

Big Steel Leaders Testify On Profits Before Group

Washington (UP)—U. S. Steel put into effect last July was Corporation told Congress today that it is making an "exceptionally low" profit margin of only five per cent on its present booming production. In comparison to sales and production, an official said, that profit margin is the lowest ever recorded by U. S. Steel in any peacetime year. The profit report on the world's largest steel producer was made by E. J. Voohees, chairman of the corporation's finance committee, in a statement prepared for delivery before a joint congressional economic subcommittee.

Deny Record Gains
It came in the wake of a commerce department report that business profits were running at a record annual rate of \$21,700,000,000 in the third quarter of this year. The department said iron and steel companies reaped bigger profits in that quarter than any other manufacturing industry. Voohees denied the U. S. Steel profit margin is either "record-breaking" or "exorbitant." "U. S. Steel's income per cent of sales in 1947 was record-breaking in one respect," he said. "It was a record-breaking low amount for any year of comparable rates of production experienced in U. S. Steel's entire peacetime history. For the first nine months of 1948 it was even lower."

The company, said Voohees, has not charged for its products "anywhere nearly as much as customers are entirely willing to pay." **Cites Production Costs**
One reason for the comparatively small profits, he said, is the rising cost of production. Building projects begun since V-J day have alone cost the company some \$146,000,000 more than was originally planned, he said.

Voohees agreed with previous witnesses that some companies are overstating their profits by under-estimating the replacement value of their tools. "I can understand the committee's very serious interest in proper accounting for the cost of the tools of production consumed," he said. "For the present non-recognition of part of that cost in computing taxable income means that the federal government itself is participating in, and even forcing, the erosion of the nation's tools of production."

Of an income of \$88,000,000 for the first nine months of this year, Voohees said, U. S. Steel paid \$51,500,000 in dividends. The other \$36,500,000, he said, went for property expenditures and debt retirement. The price increase which U. S.

Yearbook Club Organized By Smedley Class

The Smedley Junior High School Annual Club has been formed under the guidance of Mary Ruffini and Mrs. Florence P. Senkowsky. The club's main purpose is to edit and publish the ninth grade yearbook. Officers are: President, Richard Hartman; vice president, Jerry Cohen; secretary, Doris Lightcap. Staff heads are Osher Pals, editor-in-chief, and Betsy Marklin, associate editor.

Other staff heads, and members include: Personnel—Manager, Joyce Hamilton; assistants, Ruth Ann Worlow and Jake Brandow; Betsy Marklin, Dolores Ippoliti, Teresa DeCave and Dorothy Greenleaf. Advertising—Manager, Jerry Cohen; assistants, Kay Drake and Larry Finn; members, Nancy Spano, Mary Tweltride and William Horn.

Circulation—Manager, Jean Miller; assistants, Dorothy Suda and Anne Rosenblatt; members, Madelyn Tenuto, Gloria Seidman and Nancy Spano. Activities—Managers, Mary Tweltride and John Seiler; assistants, Doris Lightcap and Richard Hartman; members, Dorothy Suda, Caroline Schartner, Nancy Smart and John Georgiui.

Art—Manager, Elaine Davis; assistant, Henry Gartyl. The editorial department is under the direction and supervision of Miss Ruffini and the financial department under Mrs. Senkowsky.

Bigger and Better Worm Developed

Decatur, Ill. (INS)—A Decatur man today announced the discovery of a bigger and better worm. James Potter, worm scientist, said the worm is more active, lengthier, and tougher than any worm previously developed. Potter now is waiting for fishermen to beat a path to his door.



NATIVITY SCENE—Fifth Grade students of Mrs. Bernice Powell at the Watts School constructed a manger scene in their classroom for the Christmas season. Two of the students, Ellen Williams and Robert Hamilton, are shown putting finishing touches to the project. Elaborate decorations have been put up throughout the building.

Former Red Officer Sees War by 1950

Paris (INS)—Lt. Col. G. A. Tokayev, former Red Army officer, wrote in a French newspaper today that Russia is preparing for war in 1950 if at that time the Soviets feel they are better armed than the West. In an article in the Paris newspaper L'Aurore, Tokayev said that Stalin ordered him personally in April of 1947 to develop German plans for a transatlantic guided missile.

He quoted Stalin as saying: "We must have it without delay. Then and only then we can chat the way I intend to with Truman." Tokayev wrote that he was charged with the job of coordinating Soviet development of German aeronautical discoveries.

Tokayev quoted a Soviet general named Kouznetsov as saying he did not want to work on the missile until research on V-2 rockets was concluded, to which a Politburo member retorted: "Against whom do you think we are preparing for war? Poland?"

Uncle Joe Stalin 69 Today, But Day Goes by Unmarked

Moscow (UP)—Premier Josef Stalin is 69 years old today and from all recent reports he is hale, hearty and alert despite his graying hair and arduous life. Newspapers made no mention of Stalin's birthday. It is not a national holiday, so no flags were unfurled. There were no celebrations or other public observances. But the Soviet people know he is 69. There is a simple notation on all Soviet desk calendars saying "1879—Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin born." And Moscow radio, in its radio calendar feature, noted the day by saying "Josef Vissarionovich Stalin was born Dec. 21, 1879."

