



GI Gold Rush—Men and officers of the 5th and 9th reconnaissance technical squadrons stationed at the Solano county air base pan for gold at Webber creek, near Placerville, Calif., in search of nuggets to gain funds for the purchase of equipment for their recreation room. Under the seasoned guidance of old-time prospectors, the GIs tried hard and had a lot of fun, but didn't enrich their recreation room fund by very much. (Acme Telephoto)

Study A Bomb Use by Infantry

Washington, Dec. 1 (AP)—Gen. J. Lawton Collins, army chief of staff, said today that "serious study is being given to applying the atomic bomb to infantry tactics."

His comment, given in answer to a news conference question, represented a departure from earlier military thinking.

In the first years after the war, military men felt that the mass destruction characteristic of the weapon meant it would be useful only for strategic attack on cities. It would be too powerful for use against troops in the field.

Collins, replying to other questions at the conference, also said:

1. The army is buying out of current funds new models of 28-ton light tanks, building a sample of a medium 35-ton tank, and is studying plans—but has no prototype model yet—for a heavy tank of more than 50 tons.

It also is purchasing many new high-reaching anti-aircraft guns, the "skysweep."

2. The joint chiefs of staff have agreed on a plan for defense of Alaska which will be carried out as soon as housing for troops can be completed. It is "not a grandiose plan, just a modest plan."

Meanwhile there is an interim plan to "take care of the situation if anything happens" before housing is completed and more troops are moved in.

3. Collins knows of no plan to rearm Japan or build up a Japanese army.

4. The individual commanders of each of the six armies in the United States now have authority to take immediate action in their own areas if an attack should occur, without waiting to ask permission from the Pentagon.

Highways Bare

The pavement is bare on all Oregon highways, the state highway commission said today.

Street cars formerly used in New York City now operate in Vienna, Lima, Peru, and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Airforce Cuts Aleutian Bases

Washington, Dec. 1 (AP)—The air force said today that because of money limitations and a manpower shortage it is withdrawing personnel from six installations in the Aleutian islands airway system. The installations will be turned over to other government agencies.

"These forces," the air force said in answer to a question, "have little or no defensive capability and their withdrawal will have no appreciable effect on the air defenses of the United States and Alaska."

"Since the users deriving the most benefit from these facilities are now civil air carriers, we

intend to turn over to other government agencies such air force and; Cape base on Unimak island; as they may desire to continue in operation." The bases involved are: She-liary field on Atka island; an auxiliary field at Amchitka; Davis base on Adak island; fixed installations on the chain near Dutch Harbor, and an auxiliary field on Atka island.

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FACES HIDE PLANS FOR DESTRUCTION

Skating on Edge of Unreality; 5 Men Decide Atom's Fate

By JAMES MARLOW

Washington, Nov. 30 (AP)—The room was bright with sunlight and jammed with newsmen. The five members of the atomic energy commission came in and sat down behind a long table.

This was something new. Every month the commission was going to have a news conference like this where reporters could ask questions about the atomic program and the commissioners would try to answer.

It was understood they could not answer every question since the program was tied in with national security and there was a law against giving away atomic secrets.

For example, if someone asked "are we building a bomb 1,000 times as powerful as the one which destroyed Hiroshima?" A yes or no answer might be of military importance to the Russians.

So, in a case like that, and there would be many similar cases, the commissioners would turn aside the question with a "no comment."

Perhaps in recent years you have felt in yourself a sense of unreality, a feeling that somehow the world and events were whirling past too fast for you, as you read about Schnorkel submarines, jet planes traveling faster than sound, and all the rest of modern wonders.

Well, I had a sense of unreality like that Monday during the news conference of the atomic energy commissioners. The chairman, David E. Lillenthal, who's quitting Dec. 31, did most of the answering.

But since the atom is something you can't visualize, and since work on the atom is over the heads of most laymen, the questions and the answers or the "no comments" seemed almost to be dealing with an unreal world.

And yet all of us in the room knew that those five atomic commissioners were engaged in two separate searches:

How to make more powerful weapons from knowledge of the atom and how to find ways of using the atom to help mankind.

the atom could be used for peace?

So the question and answers skidded around the two main questions which weren't even asked: What's the score now? And where are we headed?

The law would have forbidden an answer to the first and not even the commissioners could have answered the second.

Certain types of television interference which make themselves known visually are called "snow" because they look just like that on the screen.

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