



# U. S. Scientists Work On a Hydrogen Bomb

**"PRAY God we may never have to use it."**  
With these words Sen. Scott Lucas (D-Ill.), Senate majority leader, greeted announcement of the fateful order for this country's scientists to go ahead with development of the hydrogen bomb, theoretically 1,000 times more powerful than the atomic bomb.

Mr. Truman said he, alone, made the historic decision because it is part of his responsibility as commander-in-chief of the armed forces to see to it that the nation is able to defend itself against any attack.

The Joint Congressional Committee urged "utmost speed" in development after a meeting with the Atomic Energy Commission, headed by David E. Lilienthal.

Bernard M. Baruch, who drafted the original American plan for controlling atomic energy, called it a "wise decision, necessary for the peace of the world."

### No Other Alternative

Rep. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), a member of the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee, said the President had "no other alternative" but he declared:

"This H-Bomb cannot be used for peaceful purposes. It can only be used for destruction."

For weeks some Congressional leaders and a number of scientists had urged immediate development of the hydrogen bomb. They argued that with Russia in possession of the atomic secret, this country needed an even more powerful weapon to make the Soviet Union realize that if it attacked it would be inviting terrible retribution.

Hopes for effective international control of atomic weapons—as sponsored by this country through the Baruch plan in the United Nations—have been blocked repeatedly by Russian refusal to accept the principle of international inspection.

Mr. Truman's brief but dramatic announcement gave no hint of a possible attempt to renew negotiations with Russia for international control. He did declare, however:

"We shall continue to examine all those factors that affect our program for peace and this country's security."

### Fusion and Fission

The atomic bomb operates on the principle of fission, or splitting of atoms. The principle of the hydrogen bomb is just the opposite, fusion of hydrogen atoms to form helium and, at the same time, releasing tremendous atomic energy.

It is energy generated by this process in the sun—radiated across 93,000,000 miles of space—that makes life on this world possible. But on the sun, this process takes 5,000,000 years. For a bomb it must be compressed to the fraction of a second.

The temperature requirement, about 20,000,000 degrees, conceivably could be found in the maelstrom of an exploding uranium or plutonium bomb. It is by using the A-Bomb as a primer that scientists believe they can generate the terrific heat and pressure needed to set off fusion of hydrogen.

## Water

### Liquid Assets

The old saw about "water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink" never seemed humorous to shipwreck victims. And it's not funny to taxpayers of big cities which spend millions of dollars for conduit systems to bring in drinking water.

The Geological Survey, an agency of the Department of Interior, declared last week the U.S. has plenty of water—all it has to do is find it. It called for an expanded study of the nation's water resources to avoid future shortages like those afflicting some areas now.

In parts of California, Arizona and New York, for instance, water is being taken from the ground much faster than nature can replenish it.

But in a great many other areas, says the Geological Survey, there are vast untapped reserves of underground water and great volumes of water above ground which run unused into the sea.

The agency says less than 5 per cent of the country has been covered by thorough scientific surveys of ground water. It reports that another 20 per cent has been covered by hasty reconnaissance methods, much of which was accomplished decades ago.

## Sidelights

● In Memphis, Sam Hagson, a warehouse clerk, owns more stock in the 18-state Kroger grocery chain than its president. Hobson, who still works five days a week, began buying stock from his savings in 1938, now has \$92,000 worth.

● At La Grande, Ore., Mr. and Mrs. R. Edmiston of Lincoln, Neb., discovered two of their children dead in the back seat of their car of carbon monoxide fumes from the exhaust.

● In East Liverpool, Ohio, a dealer jokingly advertised a car for sale at the "bargain price of 1,275 rubles." The wife of an ex-Marine who had served in China showed up with two 1,000 Russian ruble notes and demanded the car.

● Near Kittitas, Wash., a transcontinental train, its electric locomotive disabled by fire, careened backward down a three-mile hill with more than 200 passengers. None was injured but all agreed they had more thrills than on a roller-coaster ride.

