

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS

Washington — While attending the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner in Raleigh, I got word that I had been named to a special subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee to make an inquiry into our air defense.

Serious Matter

My reaction to this is that it is the most serious responsibility that has ever been assigned to me. We all know that our survival as a free nation depends in the first instance on adequate defense. The inquiry that we will make comes as a consequence of grave doubts by many people in high places of responsibility that our air defense, in planes and missiles and other last minute weapons of intercontinental defense, has failed to keep pace with the requirements for safety in this troubled era. Some feel the

urgency of acceleration in developing these weapons so greatly that they suggest what is called a "crash" program, meaning that no effort or money should be spared to realize this defense goal.

Study Needed

With these conditions prevailing, Senator Russell, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, felt it wise to probe our air defense fully. Senator Symington, former Secretary of the Air Force, is the chairman of the subcommittee. Other members are Senators Jackson and myself, Democrats, and Senators Saltonstall and Duff, Republicans.

I have been busy virtually every day attending briefings of the Armed Services Committee by top Pentagon officials. Their reports lead me to believe that this study is urgent.

The Farm Bill

Debate on the farm bill has been lengthy. Agriculture touches our nation in many respects as a regional problem. In North Carolina we think of our tobacco, cotton, peanuts and corn as the chief row crops; Kansas thinks of wheat; Iowa, corn, etc. These regional interests, all legitimate and requiring attention as they fit into the national picture, necessitate careful study and debate. We will begin voting on amendments leading to final passage of the bill by the time you read this. As some indication of the scope of the farm bill, there are at this writing some 60 or more amendments printed and awaiting action by the Senate. Voting on this bill will cut across political lines, and it will be interesting to follow the voting, which many feel will be close.

School Lunch Program

Last week I asked the Department of Agriculture to consider buying surplus North Carolina sweet potatoes in its purchase arrangement for the school lunch program. Before I sat down to prepare this article, the Fruit and

Vegetable Division of the Department of Agriculture called to say that North Carolina ASC offices in the sweet potato areas will be notified right away of their plan to purchase sweet potatoes in these areas of North Carolina. The school lunch program is one of the most successful and practical applications of logic.

BRIDGE CLUB MEETS

Mrs. Henry Clay Stokes was hostess to her bridge club on Tuesday night at her home. Those playing were: Mesdames C. R. Holmes, George Barbee, John Coston, Chas. Johnson, Jack Kanoy, T. L. Jessup and Miss Mary Sumner. High score prize was won by Mrs. Holmes.

The hostess served strawberry shortcake.

COMPLETING TRAINING

John L. Hill, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Hill, Hertford, is completing his Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in preparation for his entrance into Air Force technical training or duty assignment.

TO OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY

The Woman's Society of Christian Service of Woodland Methodist Church will observe its fifteenth anniversary Sunday afternoon, March 11, at 2:30 o'clock.

All former members and all women of the church are invited to attend.

The Woman's Society of Chris-

tian Service will meet Wednesday, March 14, at 7:30 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Ralph Harrell for the regular monthly meeting.

ON WINTER MANEUVER

Army M/Sgt. Daughtrey L.

Stallings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maxey Stallings of Belvidere, is taking part in Exercise Lodestar Baker, a three-month winter maneuver at Camp Hale, Colo.

The exercise, scheduled to end in April, is testing the skill of several

thousand troops in simulated combat under winter conditions. Temperatures sometimes drop to 40 degrees below zero in the maneuver area.

Sergeant Stallings is a member of the 4th Field Artillery Pack

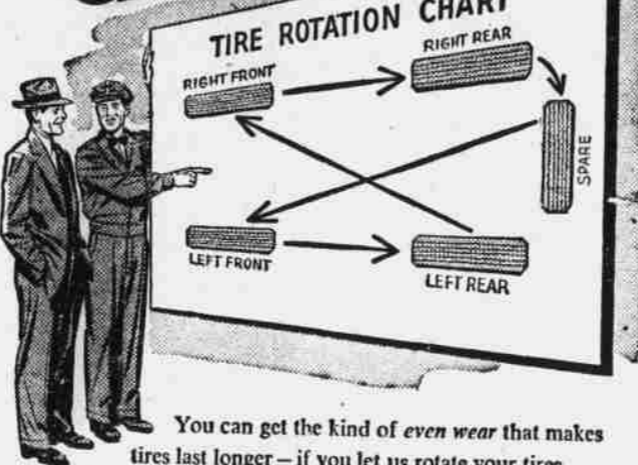
Battalion, one of the two mule pack units remaining in the Army. He is regularly stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., for which Camp Hale is a two-mile high sub-post.

