

# National Public Debt Soars Near Peak at End of World War

By LYLE C. WILSON  
United Press Correspondent  
Washington—(U.P.)—In the 10th year of what passes for peace, the United States public debt has soared close to the high reached with World War II spending.

War spending boosted the national debt to a peak of \$277,912,000,000 on Feb. 28, 1946. That was 10 months after the shooting actually stopped. It took that long to reverse the spending trend.

Treasury figures for the first 11 months of the fiscal year 1955 show the public debt as of May 31 to have been \$277,009,000,000. This figure will have been considerably reduced when the fiscal year ends next week on June 30.

Even so, the budget successfully has resisted Republican efforts to bring it into balance and is likely to do so through-out President Eisenhower's term of office.

When the books close next week the Treasury will be in the red for the 12-month fiscal period by about \$4,504,000,000. The deficit estimate for the next fiscal year is \$2,408,000,000.

It is likely that Mr. Eisenhower will end his present White House term with an average deficit of about \$5,000,000,000 or more for each of the four years. Republicans did considerably better than that when they controlled Congress, but were shut out of the White House. That was during the 80th Congress which President Truman called the worst ever.

The Republican-controlled House and Senate in the 80th clipped spending from \$60,000,000,000 to \$39,000,000,000 and then to \$33,000,000,000 to achieve budget surpluses in fiscal years 1947 and 1948.

Mr. Truman led Democrats to a surprise triumph in the 1948 elections and spending in that fiscal year jumped nearly \$7,000,000,000 over the previous year's figure. The hot war in Korea and the cold war worldwide have required a high rate of defense spending, although not as high as the Democrats believe to be necessary. Mr. Eisenhower, however, has turned the spending level down. The figure will be around \$63,000,000,000 for the fiscal year now ending against nearly \$68,000,000,000 last year.

There is not much promise of tax relief in such Treasury figures. But 1956 is an election year. It is not unlikely that Congress will pass and Mr. Eisenhower sign a 1956 tax cut.

There won't be any 1956 tax cuts comparable to the happy days after World War I. Andrew J. Mellon was being hailed then as the greatest Treasury secretary since Hamilton. Income taxes steadily were trimmed. A man making approximately \$100 a week could settle his income tax for about \$15. And at the same time Mellon was paying off three-fifths of the national debt in a bit over eight years. The debt has grown to \$26,348,000,000 in World War I and Mellon regarded that as far too great. It had been a mere \$1,023,000,000 the week before the United States started out to hang the Kaiser in April, 1917.

The Senate Foreign Relations committee Tuesday night slapped down McCarthy's proposal by voting 14-0 to recommend that the Senate defeat it. But McCarthy promised a floor fight.

Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson (Tex.), who played a big personal role in forcing immediate action on the Wisconsin Republican's controversial proposal, denounced it as a damaging blow at President Eisenhower on the eve of the Big Four conference.

Johnson said it was important for the entire Senate to act on the proposal as soon as possible. The foreign relations group disapproved the resolution after rejecting 8-7 a Republican move to table it — and thus bottle it up in the committee. The vote was along straight party lines. Hoover Opposed Bill

## Hearing Slated on Natural Gas Import

Washington—(U.P.)—The Federal Power commission today announced hearings beginning July 18 on proposals of Pacific Northwest Pipeline Corp. of Houston, Tex., to import up to 300,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas daily from Canada for Pacific Northwest states.

The proposals also ask authority to export gas for use in the Vancouver and Trail areas of British Columbia.

The FPC in June, 1945, authorized Pacific Northwest to construct a \$160,000,000 pipeline system to transport natural gas from the San Juan basin in New Mexico and Colorado, and from other fields along the route, to areas in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

In the new application, Pacific would extend its system into northern Idaho and Washington. Total estimated cost of the project, including facilities previously authorized, would be \$175,493,166.

EXCLUSIVE STORY  
Dallas, Tex.—(U.P.)—Gordon Sanders, news director of radio station KGKO was at work Tuesday night when his wife called and asked if he wanted an exclusive story. When he replied yes, she said: "I don't know how to say this, but our house is on fire."



