

Tortured Air Shudders as Nike Missile Blasts Off in New Mexico

By GLENN STACKHOUSE
United Press Correspondent
Red Canyon, N.M.—(U.P.)—A 29-foot Nike-Ajax missile blasted off its launcher in a thunder-clap of sound and impaled a fat cloud like a harpoon.

There was a shuddering shriek from the tortured air as it ripped toward the stratosphere at a thousand miles an hour.

Dropping its booster rocket, the missile arched over at 25,000 feet and left a chalk mark of vapor in the sky as it turned to a pinpoint and vanished.

There was silence as the seconds ticked by. Then there was a burst of dirty white smoke some 20 miles away, marking the end of a still-invisible drone target.

This was the Army's dress rehearsal for an atomic attack on San Francisco.

The actors were the officers and men of the 740th AAA Missile Battalion, one of three Nike outfits which stand 24 hour sentry duty on the hilltops surrounding the bay metropolis.

Practice on Desert

Unable, for obvious reasons, to do any practice firing at their home sites, each Nike battalion

in the United States is brought to this desolate New Mexico wasteland, near the site of the world's first atomic explosion, once a year for a week of "service practice."

Here at the present time are missileers from California and Hartford, Conn., each firing their allotted rounds at 12 foot radio controlled drones, much similar to the gasoline powered model airplanes flown by small boys.

The yearly firing is a tense and serious business to the men of the Nike outfits. These men who stand at constant alert to guard the nation's oblivious, peace minded cities have precious little time to actually fire their weapons, and they are determined to make every shot count.

Take Work Seriously

They greet a "kill" with the enthusiasm of undergraduates celebrating a big game victory. A "miss" brings scowls and muttered profanities. It's almost a tragedy.

Typical of the missilemen is Capt. William Chick, 36, of Mountain View, Calif., a huge, 240 pounder in sweaty fatigues,

who came out of his integrated fire control van after his battery's firing with the grin of a winner on his face.

"It looked good," he said. "It looked real good."

A sergeant and a boyish private beamed out of the van door behind him.

A few minutes earlier, however, the atmosphere had been different as the approaching drone assumed the proportions of a Russian A-bomber. Every man was glued to his job.

First Lt. David Birmingham, 26, of Wayland, Mass., an artillery veteran of the Korean war, stood on the hill beside the target tracking radar looking down on the upreared missiles a mile away with a stopwatch clutched in his hand.

Rocket Fired

A few yards away, the "acquisition" radar whirled as its scope picked up the luminous dot of the nearing drone.

The target tracker swung 90 degrees and locked on the target with a click as it began feeding information to an electric computer brain in the van.

Inside a van a small red light blinked on and the firing officer punched a push-button.

Down the desert below, the Nike leaped into the air, trailing a tail of orange fire. By the time the waves of sound slammed into the hill, the missile was already nearly two miles in the air and curving over to seek its prey.

The rocket booster unit broke loose and tumbled to the earth and the Nike spurted a white streak of smoke as its own power unit came to life to give it a final supersonic kick.

"A good blowoff," the lieutenant muttered. "Good, good."

It vanished completely and Birmingham stared at his stop watch to figure its flight time.

"Now," he said quietly. The puff-ball of smoke appeared in the distance.

"Let's go down to the van and find out how we did," he said.

Ike Tosses Budget Cut Responsibility Back to Congressmen

By RAYMOND LAHR
United Press Correspondent
Washington — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower has thrown much of the responsibility for the federal budget back to Congress. He has given Congress a lot of advice, which probably will be ignored, on how it should exercise its control of spending.

The President also told the House its votes on appropriations bills have included some heavy cuts which won't save the taxpayers any money. He didn't use the term but he meant the cuts were phony. Many of them were.

Eisenhower poured out his thoughts on the budget Thursday in a letter to Speaker Sam Rayburn. It was written in reply to a House resolution, adopted last month, asking for his recommendations as how to make "substantial reductions" in his budget.

Size of Reduction

The President indicated that even if Congress makes a cut, only about 500 million dollars of it will actually be taken off his 72 billion dollar spending budget for next year. This would be little more than a pin prick alongside the spending slashes of two to five billion dollars proposed by potent figures in Congress.

Eisenhower pointed out that his budget is really two budgets in one. One of them is a spending estimate of nearly 72 billion dollars for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The other is a request for new spending authority — largely in appropriation bills — authorizing spending not only in the coming fiscal year but also in future years. The President also pointed out that about a third of the money to be spent in the next fiscal year was granted by Congress in past years.

Of the House-approved reductions in appropriations bills, now amounting to more than one billion dollars, the President politely told Rayburn:

"Some of the House 'cuts' have involved large sums that the executive branch is compelled by law to pay. 'Cuts' of that kind do not save money and must be later restored through supplemental appropriations unless the government statutes are revised."

