

# Huge Air Force Urged For US As Defense Against Possible Atomic Attack

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (AP)—President Truman's air policy commission said today the government should add billions of dollars to air power spending estimates to create a force "capable of dealing with a possible atomic attack on this country" by January 1, 1953.

A report by the five-man board declared the air force presently planned would be "inadequate" even for the intervening five years.

It would be "hopelessly wanting," the report said, for the later period when it should be assumed that "other nations will have atomic weapons in quantity and the equipment to deliver them in a sustained attack on the United States mainland."

The commission said plans should be expanded all along the line to call for:

1. An air force of 70 groups instead of the 55 groups now blue-printed.
2. Doubling of the present total of 3500 first line combat aircraft by the end of 1949.
3. A \$1,300,000,000 increase to bring air force spending to \$4,150,000,000 for the 1948 calendar year and to \$5,450,000,000 for next year.
4. An additional \$192,000,000 above budget estimates to modernize the navy's air arm this year and \$310,000,000 more for the same purpose in 1949.

"We believe," the commission said, "that the United States will be secure in an absolute sense only if the institution of war itself is abolished under a regime of law."

Meanwhile its final 145-page study urged a "double-barreled policy" of attempting to achieve world peace through the United Nations while preparing to defend ourselves if war should come.

To achieve this goal, the commission said, there must be "a reversal of our traditional attitudes toward armaments and national sovereignty." The nation must spend more and more for its military establishment because "self-preservation comes ahead of economy."

The commission urged an immediate start on expansion of the air force with modern equipment, asserting "we have no breathing space in which we do not need air-power."

The ready-to-fight, 70-group air force recommended by the commission would have 6869 first line aircraft in a total of 12,400 modern planes by December 31, 1949.

There also would be 22 special squadrons, 27 national guard air groups and 34 groups of air reserve. In reserve would be 8100 modern warplanes by the "target date"—dubbed "A-Day"—of January 1, 1953.

The national arm was described as adequate in size, but needing modern aircraft replacements.

The commission noted that its proposed groups would mean only

700 very heavy bombers for strategic operations, compared with 14,000 bombers employed by the American and British forces in the European theater.

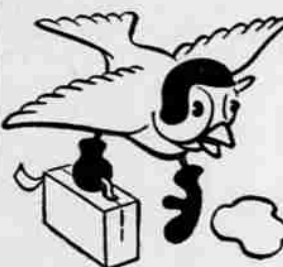
## USBR Budget Held To Be Sure Thing

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (AP)—Senator Johnson (D-Colo.) predicted today that although congress may quarrel with the president's overall budget, it will go along with the proposed \$240,000,000 reclamation construction program.

"I think congress will go right down the line on these projects," he told a reporter.

Last year's budget estimates for reclamation were drastically slashed by congress. Supplemental appropriations totaling about \$32,000,000, requested at the recent special session to keep work going on four major projects, were passed without much opposition, however.

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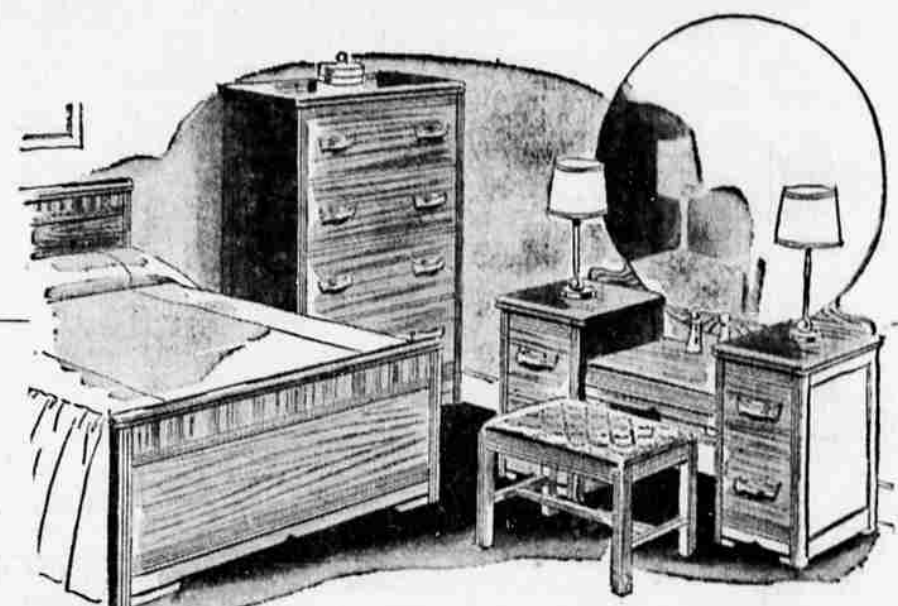
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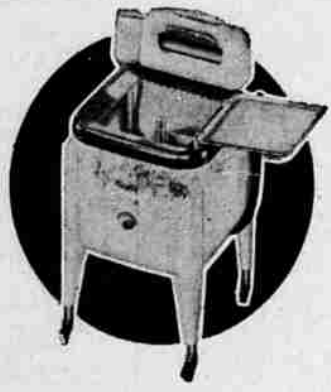
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