

What Ever Happened To That Missile Gap?

By RAY CROMLEY

Newspaper Enterprise Assn. WASHINGTON (NEA) — It's easy to get confused by hulla-balloo about the "missile gap."

Mostly it is a comedy of errors over definitions, statements out of context and misunderstandings.

Actually, there's no disagreement here and now in Washington between Mr. Eisenhower's old top defense men and President Kennedy's new top defense team.

—On Soviet ability to deliver nuclear destruction on the United States.

—On U.S. ability to deliver nuclear destruction on the Soviet Union.

—On where the U.S. and the Soviet will stand on this intercontinental destructive ability in the crucial four to five years just ahead.

Q—Where then do we stand? Can the U.S. deliver more atomic and hydrogen bombs on Russia; or can Russia deliver more bombs on the U.S. right now?

A—The U.S. can lay more strategic nuclear strikes on target today in Russia than Nikita Khrushchev can drop on the U.S.

Q—Even if Russia hits first? A—Yes.

Q—Which country has the most atomic and hydrogen bombs? A—The U.S., by many times.

Q—Which country has the most certain and the most-in-quantity methods of delivery? A—The United States.

Q—Would this nuclear destruction be delivered by intercontinental ballistic missiles alone? A—No. Both the U.S. and Russia would use intercontinental bombers and intercontinental missiles.

As of today, the U.S. could also deliver bombs on Russia by intermediate range missiles based in Europe and by planes based on carriers. The U.S. would use Polaris submarines. The Russians also could deliver some missiles on the U.S. by submarine.

Q—How many "intercontinental" missiles do the Russians have today? A—No more than 33. Perhaps less. In addition, the Soviet Union can fire a few 300-mile missiles from submarines. However, the subs must surface to fire.

Q—How many "intercontinental" missiles does the U.S. have today? A—At least 60, counting Atlases, Polaris missiles and Snarks. Snarks are slow, but believed adequate against present-day defenses.

Q—How many intercontinental bombs does the U.S. have today? A—About 65 Tupolev turboprops and 110 Myasishchev jets. The Russians also have 1,000 Tupolev 3,500-mile range bombers. But without en route refueling facilities, they would be of little intercontinental use.

Q—What's the outlook for the U.S. missile program? Is it looking up? A—Yes. Polaris has come along in development faster than anyone dared to predict two years ago. Now it's expected that by early 1964 we will have 19 Polaris submarines in actual operation ready to fire 204 missiles. By the end of 1964 the U.S. should have almost 400 ready-to-fire Polaris missiles.

Minuteman, too, is exceeding expectations. Well before the end of 1964 the U.S. should have 600 Minutemen in silos and on railway cars. Production methods for Minuteman appear so basically simple that it looks now as though this number could be raised to 800 by the end of 1964 if the Administration wants to pour in the money.

A new super Titan—Titan II—has been developed with a lot bigger punch. The above figures don't include the Atlas and Titan programs. The old figures for these two missiles called for 255 in place ready to fire by the end of 1962. What will happen to these two programs after the current Defense Department review isn't certain.

Q—But isn't it true that the new re-studies on U.S. defense adequacy ordered by Mr. Kennedy haven't yet been completed? So how does anyone know the answers? A—That's right, the studies

agree there will not be a "destruction gap."

Q—What then did President Kennedy mean when he said he wasn't sure? A—He was asked about a "missile gap." He meant that he wanted to wait and see the new studies on the problem before making an official statement. That's common in government quarters.

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SUPERSONIC B-58 Hustler is part of U. S. intercontinental bomber fleet.

Q—How many intercontinental bombs des the U.S. have today? A—Some 550 B-52s, with B-58s coming in. There are somewhat over 1,100 operational B-47s. En route refueling by air from overseas bases make these B-47s useful for intercontinental bombing for a few more years.

Q—But is it fair to count in U.S. bombers? Aren't they sitting ducks for Russia's defenses? A—Actually, bombs are better today than missiles for some targets in the Soviet Union. They're more accurate. The U-2 flights showed that bombers can get through Soviet radar and missile

now. You might therefore be able to say there is an intercontinental ballistic missile gap right now. But you couldn't say that the Russians were ahead in strategic striking power.

Q—But won't U.S. intercontinental bombs be obsolete in a year or two as Soviet anti-air defenses grow? A—No. Missiles fired from planes will take over. The bombers will be able to stand back and fire well away from Soviet defenses.

Q—What about 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965? A—The answer is the same.

Judge Rules Truck Penalty Unconstitutional

District Judge Hal F. Coe handed down a decision last week that will affect logging truck operations in Klamath County.

Judge Coe ruled that the penalty statute for logging trucks carrying a combination overload was unconstitutional. The statute set up a penalty of one cent more per pound than the penalty for other commodity trucks.

The ruling was made in the case of the state versus Thomas Hodnett, who was charged with driving a logging truck with a 2,200-pound combination overload. Hodnett's attorney, Robert D. Puckett, filed a demurrer on

the grounds that the statutory penalty was discriminatory.

The judge allowed the demurrer on the basis that the penalty statute of the state did not offer equal protection of the laws.

Judge Coe said the purpose of the statute was to safeguard the surface of the highways from ex-

cessively heavy vehicles and that the determination of penalties should depend upon weight alone and not the type of cargo carried.

