

# Government Hopes Uranium Fever Will Rival Gold Rush

By JOHN KAMPS

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Prospectors struck uranium this year, and the government hopes next year's hunt for the atomic metal will rival the last century's gold rushes in the West.

Armed with mechanical detectors instead of a pickaxe, thousands of prospectors searched the ground this year for the atom's prime ingredient, and a few made aerial surveys.

The government completed drilling exploration holes through 1,300,000 (M) feet of rock made plans to have another 1,500,000 (M) feet next year. It will pay for uranium, and kept posted its \$10,000 bonus for the first rich domestic strike.

Industry cooperated by exploring mining 100 percent of the uranium ore and processing 90 percent of it.

**NEW DEPOSITS**

The hunt turned up new ore deposits and developed others, marking the United States the second largest uranium producer among the world's free nations.

The government continued importing uranium from the first place Canada.

Scene of the most activity was the Colorado plateau, where work was extended to cover 130,000 square miles of desert, mountain and mesa in Eastern Utah, northwestern New Mexico, northeast Arizona and western Colorado.

More than 1000 men from 200 companies worked this year on the plateau, which is 5000 to 7000 feet above sea level. They mined ore

and sent it to processing plants in Colorado and Utah.

Ore found there so far is low-grade compared with that in Africa and Canada, but it's this country's largest known deposit.

At one place on the plateau, it's estimated that 80,000 pounds of ore will yield one pound of uranium—which theoretically would have the same power as 9000 tons of dynamite.

More than 150,000 tons of ore have been taken from one mine in the "Salt Wash" district biggest producer on the plateau. Salt Wash covers 40,000 square miles. Its major ore bodies lie in a belt from Blaine, Utah, through Uranium, Colo., to Gateway, Colo.

The plateau still has thousands of miles of unprospected land—especially in remote areas along the Colorado river.

Disadvantages of mining in the rough, isolated country are partly offset by advantages. Some areas have few roads and no electricity for drilling, but the sandstone is soft and mines are shallow, so small crews can get out ore.

**PROMISES**

Phosphate rock in four states promises to yield some uranium. A technique is being worked out to extract the metal from rock mined by fertilizer manufacturers in Florida, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

AEC says detailed exploration of black shale in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin also could possibly turn up uranium.

Uranium has been found and mined in vein-type deposits in two belts: one extending from Boulder, Mont., through Colorado and New Mexico, the other from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, through Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

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**Ex-PW, German Guard Meet**

DAYTON, O., (AP)—Dec. 6, 1944: a prisoner of war camp in Alsace-Lorraine. A group of captured Americans behind the barbed wire.

Suddenly a German sergeant burst out in English.

"Anybody from Dayton?"

Pvt. Arthur F. Schwartz steps forward. He meets Sgt. Otto Orlow, who once lived in Dayton, went to Germany to visit relatives, and was inducted into the army while there.

Last night—almost seven years later—the two met again, in the office of the Dayton Journal Herald.

"You don't look a bit different," said Schwartz.

"You do, and I'm happy to see you," said Orlow.

They sat down and relished experiences. Orlow had been captured later himself, by the French. Schwartz works for a refrigerator company here. Orlow? He is a tool and die maker—where else but in Dayton.

**MASS KILLING**

BILLINGS, Mont., (AP)—Ranger-riding is more than just watching the dogies: Frank Hendren killed 665 rattlesnakes in six days while at work for a livestock company. He found them gathering in a basin, piled in bundles of 18 to 20 getting ready to den up for the winter. Hendren used a 1x4 board about 5 feet long to toss them away from their holes. Then he clubbed them to death. He notched the board to keep count.

# Steel Boss Plots Way To Pay Up

PITTSBURGH, (AP)—How to get around government wage ceilings poses a big problem for Philip Murray today as he begins negotiations "substantia" wage boost for nearly 1,000,000 CIO united steelworkers who now average \$1.97 an hour.

In addition, Murray—president of both the CIO and the steelworkers—is meeting firm opposition from the steel industry. Top industry spokesmen say they can't afford to boost wages because materials have increased in price and profits have fallen.

Under present government wage controls, the steelworkers are entitled to a maximum wage hike of four or five cents an hour without getting special permission. Murray has made it clear he wants much more than four or five cents but hasn't spelled out his demands.

Today's opening round of negotiations is with U.S. Steel corporation, the bellwether of the industry. Big steel employs about 155,000 U.S.W. members and the pattern it sets usually is followed down the line by the rest of the industry.

Before the week is out similar negotiations will open with most of the major steel companies.

Murray has 35 days to try to reach a settlement before a strike is possible. The steelworkers' contract with U.S. Steel and the rest of the industry expires at midnight, Dec. 31, and a minute later the men who make steel are free to strike.

# UMT Approval Seen Coming

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Chairman Vinson (D-Ga) of the house armed services committee today predicted early congressional approval of universal military training into operation.

Back from a trip to Georgia, Vinson announced that hearings on the legislation will start before his committee on Jan. 9.

When congress reconvenes on Jan. 8, he told newsmen, he will introduce a bill embodying the recommendations of the national security training commission created this year by congress to draft a UMT program.

While congress already has approved the principle of UMT, with six months of training for 18-year-olds, it must enact another law before a program can become effective.

Without another law, no youth can be inducted for UMT.

One of the lead-off witnesses for the congressional hearing, Vinson said, will be Justice W. Wadsworth of New York, chairman of the national security training commission and a former senator and representative.

Vinson predicted that both his committee and the house would approve the implementing legislation quickly.

He conceded, however, that there may be some major revisions in the legislation suggested by the commission.

Some influential committee members favor a provision that would let inductees take their six months of training in two periods of three months each, presumably during the summer months when schools are closed.

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# Top Turnip Tips Texas

DENVER, (AP)—Colorado's Gov. Dan Thornton had a turnip dinner the other night. One turnip did it.

It was a 6-pound giant grown by Charles Storm at Silver Plume, a Colorado mountain village.

The governor commented the turnip was "even bigger than they grow in Texas." Thornton is a native of the Lone Star state.

# OLCC Boosts Grog Price

PORTLAND, (AP)—Another liquor price increase was announced Monday by the state liquor control commission.

It will be a 5 percent boost—about 24 cents a fifth on most whisky—to go into effect December 1.

The commission explained it expected to get about \$1,500,000 (M) more through the increase, the money helping to avoid a deficit in the state's general fund.

A printed statement from the commission said the joint ways and means committee of the last legislature requested the 5 percent increase, but the federal office of price stabilization at first refused to approve the boost.

The OPS now has given approval the announcement said.

The increase is in addition to the federal tax increase made November 1.

The commission added that wine prices would be adjusted in line with the 5 percent markup. This is expected to result in lower prices, though, for some wines—those which now sell above an established price of 80 cents per fifth.

**FANCY SWINE**

BRANDON, Man., (AP)—Malcolm McGregor paid 1295 for a pure-bred boar here. It was the record price in the sale of pure-bred Winter Fair. The boar won the reserve championship at the annual exhibition.

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