

Government Advises Industry To Locate New Plants Away From All Vital Defense Areas

By Max Boyd

WASHINGTON, March 11—(AP)—The government is taking a new look at the question of where industrial plants should be located. Its study is prompted by the fact that Russia as well as the United States is presumed to be trying to make a hydrogen bomb.

So far, ranking agencies have not changed the advice given in industry on the basis of damage by plutonium bombs. As boiled down by Secretary of Defense Johnson, the core of that advice was this: "When you build new plants, don't put them too close together. Put them a few miles apart."

The national security resources board (NSRB), which advises President Truman in this field, recently made public a report containing this additional suggestion: **Underground Plans**

"New facilities might be placed underground in an existing mine or a site excavated in rock for the purpose. This provides a high degree of protection, and the cost is not unreasonable, particularly when an existing mine is used. Studies of European experience and possibilities in this country indicate that for the most vital industrial facilities underground construction is entirely practical."

The advice to put new plants a few miles apart was based on the fact that major damage from a plutonium bomb burst generally is within three miles of the point beneath the center of the blast. Some authorities have estimated that major damage from an H-bomb would reach for ten miles in all directions. Exact information will not be available, however, unless and until such a bomb is actually exploded.

Dispersement Planned

Pending a test of this kind, one highly placed official says the best guidance that can be given industry is this:

"Put new plants as far from other vital facilities as you can without making them uneconomical."

This official explains that the more space there is between vital facilities, the less attractive the area will be as a target. All atomic bombs are so costly that an attacker can use them only on concentrated targets of the highest value.

He acknowledges that private factory owners must also consider other things like nearness to labor supply and transportation and homes for workers.

Under a law passed in 1947 the NSRB has the job of advising the president on industrial mobilization and the relocation of facilities vital to national security. Approved policies is up to the department, its munitions board and industry itself.

Coast Cities Vulnerable

The army, navy and air force have considerable power, even in peacetime, to influence defense plant location through their contract awards.

Many military men are convinced that industrial cities near the coasts are more vulnerable to atomic attack than interior cities for two reasons:

1. Atomic bombs might be brought to coastal cities in mer-

chant ships or be fired from submarines.

2. Enemy bombers would have to penetrate more defenses to reach the interior.

During World War II, the government financed the construction of 1,559 manufacturing plants at an estimated cost of \$12,700,000,000. Many of these plants were built in the interior, dispersing industry more widely than before and tapping new sources of labor. **Plant Goes to Texas**

At the end of the war a committee of representatives of various government agencies recommended that to the extent possible an effort should be made to keep the aircraft industry dispersed.

However, with some exceptions, aircraft manufacturers who had their plants near the coasts before the war carried on their post-war business in the same areas. Reasons given for this include natural advantages of climate, availability of skilled labor, substantial investments already made and ties of friendship and home ownership that made executives as well as workers reluctant to move.

One exception was Chance Vought, makers of navy fighters. That company transplanted its operations from Connecticut to Texas.

Boeing Moves Operation

Another exception is the production line set up recently at Wichita, Kas., to make Boeing B-47 jet bombers. The decision to produce the B-47 at Wichita instead of near Seattle, Wash., Boeing's home, brought protests from Seattle residents. The air force insisted that Boeing agreed to it in 1947 and said that decision held.

A third exception involves Consolidated Vultee. It assembles the air force's huge B-36 bombers in a government-financed plant at Fort Worth, Tex. The decision to build the B-36 there was made during the war. Consolidated Vultee still makes some sub-assemblies for the B-36 at San Diego, Calif.

The air force says it has not refused to contract for planes from any company because of its geographical location. It adds that it considers the aircraft industries now operating in southern California to be reasonably well dispersed.

Secretary of Defense Johnson has denied that his department favors the moving of factories from New England. In an address to the New England council at Boston he said:

"There isn't and there never has been a word of truth in those rumors. Our job in the department of defense is the defense of all America."

Previously, on the basis of damage done by the atomic bomb

dropped on Nagasaki, one NSRB expert estimated that all the industry in the United States could be dispersed properly in New England.

Hubert E. Howard, chairman of the munitions board, says that the defense department's policy is to disperse within area rather than from one area to another "because of the serious social and economic factors involved."

Elephants and lions are found on the lower levels of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa.

Deputy Arrests Man Wanted In 4 Counties

Robert Carl Zimmerman, 22, Gaston, wanted in four counties on charges of obtaining money by false pretenses and issuing checks without sufficient funds, was arrested early Saturday by Marion

County Deputy Sheriff Ed Scott. Zimmerman was arrested at Detroit at 12:15 a.m. Saturday on a hold warrant from Washington county. Later it was discovered that Portland police and Yamhill authorities also hold warrants for the man. Zimmerman was reported also to have passed a check at Silverton.

Tanganyika, a British trustee under the United Nations in Africa, was German East Africa before 1916.

Former Hawaii Resident Sues Ex-Employer

A former resident of Hawaii, who alleges he was brought to Oregon for work which was not forthcoming, filed suit Saturday against his former employer in Marion county circuit court.

The Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Sunday, March 12, 1950—10

Joe Victorine, who says in the suit he was brought from Hilo, Hawaii, last year with his wife and three children, is seeking judgment of \$850.

Victorine, in his complaint, alleges H. S. Kubik flew him and his family to Oregon on a promise of work at \$1 per hour wages in August, 1949.

The plaintiff further alleges he was not provided with the work promised but was put to work at

"an isolated mine," at \$3 per day. The mine is located in the Elk-horn region above Mehama in east Marion county. Victorine quit work there when heavy winter snows came and has been living near Salem.

A blue whale may be 100 feet long, and weigh 150 tons—larger than the biggest of dinosaurs.

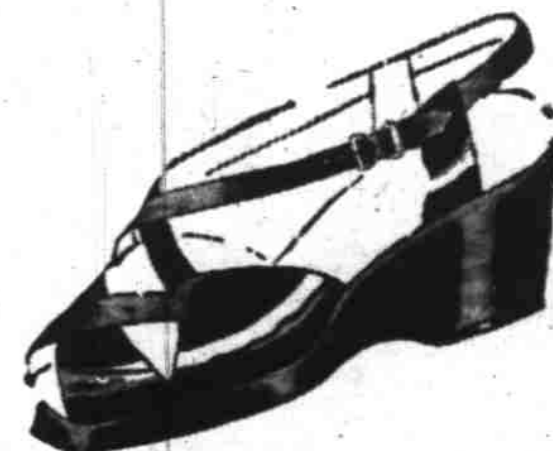


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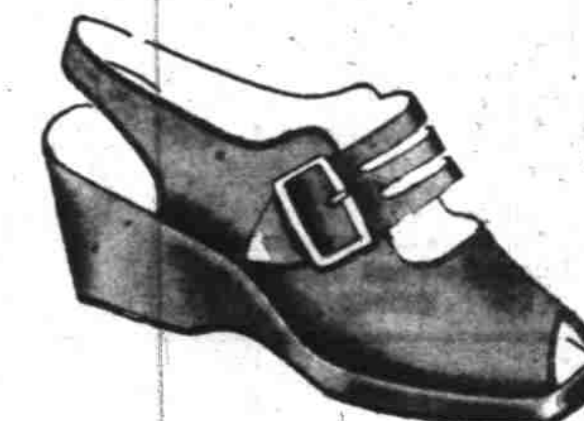


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