

Opposition to Ike's Wanting To Raise Debt Limit Melts

By CHARLES F. BARRETT

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower appeared today to be making headway against hot congressional opposition to his late-hour plea to boost the federal debt ceiling by 15 billion dollars.

Republican leaders confidently predicted—and Democrats generally agreed—that the House would

overwhelmingly pass the storm-provoking proposal by this afternoon.

In the Senate, where the issue threw a seemingly insurmountable barrier across the fast track cleared for adjournment this week-end, at least some of the powerful opposition to the President's plea showed signs of wavering.

Administration forces geared for

an intense, rapid-fire drive to push the plan across in the closing days of this session.

Chairman Daniel A. Reed (R-NY) called the House Ways and Means Committee into an early closed-door session (7:30 a. m. EST) to act on the issue.

Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey arranged to present the administration's case for raising the debt ceiling from the present 275 billion dollars to 290 billions.

Humphrey said yesterday "near panic" might result if the lid is not lifted and the government as a result couldn't pay its bills. The debt now stands at 272½ billions.

The Senate Finance Committee planned a similar session this afternoon (1:30 p. m. EST). House leaders obviously hoped to send the bill to the Senate in time for that committee to act on it today.

As the Senate recessed last night, acting Republican Leader Knowland of California told his colleagues he still "will want to reserve judgment on the hour and day of adjournment" in view of the President's debt limit request.

He said he advised Secretary of State Dulles he does not expect to be free to leave either Saturday or Sunday on their scheduled trip to Korea to confer with Korean President Syngman Rhee.

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, the Democratic leader, called the debt limit request "startling—it

it has been sent to the Congress at the 11th hour."

Eisenhower formally asked for the increase in a terse, 250-word message to Congress last night.

The President said it will be necessary to borrow more money and exceed the present limit "to meet necessary expenditures and to maintain a safe working balance of funds . . . to conduct the government's fiscal affairs effectively."

House Speaker Joseph Martin (R-Mass.) told reporters there may be a wall of protests over the issue, but when the chips are down congressmen "will be falling all over themselves to vote for the in-

crease."

"None of these fellows is going to want to vote against this thing when they realize the veterans might not get their checks in December, or government workers might go unpaid, or we might not be able to pay for the airplanes and tanks delivered for national defense."

Sen. Sparkman of Alabama, the Democrats' 1912 vice presidential nominee, said he would prefer to have the administration try to get along without the higher ceiling and call Congress back to special session in the fall if it finds this impossible.

Sen. Maybank (D-SC) declared:

"I think at this particular time it is impossible for the President to have the debt limit raised. If the administration will economize and cut, they won't need it."

Most said they wanted to hear the administration's justification of the appeal before declaring their intentions.

House Democrats planned an attack on last-minute timing of the proposal and on what one called a "cowardly lack of guts" to ask for enough taxes to balance the budget and avoid the debt increase.

But House Democratic leaders conceded a majority of their members would vote for the increase in a showdown.

With the main battle centered in the Senate, Knowland said Senate rules permitting unlimited debate were the chief obstacles to fast action.

But Sens. Byrd (D-Va.) and George (D-Ga.), both members of the Finance Committee who previously blasted the idea, said they were open to persuasion.

Administration spokesmen said they waited until the closing days of Congress to make the proposal because (1) they wanted to be sure it was necessary and (2) earlier requests might have bogged down in arguments that appropriation and revenue figures couldn't be definite until Congress acted on them.

Rent Control Ends Tonight

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal rent control, last of the economic curbs born of World War II, dies at midnight tonight in some 1,100 communities across the nation.

Office of Rent Stabilization officials said they do not expect any wave of drastic rent increases to follow. One official estimated rents generally will go up about 10 per cent.

Some states are prepared to step in with their own laws. New York has had such legislation for some time. Massachusetts, New Jersey and Kansas have adopted laws which permit imposition of state control. Connecticut has a law that becomes effective automatically when federal curbs end.

Of the big cities outside these states, only Philadelphia and Baltimore have passed controls ordinances. And there, federal officials said, is a real question of constitutionality, since neither Maryland nor Pennsylvania has passed enabling legislation.

Federal rent control first went into effect in April 1942. At the height of World War II, some 16 million units were covered.

After tonight, only about 120,000 units in scattered critical defense areas will remain subject to federal rent supervision.

These are areas that include military or atomic energy installations where there has been a substantial influx of personnel, and where housing shortages are found to threaten to result in excessive rent boosts.

Twenty-four such areas have been certified. As many as three more may be certified before the midnight deadline.

These areas are to remain under rent control until next April 30, unless government surveys show before then that housing problems in the individual localities have been met.

