

THE WORLD THIS WEEK

East-West Battle Over German Rearmament Not Ended

84th Congress Will Start With Truce

By CHARLES F. BARRETT
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AT THE little White House, just off the golfing greens at Augusta, Ga., President Eisenhower scribbled and scratched this past week, drafting and redrafting his proposals to Congress.

And under the gleaming dome on Capitol Hill, more and more lawmakers filtered in to exchange greetings, then settled down to backroom barter on the issues, the strategy and the politics of the new Congress just ahead.

At noon next Wednesday gavels in the House and Senate will end the infant 84th Congress of the United States wadding out for its two-year run on the stage of history.

For the fifth time since 1900, control of government is divided between the two major political parties. Republicans hold power in the executive branch, and Democrats are taking over the reins in Congress—a situation that would be impossible in most of the nations of the world.

How will the President and Congress get along?

Among most leaders on both sides there is general agreement that:

Upcoming issues hold the glowing sparks of many potential hot controversies; put potent background factors will work toward at least moderate cooperation on most of the problems. In short, few expect any open, toe-to-toe "cold war" between the Republican administration and the Democratic Congress, such as President Eisenhower once predicted and later discounted.

Memory Fresh

The Democrats have a fresh memory of the 1946-47 Congress when, they say, the Republicans declared war on Democratic President Harry Truman. Truman made that the issue in the '48 campaign and won an astonishing victory.

Democrats don't want to give Eisenhower a chance to club them in 1956 with charges of political obstructionism. Also, many Democrats have substantial respect for Eisenhower's personal popularity. So for their own self-interest, they say, they will cooperate with him unless in some specific issue they think he is dead wrong.

And Eisenhower, who may be a candidate for reelection in 1956, naturally wants to make a record of accomplishment. He must have some degree of Democratic cooperation to get his legislative program through. Further, many Eisenhower Republicans concede they may need votes from Democrats and independents to win in 1956.

First Year Peaceful

The expected list of issues is long, and some can be hotly controversial. Most leaders expect the first year to be more peaceful than the second, when the election will be breathing hot in the necks of both Republicans and Democrats. Senate Democratic Leader Johnson already has suggested a go-slow policy in attacking Eisenhower, and many of the differences will be on detail, not on basic policy. Eisenhower generally is given good chance of getting his expected requests for:

April 1 cuts in corporation and excise taxes.

A three-year extension of the Reciprocal Trade Act, possibly with wider tariff-cutting powers.

Pay raises for government employees, servicemen and congressmen.

A relatively modest foreign aid program.

A big new highway construction program.

Leaders believe chances have improved for some government action to bolster private health insurance.

Argument Coming

The President's new military manpower plans, including cuts in the standing army and increases in the reserves, seem certain to provoke argument. But Eisenhower may get most of what he wants.

Prospects appear dim for the President's proposals to raise postal rates (including a 4-cent stamp for letters), extend the vote to 18-year-olds, admit Hawaii as a state (unless Alaska is tied in) and to revise the Taft-Hartley law.

Democrats may stir up a big row with proposals to cut income taxes, expected in 1956, and to return to fixed instead of flexible farm price supports. And many of them will fight the President on the Dixon-Yates power contract, the general public-versus-private power issue and probably on some nominations.

SCIENCE: The Hard Way

Another Record

What would happen to an Air Force pilot forced to bail out of a supersonic plane flying at 1,000 m.p.h. at an altitude of 35,000 feet?

Up until this month, nobody could answer that question with certainty. But science—and the Air Force—knows now because Lt. Col. John Paul Stapp simulated the tremendous forces a man would be subjected to under such circumstances. He did it by riding a rocket propelled sled to a world speed record for land travel of 632 m.p.h. and bringing it to a racking halt in less than 1 1/2 seconds. He was blind for 8 1/2 minutes after the ride and received black eyes because his eyeballs were thrown against his eyelids by the sudden stop.

Speed records are only secondary to this aero medical scientist, but the speed the Air Force announced this week was nearly 200 m.p.h. faster than the previous record—also set by Stapp. He performs his tests in a sled shoved at scorching speed by rockets along rails of a 3,500 foot track. A brake is lowered into water between the rails to effect the jarring deceleration.

Stapp was subjected to about nine times the pressure of gravity during five seconds of acceleration on his ride, which blacked out his eyesight for about two seconds. The 1.4 seconds of deceleration subjected

him to a pressure 27 times the force of gravity.

With no windshield to protect him, Stapp had a plastic helmet and clear plastic visor to cover his face. The helmet was fixed to the backrest of the seat so wind pressures could not twist and break his neck. Straps held him securely in the seat.

"We rest the case for deceleration," the colonel said after his test. However, he indicated another and probably faster ride will be needed to determine what type of ejection apparatus can best be used on high speed airplanes.

