Washington Mirror **Cheap Power** Said to Protect **U.S. Aluminum**

By A. ROBERT SMITH Statesman Correspondent

WASHINGTON - The U.S. aluminum industry is beginning to raise its eyebrows and troop to Washington, D. C., about the prospect of foreign imports taking a bite out of America's booming aluminum market.

This hasn't happened in so many years that the industry had all but forgotten to keep its guard up against competition from abroad for sales to American builders and manufacturers who are finding new uses for aluminum every day.

Most foreign producers and fabricators were prostrate when World War II ended, and in the immediate post-war period when they were regaining their footing, they had a heavy demand in their own countries to fulfill before looking elsewhere for new markets. Britain even clamped an embargo on aluminum exports until mid-1952.

U.S. Market Attractive

That overseas demand has now been largely met - but America. gobbling up aluminum for heretofore famished civilian production, still looks like a healthy market to producers across the waters.

This market appraisal was confirmed only last week by the Aluminum Association, which re ported that American producers have no worries about overpro duction. But simultaneously, the Association, which includes in membership Alcoa, Kaiser and Revnolds Metals plus semi-fabricators who account for 85 per cent of domestic output, registered a strong protest at the Pentagon.

Protests Entered

The protest was based on the following score:

1. The Defense Department has exempted aluminum from the protection of the Buy America act, a depression-enacted law which requires all government agencies to purchase whatever materials and products they need in the domestic market unless prices are "unreasonable" compared with the price of foreign products of the same quality. Today's interpretation holds that if the domestic product costs over 25 per cent more than the foreign product, that's unreasonable and the government is free to buy abroad.

2. When the Defense Depart-



Phone Operators Fashion Experts NEW YORK (INS)-Hotel tel-

ephone operators not only have to be skilled in making and re-

"fashion experts." A survey taken by New York's Hotel Edison showed that the most popular question asked by guests of phone operators is: "What type of outfit does a person in this city wear on a day

like this?" To facilitate their work, Irwin Kramer, hostelry owner, supplies them with continued weather re-

ports and fashion publications.

Convict Back From Frisco

Raymond H. Smith, 44, Oregon State Prison convict who talked himself back into his cell from a San Francisco telephone booth early Friday morning was back at the penitentiary Tuesday. Warden Clarence T. Gladden

said Smith was returned by car from San Francisco by two prison guards. Gladden said charges of escape would be filed against

Court.

to be skilled in making and re-ceiving calls but also have to be PORTLAND (AP) — A federal of the attorneys for investors in large peeler-log tracts in Lincoln of the attorneys for investors in and Tillamook counties, and that in a stock-selling enterprise now under advisement of Judge McCulloch.

> He closed a hearing on the case after the Securities and Exchange investors testified they had been Commission requested an injunc- led to believe the promoters tion to prevent the men from would apply to a Spokane bank selling securities by misleading for a loan to build a \$750,000 mill statements and in some cases to at Independence; that they held

return money to investors. Involved are three timber cooperatives and the men who organized them, including: Edgar R. Erron, Independence; Glass R. Munkers, Charles Williamson, Dwight Holdorf and Archie L. Bones, all of Salem; and Thomas

A. O'Connell, Seattle. The co-operatives are Beaver Plywood, National Blywood and General Timber.

Attorneys representing the defendants objected to the SEC request for an injunction, and also protested a proposed SEC finding that the men had converted investors' money to their

Savings Bldg. \$10,000.0C own use. The attorneys contended there was no evidence of this.

SAVE WHERE SAVINGS PAYS prison Sept. 28, was recaptured in San Francisco when he called a **First Federal Savings** penitentiary guard at his Salem

Smith, who escaped from the home and police traced the call.

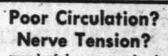
the affairs of the co-operative.

