

Award Administration Split Over Military Budget

By JACK BELL

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower's advisers were reported sharply divided today on whether to increase or decrease the 46 billion dollar military program proposed by former President Truman.

Up for the big plums, only Joan Crawford ("Sudden Fear") will be at the Hollywood shindig.

The NBC telecast goes on the air at 7:30 p.m. (10:30 p.m. EST) and stays on until finished, approximately two hours. RCA-Victor, picking up the \$250,000 sponsor's tab, will also sponsor a radio broadcast.

That bit of irony became possible when three of the major movie studios refused financial support for the academy show.

Who's going to win?

Most experts pick Miss Booth, Gary Cooper and "High Noon" to cop the three top Oscars.

A pick Joan Crawford, while fully admitting the greatness of Miss Booth's performance, for 25 years la Crawford has been working 24 hours a day at being a movie star. Her personal popularity among the voters will be hard for a screen newcomer to overcome.

I think Cooper is a shoe-in but I like "The Quiet Man" for the best picture.

Longshot special is "The Greatest Show on Earth." Many argue that sentimental Hollywood will honor the first Cecil B. DeMille epic ever to be nominated. Few want to repeat the oversight that let D. W. Griffith go to his grave unhonored.

A responsible official who asked not to be quoted by name told this reporter the matter has been discussed frequently at Cabinet meetings without any agreement among opposing factions.

This official said the issue probably will be checked to the National Security Council for the opinions of its members, but that in the end Eisenhower himself will have to make the decision which may effect the whole political and fiscal structure of his administration.

One segment of the Cabinet is reported insisting that military outlays must be reduced if Eisenhower is to carry out his goal of balancing the budget.

Eisenhower reiterated that goal yesterday, in a speech in which he said the budget must be brought under control before taxes can be cut.

Sen. Taft of Ohio, the Republican leader, is one of those who has taken the view that military spending must be cut to balance the budget. Taft says only 1 1/2 or two billions can be cut out of civilian portions of the 78 1/2 billion dollar Truman spending budget for the fiscal year starting July 1.

On the other hand, Eisenhower is said to have been told by one group of advisers that Truman's 46 billion military program won't give the country the kind of security it needs in the face of Russian attitudes.

This group has been talking in terms of adding anywhere from 10 to 25 billions to the Truman figure, a move that would bring the country close to all-out preparation for war and cut heavily into the civilian economy.

Eisenhower has taken no position on the matter thus far, the official said.

As yet, Secretary of Defense Wilson has not offered the Cabinet even any tentative figures on military spending for the year beginning he believes ought to be spent in foreign aid.

Sen. Cooper (R-Ky) proposed, meanwhile, that a special Senate investigation of ammunition supplies be expanded to check upon the adequacy of the entire defense program.

Cooper is one of five senators on the special armed services subcommittee set up to investigate ammunition shortages reported by Gen. James A. Van Fleet, until recently Korean field commander.

Cooper said the new Republican administration was put in office by people who wanted to be certain that adequate defenses. It would be negligent and even criminal, he added, if the new administration failed to ask Congress for sufficient funds to "assure the nation of an adequate and reasonable defense."

Any decision by Eisenhower to increase military outlays materially would reverse the Truman administration's stretch-out program, with resulting repercussions on industry.

It probably would unbalance the budget further and delay tax reductions — giving the Democrats ammunition for the 1954 congressional campaign.

Some Democrats apparently have sensed the President's dilemma and have taken steps to get themselves on record.

In recent speeches, Senators Lyndon Johnson of Texas, the min-

ority leader, and Symington (D-Mo), former Air Force secretary, attacked what they called the military lechery of the Truman administration.

At the same time, they put the political spotlight on Eisenhower's coming decision with the implication that if it is what they call the butter-before-guns approach they will tell the country about it in no uncertain terms.

A decision the other way, however, could cause trouble with Taft and such other Republicans as Sen. Bridges of New Hampshire, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Bridges said no one has even hinted to him there might be proposals to step up defense spending.

"All the talks I have had have dealt with efforts to cut down on previous plans," he said.

Personal To Women With Nagging Backache

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