

# Nation's Missile Program Has Strengths—Johnson

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (AP)—Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (D., Tex.) said today the Senate investigation of the nation's missile space flight program is showing "many strengths"—presumably still secret weapons—as well as weaknesses.

Johnson, chairman of the Senate Preparedness subcommittee conducting the inquiry, told reporters: "In emphasizing our shortcomings and deficiencies, it is well to bear in mind that we have done some things our folks don't know about. We have many strengths that should and will be emphasized, too."

He declined to elaborate. His statement came after his subcommittee had devoted most of the day to hearing testimony from the top Air Force missile officer who said, among other things, that wars may be fought in outer space within "a foreseeable time."

The testimony was given behind closed doors by Maj. Gen. Bernard A. Schriever, commanding the Air Force Ballistics Missiles Division, and announced by the subcommittee.

The subcommittee released a terse three paragraph statement on Schriever's testimony at an afternoon session, including his opinion on outer space combat.

It quoted Schriever as saying, "The Air Force has had a 'space program' for more than a decade." "He stressed the importance of such a program," the statement continued, "and predicted there is a foreseeable time in which actual combat may be carried on in outer space."

The ruling specifically applied to the government's seven-year effort to require the Communist party to register with the Justice Department as a tool of Moscow. The decision means the Subversive Activities Control Board must conduct still further proceedings.

When the case gets back to the board it must decide whether to order the Justice Department to bring in certain reports made to the FBI by Mrs. Mary Stalcup Markward, or delete her testimony entirely.

"If this were a civil action in a court, or if it were a criminal case, the party would be entitled to the production of these reports," Judge E. Barrett Prettyman wrote for the court.

"The question here is whether production is one of the fundamentals of fair play required in an administrative proceeding. We think that it is," he said.

## Nixon Optimistic On Current Stress

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 8 (AP)—Vice President Nixon said today the current period of economic and military stress is "no time to throw in the sponge."

The vice president spoke at the 35th meeting of the American Football Coaches Assn., held in conjunction with the windup of the annual conference of the National Collegiate Athletic Assn. Noting that "we are hearing a lot of pessimistic talk today," Nixon said "the facts are these: "The United States militarily is stronger today than any potential aggressor. Our economy is basically sound and produces three times as much as does the Soviet Union."

## Red Albania to Release U. S. Pilot, Jet Plane

PARIS, Jan. 9 (AP)—Communist Albania has promised to release Maj. Howard Curran and his T-33 jet trainer within two or three days, the U.S. Embassy said tonight.

A telephone call from the Albanian legation here notified the embassy that the U.S. Air Force officer who disappeared on a flight from France to Italy on Dec. 23 will be freed with the plane as soon as weather permits.

# Navy To Aid High School Rocketeers

WALLINGFORD, Conn., Jan. 9 (AP)—The Navy announced today it will fly four high school boys to a testing center at Chincoteague, Va., to fire a home-made rocket.

The Navy came to the aid of the amateur rocketeers after the Civil Aeronautics Authority and a state police panel of 40 experts banned the launching of the 67-inch one stage rocket here.

Lt. Cmdr. Joseph G. Bell, of the Navy and Marine Corp Reserve Training Center at nearby Ft. Hale, said the boys would be flown Jan. 18 to the naval aviation ordnance testing station at Chincoteague.

He said the project was approved by the office of the chief of naval information in Washington.

If the weather is not favorable Jan. 18, Bell said, the launching will be postponed until Jan. 25.

The boys built their rocket from plans in a science magazine. They have dubbed their first effort in rocketry "Project Alpha."

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# American Mothers Visit Sons in China

HONG KONG, Jan. 9 (AP)—Three American mothers had a joyous reunion in Red China prisons today with their sons, long jailed on espionage charges.

The mothers had journeyed halfway around the world for the moment. All were quoted as saying they found their sons fit. The mothers were promised further visits before their visas expire Jan. 19.

The mothers are Mrs. Mary Downey of New Britain, Conn., and Mrs. Jessie Fecteau of Lynn, Mass., who were escorted to the Peiping prison by Chinese Red Cross officials, and Mrs. Ruth Redmond of Yonkers, N.Y., who was taken to the Shanghai prison to see her son for the first time in 11 years.