# The WORLD This WEEK

## The Coal Question

### SPAIN: How the Cold War Aids Franco

**THE fall of Hitler and Mussolini cost Generalissimo Francisco Franco two powerful friends. Their aid helped him crush the Spanish Republicans who had communist aid. But a postwar world without dictators left Franco virtually without friends.**

A little over three years ago the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution urging all member nations to recall their ambassadors from Madrid since the "Franco fascist regime does not represent the Spanish people."

Now while countries in western Europe are struggling to their economic feet (with U.S. aid), Franco's isolated Spain is still staggering from the ravages of its civil war. This winter and spring Franco faces his most serious economic crisis since he came to power more than 10 years ago.

### Virtually Bankrupt

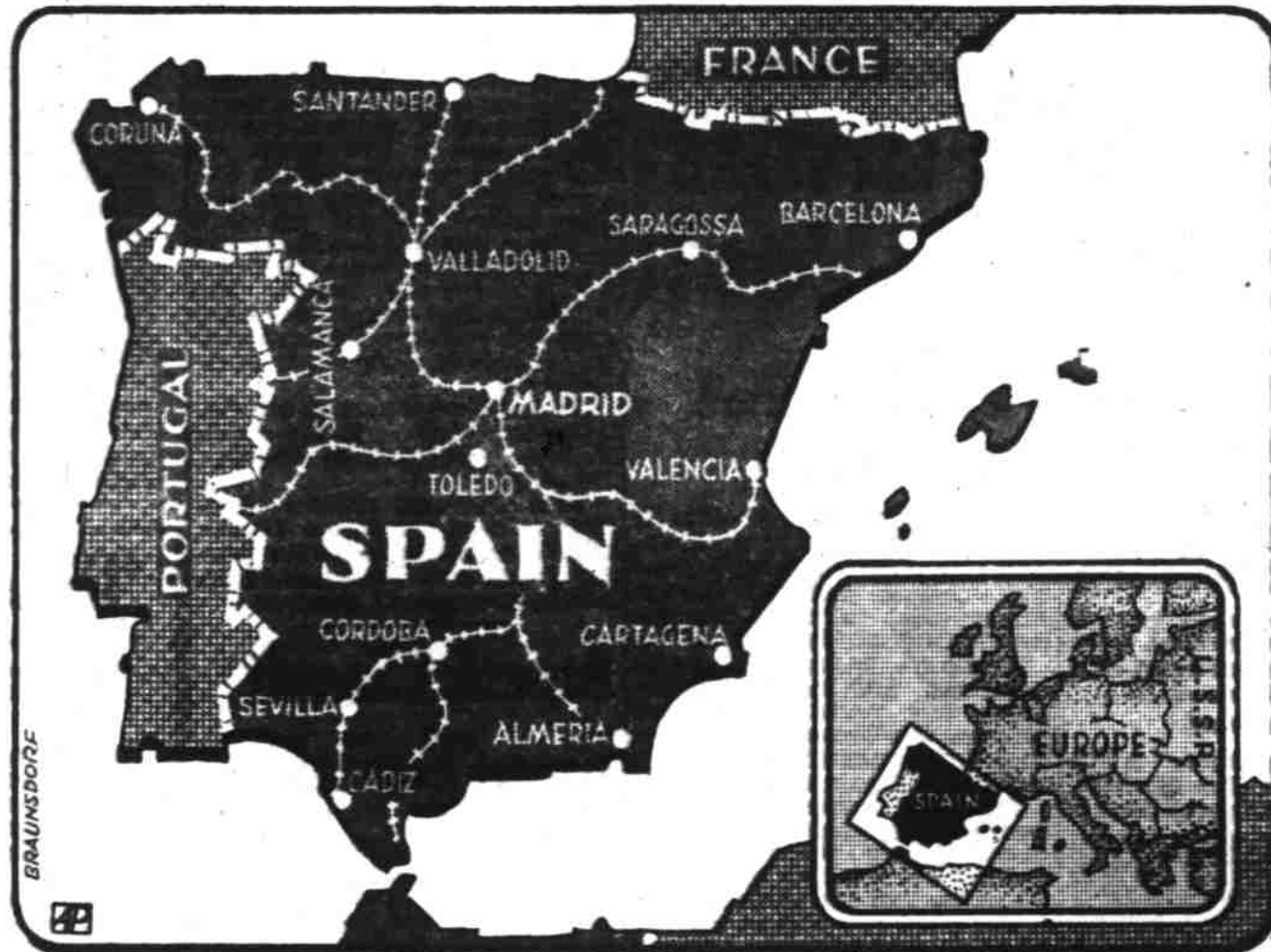
Spain is virtually bankrupt. Wheat, its most important crop, has fallen to half its pre-civil war rate of production. Shortages of fertilizer and farm machinery are apt to make it slump even further. In recent years Franco imported wheat from Argentina but last fall President Peron refused to extend any more credit until a \$300,000,000 debt had been settled.

