

# Experts Say Reds Lead In Mars Race

WASHINGTON (UPI) — State-ments by U. S. and Soviet space experts suggest the Russians may beat America to Mars by two years.

The Russians are putting a lot of chips on the big rockets used in their now-concluded Pacific Ocean tests.

Soviet academician A. A. Blagoravov said in advance that success of the Pacific program could make a shot at Mars possible this year.

Another Russian scientist, Prof. V. Dobronravov, has been quoted as saying that big boosters like those used in the Pacific firings could launch recoverable satellites and send scientific instruments to the planets and back.

The U. S. timetable, as disclosed last week by Associate Director Richard E. Horner of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, has no provision for a planetary probe before 1962.

The U. S. does not hope to send really big payloads to Mars or Venus until its Saturn rocket is perfected as a three-stage space vehicle some time in late 1963 or 1964.

President Eisenhower said Monday he would ask Congress to increase Saturn appropriations for fiscal 1961 by 98 million dollars to a total of 246 million. This will speed up Saturn's development by perhaps a year, but its first three-stage flight test is still four or more years away.

The Saturn booster will develop 1,500,000 pounds of thrust. The booster used by the Russians in the Pacific tests may be of comparable power, according to some American estimates.

Whatever it is, they have it now. It is flight-tested and ready for space missions. Russia's Tass news agency said it worked so well that the Soviets were able to complete their Pacific tests 15 days ahead of time.

The next favorable date for launching a probe to Mars is Oct. 1, 1960.

# Veep Drafts Farm Slate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Richard M. Nixon is quietly getting ready to draft his own farm program for his expected campaign as the Republican presidential nominee.

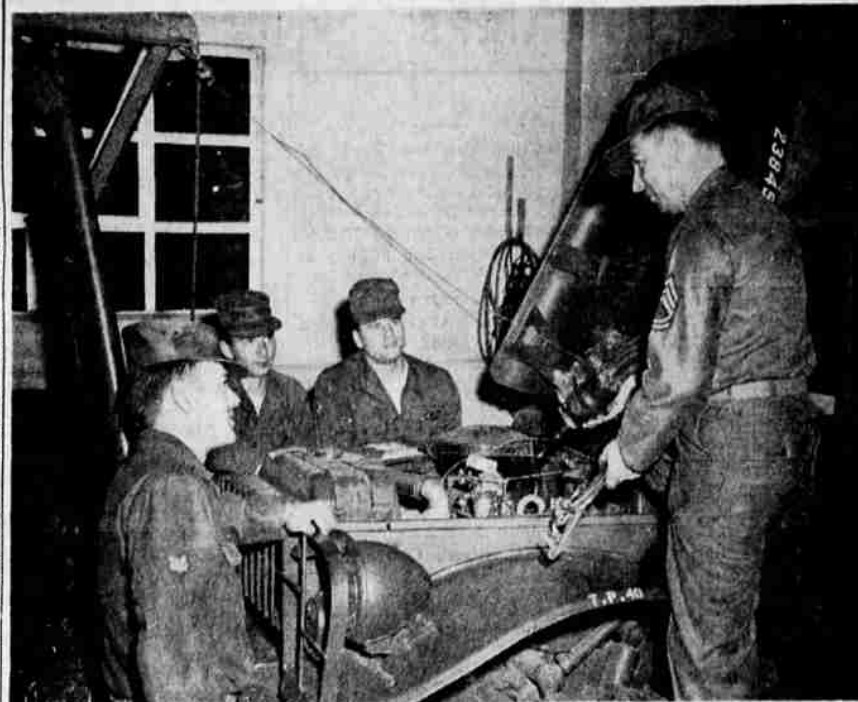
President Eisenhower plans to send to Congress this week a wide-ranging program constructed on the recommendations of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson.

While Nixon was consulted on broad policies, he had almost no hand in refining these proposals. However, he is certain to support them in line with his established policy of publicly backing all of the administration's suggestions to Congress.

Nixon is well aware that Democrats intend to make a major issue in the election campaign of crop surpluses, declining prices and dwindling farm income. Democrats who now blame all of these on Benson's policies suspect the new program will be considerably less than satisfactory to them.