OPTIMISTIC BUT CONSERVATIVE—Former Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill inspects an honor guard of pikemen on his arrival at Guildhall in London for the unveiling of a bronze statue of himself. He told those assembled that he is optimistic for the future but warned the free world not to expect too much of the coming talks at the "summit" with Russia.

## Survey Reveals 1,500,000 Americans Have Given Up Smoking in Past 18 Months

Washington—(U.P.)—About 1,500,000 Americans have quit smoking in the past 18 months, the U. S. Public Health Service estimated today.

This was more than double the number who dropped cigarettes in the previous 12 months. The health service made no comment on reasons for the decline in smoking. But it said the figures "will be of value" to the National Cancer Institute and other agencies studying "whether or not lung cancer is related to cigarette smoking."

New Report Promised  
The health service arrived at its estimate on the basis of a "representative sample" of about 40,000 persons queried about their smoking habits by the Census Bureau. Another report was promised in a few months with "more detailed findings."

The Census Bureau surveyed men and women over 17 in 230 urban areas located in about 450 counties across the nation.

The health service estimated the number of Americans still using cigarettes at 38,000,000. This includes 25,000,000 men and 13,000,000 women.

The survey said this means about half the men and about a quarter of the women in the United States smoke.

More Men Quitting  
It said that of the 1,500,000 persons quitting about two thirds were men and one third women.

The service said 600,000 persons dropped the cigarette habit in a previous 12-month survey.

## Laboratory Experiments With Plastics Give High Hope of Answers About Cancer

By DELOS SMITH  
United Press Science Editor  
New York—(U.P.)—Because plastics are "rather" inert chemically and won't dissolve in "watery systems" (animal bodies are such systems) it is very hard for Dr. B. S. Oppenheimer to understand how in the world they can cause cancers.

Yet in his laboratories at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia university, he and his associates have been producing cancers in scores of rats by imbedding plastic films in their bodies.

Before reading any further, the reader must understand that there isn't even a scientific suspicion that plastics cause cancer in human beings. Human-beings handle plastics and even wear plastics (in the form of textiles) constantly but don't have them imbedded in their bodies.

But Dr. Oppenheimer's rats are objects of intense scientific curiosity. What happened to them, shouldn't have. There's a good chance that he's going to find out how it happens, and then there will be light on the now obscure chemical beginnings of cancers. That would be no small triumph for scientific research, and a triumph sparkling with promise for human welfare.

Using Film  
In his newest report to fellow scientists in the Technical Journal, Cancer Research, Dr. Oppenheimer revealed that he has not experienced with films of just about all the polymer plastics including those used to make textiles and found that all of them induced cancers when imbedded in rats.

There was a very long "latent period," amounting to half and more than half the normal life of the animal. Naturally, he and his colleagues first suspected that irritation alone might be the cancer-causer.

So they embedded all sorts of non-plastic materials into rats, such as wood, mica, paraffin, cotton, glass cloth and metal foils. These produced no cancers. The scientists also suspected impurities or incidental substances in the plastics; but this suspicion also checked out with blanks.

Radio Isotopes  
By "tagging" polymer molecules with radioactive isotopes, they demonstrated that inert plastics after a very long period

George Sack Given Additional Time  
Portland—(U.P.)—George F. Sack, who was sentenced to die in the state gas chamber last December for the murder of his wife, Goldie, has won more time to file a bill of exceptions.

Circuit Judge Frank J. Loneragan granted a week's extension yesterday because of the absence of a court stenographer who must sign the official transcript of that portion of the murder trial recorded by him.

working on the question of just what in the way of degradation products and just how they react and inter-act. Therein is the high hope for some meaningful cancer answer.

Dr. Oppenheimer thought this was "very important." These degradation products while harmless in themselves, may be cancer-causing through inter-actions with normal chemical products of the body metabolism. Or degradation may set up "reactive centers" within the plastic films which then give off substances that influence the metabolism of neighboring body cells.

He and his associates now are

MODERN KIDS  
Paterson, N. J.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Douglas Gillespie, Sunday school teacher at Eastside Terrace Methodist Church, reported that when she asked her class to draw their impressions of the story of King David, six of the youngsters drew Davy Crockett coonskin caps.

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