In desperation Franco, one of the world's bitterest foes of Communism, is seeking both loans and wheat from any country—even from behind the Iron Curtain.

In this dilemma, Franco finds certain factors favoring his cause. One is the cold war which has divided Europe into Communist and anti-Communist camps. The other is his solid political control of the country with the army, the church, and the Falangists on his side.

### Shifting Pressures

With the increasing tensions of the cold war, there has been mounting pressure in many parts of the world for a more realistic, long range view of the Spanish situation. Many nations in the U.N., which withdrew diplo-



matic recognition from Spain three years ago, have quietly returned their ambassadors to Madrid.

Americans have pointed out that the U.S. has ambassadors in eastern European countries whose policies it does not approve any more than it does those of Spain.

Military strategists stress Spain's key geographic position at the mouth of the Mediterranean, her Pyrenees mountains which form a defensive ring across the continent and her deep naval anchorages and staging areas. All these would be vital if war should come.

Last month Secretary of State Dean Acheson announced a new American

policy on Spain. It is not exactly a right-about-face but it is distinctly a turn from the left.

Acheson said this country favors sending an ambassador to Madrid if the U.N. will repeal its 1946 resolution. That move failed, he said, in its intended purpose to weaken Franco and actually tended to strengthen his regime.

### New U. S. Policy

Acheson said this new policy should not be construed as American endorsement of the Franco regime. In fact, he declared, it is difficult to see Spain as a full member of the community of free western nations without drastic

internal changes in such fields as civil liberties, religious freedom and labor unions.

So far as economic assistance is concerned, Acheson said "Spain is free to consult with the Export-Import Bank . . . on the same basis as any other country."

The U.N. General Assembly is scheduled to meet next September although a special session may be called this spring to consider such pressing problems as the Chinese recognition question. Observers predict that when the Assembly is convened, Latin American countries will move for formal repeal of the 1946 resolution on Spain.

**MR. TRUMAN**, whose dislike for the Taft-Hartley Labor Law is a matter of record, has sidestepped it with an appeal to miners to resume soft coal digging for 70 days while a Presidential fact-finding board studies their dispute with the operators.

The President urged John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers chief, and spokesmen for the nation's coal operators, to accept his proposal "in the national interest."

He did not mention the Taft-Hartley provision for use of injunction in national emergencies. His telegram to the coal labor and management bosses was phrased to skirt the question of the existence of an emergency.

### A Warning

The telegram did contain a warning, however. It declared that while it is national policy to foster voluntary settlements of labor disputes without compulsion, nevertheless:

"The government can no longer stand by . . . and permit the continuance of conditions which have now come to have such a serious effect upon public interest."

For his 70-day truce which would start Monday, the President specified "normal" coal production. That would bar the three-day week which most coal miners have been working, as well as the sporadic full-scale strikes which involved more than 100,000 UMW members last week.

### To Represent Public

Mr. Truman's board, named solely for him, would be composed of three citizens "representing the public," with none from industry, government or labor.

While miners or operators might reject the board's findings, Mr. Truman proposed specifically that it have the power to recommend "procedures and grounds for a fair, equitable settlement."

A T-H board has no such powers of recommendation. It is limited to finding facts.

Mr. Truman's truce would run from Monday, when coal production would go back to "normal." His board would make its report to him within 60 days, leaving 10 days for continued digging while both labor leader Lewis and the operators, aided by federal mediator Cyrus Ching, would try to reach a settlement on the basis of the board's proposals.

