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THE CHALLENGE OF THE HYDROGEN ERA

WHEN you light your pipe in the wind, you've a couple of problems. First, you have to light the match. Second, you have to keep burning long enough to light the tobacco.

Perhaps that homely illustration will help explain the atom and hydrogen bombs. The A-bomb is the "match" which generates enough heat (about 100 million degrees Centigrade) to ignite the H-bomb.

To set off an H-bomb this heat doesn't have to be maintained nearly as long as does that match with which you light a pipe. Just a little over one millionth of a second is long enough.

Some scientists figured the A-bomb couldn't maintain this necessary heat even for this brief moment. Others thought that such was the case only with early models which, that never ones could do the job.

Presumably, this latter school has now been proved correct. The Atomic Energy Commission has now flatly said that the AEC has announced that successful "thermonuclear" (that means H-bomb) research has been conducted. Nuclear scientist Dr. Harold Urey and competent science reporters reported that the first test of an H-bomb explosion occurred during the Eniwetok tests. The New York Times' highly regarded reporter of nuclear affairs, William L. Laurence, believes the latest tests involved the explosion of the most powerful atomic bomb to date, plus "what may be described as a laboratory scale, or rather 'test tube' model, of the hydrogen bomb."

There are a couple of major differences between the two bombs. The first, a concern primarily of the military, is that the A-bomb is one in which an atom like uranium or plutonium is split, (thus the term "fission" bomb) and power is given off by the splitting. The H-bomb, on the contrary, is a "fusion" bomb—two atoms are fused together to form a new substance, and power is given off in the process. The other difference is of more concern to possible victims of one or the other,

although if you're near the place of explosion that interest will likely be academic. The A-bomb is definitely limited in size to a "critical mass" of something like 25 pounds. In other words, the scientists know the exact size of this "critical mass," and when they want the bomb to go off they put the critical mass together. But the H-bomb has no size limitation. The bigger it is the more boom it makes. Thus the military scientists would be limited by problems of transporting the weapon, and degree of destruction sought, rather than by the potentiality of the weapon.

There is still dispute among scientists about the devastating effect which explosion of a number of H-bombs could have on the earth's atmosphere.

Such details are not especially pleasant, but they should be studied and pondered by all of us. It may well be that a military H-bomb does not yet exist, but the Eniwetok tests seemingly insure its rapid development. Nor can we easily ignore the fact that the Commission on such matters, if lagging at all, we do not at all subscribe to the fatalistic "We'll all be blown up" philosophy with which, perhaps understandably, some persons view the advent of the hydrogen era.

It is not so much that science has overtaken man. Man, rather, has not concentrated enough on the political and social sciences, but he has advanced so far that we are with the scientific advancements, if they may be called such. As Dr. Urey said after the Eniwetok explosion, "I wish we could make some real progress in closer freedom of organization and social sciences, so that we can live peacefully—or just to live—in a world now well-just possessing the power of self-destruction. In the development of these sciences lies the great challenge.

A BUSINESS-LIKE TRANSITION

PRESIDENT-ELECT Eisenhower didn't know any more about politics than a pig knows about Sunday and besides, he was "willing to accept the very practices that identify the so-called 'master-race'." Thus support of the President-elect was not a matter of return. In return he and his associates were chaffed by General Eisenhower with perpetrating "unrestrained slander... vile rumors" and "the greatest collection of flim-flaming accusations made in any campaign in this country."

Against that background, the absence of any glowing statement of accord and mutual admiration or arm-in-arm appearances of the two men is not surprising. At the Tuesday conference they did, however, shake hands, smile for the birds, and talk things over, privately and with key advisers. Time may never heal the campaign wounds. But bitterness has not obscured either man's sense of obligation to his country.

Their joint statement carries on the theme of prompt and business-like, if not ardent, co-operation, which began within hours after Eisenhower's victory. His Lodge-Deane team reported to the President-elect that the administration's invitation to send representatives to some specific major agencies will be accepted. The Truman-Eisenhower joint statement says that the men, and their aides, discussed some of the most important international matters and "worked out a framework for their future cooperation."

WHAT IKE REALLY SAID

TO BRING the Korean War to an early and honorable end. That is my pledge to the American people. These are the words of President-elect Eisenhower, delivered in Detroit Oct. 24 in his "I shall go to Korea" speech. Clearly that phrase, in itself, is an outright promise to end the war quickly. Many persons expect him to do just that.

But just a moment. Let's put that quote back in context, and see how it reads: "The first task of my administration will be to review and re-examine every phase of action open to us in order to bring the Korean war to an early and honorable end. That is my pledge to the American people."

