

## Unequal Power Supplies Seen

Government Asked To Alter Program

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Insufficient electric power in some areas and an oversupply in others is predicted unless the federal government revamps its electric power expansion program.

An official committee of power experts said the Great Lakes and Gulf area especially face a major power shortage problem in the face of a heavy defense load. The group said the Northwest and Far West, excluding the Pacific Northwest, have prospects for "increased surplus."

The committee recommended that the government restudy its expansion plans, correct "these geographic maldistributions" and work out a "realistic" program for the next three years.

The Defense Production Administration (DPA) issued a summary of the committee's report Friday but said it had reached no decision on the recommendation. The committee was created by DPA last September during the power and aluminum crisis in the Pacific Northwest.

The committee said the expansion plans may not provide sufficient power facilities. But it said a speed-up in production may be difficult because manufacturers of generating equipment are booked to capacity through 1953.

## Training Plane Lost in Alaska

FAIRBANKS, Alaska—(AP)—An Air Force plane with five men aboard was missing in the Alaska interior Saturday after the pilot radioed he was "hopelessly lost." The plane, a C-47, was on a round trip training flight from Eielson Air Force Base near here to Umiat, 300 miles north of Fairbanks.

The distress message came at 12:45 a.m. It said the pilot thought he was near Northway, Alaska, which is 250 miles south of Fairbanks.

By 9 a.m. the plane would have been out of gasoline. Planes immediately started a wide search.

## Flue Fires Bring End To Four Days of Quiet

Two Saturday afternoon flue fires broke a four-day spell without an alarm for the Eugene Fire Department.

The 96-hour fire-less period came to an end with a flue fire at 1:42 p.m. at 2228 Columbia St. The second flue fire of the afternoon was a 5:03 p.m. at 482 W. 6th Ave. No damage was reported at either place.

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## Steel Output Gains Despite Shortages

By RICHARD FISKE  
Associated Press Staff Writer

NEW YORK—(AP)—Industry turned out goods at a near record rate this week but the important steel industry's production was threatened by scarcities of scrap metal.

The nation's steel mills turned out 2,041,000 tons of ingots and castings, a slight gain over the previous week despite shortages.

Economists were still forecasting for the year ahead and in most cases their predictions were for large production, substantial sales but less profits.

President Truman's message to Congress gave business and industry plenty to think about.

It saw a continuing need for high taxes, more money for more foreign aid and increased military spending.

Other government officials stressed the increase of defense production and its impact on civilian goods.

During the week the government announced sharp cutbacks in the use of metals for civilian purposes.

Defense Production Administrator Manly Fleischmann outlined the cuts planned for the quarter beginning April 1.

Such items as television sets, radios and refrigerators will be trimmed to 45 per cent of the pre-Korea level and 10 per cent from current production rates.

Automobiles will be cut to at least seven per cent below the current rate.

Allowances for home building and almost all types of civilian construction will be 45 per cent below the total of 1,100,000 dwellings actually begun last year.

Dun and Bradstreet, the business reporting service, said the traditional January clearance sales gave retail trade a bit of a lift, although retail dollar volume fell below the year ago figures for the first time in three months.

## Two Problems Still Blocking Korean Truce

TOKYO—(AP)—The deadlocked Korean truce talks resumed Sunday with no agreement in sight on the two major issues stalling the negotiations.

Allied representatives, determined to keep the talks going, said it appeared the Reds were prepared to break off the negotiations rather than drop their insistence on the right to build airfields during an armistice.

On the other critical issue, that of prisoner exchange, Rear Adm. Ruthven E. Libby said Saturday he was convinced that the Reds are determined not to accept the Allied-proposed principle of voluntary repatriation of war prisoners.

Subcommittees discussing the two issues met on schedule at 11 a.m. (6 p.m. Saturday PST) in separate tents at Panmunjom, still deadlocked on both points.

The Reds convinced the U.N. command their opposition to voluntary repatriation for prisoners—the freedom to choose sides after release—is not a stalling maneuver but a determined effort to kill the plan entirely.

## France Fails To Get U.S. Military Aid

WASHINGTON—(AP)—France

has failed to get America's promise of more and faster military aid or commitments to send U.S. ground troops to Indo-China if the Chinese Communists invade the troubled Southeast Asian nation, it was reported Saturday.

