

DEFENSE DIGEST



Your roundup of mobilization news and trends affecting power

National Production Authority is now a permanent Commerce Dept. agency. Business executives, on loan for 6-month rotation periods, will run its 20 main industry divisions. Regular industry advisory committees are being set up.

A production-controls division will run the Defense Materials System, successor to the Controlled Materials Plan (June Digest). It will issue directives to the mills, based on allotments certified by Defense Dept. and Atomic Energy Commission and approved by Office of Defense Mobilization.

Uranium supply is no longer the limiting factor it was, says Gordon Dean, retiring chairman, Atomic Energy Commission. New deposits have been discovered in this country, Canada, Australia and elsewhere. New processes make it possible to tap low-grade sources in South Africa, phosphate regions of U.S.

With successful "breeding" of atomic fuel, these developments assure enough uranium to support a large-scale atomic-energy industry for generations.

Coal-bargaining time is September. John L. Lewis is expected to ask for at least 10¢ an-hour raise for his miners. Along with it, he is likely to demand a higher welfare-fund royalty — up from the current 40¢ per ton.

Price hikes on crude oil and some products have been eyed by Congress, but any backing down will come from economic pressure — heavy stocks and competition from natural gas, plus effects of record breaking imports of foreign oil.

Future of TVA may be settled next year. Water-power possibilities in the area are just about fully developed. If Congress finally decides to deny the big steam-plant program needed to firm up the system and meet growing industrial demands, TVA will have to buy power from adjacent private companies.

New oil-storage wrinkle is use of abandoned slate pits. Esso Standard has been surveying possibilities, has tentatively selected a Pennsylvania site that would handle summer storage of 3-million bbl of distillate fuel. Such storage would help level peaks and valleys of seasonal operation, also offers a good bet for safe stockpiling against national-defense needs.

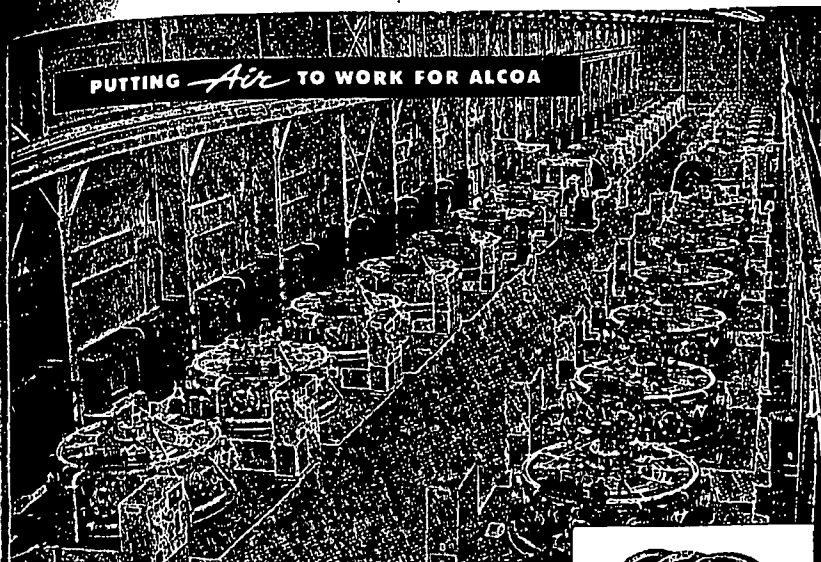
Slate quarries get the nod because inert slate offers no contamination problems, pits are generally rectangular with vertical sides. Some form of cover, possibly a floating roof, would protect against sunlight, dust, animal life.

Eisenhower's choice for new head of AEC, Lewis L. Strauss, has a record of interest in power-reactor research and development. His appointment is regarded as improving the prospects for industrial production of atomic energy.

Broad-base mobilization, subject of recent debate, has been reaffirmed by Defense Mobilization Director Flemming. New policy statement calls for: (1) standby production lines without actual volume production of anything easy to make when needed (2) expanded capacity for some items that are hard to produce and require long lead time.

A survey of all defense plants will see if some production can be shifted to cut costs. Tools of closed plants would be kept in place or stored. Budget still includes \$500 million for stockpiling critical machine tools.

PUTTING Air TO WORK FOR ALCOA



Thirteen natural gas engines, about 40 to a room, drive the generators, furnishing all the electricity used by Alcoa to produce 170,000,000 pounds of aluminum in this plant yearly.

800 BOXCARS OF AIR KEEP GENERATORS AT PEAK EFFICIENCY

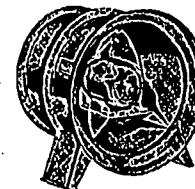
Down at Point Comfort, Texas, a new kind of power plant was built a few years ago. 120 engines, running on natural gas, drive huge electric generators. Their job: to supply the current to smelt defense-needed aluminum. One of the biggest problems, though, was to keep the equipment running cool and at top efficiency.

120 Westinghouse Axiflo® fans did the trick. Each draws 12,000 cubic feet of air through the generators every minute, picking up the excess heat. Then the air is piped through concrete ducts and out exhaust stacks which line both sides of the building.

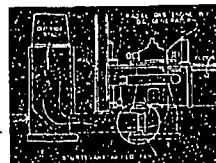
Now Alcoa has just expanded this power plant. They have installed 74

new engines—and Westinghouse has supplied 74 more Axiflows. All in all, the 194 fans will move over 2,300,000 cubic feet of cooling air through the generators every minute. That's enough air to fill a trainload of 800 boxcars!

One day—today or in the near future—you may have a problem that involves putting air to work. When you do, remember that Westinghouse has the most complete air conditioning, air cleaning and air handling line in the industry. See the new Catalog 600. It contains 60 fact-filled pages on products, uses, and helpful data. To get your free copy, just call your local Westinghouse-Sturtevant office. Or, write to Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Sturtevant Division, Hyde Park, Boston 36, Mass.



Axiflo Fans keep them cool. They're compact, efficient, and trouble-free. That's important for hard-to-get-at jobs.



Cooling-air drawn through the engine generators picks up the intense heat, then safely exhausts it through individual stacks.

YOU CAN BE SURE...IF IT'S **Westinghouse**
AIR HANDLING