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## Washington Report

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# Washington Report

## **STEEL STRIKE**

Opinion on the hill is that the union stand has gone too far in regards to the current hike. Many representatives are concerned with rising un-employment because of lack of steel. Even pro-union members cannot defend strike in face of economy slow-down. Even more heat has been put on unions with statements by Glennan, NASA head, that missile production has been hurt by the strike and that work on the Vega missile has been delayed as much as three months. No action will take place in congress in the next session because of the election year, but look for a move to get under way in 61.

## **DEFENSE CUT-BACKS**

Economy is the order of the day among all the servcies, with even the Air Force feeling the pinch. All will cut some manpower for next year and the Air Force will probably reduce the number of fighter squadrons it has active. There is speculation around Washington that all of the Air Force reduction in spending is not caused by lack of funds, but by a top flight decision to "leap-frog" into a more advanced type of missile. This would be comparable to the Russian move to missiles rather than try and develop a long range bomber. This decision gave them much of their head start in the missile race.

## **MISSILES**

Minuteman and Atlas will probably get full go-ahead. Titan will probably be cut back. Most Titan will get is a small number of squadrons and some use in space probes and experiments. Air-launched ballistic missile is still very much in "air" and no firm decision has been made. This project will probably be shelved in favor of a longer range ramjet model. Long range bombers are almost out. Missiles to get the axe in the next twelve months are; Nike-Zeus, Bomarc, Titan, Nike-Hercules, Falcon, Mace, and the air-launched GAM-87A.

## **NUCLEAR PROPULSION PROGRAM**

This project will be continued with General Electric and Marquardt donig most of the work.

## **MOVE OF ABMA TO NASA**

This came as no shock to most on capital hill. Should have been done last October. Still not enough authority for NASA. Must have more and broader powers if the ever increasing gap between US and USSR is to be closed. Out look for next year. Gap will not close instead it will widen with several "new soviet first. Most logical next accomplishment? Man in orbit, perhaps by 1960. Next, will be successful moon landing with extensive data gathered. Perhaps a shot at Mars with photos similar to recent Moon shots.