

Truman Stresses Security of Polar Region Patrol

(Continued from Page 1)

We must give unequivocal support to our Government and our allies in security measures to patrol the polar region. As I keep looking at the globe I note what a major change has taken place in the overall strategy of the space age and the vulnerability of our own major cities and industrial centers to attack from the north and the relative shortness and directness of the route from Russian bases to our allies and ourselves. Recent Russian statements have made it abundantly clear that the soil of the United States is now a primary military objective as much as any point on any continent. There are no longer stages of attack, and no one is immune. There is only one safe choice for the free world, and that is to work together.

But the most urgent thing we need to do is to take measures to revive our own dynamic expanding economy which has done so much to keep the free world free. What we need are decisions. No decision we make can be as risky as continued drifting, or making a decision after the fact and after the necessity for it has passed.

Would Bring Back RFC

One measure that would be enormously helpful, I think, would be the re-establishment of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. We must not forget that thousands of businessmen have been forced to the wall for lack of bankable credit.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation was set up originally by President Hoover and continued by President Roosevelt and me to save small businesses during difficult periods when the banks would not accommodate them because they were doubtful risks. Most of the small businesses saved by the RFC repaid their loans with interest, and when the RFC was closed out, it showed an overall profit on its operation.

I believe that this one step would produce a significant pick-up in employment and in our economy.

KHRUSHCHEV AS MOSLEM

Moscow—Westerners attending a reception at the United Arab Republic embassy Wednesday night noted that Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev drank nothing but mineral water. "I drink only water because I am a Moslem," he jokingly told colleagues.

generally. The White House ought to call in the leaders of business, agriculture and labor and spell out to them the real situation we face. Problems of production, wages and prices should be frankly discussed in a joint effort to serve the best interests of the country and to help preserve freedom in the world.

No Interruption
The capacity and the ability of the United States and our allies to produce and expand are so vast and the requirements and needs of the free world are so great that we ought not to allow any interruption in the necessary growth of our economy.

Our policy should be "full steam ahead." With such a policy at home and closer cooperation with our allies we can always meet any challenge from the Communist bloc—economic, military, or both.

I wonder why anyone should be surprised at Russia's economic expansion. Since the first Five-Year Plan, Russia has chosen to sacrifice her people, their lives as well as their necessities, to build military power. The Soviets have not hesitated to shift her populations ruthlessly to accommodate her military aims.

Would All Be To Good
If Russia's recently increased industrial capacity

were used in the interests of peace and aimed at bettering the standard of living of the Russian people and their satellites, then it would be all to the good. The improvement everywhere would be most welcome to all of us.

But since Russia is putting her industrial emphasis on war production, at the expense of the living standards of her people, this industrial expansion takes on a sinister purpose. This we cannot ignore, but neither should we be intimidated by it. On the contrary, let us restore the momentum of our dynamic economy.

Whatever course the Russians adopt, it should not deter us from our objective. Our course is to improve the lot of our people and contribute to the forces that make for freedom and prosperity of people everywhere in the world.

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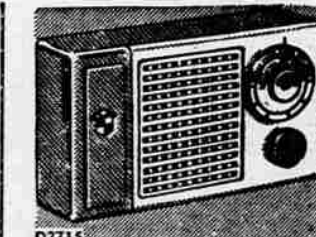
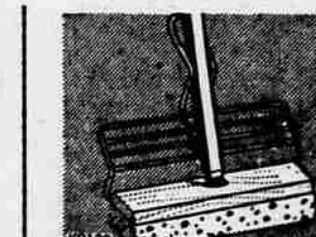
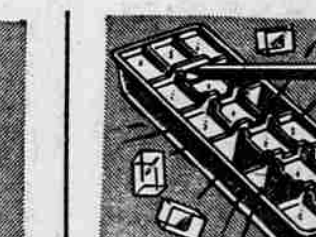
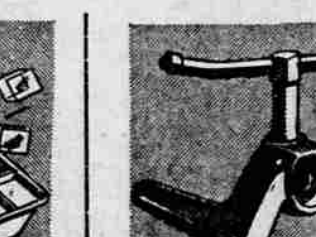
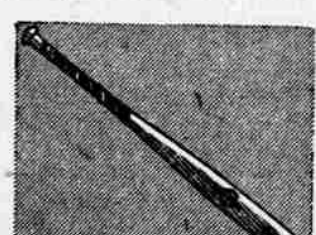
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