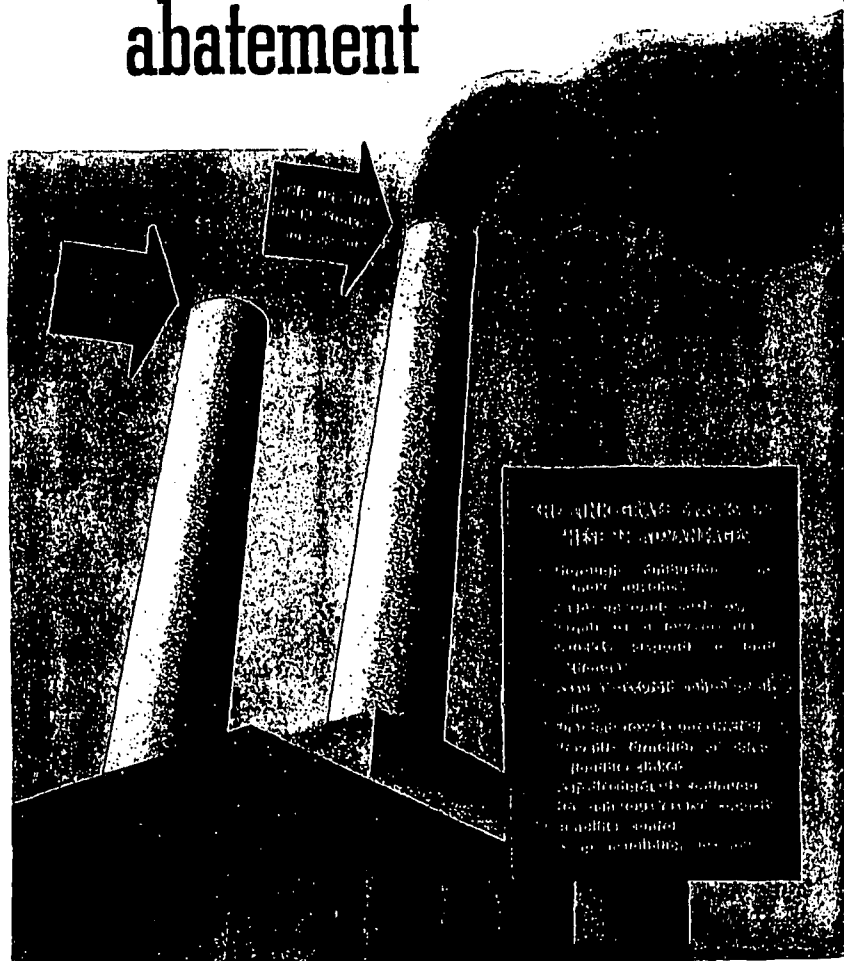


Three cheers for smoke abatement



1...from your fuel cost sheets



POWER

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Power for Peace and War

WE DON'T think that war lies just around the corner, or even that it is likely within the next five years; neither Russia nor America could profit by armed conflict.

Yet we can take no chances in this explosive world. We must prepare—to make war less likely and an American victory more certain if war should come.

Fighting men and their weapons are less than half of the picture. Modern war is built on an industrial foundation of raw materials, fuel, production, transportation—given life at every step by some form of power. It's all one big picture, so let's view it as a whole for a moment—in terms of broad national strategy.

New, protected oil sources would be needed—also big stockpiles of manganese, copper, tin, zinc, cordage, palm oil, coconut oil, etc. We would need more steel capacity, a revived railroad system and plenty of machine tools.

How about power-generating capacity? Put the answer this way: We need a lot more power for peace—and when we get enough power for peace we will probably have enough for war as well. Here, in truth, we can kill two birds with one stone.

Readers will recall that we got through the last war without power shortages despite enormous war production and a very modest increase in generating capacity. This was possible because civilian goods fell off and because existing kilowatt capacity worked overtime generating kilowatt-hours for second and third shifts.

These same factors would apply in another war. Also, power use would again be restricted

by the bottlenecks of fuel, steel, transportation and labor, each of which sets a limit on production and hence on power consumption.

The report recently released by Edward Falck, chairman of the Power Board of the National Security Resources Board, bears out this view in its emphasis on the peacetime requirements.

Meeting this peacetime load will be no easy task. It means adding 20,000,000 kw of central-station capacity by 1951 to increase this year's 3.7 percent national margin of capacity over peak to a more comfortable 11.2 percent, with a then total capacity around 70 million kw.

Large steam and hydro turbine-generators still require three years from order to delivery. Orders on the books for units above 10,000 kw are 5.4 million kw for shipment in 1948, 5.6 for 1949, 5.3 for 1950, and only 1.6 for 1951. The moral is clear; get your turbine-generator orders in now for 1951 delivery.

Below 10,000 kw the turbine-generator situation is much easier. Small utilities and industrial plants won't have to wait too long for their new generating units.

Boilers and other power-plant equipment are available sooner than the generating units and are therefore no bottleneck.

Thinking broadly of power for the nation's needs, the situation may be described as tight but not alarming. And one vital fact is clear: Working hand in hand with government agencies, power men are planning and building the facilities needed to keep the wheels of America turning—in peace and in war.