U. S. officials refused to give any hint of results of Friday's six and a half hour meeting in the Pentagon with British and French military leaders.

It was indicated, however, that the United States turned down France's requests because this country does not feel a new Communist thrust is imminent in Indo-China.

No date was set for further meetings. Field Marshal Sir William Slim, chief of the British Imperial General Staff, said Gen. Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, asked the conferees to say nothing about the discussions.

## 64 Die in 27 State Wrecks

SALEM—(AP)—Oregon's worst accidents of 1951 totaled 27 and cost 64 lives, the State Traffic Safety Division said Saturday.

The division said: "If Oregon drivers had avoided seven accidents last year, 24 persons probably would still be alive today. And if 20 other smash-ups had been forestalled, 40 men, women and children now on the traffic fatality list would be alive."

Seven of the 27 "worst accidents of 1951" reached what the division calls mass highway slaughter class—each resulting in three or more deaths.

## Truman's Speech Warms Up British

By J. M. ROBERTS JR.  
Associated Press News Analyst

It's an old truism that the way things look depends on where you are standing.

In the United States, President Truman's State of the Union message was received, judging from the weight of comment I have seen and heard, as something less than masterful.

His assessment of 1951 as a year of great gains has been widely questioned, and the message in general seemed uninspiring.

In Britain, however, the report seems to have been well received. The Manchester Guardian, tagged as liberal, even compared it with Prime Minister Churchill's Christmas broadcast in grimness and uncompromising devotion to the tasks of world affairs.

"Mr. Truman's steadfastness may help us to brace ourselves for the equally stern message which the Chancellor of the Exchequer is preparing for the reassembly of Parliament," the paper said.

The News Chronicle of London, also tagged liberal, looked at the domestic rather than the international angles of the address and decided that the President was steering "well left of center," but that, because of political reasons, his social program will never be fully carried out "though there is no real economic reason why it should not be. The American economy is so strong that it could carry the enormous burden of

armament without reducing the standard of living of its people."

A lot of the President's advisers have also been saying the same thing about America's economic strength—but the Defense Production Administration already is ordering cuts in consumer production just the same. There are non-economic arguments against the President on this subject, too.

The London Daily Herald, Labor, thinks the idea known over here as "Point Four" is the thing. "Much depends on how seriously Congress takes Mr. Truman's request for more economic aid to Asia's poorest peoples. Many millions will turn to Communism in their despair unless the West does more to help them."

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## Booby Traps Felt Behind Red Plan

By WELLINGTON LONG  
United Press Staff Correspondent

PARIS—(UP)—The Soviet Union made Saturday what appeared to be a major concession toward the Western point of view on atomic control, but American and British United Nations sources said the proposal was full of booby traps.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Vishinsky, in what may turn out to be one of the major propaganda coups of this session, told the U. N. Political Committee that Russia is ready to remove the last two obstacles that have previously barred an atomic agreement.

These were agreement on simultaneous prohibition of atomic bombs and atomic control, with continuing inspection, to see that everybody lives up to his promise not to make atomic bombs.

"Ban on Production" But Vishinsky's informal explanation of his proposal to reporters raised many doubts as to his real intentions, and American delegation sources said his plan was "booby-trapped" to try to get for Russia what she has been after for six years.

An assembly ban on atomic production without any solid guarantee of control.

This, they explained, would force the U.S. to quit making A-bombs, while no one would be assured of being permitted to go into the Soviet Union to see if she, too, had stopped building them.

As Vishinsky explained his plan:

"Until a (control) convention is worked out, honest people will consider it obligatory and binding, while dishonest people will only consider it as a moral phrase."

"If the U.S. wishes to continue production of atomic weapons after the ban has been declared by the General Assembly, it may do so. But it will not be able to do so after the control has become effective, thus making the ban binding on all."

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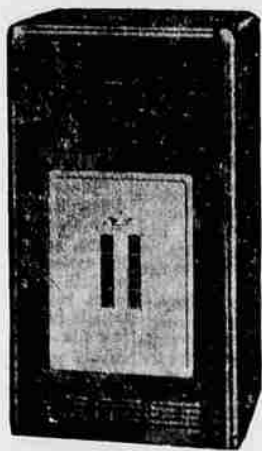


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