Sergeant Stallings is a stable sergeant in the battalion's Battery

A. His wife, Alvina, lives in Colorado Springs.

A veteran of 20 years of Army service, the sergeant has served in the European theatre. He holds the Bronze Star Medal.

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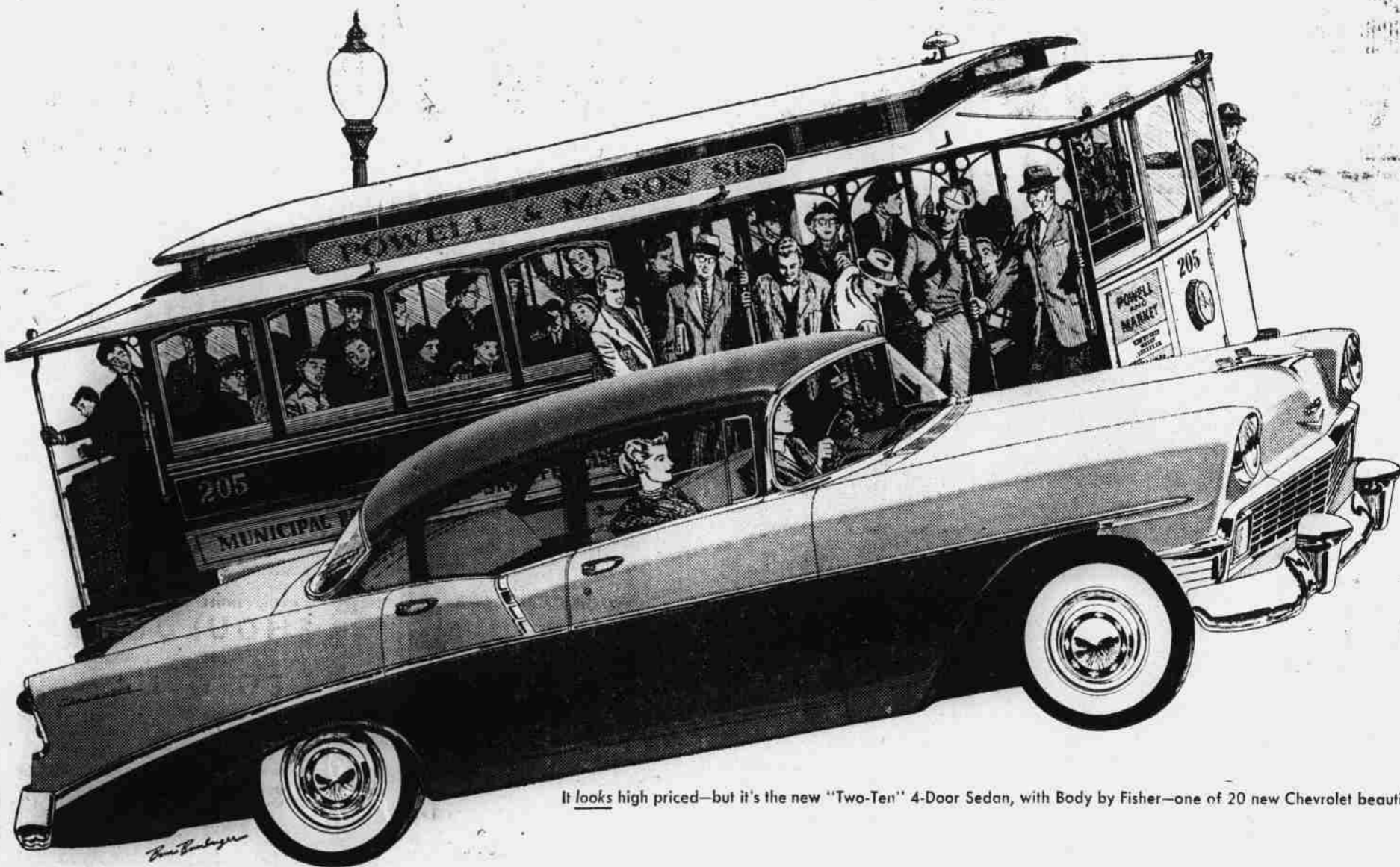
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