

'Horrible Examples' of Military Buying—

Bulb That Costs You A Dime Nicks Signal Corps 37c

Medics Pay 13 Cents for Same Thing

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The House Armed Services Committee today turned up some "horrible examples" of waste in military buying, and Chairman Carl Vinson (D. Ga.) said the group will see what can be done to stop it.

Committee investigators have been looking into the results of a four-year-old campaign to standardize military purchases of hundreds of thousands of common items used by all services.

Among their initial findings: Ordinary 25-watt light bulbs: available in quantity to private buyers for 10 cents or less; are bought by the Army engineers for 11 cents, by the Medical Corps for 13, and by the Signal Corps for 37.

When the Signal Corps wants a certain connector for radio sets it pays 25 cents per unit. The Navy gets the same unit for \$1.00.

Available on 8c

Prices on a particular socket for radio tubes range from 14 to 50 cents, and an investigator found he could buy the same thing—at a radio supply house—for eight cents.

Steel carpenter's squares, the kind available in hardware stores, cost the taxpayer anywhere from \$1.48 each (when the Army engineers buy them) to \$4.35 (when they are bought by the Transportation Corps).

Samplers in the committee's hands are virtually identical and several are made by the same manufacturer.

A blanket good enough for the General Services Administration costs \$4.65, but the Navy medical department pays \$21.75 each for the ones it uses.

Although the government has been at work since 1947 on development of a "single catalog" for government buying, the committee finds that 15 separate catalogs still are being used by the military. Each runs into several volumes that stack four or five feet high.

Catalog Mountain

The Munitions Board is trying to standardize military catalogs on everyday items. But the House group's investigators reported that the work still is years from completion, and that much of what has been done makes little sense.

The board is attempting to list on 5 by 8-inch cards each of several million items bought by the government. So far, the investigators said, the board has finished around 1 million cards.

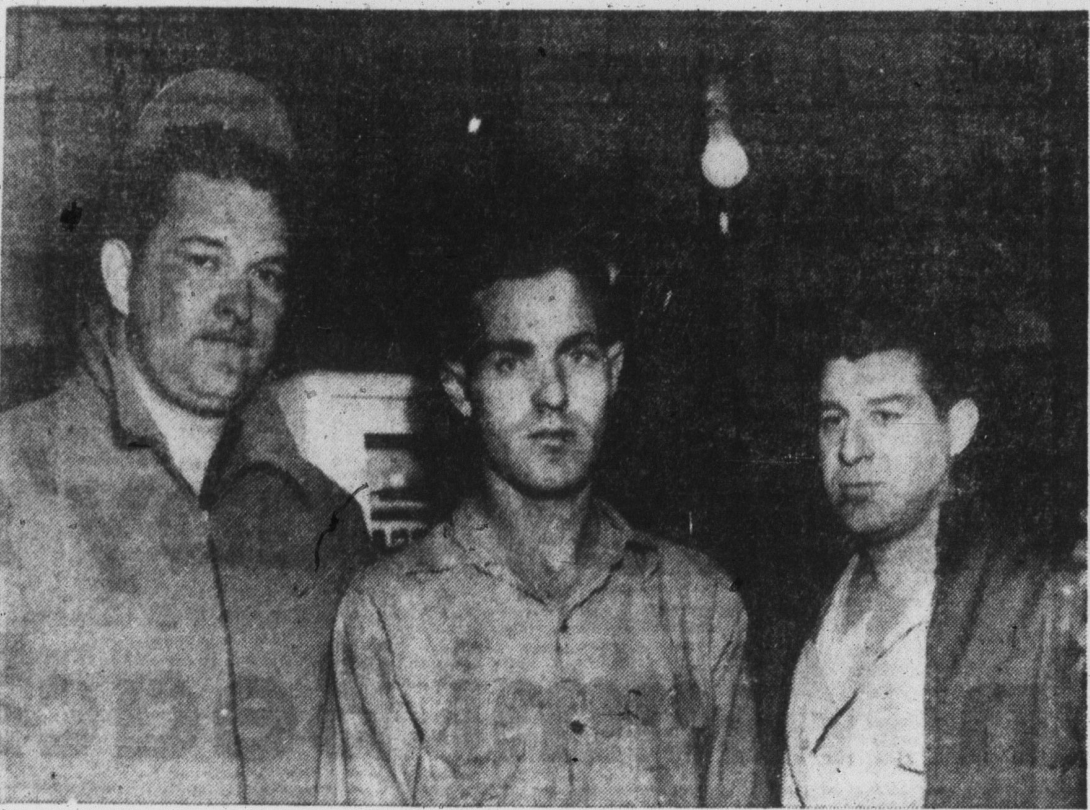
As for listings already made, they said typical items are confusing. A concrete block becomes "concrete masonry unit, solid." To the munitions board, "light, special purpose, vehicular," is a tall light for an automobile. "Indicator, liquid quantity" means a water gauge.

Seeks Strip Tease Ban In Massachusetts

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 3 (UP)—A bill to ban strip teases and female impersonations in Massachusetts was filed yesterday by Sen. William J. Keenan (D-Boston).

The measure would provide up to a year in jail and a \$500 fine to anyone connected with a "stripping act" or an act "in which a person holds himself out to be a member of the opposite sex in a manner as to suggest lewdness, obscenity, indecency and immorality."

Mr. Keenan's proposal follows Archbishop Richard J. Cushing's denunciation of Boston's night life as "vile, iniquitous and immoral."



