

News Report From Washington

BAD NEWS FROM MOSCOW—THE U. S.: SELF-SATISFIED?—IKE: START OF ANOTHER DRAFT—U. S. ROLE IN GUATEMALA—

Washington — The latest expert report on Russian weapons technology indicates the Reds are gaining on the United States in this field. This was the opinion voiced by a top Pentagon official at a meeting of over one hundred military and civilian officials charged with the responsibility of national security recently.

Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson voiced a different opinion, at the same meeting, in Quantico, Virginia, but the weight of reports seems to indicate surprising Russian progress in this field — and progress not anticipated by U. S. experts only a year ago.

The Russian thermonuclear explosion last August stunned many U. S. defense experts, and the appearance of all-jet medium and heavy bombers in Moscow's May Day review eight weeks ago was another eyebrow-raising event in top U. S. defense circles.

The disturbing part of the picture is that the Russians are already ahead of the United States in quantity and they need only quality parity to give them a tremendous weapons advantage. U. S. heavy bomber production, for instance, is just getting started (all-jet heavy bombers, that is) and the Russians have now demonstrated to the world their all-jet heavy bomber in flight.

Recent reports that the Reds are ahead of U. S. scientists in the jet engine field are not very encouraging either. Russian production is geared to military output while U. S. production is split about 80-20 in favor of civilian output, and this fact, of course, gives the Reds an edge.

The recent signs of significant Russian progress tend to lead some observers to the same conclusion reached shortly after the beginning of World War II. That was that U. S. industry in boasting of the great job it was doing (and bidding for government business at the same time) tended to overestimate its achievements and underestimate those of the enemy.

In other words, American industry has been guilty in the past of being too self-satisfied in the weapons technology field, and when World War II broke upon us this fact became clear in numerous instances. Increasing signs of unexpected Russian advancement may indicate the same mistake is being made all over again.

Charles E. Wilson, a U. S. industry champion, will be on the spot if the country makes the same mistake in its evaluations. The Defense Secretary seems to think the mistake is not being made. The number of obvious surprising advances in Russia, however, lead some to think we have underestimated Russian weapons technology.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower is once again being placed in the position of the reluctant, but needed, man of the hour. It is already no secret that Ike wants to retire after one term in the White House.

And it is already no secret that close associates and Republican officials in all sections are dead set on getting Ike to be the G.O.P. candidate again in 1956. Many think any other Republican candidate might have a difficult job defeating Adlai Stevenson, or another Democrat.

Look for another draft at the G.O.P. convention in 1956. General Ike has probably been drafted more than any other general in history. But Ike does not always accept a draft. He had the Democratic nomination in the palm of his hand in 1948, and turned it down.

The United States could not officially encourage Guatemalan Rebels in their drive against the pro-Communist government of Guatemala, even though the overthrow of the Red government was ardently desired in Washington.

The U. S., however, was said to be ready to recognize a new government with the least possible delay, and certain Uncle Sam's representatives south of the border did not discourage the Rebels. One of the disadvantages of a democratic form of government is that this country could not support such an uprising, even though the Russian government would have found little difficulty in feeding a revolution so close to home.

Local Couple Attend Farm Bureau School

Each year for the past several years the North Carolina Farm Bureau has held a summer training school to give its members the latest information on all phases of the Farm Bureau's activities. Those attending from Perquimans were Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sutton.

This year's training school was held at Carolina Beach June 17, 18 and 19. The instructors for this year's event consisted of several of the organization's State, Regional and National officers. Those attending were brought up to date on many of the national problems such as the farm programs being proposed, the over-production problem, support prices, diverted acres, international trade as well as many other state and local problems as they relate to the indi-

vidual farmers. Two open forums were held on these issues and every one was given an opportunity to express their views. It was stated by the instructors that many of these issues are greatly mis-understood and need to be clarified and brought to the attention of every farm family.

