

Draft Director Criticizes 'Softness' of U.S. Youth, Lack of Technical Skills

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Major Lewis Hershey, criticizing the "softness" of American youth, said the nation faces an alarming shortage in technical skills.

Hershey, national director of Selective Service, told the National Guard Assn. Wednesday night modern-day luxuries are responsible for the softening effect on American youth.

"We have not yet proved to the world," he said, "that we can keep on inner spring mattresses and remain reasonably tough in body. We have not proven our youth can take easy courses to some degree in college and still remain tough in mind, nor that we can enjoy all of our entertainment and privileges and still be tough and able to accept responsibilities."

Hershey cited specifically the shortage of engineers which he said was brought on by the "inability of kids to study mathematics" and other rigorous courses.

"At the same time," he added, "we hear nothing about Russia's having a shortage of engineers."

He said "our adversaries are not as unintelligent as we would have them be" and are dangerously envious of the American standard of living.


Modern day luxuries, he said, have cost us millions in engineering hours. He blamed the "home" for failing to instill a sense of obligation to the country in the youth.

"It's not the business of the United States fought in Korea. This should have been instilled in the men by the church, the home, the school and the community long before they came to us."

He said Americans must learn to think more of their responsibilities and less of their privileges. And "must produce young men who know why they fight."

Hershey said the United States should maintain a "medium-sized standing force" of a hard core of professionals plus an extensive ready reserve network.

"I don't care how many reserves there are as long as they're ready," he said. He emphasized that the nation must stress quality and not necessarily quantity. "Figures on paper might fool us, but they won't fool Russia."



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Two men died Thursday in Cook county Hospital.

Two other victims died during a blaze Wednesday night in the same hotel for men at 1008 W. Madison St.

Chief Fire Marshal Albert H. Tersen said cause of the fire had not been determined. He estimated damage at \$20,000.

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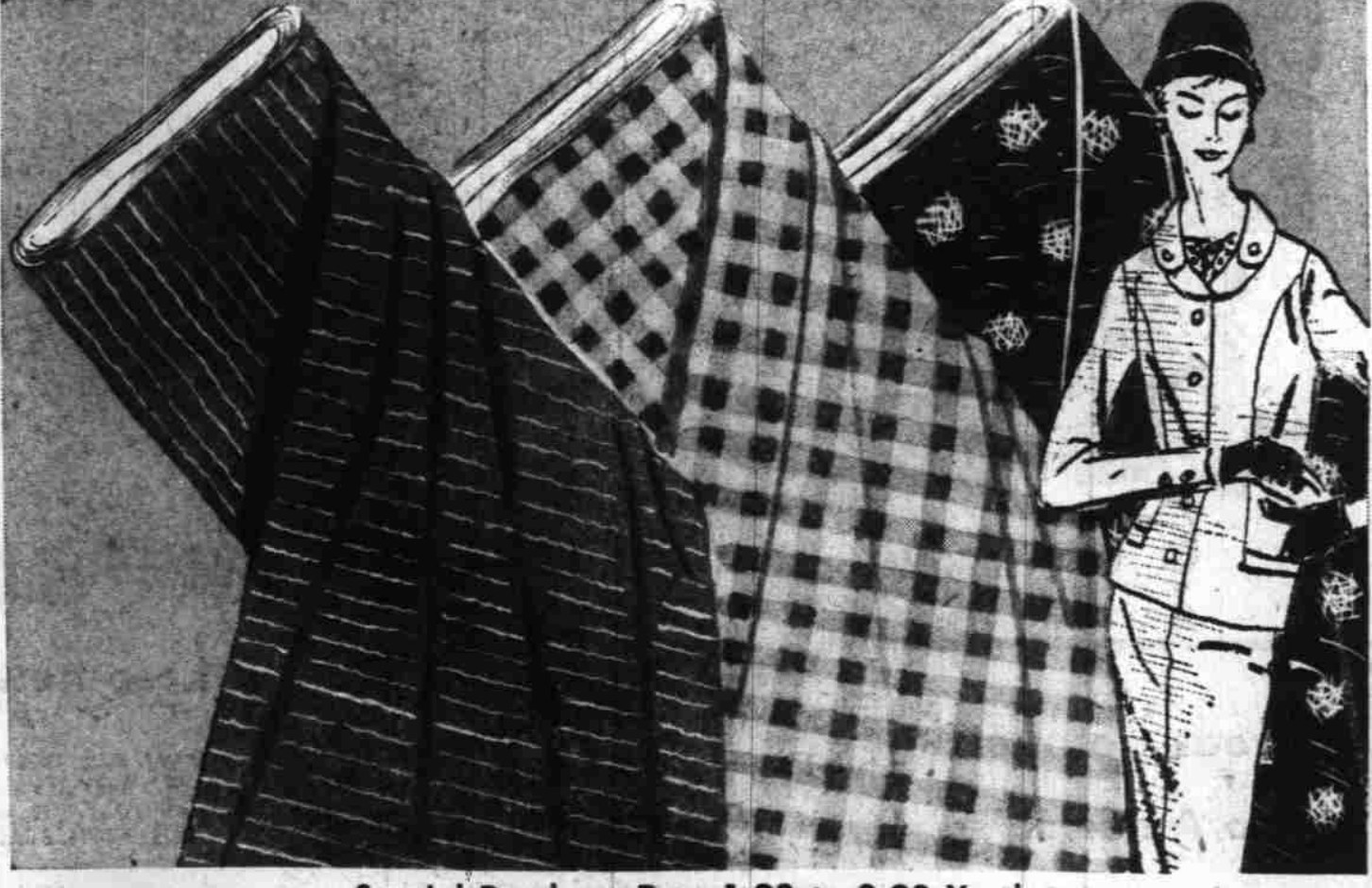
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