

Business Outlook Good For '53, Poorer for '54

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Commerce Department held out a promise Sunday that expanding industry can cope with the threat of a business slump in 1954 and a "serious test" in 1955 when defense spending starts to dwindle.

325,000 New Classrooms Needed in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Office of Education estimated Sunday the nation currently needs more than 325,000 new public school classrooms but would fall short by more than \$4,900,000,000 of being able to meet the need by construction under normal funding estimates.

And, in further "armchair estimates" admittedly not based on comprehensive surveys such as were made to get the immediate need picture, the office figures a grand total of 600,000 new classrooms will be needed by 1960.

Total cost of the 325,000 classrooms and related facilities listed as urgently needed as of Sept. 1 to relieve overcrowding and replace obsolete facilities was put at \$10,700,000,000.

The office estimated states and local districts under current laws and methods of raising such funds, through bond issues, etc., could have produced only \$5,800,000,000 on Sept. 1 to finance the needed additions.

Cost of the estimated 600,000 classrooms needed by 1960 was put at 18 billion dollars, based on 1951 prices.

Earl James McGrath, commissioner of education, issued a statement and held a news conference in connection with publication of the office's second progress report on its school facilities survey.

He said the additional floor space needed adequately to house the nation's public school population is equal to a football field, 52 feet wide, extending from New York City to San Francisco.

Or, he explained, the indicated need is for 708 million additional square feet of school building space for more than 9 1/2 million pupils.

He said that the additional construction needed immediately in housing space in a city the size of Philadelphia.

McGrath and aides emphasized that the needs they were talking about were those of the nation as of Sept. 1, 1952, based on detailed reports from 37 states and territories and projected to apply to the whole nation.

No projections were made to estimate future needs due to increased enrollments that are expected.

Washington State was listed as needing \$284,818,999 in construction and school buses but as being short of that goal by \$254,380,368—a deficit of 89.31 per cent of total needs.

Oregon's needs were put at \$68,587,100 with the deficit figured at \$14,384,239, or 20.97 per cent of total needs.

10 Missing in PBM Crash

TOKYO (AP)—The Navy announced Monday that a four-engine flying boat crashed in the Sea of Japan Friday night. Ten of its 14 crew members are dead or missing.

Four survivors were picked up by a U. S. destroyer.

A Navy spokesman said the plane, a Navy PBM, crashed about 50 miles east of Kosong off the East Coast of Korea before midnight Dec. 26.

Ten of the crew were listed as dead or missing.

The four survivors were rescued within two hours by the U. S. Destroyer Renshaw.

They were brought to the U. S. Naval Base at Koksuka about 30 miles south of Tokyo Monday. Two were hospitalized and the other two were scheduled to be returned to duty.

U.S. Screening British Crew

SOUTHAMPTON, Eng. (AP)—The giant British liner, Queen Mary, sailed into Southampton Sunday night with a busy U. S. immigration inspector only half-way through his job of screening the 1,246-man crew.

All the Mary's crewmen have to be cleared under terms of the new McCarran act designed to keep Communists off U. S. shores.

The 650 checked so far all got a clean bill of health from the U. S. immigration inspector, Russell Danielson, on the journey from New York. The other 596 have to be checked before the liner reaches New York on her return trip.

Forest Fire In Washington Under Control

ARLINGTON (Shoshone County), Wash. (AP)—An all-night forest vanquish, in upper Shoshone fire three miles south of Lake Co. County, was brought under control by 20 firefighters early Sunday after it burned 20 acres of logged-over slashings.

Sounds incredible at this time of the year?

District Forest Warden Henry

Knutson said he, too, found it hard to believe except for the hours he spent with the 20 loggers and foresters on the fireline.

Knutson said the fire apparently started from logging operations in the area, and threatened fresh slashings north of the village of Cicero before it was brought under control.

Snow began falling Sunday afternoon, lessening the danger of the blaze springing up again.

Nineteen economists of the privately-supported Committee for Economic Development (CED) aided Sawyer's analysis.

The study found "areas of potential weakness which could, if not counteracted, touch off downward movement in production and income within the next three years." It singled out 1955 as the crucial year.

The chance of a recession in 1954 is "a real possibility," the study said, but 1955 is more likely to be the year which will provide "a serious test of the strength of the economy."

The study predicted that it then will be important "sizeably to expand private markets to maintain a high level of business activity."

There are potential markets to offset substantially the dwindling flow of defense dollars, the report indicated.

An industry-by-industry appraisal of markets in 1955—assuming continued prosperity—showed a potential sales gain of 14 per cent above 1951 for consumer durable goods like autos, refrigerators and television; and 8.4 per cent rise for clothing, food and other non-durables; and 12.5 per cent rise for services like housing, utilities, recreation and transport.

These were among the basic findings:

1. Growth trends in industry suggest an 8 or 9 per cent climb in the country's total output by 1955 to a record value of \$385 billion dollars, spendable income could thus rise 7 per cent to 240 billion dollars.

