

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS of Main Street and the World

Reds Explode Second Atomic Bomb; American Harvest Is Satisfactory

THE RUSSIAN BOMB—The question of what the Russians have been doing about the atomic bomb since the first explosion was announced in September, 1949, was answered last week with a White House announcement that another bomb had been exploded.

A few days later Stalin made the announcement in Russia. It was the first time the Russian people had been given any information concerning that country's atomic bomb progress.

The announcement was received in the home towns of the nation much more calmly than the report of the first explosion. The White House statement which said the new explosion was an atomic bomb, belies Communist propaganda that Russia's atomic energy development is strictly for peaceful purposes and not the manufacture of weapons.

The White House announcement said, in part: "In spite of Soviet pretensions that their atomic energy program is being directed exclusively toward peaceful purposes, this event confirms again that the Soviet Union is continuing to make atomic weapons."



Warren Austin, (left), chief U.S. delegate to the UN, is greeted by Philip Jessup as he is reported to a senate committee to testify in defense of Jessup's nomination as a UN delegate. Austin volunteered to appear in behalf of Jessup, who is accused by Sen. McCarthy of being "a dupe of the Communists."

Shortly after the new explosion was announced, a British source said the Russians probably now have a stockpile of 50 atomic bombs.

Although the Russians have many able scientists, much of their rapid progress in atomic development is due to secrets learned by such men as Klaus Fuchs and Bruno Pontecorvo.

IDENTIFICATION TAGS

The Federal Civil Defense Administration has recommended that every civilian in the United States and its territories wear an identification tag bearing his name and address, blood type, religion, and the name and address of a person to be notified in case of injury or death. The agency recommended the tag be worn permanently on a necklace, bracelet or on a chain around the ankle.

In the event of all-out war or atomic attack, the tag would serve to identify not only the injured or dead, but the mentally ill, persons suffering from shock or amnesia, and small children. It would facilitate medical attention, help to reunite families, and be useful in legal claims of various kinds associated with damage to or destruction of life and property.

The procurement and distribution of such an identification device, and the establishment of rules for wearing it, will be the responsibilities of state civil defense agencies.

THE WHITE HOUSE—Senators, ever conscious of grass roots democracy and its lack of pretentiousness, asked a few pointed questions last week concerning the White House which has been undergoing remodeling since December 7, 1949.

The senators were told "there is no royal elegance in the building. It is in keeping with dignity, but there is nothing of elegance in this building that is not equalled in many, many a private home throughout the country. It is dignified and fine, but not too fine."

All this was told behind closed doors to the senate appropriations committee before it recommended spending another \$261,000 on the reconstruction of the building. Reconstruction is expected to be complete early next year.

The need for additional funds (\$5,500,000 has already been spent) was attributed to increased costs of materials and unexpected delays. The building which had been on the verge of collapse has been reinforced with steel, a basement added, and new quarters made in what was formerly the attic.

AMERICAN HARVEST—Americans will eat well this coming year and, at the same time, will be able to fill its world food commitments, according to the Department of Agriculture's report of the 1951 crop situation.

It has been a trying year due to the Kansas-Missouri flood area and drought damage in a number of other sections. But the 1951 harvest is described as satisfactory.

The corn crops will be in excess of 3,000,000,000 bushels. The Agriculture department had asked for 3,500,000,000 bushels. The winter wheat harvest is expected to total 1,000,000,000 bushels, a little less than the department asked, but not dangerously low.

Generally other crops followed the wheat-corn pattern.

NEW TRUCE TALKS—Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway has agreed to the Panmunjom area as a site for new Korean cease-fire talks. The village is located six miles east of Kaesong and 12 road miles northwest of Munsan.

The agreement on a site for the talks does not mean, however, that the talks will actually take place. There remains to be settled a number of technical questions concerning neutrality and policing of the area that could disrupt the best made plans.

Meanwhile, savage battles were being fought in west Korea with the Reds using artillery at a rate unknown to the Communists since the start of the war. But the Allied fall offensive continues to grind out small, hard-won gains at tremendous cost to the enemy.



American infantrymen fire a 75-MM recoilless rifle during front line action in Korea. Fighting in Korea has increased in recent weeks.

DRAFT CALL—Home town draft boards have begun reclassifying 500,000 married non-fathers. Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, said the men would be inducted into the armed forces as rapidly as they can be reclassified and processed, but estimated that fewer than 200,000 of the 500,000 would be reclassified 1-A.