The "Mandatory" Spending

Eisenhower computed that 24 per cent of his federal budget, or almost 18 billion dollars, covers spending rigidly fixed by law like interest on the national debt, veterans benefits and public assistance grants. The House voted to cut administration budget requests for the last two items a total of 225 million dollars with full knowledge it was saving nothing in the long run.

The President also calculated

that 63 per cent of his next year's budget is slated to go for national security and related expenses, leaving only 9 billion dollars or 13 per cent for possible non-defense reductions.

Congress undoubtedly will challenge him on his 45 billion dollar item for national security because it includes the foreign aid program. Even so, Congress will not know how much any cuts it makes in the foreign aid program will reduce spending for the coming year.

why there were no charges filed against contractor E. P. Bettendorf of Sandston, Va., at the same time Teamster business agents Robert Malloy and Joseph McHugh were indicted for accepting \$4,200 from Bettendorf.

The indictment charged that McHugh and Malloy obtained the money by extortion. However, the committee heard testimony that Bettendorf offered the money as a bribe to get his trucks into the Tobyhanna, Pa., Army Signal Corps depot without hiring drivers from the Scranton Teamster local.

Malloy, McHugh and John Durkin, secretary-treasurer of Teamster Local 229, also are charged with accepting payments from other contractors.

Justice Department officials declined to comment.

However, Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. has complained in the past that one of his department's problems in dealing with extortion cases is "the very natural reluctance" of the victims and others involved to testify about it.

He said in a speech in 1955 that in extortion cases a "vast amount of time and effort" is needed to "gain the confidence of workers and contractors" who know the facts.

The Rackets Committee Thursday ended two and half days of hearings on labor violence in the Scranton area by referring testimony to the Justice Department for possible prosecution for perjury.

McClellan said somebody unquestionably committed perjury in testimony before his committee. He asked the Justice Department to sift the conflicting evidence to learn who failed to tell the truth.

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However, a former Teamster muscle man, Paul Bradshaw, testified earlier that they ordered out strong-arm squads against non-union truck firms and building contractors.

Offerers of Bribes Should Be Punished, McClellan Declares

Washington — (U.P.) — The Senate Labor Rackets Committee said today businessmen who offer bribes are just as guilty as union leaders who receive them and should be prosecuted.

Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) told reporters "We are going to find out" why three Scranton, Pa., Teamster Union leaders were indicted by a federal grand jury for accepting money from contractors but the contractors were not punished.

He said the Justice Department has been asked to explain

why there were no charges filed against contractor E. P. Bettendorf of Sandston, Va., at the same time Teamster business agents Robert Malloy and Joseph McHugh were indicted for accepting \$4,200 from Bettendorf.

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Gorilla Mating Planned at Zoo

Columbus, Ohio — (U.P.) — Officials of the Columbus zoo said today they hope to mate again within the next 10 days the parents of Colo, the first gorilla ever born in captivity.

Colo is happy and thriving, they reported, and they have strong hopes that the parents will produce another.

Zoo attendants had Colo all ready today for the Easter parade in a colorful flowered bonnet, dress, booties and all.

Columbus Zoo Supt. Earl Davis said attendants had "quite a time" dressing the frisky gorilla, now nearly four months old. He said the nine pound, one ounce baby, nearly tripled her birth weight, apparently enjoyed being dressed up.

Davis said women attendants were on duty day and night now. "Male keepers got a little embarrassed on diaper changes," smiled Davis, so we now have a girl on six days a week, plus three girls alternating on the night shift.

Davis said the gorilla exhibits many of the characteristics of a human baby.

"But she hates peas," said Davis. "They bring out the gorilla in her."

The superintendent said when ever she is fed peas, "she spits them out and gently bites the arm" of the attendant.

Two "Passengers" Vanish
Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. — (U.P.) — Carmen Tassarelli complained to police Thursday that someone stole two goats from his car.

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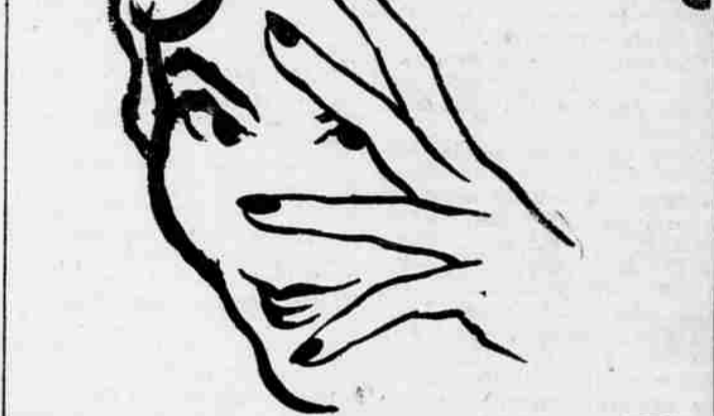
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