

Japanese Population At 'Explosion' Point

By DON BALDWIN

TOKYO, Oct. 20 (AP)—The Japanese people, whose industry and ingenuity welded a chain of tiny, mountainous islands into a great nation, today face a national catastrophe because of a vast and expanding population.

This California-size nation might support 60 million people. A few weeks ago the population topped 90 million, a figure which experts in years past have warned would be the "explosion" point. And government experts say the number of Japanese will increase every year until 1960 when the population will hit a peak of 108,475,000.

Experts around the world are watching Japan's efforts to trim its population to its geographic and economic limits while feeding and housing millions of "surplus" people. This country may be providing a test tube picture of what some scientists believe the whole world must ultimately face.

What is Japan doing to head off catastrophe. It has cut its birth rate to an all-time low in the years since World War II. It has a five-year economic plan which could be projected over a longer period. And some progress is being made toward developing new sources of food supply.

But few experts think Japan can solve its problem alone, and many are hesitant to say a solution exists.

Increase Since War
When the war ended in 1945 Japan counted 72 million people, about two million more than pre-war. In the following 10 years its population increased 17,300,000, more than the 1950 population of Argentina and three times the population of Switzerland.

The birth rate, low in 1945, jumped to 34.3 per 1,000 population by 1947. At the same time the death rate, steady at around 17 per 1,000 prior to the war, began a sharp decline to less than half the prewar rate.

Last year both birth and death rates hit new all-time lows, according to Welfare Ministry statistics. Births totaled 1,730,000, or 19.3 per 1,000 population, compared with about 25 for each 1,000 in the United States. Deaths totaled 690,000 or 7.3 per 1,000, well below America's 1954 average of 9.2 per 1,000.

Abortions Allowed
Although there is a birth control movement in Japan, Dr. Ayanori Okasaki, director of the Welfare Ministry's Institute of Population Problems, says "the sharp decline in the birth rate is due almost wholly to induced abortion permitted under Japan's eugenics protection law."

The ministry calculates that last year the number of abortions actually exceeded live births. Official records list 1,170,000 abortions and Dr. Okasaki says the figure would top two million if all operations were reported.

Legal Contraceptives
The eugenics protection law adopted in 1948, legalizes the sale of contraceptive devices and authorizes physicians to perform abortions: (1) when either parent suffers from a malignant hereditary disease; (2) when continued pregnancy or childbirth would seriously impair the health of the mother for physical or economic reasons and (3) when the pregnancy is due to rape or coercion.

Japan today is the world's third most densely populated nation and even by 1950 the estimated concentration of 760 people per square mile would be less than Holland's present 222 per square mile. However, Japan's population is almost wholly concentrated on 14 per cent of the land which is flat enough to be cultivated.

There are plans to bring more land under cultivation through a

government-backed reclamation program, but progress has been very slow.

The Japanese government is not sitting idly by—nor is it going all out in seeking a solution.

Five-Year Plan
The Economic Planning Board has a five-year economic self-support plan to strengthen Japan's industrial base, expand foreign trade and increase domestically produced food supplies.

The Agriculture-Forestry Ministry is working on new food sources but no extensive program is under way.

The Japanese have been trying for years, without notable success, to promote the use of a synthetic rice which is as nutritious as the natural grain, but unfortunately has an unpleasant taste and smell.

Considerable progress has been made in popularizing bread as a supplement to rice. In the past five years many Japanese have must ultimately face.

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Student Tries to Find Iran in Texas

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oct. 20 (AP)—Mike Sabouri of Teheran, Iran has decided that he can't be classified as a foreign student at Oklahoma City University. Introduced to another OCU student, his new acquaintance asked where he was from. "Iran," replied Mike. "Oh," said the other student, "and what part of Texas is that in?"

started eating bread, which in urban areas at least is of uniformly high quality.

It has been suggested that emigration might ease Japan's difficulties since the rate of natural increase already is low.

At the moment it would be difficult if not impossible to find land for resettlement of a sizable number of Japanese emigrants, and many authorities here think such a program would be of little value anyway.

