

Strategic Stockpile Declared Worth Nothing in Nuclear War

BY ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York (UPI)—An economist looks at our \$6 billion accumulation of assorted materials — our strategic stockpile — and concludes in effect that we have a bear by the tail and can't let go.

He says it wouldn't be worth anything in a nuclear war. But, he adds, a mere mention of disposal sends shivers through the markets.

Bruce Netschert holds it is too much to expect that anything will be done "until the realities of the nuclear age are recognized without equivocation in our strategic and political thinking."

"In the meantime, the strategic stockpile remains a costly maintenance and administration cost \$19 million a year anachronism and a potentially dangerous investment of economic policy."

Netschert, economist with resources for the Future, Inc., writes his views in the current issue of Challenge magazine, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs of New York University.

The Strategic and Critical Materials Stockpiling Act of 1946 was passed as a result of World War II experience

which demonstrated the strategic vulnerability of this country in the area of raw material supply. Netschert points out:

In the course of operating the stockpile the goals were surpassed, and eventually the pile was forced to accept vast amounts of metals delivered under the Defense Production Act.

Foreign purchases of minerals often were paid for in barter with surplus farm products. But minerals producers opposed this method. Also the pile was used as a price support plan and this, says Netschert, was a glaring mistake. As originally set up the stockpile was designed to hold a quantity sufficient to meet a five-year deficit. Later this

was cut to three but not less than six months.

This three-year criterion is seen as belated recognition of the new age of nuclear possibilities.

"It is difficult to avoid the conclusion," says Netschert, that the stockpile as now constituted is simply unnecessary in a nuclear war.

"If anything is to be stockpiled, it should be finished products that would be so desperately needed for rehabilitation and reconstruction. "What can be more irrational, for example, then hoarding billions of dollars of materials in the strategic stockpile and only \$200 million worth of medical and other disaster supplies in the civil defense stockpile in the face of the continuing threat of nuclear war?"

Market men agree with Netschert, but they warn that any attempt to liquidate the stockpile would hit markets for the materials with a jolt that might well have an unsettling influence on the whole economy.

Market men have ways of reducing or cleaning up large amounts of materials in slow, steady liquidation as the markets can take the supplies. But they dread any attempt on the part of government to accomplish this task in the current economy.



CANDIDATE PLEASSED — Sen. John F. Kennedy relaxes in his Washington, D.C., home, holding a newspaper reporting his smashing victory over Sen. Hubert Humphrey in the West Virginia primary. Kennedy declared that his victory has "diminished substantially, if not eliminated" the religious issue as a factor in his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. (UPI Telephoto)

Canal To Link North, Black Seas Being Considered

Frankfurt, Germany (UPI)—European transportation is expected to be revolutionized within the next decade by construction of a canal connecting the North Sea with the Black Sea.

The 2,125-mile waterway would allow freighters and barges to travel from the mouth of the Rhine across the heart of Europe to the mouth of the Danube.

It would bring about direct communication between ports in the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland, West Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania and the Soviet Union.

While Western engineers work on plans to link the Rhine and Main rivers with the Danube, their colleagues on the other side of the Iron Curtain have a similar project of their own.

The Soviet-sponsored Council for Mutual Economic Help (COMECON) in eastern Europe is working on a plan to connect the Oder and Danube rivers to form a waterway between the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.

Both projects are ambitious undertakings, and final costs will run into the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars.

In western Europe, a good portion of the proposed waterway is already navigable. Ships up to 1,500 tons can ply the Rhine and Main as far as Schweinfurt, Germany, and can sail up the Danube to Regensburg, also in Germany.

Under Construction
A 34-mile stretch of the waterway beyond Schweinfurt to Bamberg is now under construction, following the course of the Main river. The next link will be a 102-mile canal crossing the Fraenkische Alb mountains from Bamberg to Kehlheim.

The Bamberg - Kehlheim canal will carry the waterway to its highest elevation. From Bamberg ships will climb 580 feet through a series of eight locks and two ship-canal lifts. From this point, they will descend 227 feet through three locks and one ship-canal lift to the level of the Danube.

Eastern Europe has dreamed of a link between the Danube and Oder rivers since the 15th century. Serious planning started in 1951 as Russia and her eastern European satellites emerged as an economic bloc. It is now necessary for ships from Soviet ports on the Baltic to sail around Europe, through the straits of Gibraltar and across the Mediterranean to reach Balkan and Black Sea ports.

