

## News Report From Washington

**WORLD OUTLOOK STILL GRAVE—FRANCE JEOPARDIZES EUROPE—A WAR WITH CHINA?—PARTIES WATCHING BUSINESS**

Washington—The world outlook is viewed rather quietly in Washington as remaining grave. Though the President is trying to calm the nation's nerves on the eve of this year's elections, and though there is a good chance for peace in the next five years, the American people nevertheless face their most dangerous ordeal in the not-too-distant future.

There is a large group of military officers of the opinion that the sooner Communism is met and defeated on the battlefield, the lower the cost in lives and material will be. Among them are such figures as Mark Clark, James Van Fleet, Douglas MacArthur, etc.

There is little doubt—according to this theory—but that the United States will eventually have to fight Communism. To let China industrialize for five or ten years will only make the job in the Far East harder, it is argued. This group would not initiate a war but would adopt a very tough policy in Asia and it would probably lead to war in the immediate future.

President Eisenhower is inclined to back the long-term goal of rearming Japan and Germany, two traditional enemies of Russia, and to play a waiting game. He wants U. S. defense plans to be built on a permanent, long-range foundation in the hope that a strong U. S. defense will deter aggression.

But even those most hopeful about peace in the immediate future are fearful that the United States is doomed to fight Communism. That will be a bitter and costly war, and

no doubt cost the country more heavily than any war since that of 1961-65. The best guess is that, following Eisenhower's policies, we will have five more years of peace. China could upset the apple-cart before that time if she chooses to attack Formosa. But China probably needs five years—at least—to get ready to fight a prolonged, large-scale conflict.

With France seriously jeopardizing the defense of Eastern Europe by turning down the European Defense Community Treaty, the problem has also now become acute in Europe. NATO is still in force and a joint defense is agreed upon under terms of the NATO alliance.

But Germany—the one country which can provide a large number of top-flight divisions to resist Russia—is being held out of the joint defense of Europe by France. This could be fatal for France, in case a new war broke out. Without German troops, even President Eisenhower has told friends, the Russians would overrun

Western Europe. It is a sorry sight for France to torpedo the EDC treaty, after the billions of dollars in aid the U. S. has poured into that country, even after liberating it and giving it back to the French people. The French stalled as long as they could, used as much U. S. money as they could, and then—when they were forced to act—followed Russian recommendations.

There is at least some speculation as to whether Premier Mendes-France did not give the Reds some hint that France would not support EDC in his thirty-day effort to get a truce in Indochina. If such a secret bargain was struck, it might explain Mendes-France's active opposition to the EDC treaty in the last days before its defeat in Paris.

Both the Republican and Democratic parties are watching the economic trend in this country like hawks. The Republicans are temporarily gratified even President Eisenhower has told them, the recession has leveled off. They say things are sure to pick up

this fall. Democrats, on the other hand, say the new farm program will only depress farm prices further, that the level-off now being experienced has been brought about by increased government spending, and that unless G.O.P. policies are changed, a further dip in the economy is to be expected.

There are only about eight weeks between now and election time—possibly less when you read this—and therefore the story on business in September and early October will be vitally important to the political parties. If business begins to perk up, chances that the Republicans will retain control of Congress will be good.

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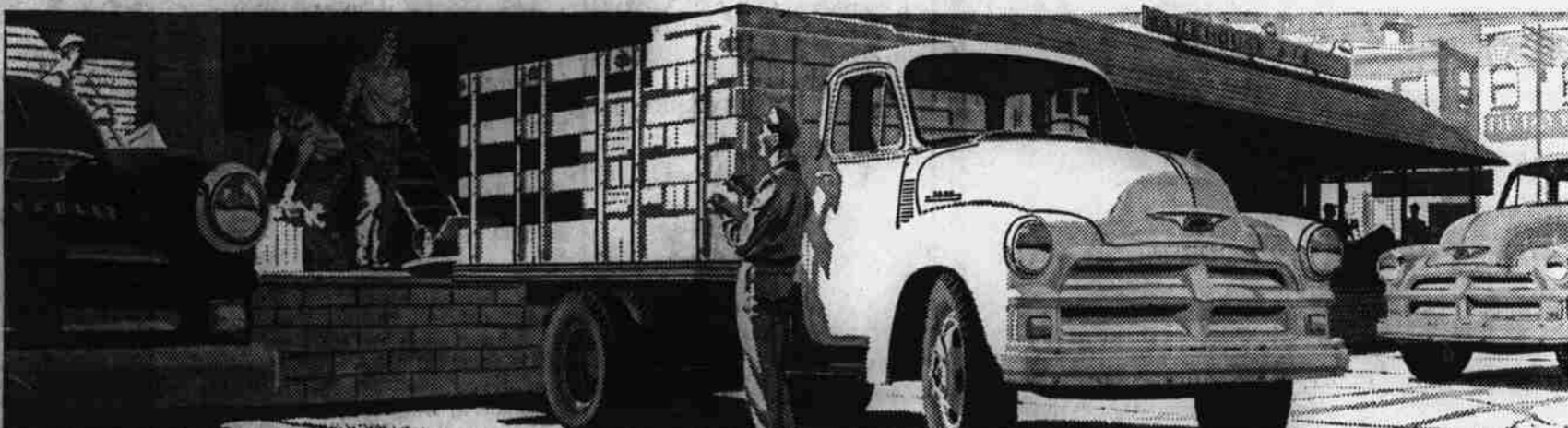
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