But on the eve of Stalin's birthday the bulk of Pravda's front page, like that of Izvestia and other newspapers, was devoted to what has become a long-established, peculiarly Soviet institution—letters to Stalin pledging increased industrial and agricultural output. These are from workers, engineers

and party leaders. They occupied four of the six columns on Pravda's front page last night and continued to another column on the second page. The letters come from all over the Soviet zone. They promise Stalin more meat, wool, fish, rail car loadings, timber, and other things. They wish him health and many years of life, but they do not mention his birthday.

Health Good
There is not a single responsible diplomat here who believes repeated foreign reports that Stalin's health is failing or that his role in Soviet leadership is not what it used to be. This correspondent had a good look at him last autumn at the funeral of Andrei Zhdanov, when Stalin helped bury his considerably younger aide as he has survived so many other younger communists. In spite of his graying hair he did not look his age.

Stalin undoubtedly is observing his sixty-ninth birthday today by putting in his usual stint of long hours in his office.

Car Cleaned Out
St. Louis—When Harry Lake tried to get his car out of the garage the motor wouldn't turn over. He lifted the hood and found the reason. Thieves had stolen the radiator, fan, generator, fuel pump, water pump and battery.

First Alarm in 2 Years Sent in On Box 118
The fire alarm box at Twenty-second street and Edgmont avenue—No. 118—was pulled last night for the first time since its installation almost two years ago. It brought the Good Will, Moyamensing and Hanley Fire Companies to the intersection where an automobile was on fire.

A broken fuel line near the motor was responsible for the fire, which caused considerable damage to the car's wiring. The fire occurred at 11:30 p. m.

May Get Drugs From Insect Blood
New York (UP)—The possibility of obtaining germ-killing drugs from the blood of insects has been suggested by a group of scientists of Pennsylvania State College. They based their belief on an experiment which showed that blood from a milkweed bug killed a bacterium. They reported their findings in the magazine Science, official publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

AMERICAN STORES CO.

Merry Christmas

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Fancy, Fresh-Killed (weighing 4 1/2 lbs up) **65c**

Corn Meal Mush **10c** Lean Plate Beef **25c**
Fresh Ground Beef **51c** Dried Beef Loaf **28c**

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SMALL HAMS

Whole or Shank Half **59c**

Lean, Bone In **CHUCK ROAST** **47c**

Tasty Potato Salad **27c**
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Large Canadian Smelts **33c**
Fancy Cocktail Shrimp **59c**
Fancy Pollock Fillets **25c**
Genuine Haddock Fillets **39c**
Large Oysters Jersey Select **39c**

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Enriched Supreme **BREAD** large loaf **14c**

Supreme Stuffing Bread **14c**
CHRISTMAS LAYER CAKE **69c**

Golden cake with raisins and ground pecan meats, vanilla butter cream filling, slices sprinkled with shredded coconut. Decorated with green Christmas trees.

FRUIT STOLLEN **39c**
LARGE MINCE PIES **69c**
FRESH DINNER ROLLS 8 in pkg. **10c**

Snyder's **POTATO CHIPS** 8-oz bag **29c**

TRITZELS **BUTTER PRETZELS** 8-oz pkg **21c**

BOBEN'S **INSTANT MIX** 8-oz can **25c**

BELL'S Poultry Seasoning **10c**
Sage or Thyme **8c**
Sweet Marjoram **8c**
Mixed Nuts **49c**
Calif. Walnuts **49c**
Brazil Nuts **37c**
Cider **35c**
Crax **37c**

SUNSHINE HI-HO **CRACKERS** **29c**

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

No. 1 Golden **SWEET POTATOES** 3 lbs **20c**

ICEBERG LETTUCE CALIF. **15c**
PASCAL CELERY **25c**
YELLOW ONIONS **27c**
FRESH CRANBERRIES **23c**

Fancy, Northwestern Stayman Winesap **APPLES** 2 lbs **29c**

Ideal Fancy California **FRUIT COCKTAIL** large **39c**

Ideal Pumpkin **10c**
Pumpkin Pie Spice **10c**
Pum Pudding **39c**
Pitted Dates **23c**
Cake Mixes **25c**
Cocoa Marsh **25c**
Puddings **5c**
Seedless Raisins **12c**
7-Minut Pie Crust **16c**
Pineapple **16c**
Tea Bags **15c**

Green Beans **20c**
Tomatoes **33c**
Fancy Quality **37c**
DOLE Pineapple Juice **30c**
Apple Sauce **27c**
SALAD DRESSING **29c**
Mayonnaise **39c**
Junket **21c**
Rennet Tablets **12c**

Acme Golden **CORN** 2 No. 2 cans **37c**

Green Giant **PEAS** 2 No. 303 cans **41c**

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