

Invasion of Building Industry By 'Foaming Plastics' Predicted

By LEROY POPE
New York (UPI)—One of the mushrooming industries of tomorrow is likely to be "foaming plastics."

Foaming plastics, already are out of the infant stage. They are competing lustily with rubber, lumber, cork, concrete, fiberglass and some plastics in the packaging, boating, chemical, aircraft, toy and many other industries.

Tomorrow, they may invade building on such a big scale as to compel a change in our whole conception of how a house should be built. The biggest change is that foaming plastics may make homes portable. That is, it will be possible to take them apart and take them along with you. If you move without much more consideration for expense than moving your furniture.

For small jobs such as providing flotation buoyance for a boat, or filling up cavities in any kind of construction, you can buy the chemicals in cans, pour them into the cavities and they will foam up in a few minutes, filling the space and hardening into a strong lightweight solid.

Portable Homes
Engineers already have worked out designs and actually built some portable homes of sandwich materials made of foaming plastics. Some lightweight industrial buildings have been put up using the material. The big

block to rapid expansion of use of foaming plastics in building is that at present they are quite expensive. But that could change drastically in a few years.

President Joseph A. Grazer of American Standard, a leading maker of plumbing equipment, recently told the National Construction Industry Conference that the housing industry can't achieve stability until builders and mortgage lenders make more effort to catch up with engineering and architectural advances in home building.

Such panels can be clipped together weather-tight. Previous efforts to make sandwich wall panels with cellulose centers not only lacked bearing strength but were extremely difficult to make weather-tight.

Plumbing and electric lines can be built into the wall panels so they connect up with little installation work. Light But Strong
Koppers Co. is planning to make plywood panels with a foamed polystyrene core in its Detroit plant for both home and commercial building use in thicknesses ranging from three to 13 inches, all with bearing wall strength and

very light weight. They will be coated outside with a tough synthetic rubber and on the inside with an aluminum foil vapor barrier. The Koppers panels are intended for so-called "balloon" construction—the panels for the lower stories being thicker and those for the upper stories thinner. Floor joists are attached to the panels by metal hangers.

The National Association of Home Builders has come up with experimental foundation panels made of the polystyrene foam to replace concrete slab. These would be movable. Bob Schmitt who was chairman of the N.A.H.B.'s research institute last year said these panels "could be the biggest single advance in home building in a decade."

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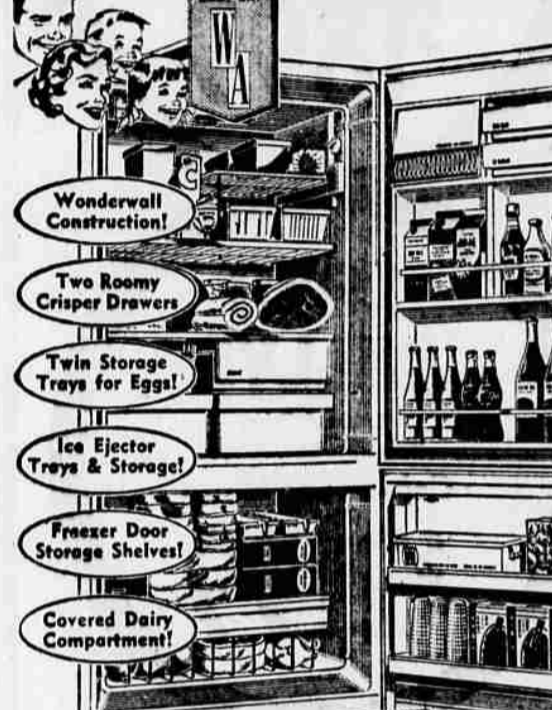
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Delay in Hoffa Case Turned Down

Washington (UPI)—Federal Judge F. Dickinson Letts, 85, has disqualified himself from presiding over a trial of Teamsters President James R. Hoffa but his replacement immediately turned down a move for further postponement of the case.

Judge Joseph R. Jackson, a retired member of the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals, took over for Letts, listened to arguments on behalf of Hoffa that the trial be delayed, then ruled: "Motion denied."

Jackson, who has the reputation for running a "no-nonsense" court, said he would hear arguments Thursday on another move by Hoffa's attorneys that the trial be cancelled outright.

Boeing Ordered To Design Space Ship

Washington (UPI)—The Air Force has ordered the Boeing Airplane Co. to go ahead with design of a space ship. The space ship will be called Dyna Soar and will be a winged glider boosted into orbit by a Titan intercontinental ballistic missile.

The Seattle firm was named contractor for the manned space project last Nov. 8.

Under today's decision, the Air Force released \$20,700,000 for "design and ground testing necessary to build a boost-glide aerospace test vehicle."

An additional \$58 million for the program is included in the Air Force's new budget now before Congress.

Proposed Mill at Bend Not Discussed

Vancouver, B.C. (UPI)—A proposed pulp and paper mill at Bend, Ore., was not brought up Tuesday at the annual meeting of MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River Ltd. here.

A company spokesman said earlier that shareholders might bring up the mill.

A contract was signed earlier by the Powell River Company with Brooks-Scanlon, Inc., in which the former could acquire 51 per cent of the stock of the latter for construction of a pulp and paper mill. The contract included a provision which allowed postponement until Dec. 31, 1960. It also includes conditions whereby either party could cancel plans for the stock purchase and mill construction.

Exams Announced for Civil Service Jobs

Examinations for positions as scientist administrators and trade and crafts supervisors in penal and correctional institutions have been announced by the civil service commission.

Also announced was examination for professional nursing positions in the Panama Canal Zone, which are given by the Central Employment office.

Full details concerning requirements and applications are available at the Medford post office or from the U.S. civil service commission, Washington 25, D.C. Information concerning the Panama positions is also available from the Central Employment office, Drawer 2008, Balboa Heights, Canal Zone.