

Expanded Steel Supplies May Bring More Civilian Production For 1953

WASHINGTON (AP)—Makers of automobiles and other civilian goods raised their production goals for the second quarter of 1953 today, on the basis of government assurance they will have more steel than at any time since the Korean War began.

The Defense Production Administration (DPA) authorized them late yesterday to use steel up to 70 per cent of their pre-Korean rate. This is about 16 per cent more than for the third quarter of 1952, the previous high since the government began rationing scarce materials to assure adequate supplies for defense.

Aluminum producers weighed, meanwhile, a conditional government offer for a ceiling price increase of one-half cent a pound on primary aluminum pig and ingot and 4 per cent on fabricated aluminum products.

Defense Mobilizer Henry Fowler tied the proposed increase to a provision that the Big Three producers agree to certain changes in their contracts with the government, among them the deletion of the right of the government or the companies to cancel contracts for aluminum before they run their full five years.

Fowler's proposal was made in identical letters to the Aluminum Company of America, the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp. and the Reynolds Metals Company. He asked immediate replies.

The companies got a bigger in-

crease last August, but they said it wasn't enough to meet their expansion programs and asked Fowler for another hike.

The DPA allotments of controlled materials for the April-May-June quarter of 1953 made no change in the rate of use of copper and aluminum. The agency said these metals still are scarce. Copper use will continue at 50 per cent of pre-Korean levels and aluminum at 55 per cent.

Acting DPA Chief Ralph Trigg said the steel supply now is looking up, after being hampered by the long steel strike in the summer.

Trigg said the new allotments will meet in full the demands of the Atomic Energy Construction program and defense production.

Defense Department requirements will be about 10 per cent less in the second quarter than in the first quarter, because of cutbacks in output of tanks and other military vehicles.

Trigg said the bigger allotments in the second quarter should permit increased construction of small schools, hospitals, power and transportation facilities and public works; the highest rate of highway construction ever; an output of 9,000 freight cars a month, the highest since materials were rationed; and new housing construction at the rate of one million units a year.

He said steel provided should al-

low production of 1 1/4 million passenger automobiles and 315,000 trucks. This compares with steel

provided to build only 700,000 cars in the first quarter of the new year. The companies previously had been authorized to produce as many as 1 1/2 million autos if they can obtain steel from abroad or through other sources.



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Committee Studies Power

SEATTLE (AP)—A special research committee is going to be asked to prepare a recommendation on what agency would be best fitted to issue revenue bonds for Columbia River power developments.

The Bonneville Regional Planning Council decided Wednesday, after a two-day session here, to ask the committee for the new report.

The research group is headed by Dean Maurice W. Lee, dean of economics at Washington State College. His committee recommended to the Planning Council at Tuesday's session that revenue bond issues would be a feasible interim method of financing much-needed power facilities.

The committee also is expected to study the suggestion of Paul J. Raver, Bonneville power administrator, that the entire present federal power system should be taken over by a regional organization of some kind.

Points to be included in the bond issue proposal study include whether such bonds should be taxable or tax-exempt and whether government guarantees of payment should be sought. Revenue bonds normally represent a claim only against the revenues produced by the project.

Some criticism was expressed at the session of both the bond and the regional authority suggestions. Some critics thought the proposals might distract Congress from the need of immediate appropriations for further Pacific Northwest power projects.

Paul McKee, president of the Pacific Power & Light Co., Portland, said joint action by power distributors in building new generating plants might help supplement fed-

eral constructions.

B. E. Torpen of the Army Engineers' Portland regional office, told the council that upstream storage projects now under construction could not prevent a Columbia River flood of 1948 proportions. He said upstream projects which would serve as storage facilities have met opposition from Montana and Idaho or from fisheries and other economic interests.

He said the proposed Libby Dam in Montana must be written off as an immediate prospect because of delays in negotiations with Canada.

State Rep. A. B. Comfort of Tacoma, head of a council sub-committee on fish, submitted a recommendation that work on fish facilities must be given top priority in the power program.

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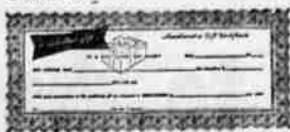
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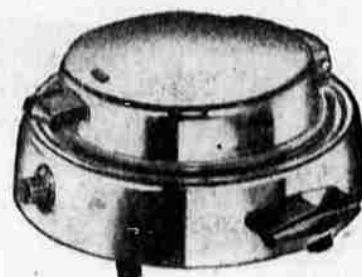
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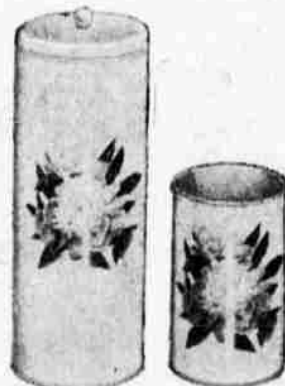
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