

RUSSIA'S ATOM BOMB

Yesterday came the grim news we have all known would come sooner or later: an atomic explosion of some sort has taken place recently in Soviet Russia.

The secret - if it ever was a secret - went out to the Russians, spurred by their own military disadvantage in a worldwide clash of technologies that had managed to accomplish by 1949 what most observers thought they could not do before 1951 or 1952.

No one knew whether it was a bomb or some other form of atomic energy, but everyone knew at last that the United States, Great Britain and Canada no longer had a monopoly of the knowledge, materials and machinery of atomic explosive-making.

A short span of years ago - four, to be exact - news of the Hiroshima blast was relayed to the world. At that time the bomb was a spectacular new weapon, terrible in its devastation, astounding in its ability to bring a still potent nation to its knees.

The people of the world were slow to grasp the long range implications. But as every large nation in the United States, and every fair man and nation - insistent, stubbornly, demanding of consideration. It became, as President Hutchins of Chicago has said, the full important subject in the world, and people finally came to know it for what it is.

Yet the men who perfected The Bomb, and other men who were still trying to develop the outside world's knowledge about it, were not the men of a world of controlling it. They were again caught up in the whirlwind of a new age upon mankind. The democracies, who had The Bomb, took refuge behind it, and tried to improve it, Russia, which had tried with all its energy to develop it. And so the mad race began, a race which culminated in yesterday's announcement from Washington and London.

It is comparatively simple to analyze the military effect of Russia's bomb-making potential. All of our strategy has been based on the assumption that Russia would not stand in the way of the United States. The difference now is that some of the time tables are off.

The threat of early Russian use of The Bomb is no greater than it was. The Politburo still is a body of men whose thinking is still way ahead in the technique and stockpiling of atomic weapons, and that we presumably have an ample supply of

material. Moreover, the Russians are aware of it. The Bomb must be delivered before it can be effective, and that the U. S. is already capable of dropping it anywhere in the world. The fear of retaliation would be a strong deterrent.

Finally, no one knows any better than the Russians that the successful waging of total war does not result from the possession of one weapon, but from the efficient employment of a nation's entire industrial capacity, engineering and scientific genius, and manpower, in all of which the democracies excel.

That, plus the lingering suspicion that Russia has never really contemplated a direct conflict with the ideological opponents but rather expected their "outmoded" capitalist economy to collapse under the burden of world responsibility, indicates that the men in the Politburo will hesitate to use the Bomb unless they have gone completely mad.

In our own country, there will doubtless be a trend toward even greater expenditure for it. The Atomic Energy Commission and the various branches of the armed services. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to resist this trend so long as there is no effective international control of atomic energy.

But it is not so easy to analyze the effect upon the mind and heart of Man. He was now faced with the decision that he has been debating for many years ago: is it possible to have a world of two equally powerful military alliances?

Perhaps, now that Russia has The Bomb, the way to a lasting peace will be easier to find than we think. Once The Bomb is possessed by both opponents, it is not so much an asset as a liability. And it is not beyond the realm of possibility that men of all ideologies will now unite in controlling a weapon which will ruin them all.

At any rate, if there is to be any joy in living, we must take the second, and more difficult decision. National sovereignty must not stand in the way of an effective international system of controlling atomic energy, for as long as The Bomb exists, national sovereignty is meaningless.

FIRE HAZARDS AT DIX HILL

Although great improvement in the physical facilities of our State hospitals has been made possible by increasingly large legislative appropriations, much remains to be done. A report by Raleigh Fire Chief A. B. Lloyd on the fire hazards at Dix Hill shows how much.

- 1. Install sprinkler system in all buildings.
2. Install enclosed stairways and enclosed fire escapes in all buildings housing patients.
3. Increase staff, so that 343 "solitary" patients, locked in individual cells, could be released at once in case of fire.
4. Set up watchman system, with clocks to be punched hourly, night and day.

LICENSE TO KILL

ONE has only to drive a brace of miles along the public roads most any Sunday afternoon to recognize that legal possession of a driver's license via the examination method does not, per se, make a good driver.

Nevertheless, the N. C. system of re-examination every four years does insure a fundamental knowledge of traffic signs, safety procedures, mental competence and minimum vision among our licensed drivers. By so doing it offers a certain amount of protection to highway users.

CONVENTIONS AND CONVENTIONS

OF course, no petty graft is involved in people to conventions. The government in sending people to conventions. The moment the big convention on the line is the National Correctional Conference at Milwaukee, Wis. Sept. 25 to 30. Probation Commissioner Harry Sample, who is leaving North Carolina probation work is going. 80 is expected. Randall, her apparent to deputy's John. Poleson Commissioner T. C. Johnson is attending, accompanied by Assistant Probation Commissioner Hilda Carpenter. Prisons Director J. B. Moore is going, too. Railroad

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WHEN John L. Lewis sent the strike-call down the line on his welfare payments, no work? It was one of the big men who has ever pulled on both his miners and the American people.

And in the South only three or four operators, including the Virginia, had stopped the payments.

People's Platform Food Company's Enterprise Lauded

ASHEVILLE - People's Platform Food Company, Inc., is being lauded in the U. S. for its enterprise in the war effort. The company is being lauded for its enterprise in the war effort.

Unforgotten History

I WOULD assure Mr. James G. Thompson, replying to my recent article showing how Mayor J. Ray Bruce unavailingly condemned his own people for mixing in the beer and wine campaign.

Generosity Needed

SOME time ago, I was helping in the solicitation of donations for the Spastic Center at Memorial Hospital. I was very successful, but I discovered that many people were interested in making donations.

Strike Called Despite Welfare Payment

MEANWHILE and to satisfy Lewis' vanity, the entire nation was so short of coal despite the fact that all but three of the big coal operators were continuing to make payments into the miners' welfare fund even though they had signed no contract.

Ladies On Merry-Go-Round

IN private conversation, President Truman refers to his first lady as 'The Madam.' Mrs. Eugene Anderson of Red Wing, Minn., is slated for an ambassadorial post soon.

Truman said that he had an accident right after his hobby throughout her recent reducing diet.

Robert C. Ruark 'Still Some Place'

A MONK! All the talk of pound for pound... A devaluation and... I expect I know about the most expensively... My barber, Louis Mall, is still a little unsteady with the shears... But the unshorn official's homebound... 'My God,' says Louis, 'before I go into the airplane and fly over the...'

Marquis Childs Helpless Bystanders

WHILE the steel industry prosecutes their dispute over, who gets what, we the people are watching a series of... 'We know that the outside world is looking on...'

There are economists who say...

There are economists who say... There is no organized group... 'There is no organized group...'

Lower prices would benefit all the public...

Lower prices would benefit all the public and not just organized... 'If these profits do not result in benefits to the public...'

Probation Senator Returns

IDAHO'S lieutenant Sen. Glen Taylor, who broke with the Democrats to run for vice-president on the Henry Wallace ticket... 'I'm expecting a visit from the Shah of Persia...'

They Will Probably Be Criticized

'You'll probably be criticized,' warned Taylor. 'It is a case of believing to do,' returned the President. As they returned back to the White House, Governor from Idaho congratulated Truman on his 'great victory.'... 'I was happy to see you elected,' declared Taylor...'