

Atomic Experts Believe Reds Don't Have 10,000 Weapons

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
UP Staff Correspondent

Washington — (U.P.) — Atomic insiders believe a recently published guess that Russia has 10,000 nuclear weapons is far too high.

But they also say it doesn't make much difference. For practical purposes the Soviet atomic arsenal doesn't need to be that big to neutralize the much larger U.S. stockpile. In this day of megaton bombs — bombs equal to millions of tons of TNT — a few hundred could despatchly wound any country.

Of several atomic experts interviewed on a new names basis, four volunteered the opinion that the only meaningful comparisons now are in terms of ability to deliver nuclear weapons, whether by manned bombers or unmanned missiles.

Good Guess

The "nuclear numbers guessing game" was revived recently by the Manchester Guardian

which estimated that this country has 35,000 atomic weapons and Russia 10,000. U.S. physicist Harold C. Urey called these figures "a good guess."

Other sources, who have been closer to the U.S. atomic project in recent years than Urey, doubt the Russian stockpile has yet hit five figures. One called the 10,000 guess "far too high." Another said a better estimate would be "nearer 1,000 than 10,000."

Only one of the experts would comment except in general terms — such as "We're loaded" — on the Guardian's guess of 35,000 U.S. weapons. Most of them are still connected with the government or recently were.

The man who was willing to discuss the Guardian's estimate of U.S. bombs is not a federal employee. But his atomic observations consistently have been uncannily close to the facts as subsequently revealed.

He said we undoubtedly have enough nuclear explosives piled up to make 35,000 individual weapons or more. But he questioned whether we have 35,000 nuclear bombs or warheads actually ready for delivery. His belief that something more than half of the U.S. stockpile is not yet "committed." It constitutes, he thinks, a sort of reserve which can be drawn upon to meet military demand for this or that weapon type.

Low Yield Bombs
If this country did have 35,000

completed weapons, one source said, most of them would be "low yield" tactical bombs or warheads ranging down to 1,000 tons TNT equivalence. Assuming the same big-to-little range for Russia's stockpile, this country's numerical advantage would be largely in battlefield weapons.

It is known, of course, that the United States has enough "high yield" weapons — including H-bombs equal to millions of tons of TNT — to lay waste to every large Russian city and poison vast reaches of the USSR with radio-active fallout.

But all U.S. authorities, from President Eisenhower down, appear to believe that Russia also has enough strategic weapons, H-bombs or big A-bombs of the city-wrecking category, to inflict critical wounds. So a battlefield superiority might not be significant in a "war between continents."

Plane Crashes Near Multnomah Falls

Portland — (U.P.) — Walter Frost, 48, and his son James, 26, Cashmere, Wash., were recovering today from bad cuts suffered when their light plane crashed near scenic Multnomah falls in the Columbia gorge.

The elder Frost lay at the wreckage nearly five hours awaiting rescue. His son, who recently returned from Korea, was found stumbling down a trail, his face bleeding badly.

Their narrow escape with death came about 9:20 a.m. yesterday. They were en route to Wenatchee by plane when the engine sputtered. James said his father, who was piloting the craft, tried to drop below a cloud and the plane crashed some 200 feet above the top of Multnomah falls after hitting a tree.

A group of Reed College students on a hiking trip spotted James near the junction of the Multnomah falls and Wahkeena falls trails nearly four hours after the crash. The father was found later by searchers about 20 feet up hill from the plane's fuselage.

Word of the accident did not get out until the younger Frost was found. Capt. J. E. Stanley of the Multnomah county sheriff's office called the work of young Frost in making his way down the trail one of great courage. He was nearly blinded by face lacerations.

Both suffered severe face lacerations but apparently no broken bones.

In an ironic twist to the mishap, Wayne E. Presley, an ambulance attendant was hurt when he tumbled out the side door as the vehicle rounded a curve near Wahkeena falls. He was reported not seriously injured.

Tighten Quarantine On Infected Flocks

Portland — (U.P.) — Oregon authorities yesterday tightened quarantine regulations on two psittacosis-infected turkey flocks in the hope of preventing other states from placing embargoes on the importation of Oregon hatching eggs and poults.

The action followed a sweeping embargo levied Monday by the state of Washington following the discovery of the disease in two Oregon flocks last week. One of the infected flocks is at Scappoose, the other at Sauvie Island.

Oregon officials said they were hopeful that Washington would decide to ease restrictions in light of the tightened quarantine regulations. The new regulations are aimed at preventing eggs from the two flocks from reaching hatching incubators and diverting them instead to egg breaking plants after they have been pasteurized in 90-degree water.

The Agriculture Department said that inquiries regarding the outbreak have been received from other states but that they have no information of any intended embargoes. Utah and Colorado, along with Washington, buy nearly 60 per cent of the Oregon turkey growers hatching eggs and poults.

Department officials said the financial loss the two growers with infected flocks will suffer under the tightened quarantine regulations is regrettable but that the move is necessary to avoid the entire state industry from being shut off from its markets.

Hitchcock Criticizes Morse as Candidate

Oak Grove, Ore. — (U.P.) — Philip Hitchcock, candidate for the Republican nomination for U.S. senator, criticized Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) last night but made no attack on Interior Secretary Douglas McKay, his opponent in the May 18 primary.

Hitchcock, speaking at a meeting of Clackamas county Young Republicans, called Morse "one of the most misleading candidates ever to run for office in the United States."

As to McKay, he said, "I'm not going to attack Doug McKay. I started out running against Morse, and that is what I am going to continue to do."

Hitchcock also said yesterday that much of the "important money" for his campaign "vanished" after McKay filed but that he since had received enough pledges so that he would be able to conduct "a poor man's campaign."

Night Clubbing Rooster Heads Back Toward Farm

Chicago — (U.P.) — Chicago's night clubbing rooster may have to go back to the farm.

The rooster set off a flurry of temperance pledge signings when he strolled into North Side night clubs Sunday night.

The Anti-Cruelty Society captured the club-crawling cock and invited bids from anyone who would make the bird a pet. There have been no takers, the society said, and so it's probably back to the farm for the rooster.

British Comedians Comment on Miss Kelly

London — (U.P.) — A comedian on the British Broadcasting Company's "Goon Show" Tuesday night described actress Grace Kelly as "a smashing bit of stuff."

A second comedian chided him.

"You must not talk like that about American royalty," he said.

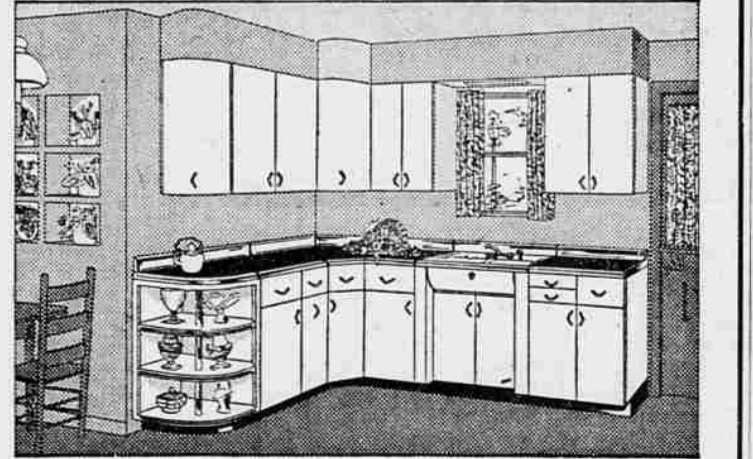
Miss Kelly will marry soon. Price Rainier of Monaco.

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