

# Pentagon Developing Mystery Sonic Plane

WASHINGTON, May 16 (AP)—The Pentagon said today it has canceled contracts for a new supersonic fighter plane but is working on a mystery aircraft with "even greater potentialities."

The canceled project had contemplated development of the world's fastest long-range interceptor.

News that it had been abandoned was only a few hours old when Dr. Clifford C. Furnas, assistant secretary of defense for research and development, told a Senate committee about the fresh undertaking.

Beyond saying that the new warplane has even greater possibilities than the shelved interceptor, Furnas gave no details.

**Lacked Money for Research**  
He told a Senate Appropriations subcommittee the interceptor contracts were canceled for a number of reasons, one of which was a determination that the plane would be heavier than had been anticipated. Another reason, he said, was lack of money for research.

The only reason given by an Air Force spokesman in an earlier announcement of the cancellation was lack of funds for research and development.

Northrop Aircraft, Hawthorne, Calif., and North American Aviation, Los Angeles, had held the contracts.

**Figures Kept Secret**  
The Air Force declined to make public figures on the value of the contracts or the cost of the cancellations. There was no immediate comment from the companies involved.

Although lack of research funds was mentioned as one reason for the cancellation, Furnas defended the adequacy of the \$5,300,000,000 military research program which he heads.

The administration has approved the size of the program, but some members of Congress have criticized it, contending even more money should be poured into the effort.

## Wage Dispute Halts Nike Construction

PITTSBURGH, May 16 (AP)—An undisclosed number of construction workers are halting work on three Nike sites in the Pittsburgh area as the result of a dispute over wage rates.

The Nike sites are to be used as part of an aerial defense around industrial Pittsburgh.

The sites are located at Dorseyville, Elrama and Emsworth.

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# Senate OK's Record Ag Bill For Fiscal '57

WASHINGTON, May 16 (AP)—A Senate Appropriations subcommittee approved today a record-breaking farm money bill which would provide more than \$2 billion for the Agriculture Department and its agencies in 1957.

Approval was voted at an executive session. Chairman Richard B. Russell (D.-Ga.) told reporters afterwards the subcommittee accepted most of the increases voted by the House Monday and added some of its own.

Among the Senate boosts was a \$25 million increase in agricultural conservation payments to farmers this year under existing programs.

This was a forerunner to the much larger soil bank payments which may begin next year and which may run to as much as \$1,200,000,000 annually.

A bill setting up the soil bank program and containing other new farm legislation was waiting today to be called up on the Senate floor.

The Senate did not reach the bill today, but was slated to take it up tomorrow.

Sens. George D. Aiken (R.Vt.) and Spessard L. Holland (D.Fla.) said they would make a last-ditch effort to reshape the bill to meet President Dwight D. Eisenhower's specifications.

# Weeks Vetoes Russian Swap

WASHINGTON, May 16 (AP)—The Commerce Department today turned down an American firm's plan to swap information with the Russians on drill bits used in oil wells.

Secretary of Commerce Weeks based the decision on national security. He said the Russians stood to gain more than they would give.

The firm had asked for a license to send the Russians technical data on "the design, production, assembly and operation of rotary rock drill bits."

In return it was to get Russian data on the assembly on a Russian-designed turbo drill, and also up to 40 turbo drills of various sizes and types.

## Senate Passes Dam Bill

WASHINGTON, May 16 (AP)—The Senate today passed, 48-39 a bill empowering New York State to build new power plants at Niagara Falls costing an estimated 440 million dollars.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. Herbert H. Lehman (D-NY), now goes to the House.

## Candidate Accused

MADISON, Wis., May 16 (AP)—State Assembly Speaker Mark Catlin Jr., a Republican candidate nomination to the U.S. Senate seat now held by Sen. Alexander R. Wiley, was accused of accepting at least \$5725 from prison inmates to use his political influence to win their release.

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