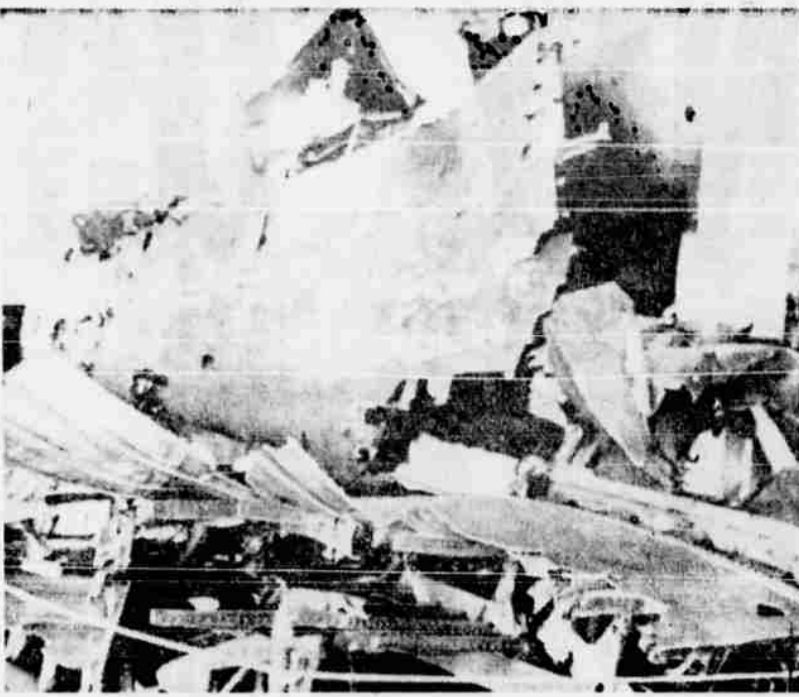
COMECON has developed three possible routes for an Oder-Danube canal, and construction is expected to begin on one of them some time around 1970. Cost estimates range between \$750 million and \$1 billion. Most of the construction would lie within Czechoslovakian territory.

Mayor Gets Humans Mixed With Canines

Waldwick, N.J. — Mayor Charles Guernsey got his figures slightly mixed while addressing the council.

"To date," said Guernsey, "only 400 licenses have been issued and there are 10,000 dogs in Waldwick."

With this, Councilman Manning straightened in his chair, heated, and whispered: "No, mayor, ten hundred dogs." "Oh yes," chuckled Guernsey, "I got the dogs crossed with the population."



WRECKAGE ON DISPLAY — This plane wreckage, which the Russians claim is of the American U2 reconnaissance plane flown by Francis Powers and reported to have been shot down over Russia on May 1, is on display in Gorky park in Moscow. In a news conference in Washington, President Eisenhower rejected the Soviet charges and said that earlier Russian photographs of the plane debris were not pictures of the U.S. craft. (UPI Radiotelephoto)

Dr. Bartlett Awarded Foundation Grant

Ashland — Dr. J. Kenneth Bartlett, Southern Oregon college associate professor of

science, has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant to attend a special institute at Ft. Lewis A and M college, Durango, Colo., this summer. Conducted by Harvard's Dr.

Paul R. Bartlett, one of the world's foremost organic chemists, the institute will be concerned with "Reaction Mechanisms in Organic Chemistry," Dr. Bartlett said.

Dollar Value of Bond Sales Rises

The dollar value of Series E and H savings bonds sold in Jackson county during April was \$80,333 compared to April, 1959's total of \$98,329, according to the county savings bond committee.

Although April's volume of sales dropped below that of the same month a year ago, the total value of sales so far in 1960 is \$404,489, slightly higher than that at the same

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Thursday, May 12, 1960 c 7

time a year ago when \$397,007 worth of bonds were sold. Total value of savings bonds sold in Oregon during April was \$2,601,538, down about 8 per cent from the total during April, 1959. However, the committee pointed out, total sales for all of Oregon during the first four months of 1960 are still running about a quarter of a million dollars ahead of 1959.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR FEDERAL BUILDING SITE

The GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION solicits proposals for the sale or donation to the United States of a site for Post Office Building at Medford, Oregon. It is requested that proposals be submitted on GSA Form 1276, Site Proposal, to the General Services Administration at the address below prior to close of business at 4:30 P.M. PST, May 27, 1960.

SITE LOCATION
Within the area bounded by Oakdale Street on the west, W. Fifth Street on the north, Fir Street on the east and W. Ninth Street on the south, or fronting on the perimeter thereof.

SITE SPECIFICATIONS
Site must have an approximate land area of 66,000 sq. ft. with minimum dimensions of 224 ft. by 297 ft. Submittal of proposals offering parcels smaller than specified for the site but to which adjoining parcels may be added to produce a site of the required size is encouraged. Notice is given that, as the interests of the Government may require, any or all proposals received may be rejected, that sites other than those offered in response to this advertisement may be considered and a site deemed more advantageous to the Government accepted.

Copies of GSA Form 1276, Site Proposal, and instructions concerning the submission of proposals may be obtained from the office of the Building Superintendent, Post Office Building, Medford, Oregon. Additional information as well as proposal forms and instructions may be obtained by contacting the

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