

Bomb Production Increase Told In AEC Report; Safety Lauded

Washington — (U.P.) — The Atomic Energy Commission said today that A-bomb and H-bomb production is swelling at a rate that necessitates multi-million dollar expansion of its far-flung weapons plant.

It also reported "new design principles" stemming from last year's H-bomb tests, "which will lead to more efficient weapons that can be more effectively employed."

Variety of Uses

This apparently means the once outside hydrogen weapon has been tailored to missiles and bombs for a variety of military uses other than mere destruction of cities.

The commission also claimed "a notable advance" toward nuclear propulsion of aircraft. For the first time, it said, a turbojet engine was powered with atomic heat in a ground test.

These were highlights of the AEC's 21st semi-annual report in which it said "significant progress" was made in the last

six months toward fulfillment of President Eisenhower's international atoms for peace program.

Report on Safety

As a special feature the commission published a five-chapter report on "radiation safety" in the U.S. atomic project. Although 331 persons have received "overexposures" in the past 13 years, the project nevertheless has hung up a safety record "without parallel in industrial history," the AEC said.

Of the 331 persons, 293 received their overexposures from the big H-bomb shot in the Pacific March 1, 1952. The other 38, two of whom died in 1945, received theirs in "radiation incidents" at atomic installations in the United States. In this country, no member of the public has been hurt by radiation.

And 99.4 per cent of the nearly 200,000 workers in the project have received an exposure averaging "less than one-third the amount of radiation allowed

by strict safety standards."

The commission said its own experimental program to develop economical atomic power plants to be financed entirely by private industry has grown to seven. But the effort to make nuclear power pay its way is still "in its early stages."

Stockpiles Increased

Atoms for peace was advanced by adoption of a statute for an 82-nation international atomic energy agency. In addition, this country has negotiated 41 agreements to help 39 nations set up research or power reactors.

The United States still leads the free world in production of uranium, the atomic raw material. In the past half year its stockpiled more nuclear fuels and explosives than ever before in a like period.

This country plans no more H-bomb shots in the Pacific before 1958, but it has scheduled small caliber A-tests for the Nevada Proving Ground starting in late spring.

The semi-annual report disclosed that the commission is expanding its Nevada Proving Ground, in the vicinity of Jackass Flats, into a range for testing the bomb-drop characteristics of various "weapons shapes."

The Interior Department reported that this extension of the testing ground involves some 38,400 acres which are no longer available for leasing.

Valley Peach Production Topic of Meeting Tuesday

Peach growing in the Rogue valley was the subject of a meeting attended by about 60 people Tuesday afternoon in the courthouse auditorium.

Specialists from Oregon State college, the southern Oregon branch experiment station and county agents offered advice to growers on such topics as irrigation, peach diseases and spray programs.

Irrigation Discussed

Marvin Shearer, irrigation specialist for OSC, discussed principles of irrigation and showed how to use the gypsum block to determine moisture content in soil.

Iain MacSwan, OSC plant pathologist, spoke on peach blight and leaf curl control. He noted that peach leaf curl spores are carried by wind and spray should be applied before the buds open. This can be at any time during the winter, he said.

He also discussed coryneum blight and emphasized that these spores are carried by wind-blown rain. MacSwan urged fall application of fungicide to prevent spore infection. If the infection is present during the spring, another fungicide application is recommended then.

Insect Influence

Dr. W. P. Stephen, OSC apiculturist, spoke on the influence of insects on pollination. He pointed out that most fruit growers request bees too early in the season. He also stressed the importance of using the least toxic sprays if bees are to be used in the orchards.

Dr. Stephen spoke in the place of Henry Hartman, OSC horticulturist, who was unable to be present because of illness.

L. G. Gentner, entomologist for the southern Oregon experiment station, spoke on peach aphid and scale control. He noted that controls which previously were effective are not effective now in many cases. He said this is because the insects have built up a resistance to control materials. He said specialists are still working on this problem and new control materials are being placed on the market. Gentner also cautioned growers not to use spray that would damage pollinators.

