

Lack of Firm Hand at Top Cost U.S. Satellite Race, London Writer Says

Editor's note: How did Russia beat the United States in the race to space? Why were we left behind in developing the intercontinental missile? The United Press put the question to its London bureau and to its experts in Washington. This is the first of two dispatches giving their replies.

By ROBERT MUSEL
United Press Correspondent
London—Aesop wrote a fable about a hare and a tortoise. It was true 2,500 years ago and it is just as true today. There are two satellites whirling around in space to prove it.

The United States is the hare of this story, Russia the tortoise. In 1947 the Rand Corporation produced for the U. S. Defense Department a brilliant study of the possibility of breaking into space. Outside of the dreams of German rocket pioneers, this was the first scientific verdict anywhere in the world that the age of space travel was at hand.

A year later, Secretary of Defense James Forrestal announced what he called "The Earth Satellite Vehicle Program." Mark the date well—Dec. 30, 1948. In the opinion of the world's most authoritative rocket experts from East and West, gathered last month in Barcelona, Spain, at the International Astronautical Congress, the United States should have been able to breach the skies and have launched a satellite by 1955—or even a year or two earlier.

It is highly likely that the Soviet Union started at about the same time on a rocket program of its own and may have had available much of the same information—both nations leaning heavily on a nucleus of former German rocket men.

Odds on America
The odds at that time were all on America. Russia had hardly recovered from a war that killed millions and devastated her land. The United States had available an efficient military-

scientific organization which had accomplished world-shaking feats in nuclear fields.

But one thing Russia had to herself—singleness of purpose. There were two things Russia was vitally interested in in 1947—a hydrogen bomb and rockets.

Because it was a dictatorship, the Soviet was able to order concentration on those two programs and shunt aside the demand for consumer goods. It assembled an advisory board of scientists to which the actual workers and planners of the two projects could apply for help and advice.

Experts in West Germany say that the Russians rounded up the amazing total of 6,000 German workers on rocket projects at the V1 and V2 base at Peenemuende and elsewhere. They moved them all to Russia with their families—20,000 persons in all.

For the next five years, young Soviet scientists worked daily beside them in the laboratories, picking German grains of all information. Then the Russians went on from there.

In the meantime there was a sorry story to tell in the United States as I heard it from famous

Medford Men Attend Finance Conference

Portland—Stan L. Stark of the Stark Finance company, Medford, was elected vice president of the Oregon Consumer Finance association at its annual meeting here last week end. L. T. Anderson, Commercial Finance company, Medford, also attended the meeting. The law regulating consumer finance which was amended by the 1955 state legislature was praised as one of the outstanding consumer finance laws in the United States.

AIR MAIL?

Worcester, Mass.—Franksters put pigeons in eight postal boxes in various parts of the city on a recent night. When postal collectors opened the boxes next morning, out flew the pigeons.

scientists at Barcelona before silence was clamped on.

Effort Hampered
When the war ended, Maj. Gen. Holger Toftoy of Redstone arsenal, then a colonel, tried to round up as many German rocket scientists as possible for the United States. He received

permission to bring back only about 100 because of strong anti-Nazi feeling.

But most of them were top men and, with German guidance, the Army began a missile program. By September 1954, they were able to inform superiors that they could orbit a satellite

in less than a year. Still gathering dust in an Alabama warehouse are the satellites they thought would be, by now, circling the earth.

Instead of a go-ahead, the Army got a committee. It considered the satellite programs of the Army and Navy and—to the astonishment of rocket experts worldwide—awarded the International Geophysical Year satellite program to the Navy which, in 1955, began on this new project.

Americans at Barcelona said top levels in the United States took the view that there was no hurry, no race and when we launched a satellite it was to be a real, gleaming, gadget-crammed, hundred per cent scientific vehicle. Said one scientist:

"It was just as if Columbus had said he wouldn't sail in that little boat—he wanted the Queen Mary."

So while the Russian tortoise crawled along, the American rabbit was floundering in a quicksand of inter-service rivalry and industrial feuds. A dozen electronics and engineering firms lobbied for their own ideas with the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Meanwhile, the Russians passed us. Apparently we didn't even know it, although we should have.

For example, in September the United Press bureau in Moscow reported the launching of a Russian satellite was imminent. It is now known that Soviet scientific organs were printing specific instructions then to amateur astronomers and ham radio operators on how to sight and contact Sputnik.

The Reasons
Are there greater incentives in Russia for scientists?

Comparatively, yes. A British scientist recently returned from the Soviet said they were "privileged in every way including, in my experience, freedom of opinion, at least in private."

He is Prof. H. W. B. Skinner and he also had this to say:

"We do not want to copy Russian political methods. But we ought to look closely at how they achieve their successes. The formula seems to be simple: to train scientists and engineers in large numbers and to employ them on reasonable projects, to support them in every way and not to waste them by splitting up their efforts among too many parallel lines of work."

In the opinion of every authority to whom I spoke at Barcelona, in London and elsewhere in Europe—this was the major reason the United States was beaten—its effort was split up among too many people, too

many industrial firms and military segments. It lacked at the top the firm hand that might have drawn all of these into one

compact program. There is no other reason. Russia wields no magic wand except the wand of efficiency and

singleness of purpose. Tomorrow: A Washington expert view of why we are behind.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

LAWRENCE LANGNER, absent-minded impresario, boarded a taxi in New York City and announced, "I've only 20 minutes to catch my train. Please get me to Grand Central as quickly as you can." He then opened his evening paper. Fifteen minutes and ten pages later, he looked up for the first time and discovered there was no driver in the cab.