Quote

Scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer in an address concluding the celebration of Columbia University's 200th anniversary:

"This is a world in which each of us, knowing his limitations... will have to cling to what is close to him, to what he knows, to what he can do, to his friends and his tradition and his love, lest he be dissolved in a universal confusion and know nothing and love nothing."

Sidelights

● There's a rookie patrolman in Rockland, Mass., with cheeks as red as they come. A merciful police department refused to divulge his name, but here's what he did on his first assignment:

Dispatched to direct traffic on the busiest corner in town, he was told to ring headquarters on his police box promptly at 5 p.m. On the same utility pole as the police box is a fire alarm box.

That's right, he turned the wrong crank—thus adding the town's fire engines to the rush hour confusion.

● Nothing like curiosity to cause trouble. 19-year-old George Brown of Omaha was curious about what Detective Inspector Ernest Brown was doing when the inspector's car whizzed by at 55 miles an hour. So he tore after the inspector, and was arrested for speeding by detectives trailing their chief.

What was Detective Inspector Brown doing? He was chasing another man for speeding.

● Maryland state police operating a radar speed checking station outside Gaithersburg had to close up shop after three hours this week. After issuing 26 citations and 45 warnings, the troopers packed up and left because the load became so heavy they could no longer nab violators without causing traffic jams.

Three Big 1955 Questionmarks



Will the "vest pocket war" in the Far East expand into large-scale fighting?

Will Dr. Jonas E. Salk's vaccine conquer polio?

Will the new Eisenhower farm program pass its first big test next spring?

At Least Three Crucial Questions Due for Answers During New Year

Looking Ahead

As the events historians will record for 1955 begin to unfold in coming months, Americans will find—as always—that new questions have a way of cropping up as fast as answers to old ones.

But the new year will provide its flood of answers—whatever its quota of questions—and at least some of them will be final. Three likely to fall into this category concern a boiling kettle of trouble in the Far East, a campaign against the ravages of a cruel disease, and a dilemma

which has pestered both the American economy and its politics for years.

During 1955 the world should find out whether the "vest pocket war" around Formosa will expand into large-scale fighting. During the last months of the old year, a rising crescendo of propaganda was being emitted from the Chinese Communist capital at Peking on the necessity for Red control of Formosa, the refuge of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government.

Guns Firing

Artillery fire and bombers already have been employed in the contest over control of the tiny islands to which the Nationalist cling just off the mainland. Outposts like the Tachens and Quemoy are battlefields now. The big question is: If these islands are invaded as a prelude to an attack on Formosa, will the U.S. 7th Fleet fight in their defense? Although the United States has made clear its determination to defend Formosa itself, policy on the island outposts has been carefully and intentionally concealed, to keep the Reds guessing and thereby

perhaps prevent a final showdown. This cat and mouse game cannot go on forever. Sometime in the next 12 months the issue probably will be resolved.

Salk Vaccine

At home, 1955 will be the year for a historic announcement in medicine: the evaluation of the effectiveness of the polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas E. Salk of the University of Pittsburgh.

Last spring a carefully selected group of grade school children received test inoculations, some of them getting the vaccine and others a dummy shot. All have been watched closely since and data concerning them collected by an evaluation center at Lansing, Mich. Sometime this spring the results of this scientific evaluation will be made public.

In another field at home, the Eisenhower administration's new farm program—emphasizing less government in agriculture—will get its first big test in 1955. If it works, the year will bring a decline in the more than 6 1/2 billion dollars worth of farm surpluses purchased by Uncle

Sam under price support programs. Storage alone on these tons of wheat, butter, cheese, corn, cotton, dried milk, oils and other products overflowing warehouse facilities costs the taxpayers about \$20,000 an hour.

The Eisenhower administration hopes to cut the tremendous treasure of food—a blessing of American abundance which has become a political and economic curse—through lower price guarantees for major crops and production limitations, along with a build-up of markets at home and abroad.

JAPAN: A Nation Groping

By JAMES CARY
AP Foreign Correspondent

Trade Important
TOKYO (AP)—Japan is apparently groping for a new role in the Far East.

In the opinion of many experts here, Japan is searching for a course tailored carefully to its own needs, not necessarily those of the Western democracies.

The fear that Japan may drift away from its close alignment with the United States is understandable. Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama and Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu have both called for greater trade with the Communist world. The first private Japanese passports for travel in Red China since World War II ended have been issued. There is talk of liberalizing the passport law further.

Domestic Appeasement
High U.S. sources have been told confidentially most of this is "political talk." It is considered a means of appeasing fishery interests, traders and families with relatives held captive by the Reds.