Hershey urged men who have failed to notify their local draft boards that they have become fathers to do so immediately. He also reminded draft eligible men that the selective service law places upon the registrant the responsibility to notify his board of a change of status. Once the order to report for induction has been issued it is too late to reopen the case.

THE SERIES—Americans in every part of the nation last week forgot their worries long enough to listen to the world series. Wherever there was a radio, at home, in the grocery stores, filling station, poolrooms or fire stations, baseball fans listened to the Giants and Yankees battle for the championship. And it was the Yankees, playing ball like the Yankees of old, making 10 double plays during the series, who were crowned champs, taking the final game from the Giants 4-3.

DEFENSE BOND DRIVE

Americans Are Hanging on to Bonds

The Treasury department reported last week that more Americans are hanging on to more defense bonds than ever before. The Treasury said a new peak of \$34,506,000,000 in defense bonds outstanding was reached October 1. The previous high was \$34,543,000,000 in June, 1950.

The defense bond drive which began September 3 and ends October

27 is proving to be a big success. In addition, fewer bonds were cashed last month than at any time in the past 17 months.

The department reported 6,200,000 Americans are buying bonds through payroll deduction. At present one out of every two families in the nation hold defense bonds of some kind. The ratio is expected to increase.

DOING BUSINESS ON MAIN STREET

—A Weekly Newsletter

● Of interest to retail meat dealer along Main Street is report of OPS that thus far in nation-wide slaughterhouse probe, officers have uncovered 934 violations by 435 slaughterhouses out of 1145 investigated. Michael V. DiSalle, OPS director, said as a result, "Indeed the American Meat Institute, in a statement personally attacking me, made it clearer than ever before that their objective is the destruction of price ceilings for beef." In meantime, senate banking committee has voted to invoke slaughter quotas which was kicked out by same committee in recommendations on 1950 National Production Act.

RETAIL SALES BELOW LAST YEAR

● Department of Commerce reports retail sales in August totaled \$12,100,000,000, 5 per cent below a year ago. In contrast, chain and mail order sales for August were \$2,500,000,000, 3 per cent above a year ago. Retail food prices remained about same between August 27 and September 15, Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Retail food price index for Sept. 15 was 12 per cent above pre-Korean level of June 15, 1950.

● Of interest to farm cooperatives, hardware stores, elevators and all handlers of agricultural liming materials is OPS ceiling price regulation on such materials. Regulation applies to all materials sold for spraying, dusting and soil liming purposes and includes pulverized limestone, limestone screenings and meal, burned lime, hydrated lime, air-slaked lime, etc. Ceilings for wholesalers and retailers are determined by adding to cost of materials and costs of delivery, handling and spreading, average percentage mark-up received during base period.

FARM PRODUCTS SHOW SLIGHT INCREASE

● Bureau of Labor Statistics reported average primary prices advanced 0.4 per cent for the week ending Sept. 25, 4.2 per cent above level of a year ago and 12.9 per cent above the pre-Korean average. In farm products group increases were reported for grains, livestock, live poultry, raw cotton, apples and potatoes. Sharp increases in prices of meats, butter and lard were responsible for increase. Eggs, oranges, onions and wool declined.

● Office of Price Stabilization announced it has started nation-wide survey of grocery margins to determine how present markups in OPS CFR 14, 15 and 16 compare with margins of May to June 24, 1950.

● Consumer installment credit outstanding rose \$155,000,000 in August. Total outstanding at end of August was \$13,060,000,000, about \$50,000,000 above a year ago, but nearly \$400,000,000 below peak reached last December.

● Price support level for 1951 corn crop was pegged at \$1.57 per bushel, national average, by Department of Agriculture. Price reflects 90 per cent of Oct. 1 parity price and is three cents a bushel higher than minimum average of \$1.54 announced last February.

— Prepared by the Washington Bureau of WNU Features.

ARMED SERVICES

QUESTION BOX

(Send your questions about the armed forces or any aspect of military service to: Walter Sheard, Armed Services Question Box, 1057 National Press Building, Washington 4, D. C. Answers will be given in this column.)

THE Veterans Administration post-cut-off-date rulings apply to most, but not all, veterans now in training. Those few not affected include veteran-trainees who were discharged from service less than four years ago and whose individual cut-off dates not yet arrived. A veteran continuing his training after the cut-off date must pursue his course continuously until it is completed—except for interruptions beyond his control. Such interruptions include the normal summer vacation, as well as recall to active military service.