HOMEMAKING CLASS CLOSED

The Adult Homemaking Class of Perquimans Training School closed last Wednesday after successfully completing a unit in "clothing construction." Many useful garments, for both adult and children, were made. The course also included two demonstrations on food and how to use the electric stove and all small ap-

pliances. The class was under the supervision of Vyvian J. Harris, Home Economics teacher at the school. The class will reopen during the month of August to begin duties for the school term 1954-55, and persons interested in membership in the class may register at that time.

Might Throw It Up To Her

"Then you wouldn't let him propose?"
"Not last night."
"Why not?"
"We were at bridge."
"Hasn't he won you?"
"Yes, but I didn't want it said he won me at a bridge party."



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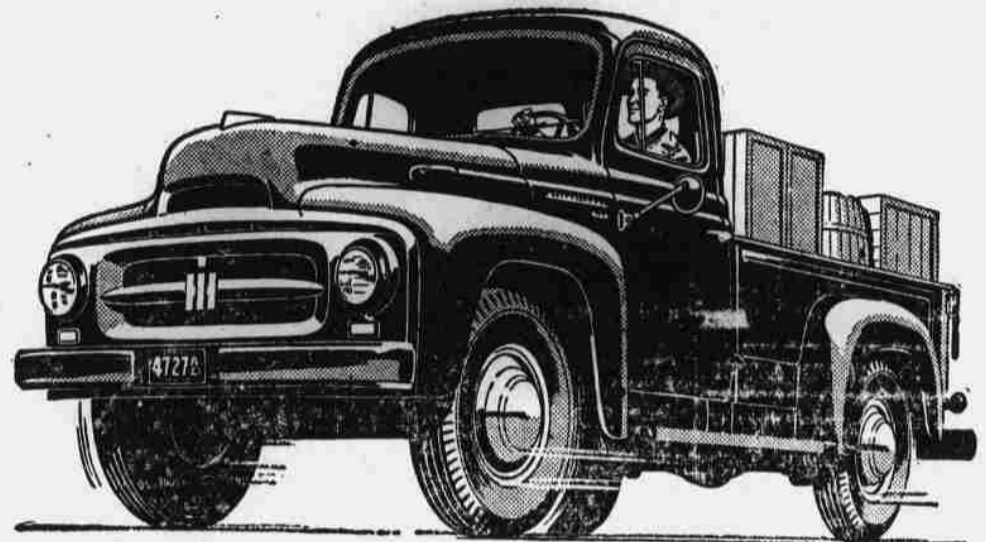
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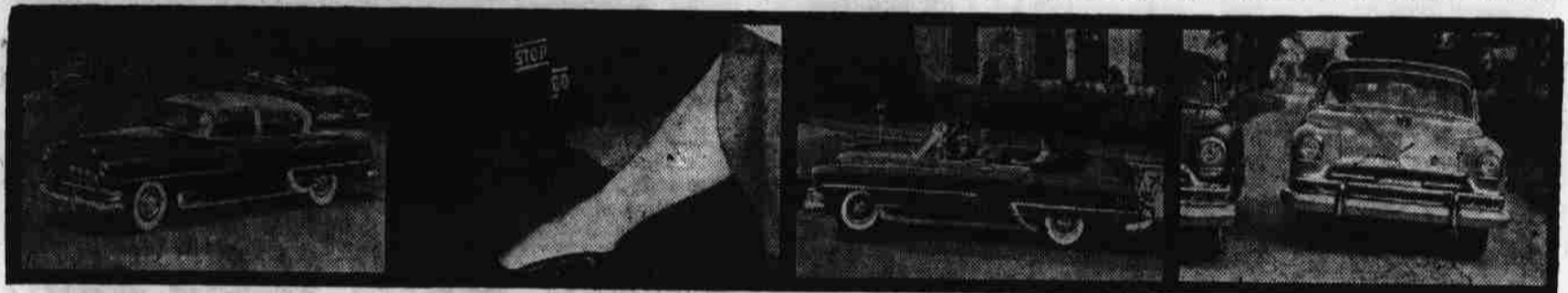
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