# DEFENSE DIGEST

***Your roundup of mobilization news and trends affecting power ma***

**1952 power figures** show that U.S., with less than 7% of world population, produced 45% of estimated world power. Russia and satellites accounted for about 16%.

Last year's U.S. output of more than 400 billion kwhr was two-thirds more than the first "peace" year (1946), two and a half times more than at the start of World War II (1941), and more than five times output 25 years ago. Reflecting differences in reserves and load factor, capacity at end of 1952 (about 84 million kw) was again about two-thirds more than 1946, almost exactly twice capacity in 1941, and almost three and a half times capacity 25 years ago.

**Copper users can expect** more metal in 1953 than any year since World War II, but problems remain. Many feel price is too low to stimulate new output.

**Arms-spending rise** will continue through 1953 but nature of spending will change. More dollars will go for items coming off production lines, less for plant expansion and inventory buildup. So net effect on the economy will be less.

**Latest St. Lawrence Seaway** bill (sponsored by Sen Wiley, R) looks to have a good chance to reach Congress floor. It would permit Federal government to join Canada in building a deep-draft channel in the International Falls section, but would leave associated power project to be built by Province of Ontario and New York State.

Divorcing the power angle from the seaway proper may make Wiley's bill the exception in a long list Congress has ignored or turned down. Canada has announced it will build the channel single-handed if legal path is cleared for the power project, which includes a dam vital to the waterway.

**Cheaper synthetic rubber** is promised by a new process developed by B F Goodrich. Still in pilot stage, new continuous method blends butadiene and styrene in 15 minutes, against 10 to 12 hours the old way. It may cut plant costs in half.

**Critical materials list** is now shorter by 13 items, according to Defense Production Administration's List of Basic Materials and Alternates (Issue No. 10). Remaining in "most critical" category are: titanium, cobalt, columbium, molybdenum, nickel, tantalum, heavy castings, nickel-bearing stainless, diamond bort.

**More natural-gas pipelines** will be needed if all potential customers are to get service, reports Petroleum Administration for Defense. Utility-company figures indicate sufficient supply for peak-day loads in winter of 1952-53 (normal weather). But peak-day demands of all potential customers in winter of 1955-56 are expected to be 50% more than 1951-52 peak (38 billion cu ft against 23.5 billion).

**Aluminum output losses** caused by hydro-power shortages in Pacific Northwest and the Tennessee Valley are expected to run about 120 million lb in first quarter of 1953. Losses are being met by thinning the industry's "pipelines" and reducing allotments to the national stockpile. These adjustments and improvement in water conditions should bring 1953 situation back into line.




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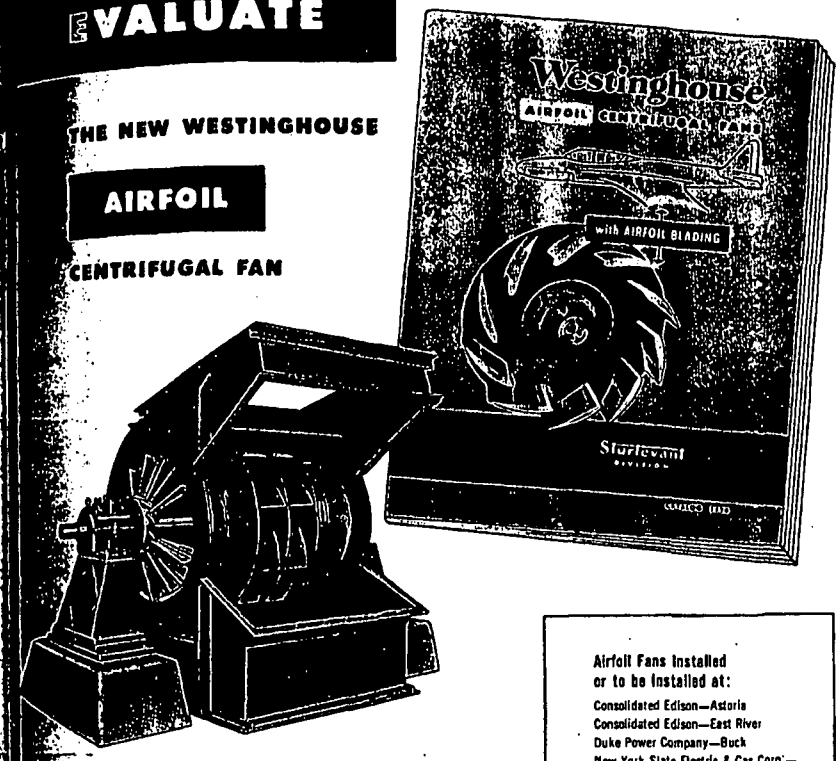


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