Congressional reaction to the President's move was mixed.

## In Short . . .

**Assessed:** By the CIO United Auto Workers, a special \$1-a-week levy on all working members to help finance the Chrysler strike; over the maximum 12 weeks, this would pour a total of nearly \$10,000,000 into the union strike chest.

**Offered:** By Whittaker Chambers, to take a lie detector test to check his charges that Alger Hiss slipped U.S. secret documents to him for relay to Moscow.

**Advocated:** By the American Legion, a program of universal military training instead of continuance of the draft law.

**Reported:** By U. S. Steel Corp., a 1949 net income of \$165,958,806, and its highest profit since 1929.

## Farms

### Fertilizer Shortage

Southern and middle western farmers may be especially hard hit by a fertilizer shortage curtailing crop production this year.

The shortage stems from a strike since last November of 1,500 workers at the Carlsbad, N. M., mines of three firms which turn out 85 per cent of the nation's potash, a primary ingredient in fertilizer.

A high official of the National Labor Relations Board is said to regard the potash shortage as potentially more serious to the nation than either the coal dispute or a steel shutdown.

About 60 per cent of the country's five major crops (citrus fruits, sugar, tobacco, cotton and small grains) are dependent upon fertilizer.

The Department of Agriculture estimates about 600,000 tons of potash are needed for fertilizer before April 1.

The plants resumed operations by hiring replacements for the strikers on January 23 and now claim production at 50 per cent of capacity with 750 workers. It takes about six weeks for raw potash to be delivered to the farmer as fertilizer.

The striking union—the CIO Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers—is one of 10 facing possible expulsion from the CIO on charges of being Communist-dominated.

## Quotes

**Harry Armstrong**, 71, composer of "Sweet Adeline": "Anybody can sing it and sound like a good singer. It's about the only song you can sing standing up, sitting down or stretched out flat on the floor."

**Mrs. M. T. Dean** of Jackson, Miss., after watching the execution of a man convicted of killing one of her sons: "I'm satisfied."

**Mrs. Doris Irene Kindred**, 28, illiterate Birmingham, Eng., mother, found guilty of neglecting her six children, suggested that she be sterilized: "I don't want any more children."

**Councilor James F. Coffey**, at whose plea the Boston City Council banned from its session 14 Japanese sent to the U. S. for re-orientation in democratic principles: "We are feeding them, clothing them, but don't educate them so they can start another war in a few years."

## Taxes

### Render Unto Caesar . . .

The government is launching a study to learn how many billions of dollars is lost each year to tax-dodgers.

A check of government statistics shows that almost 50 billion dollars of estimated personal income fails to appear in annual income tax returns.

A substantial portion of this—such as income of persons making less than \$600 a year, certain military pay, relief payments and pensions — is not taxable.

However, some authorities feel certain sizeable portion of this 50 billion represents money that should have been reported on income tax returns, and wasn't.

Chairman Robert L. Doughton (D-NC) of the House Ways and Means Committee estimates that if taxpayers paid the government every dollar owed it, this would nearly balance the budget without an increase in taxes.



## REDS: Propaganda Technique

### Paper Bullets

The routine shift of a mild-mannered U.S. career diplomat, Joseph Jacobs, from Czechoslovakia to Italy was greeted last week with what has come to be considered a typical Communist outburst.

Jacobs, former American ambassador to Prague, is a special arms aid advisor to the U.S. Embassy in Rome. His shift was one of a number in preparation for shipment of Italy's share in the \$1,000,000,000 program for mutual defense against Communist aggression.

Jacobs' arrival was heralded by Communist placards distributed in Rome almost from door to door. They read: "J Is Coming—War," and "Death to Jacobs."

The Communist press carried a number of articles which Jacobs took pains to correct for American correspondents.

"I didn't come in a British destroyer as they said," he commented. "I simply drove down in my car from Nice, France, and stopped over night at Pisa."

### Red China Radio

American observers say this Italian incident affords in miniature a typical example of Soviet propaganda tactics of harassment, vilification and misrepresentation directed against the west.

