

### State Forester Favors Radar To Help Forecasters

SALEM — Additional weather radar facilities in Oregon are strongly favored by the State Forestry Department.

Based on its effective use in the eastern part of the nation for hurricane and tornado detection, State Forester Dwight Phipps believes radar equipment would solve a big problem in fire weather forecasting.

It takes observations to supply the raw data that must be evaluated before forecasts are made. The more than can be made, the greater are the chances for accuracy. As it is now, forecasters have a blind spot and it is a big one, consisting of a sizeable scope of the Pacific Ocean.

Robert Kirkpatrick, who heads the department's cooperative fire weather office, says information from the offshore regions is sketchy, being limited generally to reports from ships at sea.

#### Speculation Is Necessary

Because of this void in data source, the forecaster often has to speculate as to the presence of a storm front. He has the land-derived data but lacks sufficient information as to the conditions offshore, Kirkpatrick points out.

As a consequence, thunderstorms from the Pacific have a good chance to sneak in without advance warning. Forecasters are confronted with a similar problem in the fall of the year in predicting general storms.

Two strategically situated weather radar stations would fill this gap, Kirkpatrick says. With this powerful tool, meteorologists are able to locate storms 250 miles away and determine their intensity, movement and path.

Phipps recognizes another potential value in the equipment. While the primary purpose would be to predict fire weather, he foresees its usefulness in the fall during slash burning when accurate knowledge of weather is of critical importance. With the scope's ability to see a general storm that far off, fire districts would have about 10 hours to adjust for particular burning situations.

#### Hopeful About Plans

The department is hopeful that proposed plans of the U. S. Weather Bureau to install weather radar in Oregon will be approved.

Meteorologists say that Mary's Peak near Corvallis and Mt. Ashland in Southern Oregon would be ideal for that purpose. At present there is one small weather radar in the state. It is based at Astoria but is inadequate due to its short range.

Actually all weather services would reap the benefits from such facilities — the Weather Bureau, U. S. Forest Service and public utilities included, according to Kirkpatrick.

### Security at Air Force Bases Slated for Check

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House Armed Services Committee will be asked to check the security at all Air Force bases following the Defense Department's admission that 61 planes were sabotaged at an Arizona base.

Rep. Leslie C. Arends, ranking GOP member of the committee, termed the revelation "shocking." He said Tuesday that he planned to ask the committee to investigate all military security precautions.

He said the sabotage incident revealed a laxity in our military security that was "incomprehensible and inexcusable."

The Defense Department said Tuesday that 61 T-33 jet training planes had the electrical wires leading from the power system to the gears cut. The wires run along the outside of the plane. All of the planes were stationed at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz.

The planes were grounded but officials said the sabotage was not considered dangerous. Under ordinary conditions, officials said the damage would have been discovered before the planes were used in flight.

According to reports from Williams, the sabotage was discovered by ground crews on a routine check.

In a brief speech to the House, Arends said the incident would never have taken place if the proper security precautions were followed.

He said the sabotaging of a single military plane at a U.S. air base would be hard to understand. "To have 61 planes sabotaged is incomprehensible and inexcusable," he said.

The FBI was called in to investigate the incident, but as yet there have been no arrests. There has been speculation that the planes may have been damaged by a disgruntled civilian employee at the base or a dissatisfied serviceman.

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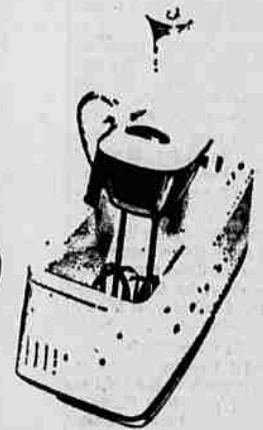
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