The federal rent agency that at one time had 5,000 employees will go out of existence tonight. A remnant of 75 will then handle what is left of the government's rent program under the wing of the office of Defense Mobilization (ODM).

Water Committee Given Go-Ahead

SALEM (AP) — Oregon's new water resources committee, meeting here Thursday for the first time, was asked by Gov. Paul L. Patterson to develop a statewide policy on the use of water.

"For too long," the governor said, "attention to water problems in Oregon has been given on an area basis, without considering the effects on the rest of the state."

The governor said much water is being wasted, and that water from wells is being used without any control.

The committee, which will report to the 1955 Legislature, also will try to find a way to settle disputes over the use of water.

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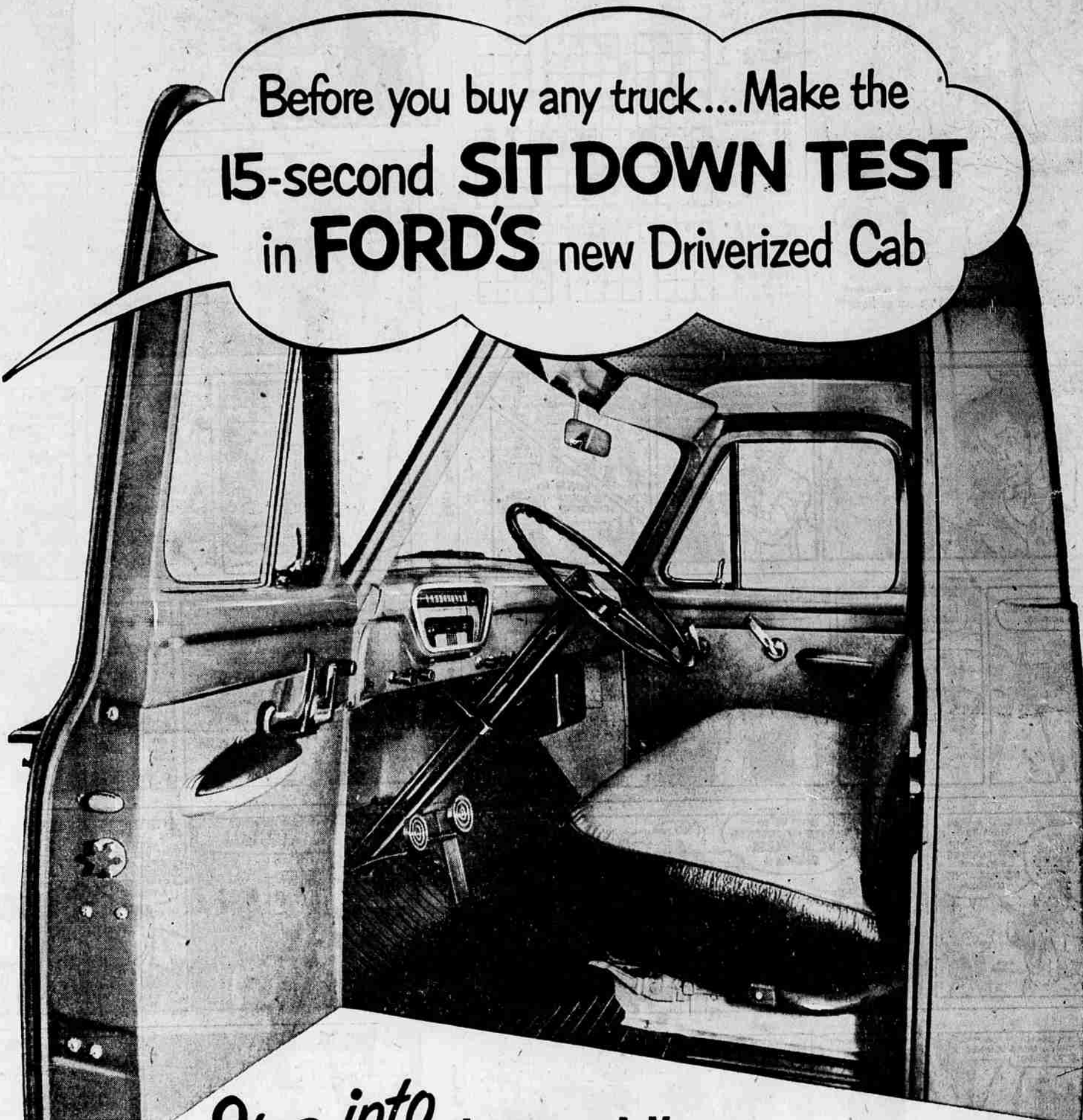
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