Red China buttressed that contention last week when the Sinkiang radio charged Douglas S. MacKiernan of Stoughton, Mass., American vice consul in that province, had been exposed as a spy.

The Red radio said three White Russian confederates surrendered, naming MacKiernan a spy who sought to organize bandits of the far western ter-

ritory where Russia has special privileges. The broadcast said MacKiernan fled to India after riding horseback hundreds of miles to instruct bandit chiefs how to oppose Communism in the wild back country.

### Creeping Blockade

In Germany, the Russians alternately raised and lowered their "creeping blockade" of trucks to Berlin at the west zone border, 100 miles from the German capital.

The highway tieup is infinitesimal compared to the flow of supplies over the railway system which hauls about nine-tenths of west Berlin supplies.

"The Russians made their point," one military spokesman said. "They showed the Germans Berlin is still in the middle of the Russian zone. Whenever they think the west Berliner is getting too cocky, they turn these things off and on like a spigot."

An AP correspondent wrote from Berlin that the Gestapo is about to make its reappearance in east Germany—this time to protect Communism.

### Viet-Nam Regimes

The Kremlin announced diplomatic recognition of the Indochina Republic of Viet-Nam headed by Moscow-trained Ho Chi Minh. This is a rebel regime opposed to the Viet-Nam government headed by Bao Dai, former emperor of Annam, supported by the French.

The Moscow statement preceded publication of American and British greetings to Bao Dai. The British have indicated they will recognize Bao Dai's government next week. Secretary of State Dean Acheson forwarded Bao Dai that the U.S. "looked forward to establishing closer relations with his state."

## Phone

### Rules Are Rules

A Cleveland physician reluctantly has ended his amateur long distance radio-telephone service for the men stationed on Guam.

Two months ago, Dr. Frank M. Natherson talked by short wave with the Pacific island outpost and learned the lonely military and civilian personnel would like to talk to their state-side families but there was no telephone connection.

Dr. Natherson rigged a telephone to his transmitter and soon soldiers on the island talked with their families over his radio via long distance telephone. In the two months this system operated, Dr. Natherson estimates about 100 persons in 60 cities throughout the nation used the hookup.