John Charles Daly overheard this choice bit of repartee at the Rye (N.Y.) railroad station: A commuter slapped a 4-year-old boy on the back and inquired heartily, "Well, there, Jocko, what do you know?" The kid answered very seriously, "You know perfectly well I don't know anything!"

A hock-shop on the Bowery featured a stringless violin in its window display. To it was affixed this sign: "Twenty bucks and this superb instrument is yours. No strings attached."

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Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

New York—Adm. Sir John Eccles, British home fleet commander in chief, in saying NATO naval forces are inadequate: "If there were a threat to the eastern coast of America and if the full power of Soviet submarines were brought into play, we have insufficient forces to maintain an Atlantic lifeline."

United Nations—U. S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge on disarmament:

"I cannot believe the Soviets would choose to bring on their heads the obloquy and condemnation of the whole world community as those who sabotage peace."

Richmond, Va.—Sen. Harry F. Byrd (D-Va.), in saying the smashing gubernatorial victory of Democratic pro-segregationist J. Lindsay Almond Jr. shows Virginia's determination to resist integration:

"Almond's majority is a vote of confidence in his anti-integration program. The result was so decisive it is bound to have a great effect."

Palm Springs, Calif.—Former President Truman, in commenting on the possibility of a bipartisan foreign policy:

"If it would be a good plan to restore the bi-partisan foreign policy which had been in effect while I was in the White House and President Roosevelt was there and which has been thrown to the winds by the present administration."

San Francisco—Under Secretary of State Christian A. Herter, in saying that mutual cultural understanding between nations as promoted by UNESCO is essential in reaching intelligent political decisions:

"Without knowledge and understanding, there can be no mutual confidence and no solid basis for satisfactory mutual cooperation."

Plentiful Turkey For Holiday Season With Prices Lower

New York—Turkey for Thanksgiving will be plentiful and cheap this year—maybe about five cents a pound less than last.

While food consumers have been sky-gazing, watching "Sputnik" and the cost of living index do unexpected tricks, turkey prices have been going down.

Gobblers in retail stores now are at a 15-year low and supermarket merchants indicated today they may be even lower in the weeks ahead.

Heavy Stock in Storage
A record-breaking crop and a heavy stock in cold storage underlie the lowering prices.

Housewives juggling family food funds can count on big supplies, not only for Thanksgiving, but for Christmas and the New Year's holidays, market economists indicated.

Turkey raisers this year produced a record crop of 81 million gobblers—5 per cent more than the 1956 record. This year's crop has been unusually early. So distributors have been freezing the surplus in anticipation of the November-December holiday season when half of the supply is usually consumed.

A big carryover stock from last year has swelled the supply. End-September stocks in storage were 33 per cent more than 1956.

Big birds, tilting the scale at more than 18 pounds, will be in best supply and the most economical in price.

Home marketing economists said the lower prices for the large birds and the "greater portion of meat to the amount of bones" made them the "best

buy" for cooks serving a big dinner, or for next day warm-overs.

While overall supplies will be more than generous, the proportion of small whites—under eight pounds—will not be as great. The small birds have become very popular with small families and have largely supplanted big chicken on some dinner tables.

Prices
Turkey prices now, around the New York metropolitan area, are about two to four cents a pound less than last year. On Nov. 1, the ready-to-cook turkey, under 16 pounds, in one leading supermarket chain was 49 cents a pound. The large birds, over 16 pounds, carried a price tag of 45 cents a pound.

For generations, the turkey was a farmyard bird, eaten only once or twice a year, and raised mostly for local home consumption.

Today, things are different. Turkey breeders have improved methods for raising quality birds. And distributors have developed better methods for handling, storing and transporting turkey.

The average American in 1956 consumed over five pounds of turkey as against 1.4 pounds in 1929. And indications for 1957 are for a per capita consumption of six pounds.

Cranberries, the companion piece for turkey, will be in good supply, both canned and fresh. The crop of fresh berries this year is expected to be 8 per cent more than 1956 and about 12 per cent more than the 1946-55 average.



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GENUINE EVEREADY PRESTONE ANTI-FREEZE GAL. 2 39

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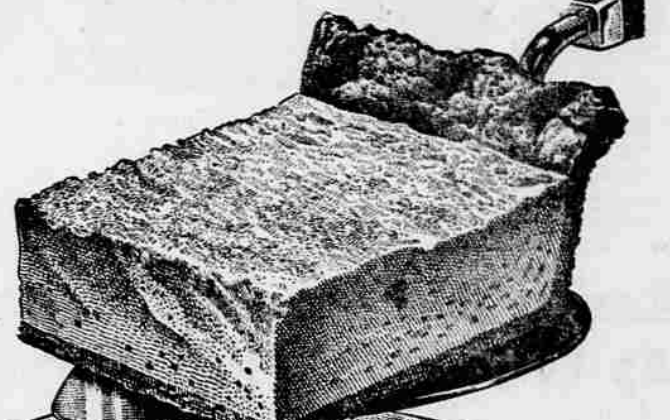
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