof of the world."

The Communist moves were disclosed in three-month-old cop-

ies of the Lhasa newspaper, Si Tsang Jih Pao, which have reached Hong Kong.

The paper reported speeches by Chinese and Tibetan leaders on the first anniversary of the founding of the Tibetan branch of the Chinese Buddhist Assn.

Swiss Will Not Take Initiative for Meeting

BERN, Switzerland (AP)—Switzerland told the Soviet Union Monday it will not take the initiative to convene a new summit meeting in Geneva at this time.

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