"The statute in this instance, this is the penalty statute, ORS 483.996, has extended a privilege to one group (commodity truck-

ers) which is not extended upon the same terms to a similarly situated group (log truckers) in violation of the Oregon Constitution and in violation of the equal protection clause of the federal constitution," the judge said in his ruling.

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Injured Cager Doing Fine

LA GRANDE, Ore. (AP)—Larry Applegate, star Eastern Oregon College basketball player injured in a highway accident Feb. 12, feels fine. His physician said Tuesday. It may be months, though, before it is known whether he will have permanent reminders of the mishap.

An ankle fracture, which was set last Thursday, may prove most difficult, the physician said. It may be five or six months before it can be told whether this will continue to cause him trouble. A thigh fracture will be set this

week if he continues to improve, the physician said. Applegate was unconscious for some time after the accident but is now alert. His wife, injured less seriously, is expected to leave the hospital in a few days.

Super-Carrier Put To Sea

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—The super-carrier Kitty Hawk, the longest ship afloat, put to sea Tuesday for the first time and shipping on the busy Delaware River was halted so she could pass.

The 60,000-ton aircraft carrier eased from her berth at the New York Shipbuilding Corp. yard across the river from Philadelphia shortly after 6 a.m. and began four days of trials to test her engines and operating equipment.

The Kitty Hawk is 1,047 feet in over-all length and 232 feet wide. The river channel is 400 feet wide and the Kitty Hawk needed every foot to maneuver on the 39-mile trip to the mouth of the Delaware.

The \$230-million Kitty Hawk's 108 jet and propeller-driven craft will include two-engine A-1J jet bombers, and eventually the larger A-3J Vigilante attack bombers. The Navy says her catapults and four acres of flight deck will be able to launch and land even larger planes.

The Kitty Hawk—named for the North Carolina town where the Wright brothers flew the first power-driven plane—is the first warship in U.S. Navy history without conventional mounted guns.

The ship is the first aircraft carrier to use surface-to-air guided missiles for protection. Launchers built into the stern of the ship can fire Terrier missiles at a rapid clip against attacking craft.

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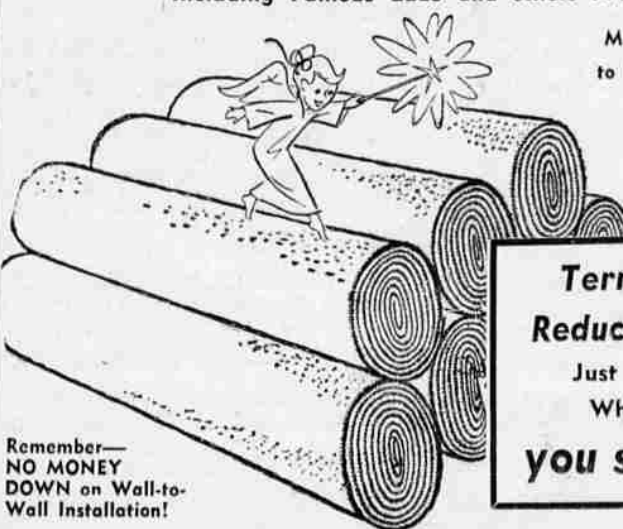
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12'x16'5" Axmin. (Pattern)	\$233.70	\$169.95
12'x24'6" Brown (Loop)	\$361.35	\$229.95
12'x25'4" Beige Frieze	\$373.20	\$269.95
12'x20'3" Brown Moresque	\$268.50	\$219.95
12'x20' Cinnamon	\$291.50	\$199.95
12'x20' Aqua	\$291.78	\$219.95
12'x27' Beige Tweed	\$354.95	\$289.95
12'x13' Nutria Tweed	\$221.00	\$139.95
12'x11'5" Bg. or Aqua Frieze	\$169.50	\$119.95
12'x10' Br. or Gr. Tweed	\$147.40	\$109.95
12'x9' Beige Frieze	\$196.00	\$129.95
12'x9' Brown Tweed	\$149.95	\$104.95
12'x12'4" Gr. & Beige Frieze	\$191.25	\$119.25
12'x9' Rose	\$127.95	\$ 89.95
12'x9'4" Beige Nylon	\$144.40	\$109.95
12'x11'3" Mink Nylon	\$164.40	\$119.95
12'x9' Green Nylon	\$141.40	\$109.95

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Third Of Trio Says Not Guilty

The third member of a trio of young men charged with the burglary and bungled safecracking attempt at the Kingsley Field commissary Jan. 2, pleaded not guilty Tuesday morning in circuit court.

Tommy Lee Ellis (also known as Tommy Lee Allison), 25, 757A McGuire Street, denied a charge of burglary not in a dwelling. At the time of the burglary, Ellis was employed as a box boy at the commissary. Ellis' trial date was set for March 6. His attorney is Richard J. Smith.

Robert Dean Welch, 18, Springfield, also pleaded not guilty to the same charge Monday. Last week, Everett Gene Allen, 20, 1704 Johnson Street, the third member of the trio, pleaded guilty and was placed on probation for five years.

ARRIVES FOR TOUR

NEW DELHI, India (AP)—Deputy Soviet Premier A.N. Kosygin arrived by plane today for a two-week tour of India as Prime Minister Nehru's guest. Tuesday he will sign the papers for a \$126-million Soviet credit for India's third five-year plan, which begins April 1.

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