Fertilizers Discussed

Dr. R. J. Higdon, formerly horticulturist for the southern Oregon branch experiment station, discussed various types of fertilizers. He said this fall and winter have been good for application of ammonia fertilizers because of favorable moisture conditions.

Dr. Higdon noted that ammonia fertilizer can be washed away and is less effective in years when excessive rains occur after the fertilizer is applied. He also stressed the importance of proper fertilizer placement and recommended application four to six inches deep in the soil.

Spray Program

Dr. Higdon told the group that nitrate of soda should not be used in heavy clay soil since the soda content tends to cause a hard surface crust when mixed with the clay.

Don Berry, county horticulture agent, presented the 1957 spray schedule for control of scale, aphid, leaf curl, brown rot, twig miner, aphid, spider mite, mildew and peach blight and peach root borer.

Mice Get Blame for Near-Fatal Poisoning

Tokyo — (U.P.) — Police investigators blamed mice today for the near-fatal gas poisoning of three waitresses in a Tokyo restaurant.

They said the mice brushed up against a gas cock and opened the jet in the bedroom where the three girls were sleeping.

Pilot of Stolen Plane Attempted To Take Own Life

Des Moines, Iowa — (U.P.) — A 23-year-old student pilot who terrorized Des Moines in a stolen plane tried to commit suicide by swallowing cyanide just before he crash landed, police said today.

Detective Martin Brightman said pilot Roy Soderquist told police if the cyanide had not worked he was going to shoot himself.

'Last Big Fling'

Brightman said the only reason Soderquist gave for the suicide attempt was that he was in debt about \$1,000 and he wanted to make his "last big fling."

Soderquist was under observation at Broadlawn General hospital for injuries he suffered in the crash landing Tuesday afternoon. The jarring he took when the plane nosed over possibly saved him from the homemade cyanide pills.

No Cyanide in System

When he landed the seat belt apparently "hit him in the stomach so hard he vomited and threw them up," Brightman said. "There was none of the cyanide in his system."

Soderquist, who had never flown alone before, had only 15 hours of flight time when he stole the plane at gunpoint about noon Tuesday. He had nearly 10 hours of experience by the time he crash-landed in a field in West Des Moines.

Two People Hurt In Car Accident

Arlon Gene Stockton, 25, Gerberville, Calif., and Kenneth T. Burnett, 29, Shady Cove, were hospitalized with cuts and possible fractures last night after a one-vehicle accident at the corner of Cherry lane and Prune st., according to state police.

Officers said Stockton was driving the car north on Cherry lane and was preparing to make a right turn onto Prune st., when lights from another car blinded him. Stockton's car went across the street, over a five-foot bank, and hit a wire fence, police said.

Stockton and Burnett, a passenger in the vehicle, were taken by Medford Ambulance service to Osteopathic hospital. Stockton had possible rib fractures and Burnett had a possible broken leg, state police said.

Another passenger in the car, David K. Holder, 27, of 802 West Jackson st., was not injured. The accident occurred at 8:55 p.m.

Portland Man Talks At Grants Pass Meet

Grants Pass — Dr. Charles G. Fast, Portland, executive director of the state association for retarded children, spoke at a luncheon Monday in Grants Pass to the local chapter of the state association sponsored by Friends of Retarded Children.

Dr. Fast spoke to the representatives of several civic organizations of the immediate need of a program for retarded children and adults in Oregon. He stressed that the number of retarded children and adults in the state far exceeded the services available and that legislation must be passed for their benefit.

He also explained that education legislation must be passed enabling the formation of more special classes and that there was a need for legislation to have an interim committee make a study or survey of the retarded in Oregon and report to the Legislative body in 1959.

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PHOENIX Club to Meet

Phoenix — Phoenix Thimble club will meet Friday, Feb. 1, at the home of Mrs. Guy Cobleigh on Fourth st. for a covered dish luncheon. During the business meeting the newly elected officers will be installed by Mrs. Mervin Hixson, Mrs. James Overturf will be co-hostess.