Judge Ponders Stock-Selling Case Verdict

Earlier in the hearing some

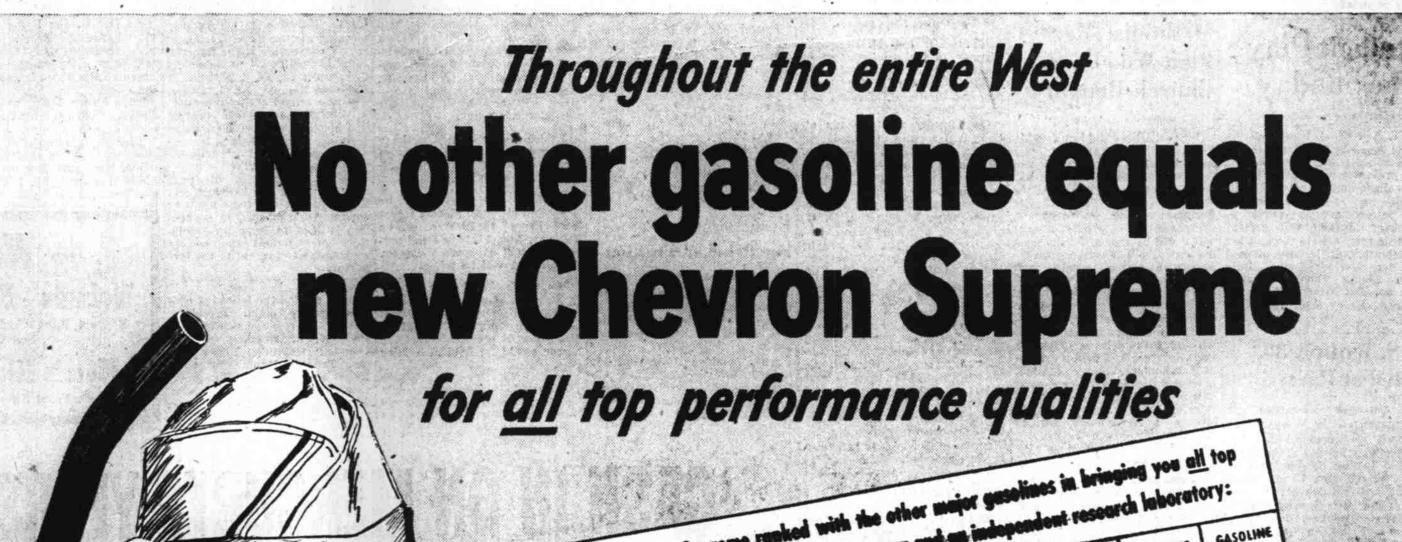
Beaver Plywood, asked the judge they had available a patent for to allow state courts to wind up putting a special finish on plywood panels.

All of these things turned out to be incorrect, they testified.



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Statesman, Salem, Ore., Wed., Nov. 18, 1953-(Sec. 1)-8

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ment buys aluminum abroad, the price tag does not include the American tariff of 1.5 cents per pound on pig and three cents on semi-fabricated aluminum.

Seeks Cut in Costs

The Defense Department, oft called the world's most gigantic business with its annual budget now topping \$45,000,000,000, is looking for means os slashing the high cost of natural security. It foresees a possibility of buying less expensive aluminum from allied nations that would also benefit by the transaction.

Britain is the most likely prospect in Europe to step into the American marketplace and make a sale. She has already produced this year in eight months more aluminum semi-fabricated goods (sheets; rods, plates and bars) than in 1950, 1951 and 1952 combined. And it is semi-fabricated goods that the military establishment is most likely to buy as the raw material for aircraft plants. **Others Push Up Output**

Other nations - France, Italy, West Germany, Austria, Japan --are pushing up their output, but most with less success than the United Kingdom. Greatest producer in the UK is Canada which supplies both England and America with pig aluminum.

However, many foreign countries cannot compete price-wise with America's own domestic industry. Japan, for example, would like very much to sell aluminum here, but her price is over 30c per pound, compared with 21.5c for American-smelted ingots.

Power Protects Industry

This is a clear instance in which cheap hydroelectric power from the Columbia River, which has cut aluminum production costs here, is giving the Amerfcan aluminum industry low price protection from foreign producers, despite the customary dis parity in wage rates.

The favorable price of alumfnum also helps account for wider use of the metal today, replacing other metals in construction and manufacturing. The Bureau of Mines reports that since World War II the price of aluminum has risen 31 per cent compared with zinc 54 per cent, steal 88 per cent, copper 105 per cent and lead 122 per cent.

Little London of **U.S. to Disappear**

NEW YORK (AP)-A picturesque little bit of London in a corner of New York will be replaced soon by a modern garage. The new structure will wipe out Ardlea Court, a byway that could have stepped from the pages of one of Charles Dickens' books.

The court, with iron gates at each end, was lined with antique shops with old fashioned exteriors and small paned windows.

Richard Croker, once boss of Tammany Hall, the Manhattan Democratic organization, visited London near the turn of the century and built the lane on his return to this country in an ef-

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