2. Military outlays will reach their peak at a 55 or 60 billion dollar annual rate in 1953-4, then decline by about five billions in 1955.

Beyond that, defense "maintenance" outlays of 40 to 50 billions annually are likely indefinitely.

3. The full military cutback will represent only 4 or 5 per cent of the country's expanded production, as against 35 per cent in the war two demobilization period.

The survey concludes that prosperity or depression will "depend primarily on the strength of civilian demand," rather than an armament outlays.

Tax cuts could bolster purchasing power during the critical period. But if made before 1955 they would have less buoying effect and hinder achievement of a balanced federal budget by that year.

Under prosperity conditions present tax rates could produce a "moderate cash surplus" by 1955, it was reckoned.

5. Other upward forces are visible—population growth which has been adding 2,300,000 customers a year; a substantial rise in state and local government spending; the rising importance of new and fast-growing industries; and the probability that consumers will spend a little more of their income, save a little less.

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Train Wreck Victim Said 'Improving'

George A. Shattuck, 21, former Salem resident and brakeman for Northern Pacific Railroad, who was injured in a train wreck near Moses Lake, Wash., Saturday, was reported improved Sunday.

Shattuck, son of Mrs. R. E. Shattuck, 2764 Brooks Ave., had been at first reported in critical condition by authorities at Deaconess Hospital in Spokane, Wash., but extent of injuries were determined Sunday to be a fractured leg and severe shock. The young man received several blood transfusions and was considered much better Sunday, relatives reported.

His mother joined her son's wife and six-month-old boy at his bedside Saturday night. Young Shattuck, who was pinned during freezing weather for eight hours in debris of a derailed freight train, resides with his wife and child at Pasco, Wash.

Legislation creating the group will be introduced soon in Congress, Bridges said in a television interview (NBC's "Meet the Press").

He said the commission would study military expenditures both at home and abroad "hoping that in a year's time they can come back with certain recommendations where you can get the same security for less money."

The commission, Bridges said, would be composed of scientists, engineers, labor leaders, former military men and others appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

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WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Bridges (R-NH), slated to be presiding officer of the Senate, told Sunday night of Republican plans to set up a presidential commission to search for ways of eliminating duplication and waste in the armed services.

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It Shouldn't Happen to a Dog



Walter, a brindle boxer, illustrates what can happen to you on New Year's Eve if you're not careful. Walter had a real good time on his premature celebration (left), but the merriment after he didn't have a bark left (right). It's just a dog's life. (AP Wirephoto.)

Dewey Asked To Seize Buses

NEW YORK (AP)—The CIO Transport Workers Union asked Gov. Thomas E. Dewey Sunday to seize New York City's private bus lines, threatened by strike, but a spokesman for the governor quickly replied that Dewey had no such authority.

The governor was asked by the union to seize and operate the eight private lines, to forestall a strike set for Jan. 1.

However, in Albany, George M. Shapiro, the governor's counsel, said the union was "badly confused" in suggesting state seizure.

He said the strike threat does not "create a right of seizure."

Rhee to Visit Nippon Soon

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese government said Monday it hopes the visit of South Korean President Syngman Rhee next month will result in the opening of diplomatic relations between Japan and Korea.

Mitsuo Tanaka, government spokesman, said in an interview that "On our side we are ready to meet and talk with him. It depends entirely on the attitude of the Korean government."

The Republic of Korea Office of Public Information announced Sunday that President Rhee and his wife have accepted an invitation to visit Gen. and Mrs. Mark Clark in Tokyo Jan. 5.

Rhee is bitterly anti-Japanese. Earlier this month he spoke out strongly against Japan.

Negotiations between the governments of Japan and Korea broke down last April over Japan's claims for assets in Korea and the issue of fishing rights.

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Easy Living for Yanks in Reich Nearing End

HEIDELBERG, Germany (AP)—More than 300,000 Americans living in West Germany may know 1953 as the year of the big change.

These Americans—servicemen, U. S. government officials and employees, business and professional men and their wives and families—enjoy special privileges. These privileges attach to victors in a vanquished nation.

The Americans have traveled in style in private compartments on West Germany's finest trains at fantastically low fares.

They have dined and danced at cut-rate prices in romantic old Rhineland castles and skated and skied at world-famous Bavarian winter resorts, taken over by the U. S. Army. Many have lived in luxurious, Army-requisitioned German homes.

But much of this easy living will come to an end with the ratification of two treaties. These are the West German Peace Contract and the European Army Treaty.

The first gives West Germany near-sovereignty. The second brings a rearmeed West Germany into a six-nation European Defense Community.

Then American GI's will no longer be members of an occupation force. They will remain as members of a Western defense team of free nations.

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Truman Receives Council's Tribute

CLEVELAND (AP)—The American Council on Human Rights honored President Truman Sunday for his "forthright contribution to human rights and equality for all mankind."

Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman accepted a bronze plaque in behalf of the President at the council's first convention. It is composed of six national Negro collegiate sororities and fraternities.

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