Department store executives are hopeful, too. Says B. Earl Puckett, chairman of Allied Stores Corp., biggest chain of department stores in the nation: "There are 'helping' factors affecting department store retailing next year. First, the impact of earlier tax reductions on the consumer will be felt in full for the first time. Second, fuller employment at improved wage levels will result in expanded purchasing power. Third, the trend continues away from consumer durable goods and hard lines to soft lines, and this will benefit both the apparel merchant and the department store operator."

Commenting on its December poll of member purchasing agents, the association points out that "90 per cent of those venturing an opinion anticipate continued improvement in general business."

It won't be a boom in 1955, says the association. Instead, the improvement is likely to be "of the creeping type of the past five months." But that's a lot different from the situation a year ago when practically all the important indicators pointed downward.

Steel producers look for more business. Charles M. White, president of Republic Steel Corp., says the mills will operate at a somewhat higher rate in 1955 because users of steel will no longer be able to live off their inventories.

"Among steel-consuming markets, we see construction continuing as the most active," he asserts. "Not only do we expect both residential and commercial construction to continue at the high rate of activity of previous years, but probably to increase. This increase would be substantial enough to counteract any slight reduction in steel consumption for producer and consumer durables which might occur."

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Reconciled: Ex-King Peter of Yugoslavia and his wife, Princess Alexandra, who had been planning a divorce.

Sentenced: John Wesley Wable, 24-year-old phantom killer of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, to death in the electric chair.

Proposed: By Sen. Mansfield (D-Mont.), a 25 per cent boost in military pay rates to maintain a three million man military force with minimum use of the draft.

Nominated: Gov. John Davis Lodge of Connecticut by President Eisenhower as ambassador to Spain succeeding James Clement Dunn, career diplomat leaving Madrid to become ambassador to Brazil. Gov. Lodge was defeated in November elections in Connecticut.

Ordered: A congressional investigation of the ouster of Wolf Ladejinsky as agricultural attaché in Tokyo.

Little Chance Seen For Quick Solution

By TOM WHITNEY
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KREMLIN political strategists must be racking their brains at this point to think up new dramatic moves to prevent the rearming of West Germany.

The coming weeks and months are going to bring them plenty of chances to shoot off fireworks on this hot international issue.

Armed forces for West Germany are a big problem in every respect for the West and an equally tremendous one for the Soviet leadership. The pitched battle between East and West over it has been going on several years. No quick, final, once-and-for-all result seems likely. It looks as if the arming of Bonn and associated questions will be on the front pages of the world's press for a long time.

The reluctant attitude of the French Parliament towards the Paris agreements to bring West Germany into the North Atlantic Treaty and Western European Union showed the Russians and the rest of the world once more how great are the possibilities for political maneuver in a situation still fluid.

Up to the last month and a half the post-Stalin Soviet government in its efforts to undermine Western unity on German rearmament was following what might be called a soft line. The accent was on sweet reasonableness, with efforts to be nice and to appear to be conciliatory.

Line Changed
This line was pretty effective. It certainly played an important role in wrecking the ill-fated

European Defense Community. However, the Soviet leadership apparently decided about the beginning of November that it was not by itself enough. Thereupon a new "hard" line became the note of the day.

The emphasis was shifted to threats. Thus at a meeting of the Soviet bloc governments in Moscow at the end of November formal declarations were made that if West Germany was actually rearmed the Communist nations would take measures in reply. They would, it was stated, increase their armed forces, arm Eastern Germany and establish a "unified" command.

In the same general spirit were militant statements from Moscow to the French and British governments threatening to annul formally the French-Soviet and British-Soviet alliances.

Next Step
The Kremlin during the next few weeks may make a move aimed at influencing strongly West German public opinion.

Among the possibilities: the Russians might choose this moment for issuance of a call for a new conference on German reunification and this time attempt to discuss "basis for discussion" that free all German elections must be the first step towards this reunification.

The Russians by this step would aim to delay and confuse things once more. They would not in a showdown agree to free all-German elections on terms acceptable to the West, but they would try to throw enough fog on the issue to induce the West Germans to reject any proposal to rearm.

This sort of an approach would involve a reversal by the Russians back to a "soft line," but it probably would not exclude altogether some more threats if the Kremlin leaders felt them to be opportune.

Promises and Threats
The Russian approach to the West Germans is likely to have a carrot and stick character—inducement and threat. The question of reunification will be its theme and the Soviets will try to convince the West Germans on the one hand that if they rearm in union with the West they will never have an opportunity to reunite their own country. At the same time they will try to hold out suggestions that through agreement with the U.S.S.R. such reunification would be possible without war.

The Russians have a fertile field in which to work. West Germany is not by any means enthusiastic about rearming. Chancellor Adenauer, whose political fate hangs in the balance on the issue, has strong opposition both within and without his own government coalition.

The Russians know all this quite well of course. They still have high hopes of not only stopping the rearming of West Germany but using this key issue as a means of breaking up natural product of independence. Western unity.

