

TO TEST HELICOPTERS FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION

Six helicopters will be tested for use in fighting fires in an experiment that is to be carried out in California some time during January. The U. S. army and the forest service will cooperate in the test.

The 4th air force search and rescue unit will fly the craft and try discharging and picking up fire fighters by rope ladders. The helicopters will be tested also for fire detection and patrol, game and cattle counts, sowing grass seed in burned-over areas, photographing and mapping, and stocking remote mountain waters with game fish.

The aircraft, which are currently used in search and rescue on the Pacific coast, will try hovering from 100 to 300 feet above the ground to fight fires. They will be tested over flat lands, canyon bottoms, slopes and forested areas.

NOT A PRIVATE FIGHT

There is a tendency on the part of labor and management who are parties in an industrial dispute to regard it as strictly a private fight. And they carry on this fight with little consideration for the public welfare, although it is the public which gets caught in the middle and suffers most.

The automobile strikes—and there have been many of them recently in addition to the General Motors tie-up—have deprived the Nation of hundreds of thousands of urgently needed cars. Now if the threat of strikes by the steel and electrical workers is carried out the country will be set back still farther in its efforts to achieve post-war economic recovery.

The point is that the situation in the United States has reached a stage where, unless something is done to force both labor and management to work out their differences instead of merely sitting back and shouting at each other, the Nation will suffer such a staggering economic blow that postwar prosperity may prove to be a myth.

America has the greatest productive capacity of any nation in the world. But the capacity means little unless it is used to the best advantage. And that certainly isn't being done now.

Time is running out. If labor and management go on kicking around their golden opportunity for a great prosperity they will wake up some day to find that they have lost it by default.

And not only they but the entire nation will pay the cost of their folly. So, labor management disputes are not private disputes.

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