

Atomic Experts Argue U. S. Bombing Danger; Mobile Capital Asked

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (AP)—What are the chances of a surprise atomic bomb attack upon the United States?

If this is worrying you, then Senator Edwin C. Johnson (D-Colo.) has some comforting "personal opinions."

"I think the odds are about one million to one against any enemy dropping one atomic bomb on any part of the United States," Johnson told a reporter. "Of course I refer to the foreseeable future—say the next 20 years."

Authoritative
Johnson is in a position to give an estimate. He is a member of the senate-house atomic energy committee and this group probably knows more atomic secrets than any other.

New Housing Plan Now In First Stage

By JAMES MARLOW
WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (AP)—The government's public housing program is slowly getting a start. At this point, though, it has only reached the beginning of the planning stage.

Because more than 25,000,000 low-income people live in slums and run-down city or farm homes, this program—passed by congress and signed into law by President Truman last July 15—has three aims:

1. To wipe out slums, although this program won't wipe out all of them.
2. Build houses where low-income families who can afford only low rent can get decent homes.
3. Aid poor farmers in putting needed repairs on their homes or building new ones.

The cost to the government is between \$7 billion and \$12 billion spread over 40 years in grants, or outright gifts of money; plus about \$3 billion or so in loans, which the government will get back.

Most of the money will go to cities and communities. They'll hire private contractors to clear the slums and build public housing.

The government will help when the cities and communities can't pay the bill themselves.

The only individuals who'll get money are poor farmers, if they're approved by the government.

And they can't get it unless they can't get money any other way. They'll get two kinds of help: loans and grants.

The public, low-cost housing program calls for 210,000 units to be built in the next six years. And a mall has been driven into a shingle yet under this program. The program is getting under way, but only to this extent:

The government this week approved loans of \$20,375,400 to 108 cities to make surveys and plans for a total of 134,000 low-rent homes.

Since they're only at the start of the planning stage, no building of homes can start before next year.

When the plans and surveys are finished, the 108 cities and communities can come back and ask the government for help in building the homes.

The government can make loans to the communities up to 90 per cent of the total cost of the projects. The loans to be repaid in 40 years, at interest.

The other two parts of the program—help to poor farmers and slum-clearance—haven't started yet.

Noronic Skipper Penalized

OTTAWA, Nov. 21 (AP)—Justice R. L. Kellock today ordered suspension for one year of the license of Capt. William Taylor of Sarnia, Ont., master of the ill-fated cruise ship Noronic.

A 99-page report on the disaster has been delivered to Transport Minister Lionel Chevrier for presentation to the house of commons later today. The Noronic burned at her pier in Toronto September 17, with a loss of 119 lives.

The suspension order was contained in an accompanying brief judgment delivered by Justice Kellock in the Canadian supreme court.

One hundred and eleven of the dead have been identified.

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er, except the atomic energy commission and its scientists.

Johnson's own views of possible danger from attack apparently differ widely from other congressional atomic committeemen.

Senator McMahon (D-Conn), chairman of the joint committee, already has announced that hearings on possible civilian defense against the dread weapon will be conducted early next year.

Civilian Defense
And Senator Tydings (D-Md), a member of the atomic group and chairman of the senate armed services committee, thinks civilian defense should be one of the first matters of business when congress meets in January.

Other lawmakers have stressed this angle since President Truman disclosed that Soviet Russia had staged an atomic explosion.

Johnson also has differed with Chairman David Lillenthal and other members of the atomic energy commission and its scientists.

But he told a reporter he is confident of his forecast for the next 20 years or longer "as a matter of simple logic."

"We have so many more atomic bombs than any other nation now, that it would be pure suicide for any power to attempt even a sneak attack," Johnson said.

He did not explain why he feels so certain.

Deadlier
"It also is widely known that our present atomic bombs are more than six times as powerful or deadlier than the first dropped on Japan during the war," Johnson said.

According to General MacArthur and other qualified authorities our scientists now have increased the efficiency of atomic bombs up to 1000 times the first bomb."

Over the week-end Senator Wiley (R-Wis) renewed his earlier demands for dispersion of key agencies from Washington and redoubled efforts by cities to spread out their populations and industries.

Mobile HQ
As other acts of preparedness, Wiley recommended that congress should "consider legislation by television from 30 or 40 scattered points in the nation," and "the question of



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a mobile capital, if necessary, on railroad trains where legislators and key government officers could continue to direct the affairs of the nation."

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