Governor Races in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan Draw Interest

By J. W. Davis

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (AP)—Governors will be elected in 29 states Nov. 6 and some of the standout races are in three of the largest states—Illinois, Ohio and Michigan.

Iowa and Massachusetts present races of unusual interest too.

On the basis of what has happened over the last six years, five or more governorships may be expected to shift from one party to the other.

In 1954, Democrats won 19 of 34 races, turning out eight Republican state administrations.

In 1952, Republicans won 20 of 30 races, turning out five Democrats.

In 1950, Republicans won 22 of 33 races, turning out six Democrats.

Maine Race Run
Of the 29 governorships at stake next month, 13 are now held by Democrats and 16 by Republicans.

Maine has already re-elected its Democratic governor.

On the basis of polls, appraisals by political experts, registration figures, etc., it would appear that at this time the Democrats are ahead in 11 states and the Republicans in 9, with races in the other nine closely disputed or real toss-ups.

It would also appear that in nearly every one of the 29 states President Eisenhower may be expected to poll more votes than the highest state Republican candidate.

The reverse is reported in most states as to Adlai Stevenson and the Democratic state candidates.

State Situations

Some specific state situations: Illinois — Democrat Richard B. Austin is conceded an upset chance against Republican Gov. William G. Stratton.

The prime issue centers on the conviction and imprisonment of

Orville E. Hodge, a Republican who was state auditor, for the theft of more than a million dollars in state funds. Hodge quit the GOP state ticket on which he had sought re-election.

Austin, a Chicago Superior Court judge replaced Cook County Treasurer Herbert C. Paschen in the middle of the campaign after Paschen withdrew. His withdrawal followed disclosures that many bankers who held county fund deposits kicked into his office "employees' fund."

The relative national and state party strength is an open question in Illinois.

Ohio — With Democrat Gov. Frank Lausche leaving the state house to run for the U.S. Senate, the governorship contest is between C. William O'Neill, Republican state attorney general, and Michael V. DiSalle, Democrat who once headed the federal price control administration.

The Youngstown Vindicator, the only major Ohio newspaper currently running a poll on the race, has compiled figures which, if projected statewide, would show O'Neill the winner by 80,000 to 100,000 votes out of an expected four million total.

Writers for the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Dayton Journal-Herald expect O'Neill to win Toledo Blade and Akron Beacon Journal writers look for a very close race.

Michigan — The Present outlook is for Democrat G. Mennen Williams to win an unprecedented fifth consecutive term as governor.

However, Republicans are making the strongest organizational effort in years, behind Albert E. Cobb, three-time winner as mayor in Detroit's nonpartisan government.

Cobb and the other Republicans are hoping that Eisenhower will give them a lift by a visit to Mich-

igan. The Detroit News poll shows Williams ahead but not so far that Cobb couldn't catch up.

Iowa — A poll taken in late September by the Des Moines Register and Tribune showed these percentages: Republican Gov. Leo A. Hoegh, 39 per cent; Democrat Herschel C. Loveless, 46; undecided, 15.

Hoegh has been defending his administration against charges by Loveless that Iowa is one of the highest taxed states.

Massachusetts — The race for governor is extraordinarily close this year. Two years ago Christian A. Herter (R) was re-elected by 75,000 votes over Democrat Robert F. Murphy.

This year the Republican candidate, Sumner G. Whittier, doesn't appear as strong as Herter at the present while the Democratic candidate, Foster Furcolo, apparently has gained strength.

Here's a rundown on the other

states: Democrats ahead — Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Minnesota (may be close), Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Texas and West Virginia. All these nine states have Democratic governors. The list is raised to 10 with Michigan, and to 11 on the basis of the poll showing in Iowa, now with a Republican governor.

