

# U.S. Speeding A-Bomb Production; AEC Fund Curbs Cut by Senate

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19 (AP)—The United States is going to speed up its atomic bomb program.

Two moves in the senate late yesterday paved the way for the program.

One was the disclosure by Chairman McMahon (D-Conn.) of the senate-house atomic committee that President Truman had authorized the atomic energy commission (AEC) to use some of its budgetary reserves "to get started on this proposition."

The reserves to be used amount to approximately \$30,000,000, or about 10 per cent of the overall program which is to be financed by a deficiency appropriations bill in the next session of congress.

Spending Curbs  
The second move was senate approval of a measure by Senator McMahon to lift some of the spending curbs imposed on the AEC earlier in the session. This still is subject to house approval.

McMahon refused to answer when asked by newsmen whether the speed-up action is the result of recent disclosures that Soviet Russia has had an atomic explosion.

At the United Nations yesterday, Andrei Vishinsky, Soviet foreign minister, restated to a news conference the Soviet claim that Russia has had the bomb since 1947.

Major Effort  
McMahon, while saying that a "major expansion effort" is being undertaken, emphasized that it is "an acceleration of planned production that has been in the planning stage since last spring."

McMahon made the announcement following a closed door committee meeting with AEC officials. The senator predicted the acceleration would "probably result in speeding up" the AEC construction program by "three or four months."

He would not disclose any details of the program, or say what facilities and operations are to be accelerated. Neither was any breakdown of the allocations to the two plants available.

Key Points  
Hanford is the center of plutonium operations, while Oak Ridge turns out uranium—both key materials for atomic bombs.

The senate acted to modify the curbs on AEC spending after an appeal from McMahon which brought support from two key republicans on the joint committee—Senators Hickenlooper (Iowa) and Millikin (Colo.).

Hickenlooper, an arch critic of AEC Chairman David E. Lillenthal and his policies, called the measure offered by McMahon of "unique importance to the atomic program."

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## Devaluation Poses Tough West Problem

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19 (AP)—Rep. Russell Mack (R-Wash.) predicted today that foreign currency devaluation will have an adverse effect on West Coast lumber, fish and pulp paper industries.

Mack said it still is too early to appraise the full effect of devaluation. But he added, it probably will mean increased exports from Canada.

Under selling  
Canada, he told a reporter, already is able to undersell United States lumber producers because of lower wage rates. With a 10 per cent devaluation of the Canadian dollar, he said, the costs of production will be cut another 10 per cent.

Canadian shipments to the Eastern seaboard, he added, can be made at a saving of another 3 per cent over U. S. transportation costs from the West Coast.

Inroads  
Therefore, he said, West Coast lumber producers are facing the threat of Canadian inroads into their world markets and increased

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imports of Canadian lumber into the United States because of lower prices.  
Mack suggested that a partial answer might lie in restoration of tariffs on imports from Canada.

**Prison 'Criminal Training School'**  
OREGON CITY, Oct. 19 (AP)—Oregon's penitentiary was labeled a "training school for professional criminals" in a talk here yesterday by the Oregon Prison association's executive secretary.

The secretary, Mrs. Clair A. Agow said the next legislature should look into what she called an unsympathetic approach in handling first offenders and young people.

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The Champagne Music of  
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This is the first Northwest tour for Lawrence Welk. His only stops in Oregon are Klamath Falls and Portland.

He has been a favorite with Midwest dancers for many years. His band replaces Guy Lombardo's at the Roosevelt hotel in New York each summer during Guy's vacation.

His music satisfies every type of dancer from the young to the old. He is famous for his polkas and schottisches.

He is one of the few leaders in the country to feature both an electric organ and a celeste.

The Oct. 8, 1949, issue of the "Billboard" (national amusement magazine) in reviewing Welk's band at the Hollywood Palladium, says in part: "His music is just as plain and down to earth as good beer, and is one of the best musical brews of its kind at that. Patrons go for Welk in a big way, filling the floor to dance rather than look. Crowd is enthusiastic about the Welk brand of music and shows its appreciation with much applause after each number."

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