A Joint Landing Force Board has recently been established at the Marine Corps schools, Quantico, Virginia, to speed inter-service agreement on amphibious landing techniques. This new board is one of several joint boards being established within the armed services to develop operational matters of joint concern. The board will provide the means for solving, on the working level, mutual problems of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force in the landing force field.

Q. Will the Veterans Administration find me a job? I am a World War II veteran. A.P.S., Canyon, Minn.

A. The VA has no job-finding functions, under laws established by Congress. The place to go is your local state employment office.

Q. My daughter will be 18 next July, which is during the summer vacation between school terms. She is receiving death pension payments because of the death of my husband, a World War I veteran. Will the VA stop the payments between the time of her eighteenth birthday and the time that she starts school in the fall? Mrs. M.P.M., Manor, Ga.

A. No. As long as your daughter enters school at the end of the vacation period, the payments may, with the approval of VA, be continued during the summer after her eighteenth birthday, even though she is not actually in school during that time.

Q. I have just finished Public Law 16 training, and I expect to continue drawing subsistence checks for the two months following my rehabilitation. If I reenter military service, will the checks still keep coming to me? D.S.P., Watson, Ill.

A. No, you are not entitled to receive subsistence allowance if you are getting active service pay.

Q. Does time spent in the WAC during World War II count toward building up entitlement for GI bill training? J.B.B., Defoe, Ky.

A. No. However, time spent in the WAC, after it became a component of the Army in 1943, does count.

Washington Plans U.N. Day Observance

The Army Corps of Engineers has completed 90 per cent of the 1951 program to rehabilitate Army posts, camps and stations. Housing and training facilities for more than 675,000 officers and men have been occupied or are ready for occupancy. Upon completion of the \$113,000,000 program early in 1952, troop facilities for 745,000 men will have been rehabilitated.

Representatives of each national

contingent now fighting as part of the United Nations forces in Korea will be flown to Washington, D. C., to participate in the observance of United Nations Day on October 24. Following the ceremonies in Washington, the group will be divided into two parties. One will make a tour of Southern states, the other of Northern states, and both groups will meet in San Francisco on Thanksgiving Day, prior to their return to Korea.



CONFERENCE ON ALL-OUT ATOMIC EXPANSION . . . From left to right, Senator Brien McMahon (D., Conn.), chairman of the joint congressional atomic energy committee, talks with atomic energy commissioners, Henry D. Smyth, Thomas E. Murray and J. Keith Glennan, shortly before the A.E.C. members met with the atomic committee in secret session at the Capitol recently. McMahon announced that he will ask the atomic committee to approve his resolution calling for an all-out atomic expansion. McMahon has said that \$6 billion a year could give the United States an atomic army, air force and navy.



CZECH FUGITIVES FROM RED URANIUM MINES . . . These six Czechs are happy in the refugee camp Valka, near Nuernberg, Germany, after their escape from the dreaded Joachimov uranium mines where they were forced to mine uranium ore for the Russians. The six were sentenced to long-term forced labor by a Czech court for anti-Communist activities. They were in the mines for two years, working under inhuman conditions 435 feet below the surface, before they made their daring escape and surrendered to German border police. They hope to reach the U. S. or Canada. They were fed the best meal they had enjoyed in five years when they were taken to the German camp.



CLAIMS CHILD . . . Mrs. Dorothea Hooker, Newport, R.I., socialite, mother of slain Dorothy Hooker Cahill, meets her grandson, Michael Cahill, for first time in San Francisco. The child was placed in a guidance center after body of his mother was found in apartment of her common-law husband, Thomas Cahill, who admitted stabbing his wife to death. Mrs. Hooker has asked custody of little Michael. Charles McGinnis, a friend of Mrs. Cahill, has also filed a claim.



"MISS EUROPE" . . . Lovely Jaqueline Genton parades up the ramp after she was chosen as "Miss Europe" in Palermo, Sicily. This lovely lady from Losanna, Switzerland, won out over beauties from other European nations.



RUSSIAN NEWSMEN . . . Bill Mardo (left), newcomer to the Washington staff of the Soviet news agency Tass, stands beside a phone booth as Mikhail Federov, chief of the Tass Washington bureau, dictates his account of a recent Presidential press conference. Mr. Truman had told newsmen that his secrecy order to government agencies was necessary because 95 per cent of U. S. military secrets had already been published.



JOLT FOR JOE . . . Senators Benton and Gillette are talking about Senator Joe McCarthy's fitness to sit in the U. S. senate, a question that is before the senate elections committee of which Gillette is chairman.