The Chinese permitted Mrs. Redmond to telephone a report of her interview from Shanghai. There is no phone service between Hong Kong and Peiping, but the British news agency Reuters gave an account of Mrs. Downey's visit, and the Peiping radio broadcast a few words from Mrs. Fecteau.

# Court Hits Secrecy of FBI Facts

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (AP)—The U.S. Court of Appeals ruled today the government must produce material documents, including FBI reports, in proceedings before federal boards.

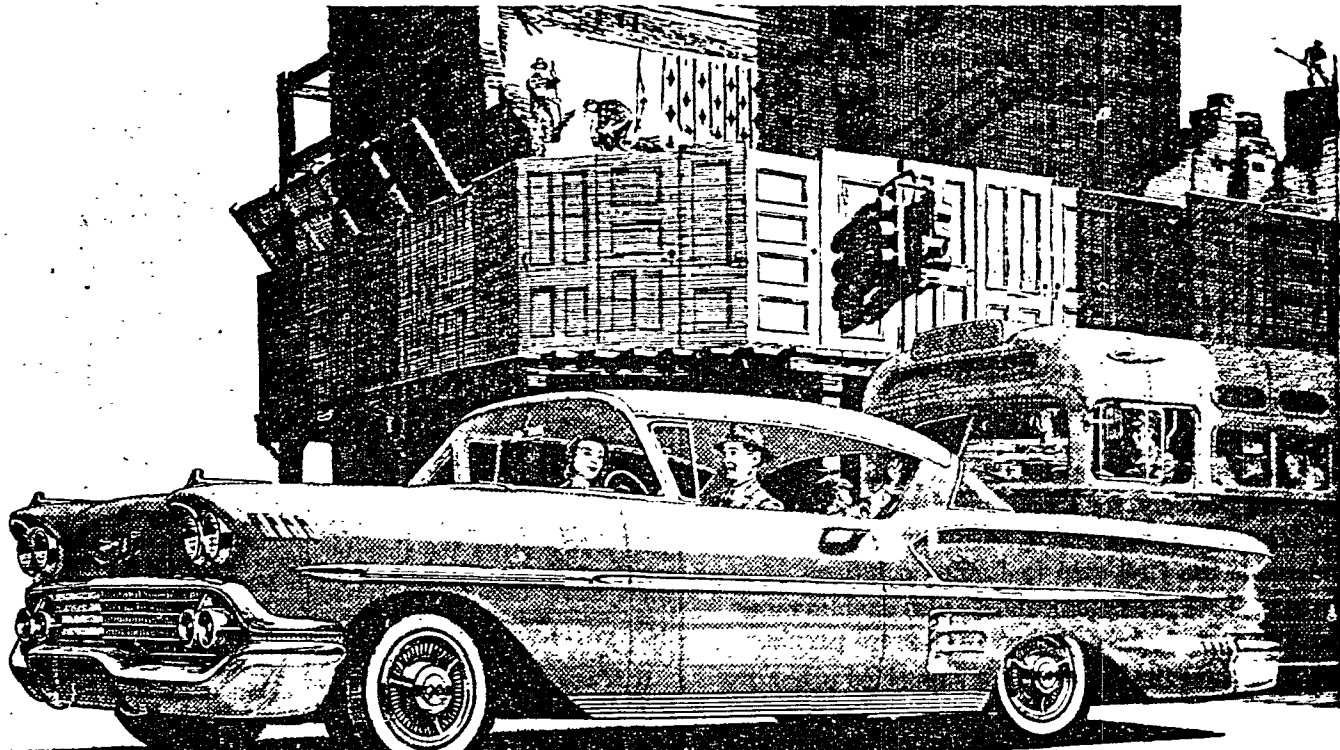
A three-judge panel agreed unanimously that the fundamentals of fair play which apply in federal courts also govern administrative proceedings.

The ruling specifically applied to the government's seven-year effort to require the Communist party to register with the Justice Department as a tool of Moscow. The decision means the Subversive Activities Control Board must conduct still further proceedings.

When the case gets back to the board it must decide whether to order the Justice Department to bring in certain reports made to the FBI by Mrs. Mary Stalcup Markward, or delete her testimony entirely.

"If this were a civil action in a court, or if it were a criminal case, the party would be entitled to the production of these reports," Judge E. Barrett Prettyman wrote for the court.

"The question here is whether production is one of the fundamentals of fair play required in an administrative proceeding. We think that it is," he said.



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