STILL DAZED—Three workmen who survived blast at Indianapolis Screw Products Corp., 621 Spring St., today received first aid from firemen: Left to right, Kenneth Jacobs, Dudley Milton and Fred McCray. (Story, Page 1.)

He Wasn't A-Kiddin'—

Girl, 11, Ups and Weds Beau Brummel of Hills

By United Press

RISEING FAWN, Ga., Jan. 3.—Eleven-year-old Eva Dean Baggett and Orvil Ott, 23, honeymooned in a mountain cabin 15 miles west of here today after eloping from her Tennessee home to be married by a country squire.

The pair slipped across the Georgia line the night after Christmas, obtained a "quickie" blood test at nearby Rossville, then came here to be married by Justice of the Peace Charles Whitely.

Eva Dean's mother, Mrs. William Baggett, a child bride at 14 herself, said she was busy trying to find authorities to interpret the couple and "bring my baby back" on the night they were married. Dade County authorities declared the marriage void and said they would press charges against the husband and an unidentified woman who signed the girl's mother's name to an application for a marriage license.

'Beau Brummel'

Mrs. Baggett, who described Mr. Ott as a coal miner and "mountain Beau Brummel," said her son-in-law had boarded at the Baggett's two-room hut on Walden's Ridge near Signal Mountain, Tenn., for five years.

"He told me he was going to get Eva Dean when she came 12," said Mrs. Baggett. "But I thought he was just a-kidding. He taken her to the movies a lot and had been paying attention to her for two or three months. I always sent some of the younger children along when they went to the movies."

"I want my daughter back," she sobbed. But from the wilds of Etna Mountain, where Eva Dean and her husband are living with his parents, came this letter that indicated the young bride was well satisfied with her mate:

"Hello Mamma. We did get married. They told us that you and two officers were out there and I am glad we was'nt done (done) gone and please don't bring them anymore cause you no if they was to put Arvil in jail that you would ruin my life forever."

"That Night in a Car" "For you no that I love him are you? I would done what I did. Tell the kids hello and I will see them some day I hope. Tell daddy hello and that I went with the one he gave me to that night in the car are (or) duze

Stassen Out To Test Taft

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Harold E. Stassen said today he plans to enter the Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Ohio primaries in a direct challenge to Sen. Robert A. Taft for the Republican presidential nomination.

Mr. Stassen said no decision has been made yet on entering other presidential preference primaries, including New Hampshire's on Mar. 11. Backers of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower are planning to submit the General's name in the New Hampshire primary.

Mr. Stassen said he intends to make a decision on the New Hampshire primary, the first in the nation, within two weeks.

He said the question of whether Gen. Eisenhower is entered will be a "factor" in his decision but submission of the General's name would not necessarily rule him out. He said it also depends on whether any other candidates, presumably Mr. Taft, are entered.

Ed Sovola, Indianapolis' favorite columnist, appears Sunday through Friday in The Times.



STILL HANGING ON—Rough seas still were pounding the American Freighter "Flying Enterprise" today while her courageous captain clung to his post in a personal battle against the sea. (Story, Page 1.)

Won't Wait On Truman

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Sen. Estes Kefauver (D. Tenn.) said today he will decide about Feb. 1 whether to be a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination regardless of whether President Truman decides to run.

The Senator told a press conference his decision will not be influenced by Mr. Truman's plans, which are yet undisclosed. Mr. Kefauver is the only Democrat so far who has been bold enough to start an open bid for the nomination without waiting for Mr. Truman to declare his intentions.

Mr. Kefauver has authorized friends in California to take the first steps toward entering his name in that state's June 3 primary. He said he has told them, however, to "hold up until I have made my final decision."

Mr. Kefauver said he would welcome a heart to heart talk with Mr. Truman on this year's "political situation." He indicated that he will wait for Mr. Truman to take the initiative. He may have a long wait. The President has shown no enthusiasm for the Kefauver candidacy.

You Can't Win

HARTFORD, Conn. (UP)—

Within a few days, Mrs. Anna Katzman received notices from the city that: (1) The tax assessment on her tenement house had been boosted 20 per cent; (2) the same tenement had been declared unfit for occupancy.

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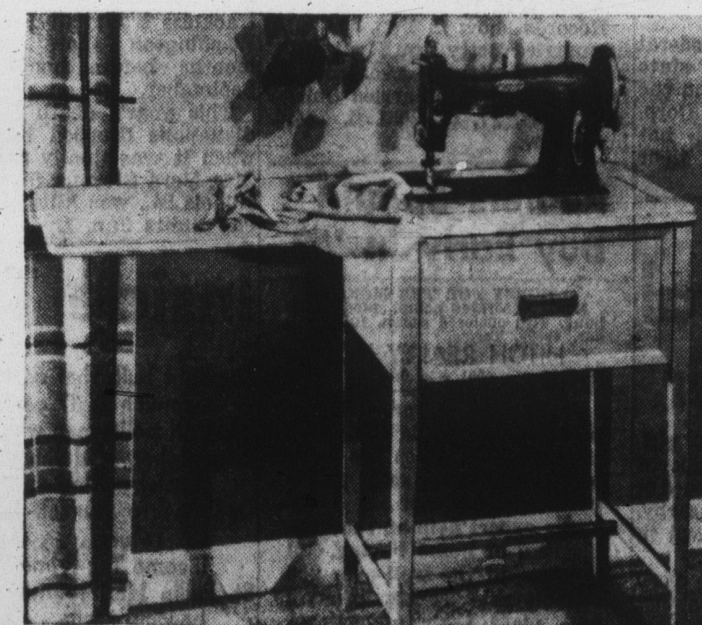
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