OH, FOR FULL BACON IN BIG FRYING PAN

AS BALD an admission of defeat as we've ever seen appeared the other day in the "New Products" column distributed by the Associated Press. "A survey had discovered," we read, "that housewives do not regard strips of bacon in half before cooking. Now the Deere-Dart Farms of Southborough, Mass., packs a half-pound package of half slices." End item.

It's true; housewives do cut regular strips of bacon in half, which means that a piece of bacon before cooking is twice as thick. It is put into the frying pan measuring between four and four and one-half inches. What comes out of the pan is a shrunken, shriveled bit of pork barely recognizable as bacon. The reason for this is the absence of water. It is put into the frying pan measuring between four and four and one-half inches, without crowding, several full-length, uncut slices of bacon. The housewife thus backs

work for liaison and exchange of information between outgoing and incoming administration, arrangements that they believe "will be of great value to the stability of the country and to the favorable progress of our international affairs." That sounds like reasonable accomplishment.

The two men also declare that "he cannot be asked to share or assume the responsibility of the Presidency until he takes the oath of office." No should be. As it is, the two months remaining before inauguration provide precious little time in which to assemble a staff and with them make the studies upon which judicious exercise of responsibility is based.

We are not of that school that laments the two-and-one-half-month interregnum between election and inauguration. It would make sense to have the President inaugurated during the first week in January, when Congress convenes, so the executive and legislative could get started promptly together. Under the present system the Congress moves or leaf dangles for two weeks, until after the Jan. 20 inauguration. Obviously it takes a couple of months for the executive to set up an establishment as our Federal Government to prepare for the assumption of full responsibility. It would seem that this transition from the Truman to the Eisenhower Administration is proceeding in an orderly and realistic fashion.

The phrase is still a bit ambiguous. Perhaps the speech writer so intended it. It is a little more certain if it takes a review and re-examination of every course of action possible which might quickly end the war, rather than an early end to the war, period. Certainly many persons who had not listened to the speech and who read the full text could have made an honest error in reading only the last part of the quote.

This example once again points up the desirability of reading a man's remarks in context, if one is to understand his position. It also indicates what grave damage can be done by taking phrases out of context and distorting their meaning.

The solution to this problem is not the packing of bacon into half-slices—for some reason bacon cooks better full-length, tastes better and is less likely to burn—but the education of the housewife in the proper preparation of bacon. The article tells of men who march off to work in the morning brooding gloomily over the wretchedness of half-slices of bacon. What this country needs are bigger frying pans and housewives willing to cut bacon full-length, or better, to broil it. The fellow who brings home the bacon is entitled to have it set before him uncut. A half-slice of bacon is on a par with one scrambled egg, which is to say that it isn't much.

Why, Yes In Fact, I've Been Ready For 20 Years

Ike Will Be Hard Pushed To Fulfill Campaign Vows

By MARQUIS CHILDS



Eisenhower's Problem

PARIS

THE White House pressures will hardly make President-elect Eisenhower forget the original Lisbon plan for 98 divisions and 10,000 aircraft cannot now be retained. Unless drastic measures are taken, the Western European defense force that will be created by the end of 1954 will only number a few more than 50,000 aircraft, and some 6,000 aircraft, both reserve divisions and home defense.

Plainly, this will be a very serious overall shortfall, especially when you consider that the Lisbon plan for a minimum European defense, approved by Dwight D. Eisenhower himself as NATO's Supreme Commander, called for no less than 120 divisions. Gen. Ridgway and his brilliant chief of staff, Gen. Gruenther, are going to oppose any reduction of the original Lisbon goals with all the weight of their authority. Any reduction of the planned build-up on the continent of Europe will provoke bitter protests from the French and still more violent objections from the Germans. There is going to be trouble all around.

The practical fact remains that the French, British and other European budgets will not stand for the rate of rearmament decided on at Lisbon. The military requirements and the practical economic possibilities are in direct conflict. Such are the broad outlines of a complex problem that President-elect Eisenhower is going to find on the White House doorstep.

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Under the Lisbon program, for instance, the French contribution for 1953 was to be three additional divisions, plus around 45,000 men to fill up existing divisions, plus 10,000 more aircraft. The French today only intend to transfer to Gen. Ridgway's command two existing French divisions and the British order force increase for 1953 will be at least 40 per cent under the level projected at Lisbon, and the air force both France and Britain expect even greater shortfalls in their 1954 contributions.