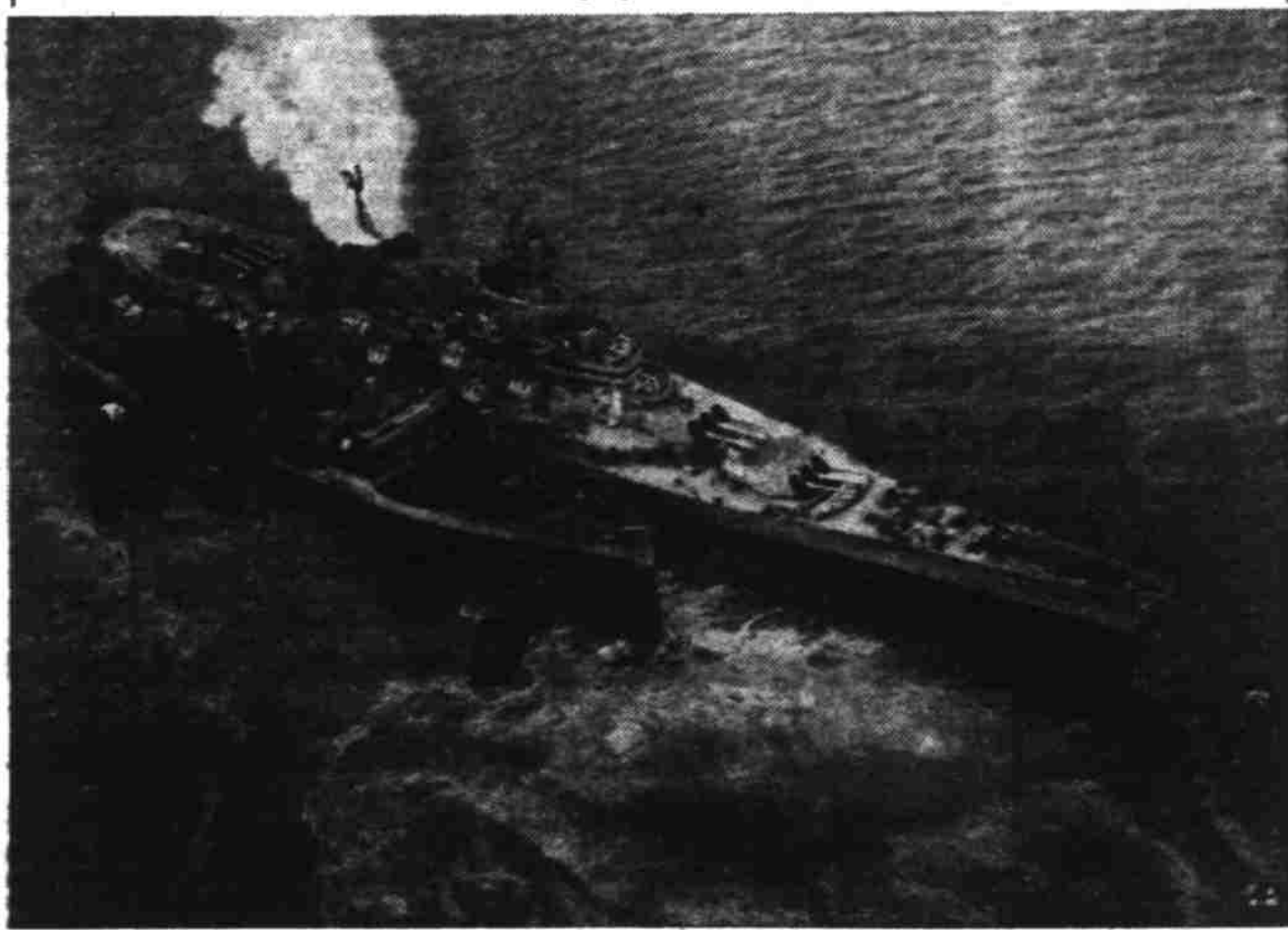
Every afternoon except Sunday, the sympathetic doctor spent an hour or so at his microphone after he finished his office hours.

But Ohio Bell, investigating the large number of long distance calls, learned what was going on. The company said although it was sympathetic with the cause and grateful for the revenue, the hookup would have to cease. The Federal Communications Commission, it pointed out, will not permit two-way telephone conversations to be broadcast.

"We think you are doing a fine thing," said Bell, "but a rule is a rule." The doctor obeyed with regret. For one thing he remembered a soldier on Guam, estranged from his wife, who made up by long distance and now is awaiting the end of his enlistment to go home to her.

(All Rights Reserved AP Newsfeatures)

## How Could It Happen to the 'Big Mo'?



It's always embarrassing to sailors when a ship goes aground.

American bluejackets everywhere were bluer than their shirts at the plight of the U.S.S. Missouri, ignominiously stuck in the mud of Chesapeake Bay off Norfolk, Va. What especially galled Navy men was the fact that this should happen to the "Mighty Mo," 45,000-ton giant of the fleet, a Presidential favorite and the scene of the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay.

To cap the climax, Adm. Forrest P. Sherman was sworn in as new Chief of Naval Operations at a time when his active force did not include a single battleship. The "Big Mo" was the only dreadnaught in commission.

The first and, as it turned out, puny effort to haul the Missouri out of the mud was made with a fleet of more than 20 tugs. After that salvage

experts stripped her of fuel, stores and ammunition to lessen her draft from 36 to 26 feet. The huge vessel actually weighs more than 50,000 tons when fully fueled and manned for action.

Finally Wednesday after two weeks aground, the huge ship was pulled clear. Adm. W. H. P. Blundy, Atlantic fleet commander, received a fitting going-away present on the day he retired. It was a terse wire: "Missouri reports for duty."

Meanwhile the Navy unwrapped a wartime secret. A sister ship of the "Big Mo" ran into the rocky coast of Maine during the war.

The U.S.S. Iowa, commissioned a year before the Missouri, sideswiped a ledge of underwater rocks in the summer of 1943 on one of her first runs, even before joining the fleet. She was repaired in the Boston Navy Yard.