

GILBERT'S "What Young People Think"

Trust Reds? Not Teen-Agers, But They Doubt War Coming Up

By EUGENE GILBERT of the Gilbert Youth Research Co. The most important international relationship in the world today is the sometimes hot, sometimes cold diplomatic struggle between the United States and Russia. Perhaps the generation with the most at stake in the ups and downs of American-Russian relations are the teen-agers of today—the soldiers and soldiers' wives of the future—who have spent their entire lives in the shadow of war. What do they think of U.S.-Soviet relations? Of the possibility of war? Of nuclear weapons? Our polltakers questioned a segment of American teen-agers—the Russian youngsters weren't available to us—on those very matters. They told us: The United States just cannot trust Russia. A third world war is not inevitable. But, if it comes, it will be nuclear war at its worst. **Girls More Trustful** Distrust of Russia is rampant among American young people.

Nearly nine out of ten told us they feel the Soviets can't be trusted. "Russia wants to rule the whole world," said a 16-year-old girl. "They're too sneaky," in the opinion of Roger Smith, 17, of Bloomfield, N.J. Jimmy Smith of Sioux Falls, S.D., summed up his distrust in one word: "Greediness." The girls are a little less suspicious than the boys of the Soviets. Nearly 8 per cent of those in our poll expressed some degree of trust. On the other hand, less than 5 per cent of the boys said we can trust Russia at all. Teen-aged thoughts on the possibility of a third world war showed a vastly different opinion. More than half (55 per cent) said they do not think another general war is inevitable while only one in three expressed the feeling that world-wide hostilities are bound to come. We queried the minority quite closely on this. **Doubt World War III** Why is World War III inevitable? "Russia will only be stopped by a defeat in an out-and-out war," answered an 18-year-old. "The prophecies of the Bible point toward two great wars," said Francis McLue, a New Jersey teen-ager who apparently doesn't count World War I as a great war. "Russia is too bull-headed to think of anything but war," said 16-year-old Judy Wilkens. "The poor people under Communist rule are going to rebel and we will help them," said another 16-year-old girl. **Girls Fatalistic** Strangely, the girls—who are more trustful of Russia—have a more fatalistic attitude toward a third world war than do the boys. About three out of eight girls said they think a general war inevitable while only two out of eight among the boys feel the same way. Roughly, three out of four teen-agers feel that, should another war come, it will be an all-out affair with the hydrogen bomb used by both sides. Only 17 per cent of the boys said they think the H-bomb will not be used, but 23 per cent of the girls predicted that the dread hydrogen device would remain in the stockpile. **Half Hope for Disarmament** On the question of disarmament, American teen-agers hold inconsistent attitudes. Three out of four feel that the United States should keep trying to negotiate a disarmament program. Perhaps this stems from the fact that the young people, distrustful of Russia in the first place, feel that we are still stronger than the Soviets. Only 17 per cent of those polled said Russia's military strength is greater than that of the United States and half of them feel Russian power has gone downhill since the death of the old dictator, Josef Stalin. Our survey on the thoughts of teen-agers about U.S.-Soviet relations also bore out a point which we have noticed many times during our polls: Opinions of young people are very easily influenced.

The Questions Asked

- Can we trust Russia?
- Should we keep trying to negotiate a disarmament program with Russia? Do you see any hope for eventual disarmament?
- Do you think a third world war is inevitable? If yes, what are your reasons for thinking so?
- Do you think Russia is stronger or weaker than the United States? Do you think Russia is stronger or weaker since the death of Stalin?
- If there is another world war, do you think the hydrogen bomb will be used?
- Do you think anybody influences your opinions?