Anticipating a battle in Congress, Nixon is preparing to draft some proposals of his own. He will air them in later speeches, possibly before the Republican convention platform committee goes into action.

To get a cross-section of agricultural opinion, Nixon has been conferring quietly with a number of leaders in this field.



**MOTOR MAINTENANCE** section of local National Guard Battery C gets instruction for repair of one of the guard's three-quarter ton trucks from Sgt. I.C. James Gould. Students are, from left, Pvt. William Nolen, S.A.C. Harlan Hudson, and Pfc. Theodore Morris. Prospective Guardsmen are asked to contact Ray Childers at the Armory on Shasta Way. — Photo by Jack Metz



**SWEETHEARTS OF ELKS** will be special Valentine Day guests of husbands and escorts at the annual Valentine Ball at the Elks Temple Saturday night, February 13, when Baldy's Band will play sweet music for dancing. The dance will be formal for ladies. Especially elaborate decorations are to be made by the dance committee. Left to right seated are Dick Lockrem, Hester Dexter, Enid Hoppe, Myrtle Lockrem, Jim Scott and Helen Scott. Standing, same order, Bob Nelson, Mildred Nelson, H. B. Dexter and Herb Hoppe.

# Young Couple Found Dead

DENTON, Tex. (AP)—A young couple, married for less than two months, were found asphyxiated in their apartment Thursday.

They were Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Mitchell, both 21. A friend of the couple who had not seen them since Monday

morning went to their apartment Thursday night and found them dead. A gas heater was burning in the tightly closed apartment.

Police Chief Andy Anderson said death was the result of asphyxiation.

# Tunnel Under Channel Hampered By Fund Lack

PARIS (AP) — The men who dream of building a tunnel under the English Channel will report next week that the project is technically feasible.

If construction started this fall, trains could be rolling through the double-line railway passage within five years.

The big problem is financial. The estimated cost is 250 to 300 million dollars but the promoters believe the money can be raised if the British and French governments really want the dry-link first proposed in the 18th Century.

The channel tunnel study group, which has been looking into the complicated scheme for almost two years, will make its first report to the British and French railway companies, both government owned, at a joint meeting opening Monday in London.

If the railway administrations approve the plans, the next step will be to start negotiating a treaty with the British and French governments. Financial experts are convinced that special tax concessions are needed before they can raise the necessary funds.

The financiers say this would entail no cost to the governments. The nationalized railways, which run the present channel ferries, both operate at a deficit and thus pay no profit taxes on either side of the channel.

The backers may ask the governments to limit the tax on profits to about 25 per cent. They believe this would make the project attractive enough to raise the capital on international money markets.

An international consortium has received active plans for the tunnel. Participating are the old Suez Canal Co., a British-French corporation which is 44 per cent

owned by the British government; the French Concessionary Co. and the Channel Tunnel Co. Ltd., which actually started digging a tunnel in 1881, and an American financial group called Technical Studies Inc. Each group holds a 25 per cent interest in the present venture.

The plans are restricted to a railway tunnel for several reasons. One is the added cost required for both automobile and rail lines. Another is the problem of ventilating a 36-mile tunnel—22 miles of it under the sea—to remove automobile exhaust fumes.

Then there is the inconvenience of auto breakdowns inside the tunnel. So trucks, buses and autos would be loaded onto freight cars for the trip.

French railway officials are enthusiastic about the possibilities. "It would cut the trip between the center of London and the center of Paris to about four hours," a spokesman said.

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# Renaming Set For Roadway

FREDERICK, Md. (AP)—In the busy 1920s a successful company decided to name a road in this Maryland town of western Maryland.

The Swastika Development Co. created Swastika Road. Houses sprang up along the road, families grew, and a world war came that dwarfed the civil war which gained this town its fame.

But Thursday night the board of aldermen told the mayor no more—Swastika Road would have to be renamed because of the connotation of Nazism and hatred.

The sudden, definite decision springs from a bright morning several weeks back, when Frederick awoke to find crude, black swastikas daringly splashed on five buildings.

### REFRESHMENTS

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—A state examiner took exception Thursday to a \$29.05 item among the expenditures of the little town of Hunt's Point, Wash. The item covered refreshments for the town's cleanup day—four cases of beer and five of soft drinks.

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