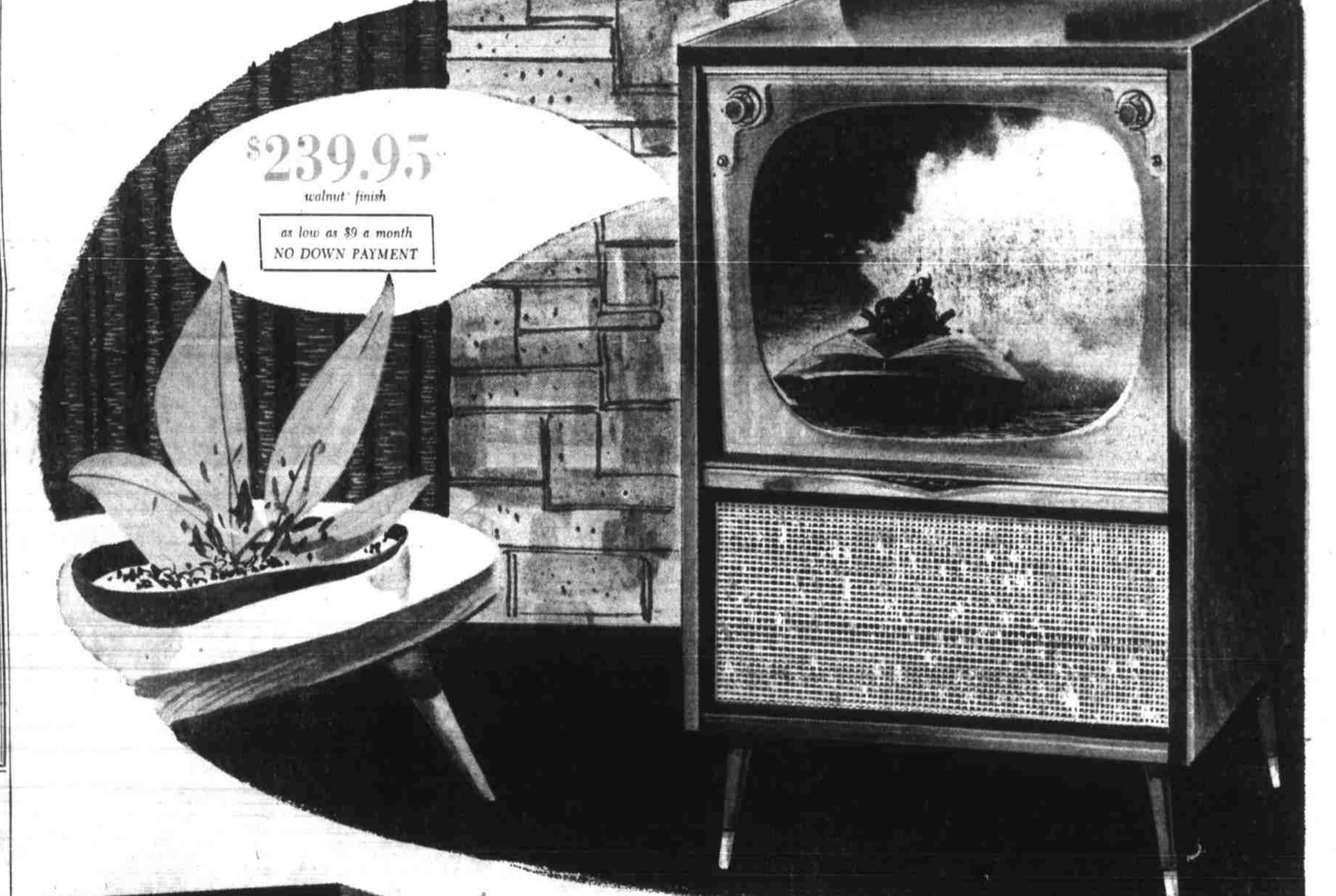
MAU MAU AT LARGE
NAIROBI, Kenya, Oct. 20 (AP)—British authorities estimate 400 Mau Mau terrorists are still at large, mostly along the Kenya-Uganda border. Mau Mau losses during four years of guerrilla warfare, counting killed, captured and surrendered, totalled nearly 14,000. The Mau Mau aim was to drive the white man from East Africa.

In 1929 Lt. (later Gen.) James H. Doolittle made the first all-British flight at Mitchell Field, Long Island.

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