In practical terms, these developments have a

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

GENERAL Eisenhower has received two invitations to visit Latin America and is considering the possibility of making a good-neighbor trip there before his inauguration.

The two invitations are from Mexico and Chile, both among the few remaining democracies in the Western Hemisphere. Chile is now under the Presidency of General Ibanez, he was elected in a free election and has shown no tendencies toward dictatorship, though he staged an anti-U.S. campaign to get elected. His trip would help to melt Ibanez's frigidly.

If Eisenhower makes the pilgrimage, he would follow in the footsteps of Herbert Hoover, who made a similar tour of Latin America between the period of his election and inauguration.

Some of his advisers urge that since Latin Americans generally view Stevenson as a good neighbor, he should go, thus dispelling Latin-American predictions of a return to isolationist imperialism under the Republicans.

NATO Faces Crisis

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Ike Invited To Make Latin-American Trip

WASHINGTON

House and Johnson in the Senate? Mansfield was asked. "I thought Lyndon was Sam Rayburn's boy," Mansfield replied. "And if there's anything I can ever do to repay Rayburn for the favors he's done me I'd like to do it."

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TO MAKE good on all the promises that were in his campaign speeches President-elect Eisenhower would have to be Superman in a tearing hurry. The pressure to deliver on the more important promises is immediate. These promises are one of the heavy burdens the incoming President will carry into office with him. He will ride with him in his difficult and dangerous journey to view the war in Korea at firsthand.

It is not surprising that millions of Americans responded to the suggestion in an Eisenhower speech to the Congress a few weeks of the campaign that by a personal visit he might help to find a way out of the Korean war. The ride through it will be a difficult and dangerous journey to view the war in Korea at firsthand.

Certainly it is not surprising that the cost in casualties of an all-out effort to end the war together with the risk of spreading the conflict are so great. They will be told of the plan for gradually eliminating American troops who now hold one-third of the front lines.

As evoked by General James Van Fleet with his commanding officer, General Mark W. Clark, the top policy-makers in the Pentagon the plan is in essence as follows: VAN FLEET'S PLAN

The outfitting of two and perhaps three, additional South Korean divisions. The persistent American-U.S. division; in addition, that is, to the British Commonwealth division—and the units from the United States, the Philippines and other countries now serving with U.S. divisions.

All this will be done over a period of two years, thereby making it possible to pull half the American troops out of Korea, taking them back to Japan or sending them to other trouble centers.

It is on timing that the greatest disagreement had developed. Van Fleet believes that the Korean war can be trained in a year if equipment can be found. The United States believes that because of the great pressure for arms from all quarters the likelihood is that it will have to be required to put two or three new ROK divisions in the field. More than 55 percent of the line is now manned by South Koreans.

This is not sensational. It is not a quick answer to the Korean situation. Nor does it contemplate the withdrawal of all American troops. Officers directing modern artillery are not to be sent back to the front. You can take a Korean peasant out of the fields and in fairly short order make him a good soldier. But you cannot overnight teach him trigonometry.

Patience is a commodity as important as power. In one instance, we might well learn from the Russians and the Communist Chinese. Time, they believe, will correct their economic collapse, and they are patiently counting on the passage of long periods of tension to bring about political decision and dissension among the leadership. They do not believe that our united efforts in Korea and our steadfast progress in NATO have shaken their confidence. Steady co-operation and progress can shake it even more.

The patient, persistent American-U.S. division; in addition, that is, to the British Commonwealth division—and the units from the United States, the Philippines and other countries now serving with U.S. divisions.

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That's Ruark's Predicament

NEW YORK

GOSH, and also holy gee. I do not know who I will press for the best of the two. I have and who else is there around to clobber?

But I can't knock Margaret because she is a real nice doll and can't help it if she don't sing very good. We allow her to take a singing on the TV and only have ourselves to blame. There ain't much you can say about Bess either, but she's a real nice girl and I'm sure never was very painful publicly, like Aunt Eleanor and Auntie Mae.

All the hungry ones that hang on the coastals will be hung soon, like O'Dwyer down in Mexico and the two-headed economist who thought Lord Keynes was a nut. He made with his theory of extravagance as an antidote. There is no point in laboring O'Dwyer. He's going to get fired out of that disgraceful situation which made a man a man and a woman a woman.

There is no point in telling Lord Keyserling off about the law of gravity. It's a law of nature and the chances are excellent he won't be working for us much longer.

It looks like there isn't much to do. The parties might last a while, unless I can rig up some excuse to come out against him, but I'm sure he'll be in for a long time.

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