CAN WE TRUST RUSSIA?			
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
BOYS	5%	93%	2%
GIRLS	8%	84%	8%

IS W.W.III INEVITABLE?			
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
BOYS	29%	62%	9%
GIRLS	37%	47%	16%

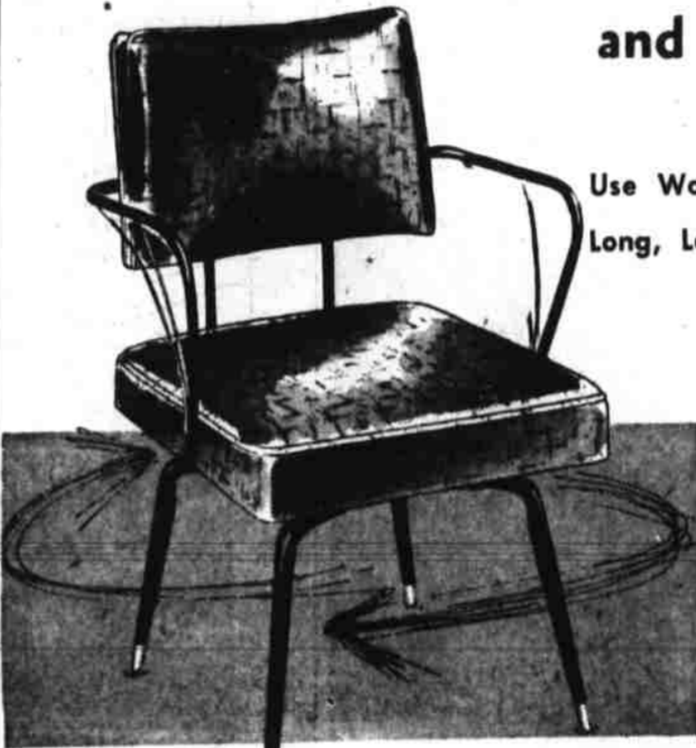
IF WAR COMES WILL IT BE H-BOMB WARFARE?			
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
BOYS	83%	17%	
GIRLS	63%	23%	14%

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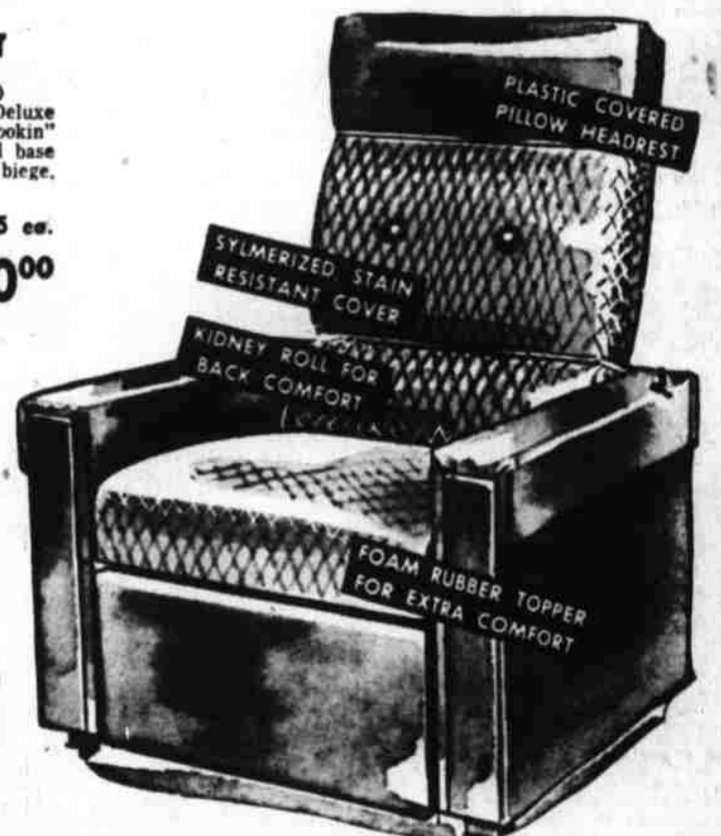


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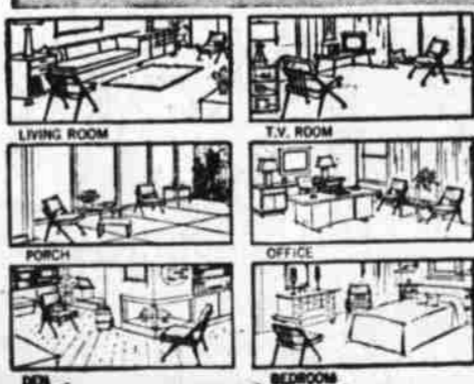
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