Mrs. Jack Wheeler and baby son, Mark, are home from the hospital and doing nicely. The Wheelers moved here recently from Central Point and purchased their place on Calhoun rd.

Mr. and Mrs. Frances G. Shea have moved into the house at 208 Third st. They are from Garden City, Kan. Their three children have entered school, one in high and the two younger ones in grade school.

All Oregon Highways Reported Well Sanded

Salem — (U.P.) — All Oregon routes were reported well sanded and chains were needed nowhere despite an inch of new snow at Government Camp and half an inch at Timberline, the State Highway department reported today.

Spots of ice were reported at Portland, Sunset summit, Cascade Locks, Corvallis, Roseburg, Siskiyou, Baker, Ontario, John Day, Burns and Basque.

Explosions and Fire Destroy Gasoline Processing Plant

Whiting, Ind. — (U.P.) — A series of explosions and fire destroyed a 10-story processing unit for high octane gasoline Tuesday night, causing at least \$1 million damage and injuring seven men.

The blasts ripped an alkylation unit shortly before midnight and sent rivers of flaming fuel coursing through the Standard Oil Co. of Indiana refinery, one of the nation's largest.

Sand Dikes Erected

Workmen hastily erected sand dikes to contain the flames, which could be seen as far as three miles from the burning unit.

The injured men suffered burns and cuts and all were released after treatment at the company hospital.

The flames spread to four

smaller storage tanks, but a southeast wind prevented them from reaching 50 tanks containing 10,000 to 20,000 gallons of gasoline each located only 200 yards away.

About 1,200 firemen battled the flames in near zero temperatures. Fire officials concentrated on containing the fire and let it burn itself out.

A. H. Hayes, assistant refinery superintendent, said that while it is difficult to estimate the damage, "It appears to be in the neighborhood of \$1 million."

Blasts Rock Area

The blasts rocked the immediate area, knocking out telephone communications in that section temporarily. Flames shot hundreds of feet into the air and dense clouds of smoke hung over the 1,600-acre refinery.

The unit, built in 1942, is used to process about 5,000 barrels of high octane aviation gasoline daily. It consists of a series of 10-story towers in which the components of crude oil are removed in the production of gasoline.

The flames also engulfed a nearby tank containing heating oil and gasoline byproducts and three naphtha tanks. Other nearby structures in the quarter-mile refinery area included a power-house, propane tanks and 15 naphthalene stills.

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Eugene Apartment Buildings Damaged

Eugene — (U.P.) — Firemen battled both flames and ice early today as a blaze caused "several thousand dollars" damage to two apartment buildings located near the city jail here.

Ten persons were chased into the street in their nightclothes in five-above-zero weather. One resident, Otto Hagen, suffered injuries when he jumped from a window. A fireman was hurt when he slipped on the ice.

Two frozen fire hydrants hampered firemen.

Firemen said the blaze apparently started in a woodshed behind one of the buildings and spread upstairs. A corner and a roof of the adjoining building were damaged.

Meany Summons Warring Factions

Miami Beach — (U.P.) — President George Meany summoned heads of two big warring factions of his AFL-CIO today to try to mend jurisdictional disputes that have rocked the merged labor movement.

Meany was scheduled to confer with Richard Gray, director of the Industrial Union department, and Al Whitehouse, president of the Building Trades department.

AFL-CIO President Walter Reuther, head of the CIO before the union merger 14 months ago, is president of the Industrial Union department made up chiefly of former CIO unions.

The Building Trades department is composed mainly of old AFL unions. Most of the AFL-CIO's 140 international unions belong to one of the departments.

The two factions have been warring over jurisdiction ever since the merger. The disputes have blocked new organizing drives.

Meany has recommended a program for settling the inter-union disputes and also for outlawing boycotts by one union of the products of another in the jurisdictional wars. Representatives of the two departments, however, failed to agree on details of the peace plan.

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