

METEOROLOGY

Research Hurt by Budget

► THE UNITED STATES defense efforts are being gravely jeopardized by the current method of limiting expenditures by the Department of Defense, weathermen have charged.

They have sent a strongly worded telegram to President Eisenhower, Defense Secretary Neil H. McElroy and other top Government and Congressional officials protesting the recent budget cuts and asking a re-examination of the method.

The telegram was sent by the council of the American Meteorological Society, spokesman for professional weathermen. It says the current method of reducing expenditures would have "catastrophic effects on scientific advancement in meteorology."

Knowledge of the atmosphere is of great importance to defense science. The major part of this country's research effort in meteorology is supported by military funds, and this "modest support" has brought weathermen to the "verge" of important and revolutionary advances in our understanding of the atmosphere."

"The manner in which ceilings have been imposed on the rate of expenditure is producing effects which are becoming more serious every day," the telegram reads. "Important research is being curtailed or halted, experienced research teams are being broken up and dispersed, and the training of future meteorologists is being jeopardized."

"Each day of delay in correcting the situation adds to the ultimate cost of essential defense science work in meteorology."

The weathermen charge that failure to take immediate action will cause an "irretrievable loss to a research effort of major importance to the safety and welfare of the entire country."

In addition to President Eisenhower and Mr. McElroy, the meteorologists sent their protest telegram to Richard B. Russell, chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee; Carl Vinson, chairman, House Armed Services Committee; Donald A. Quarles, Deputy Secretary of Defense; James H. Douglas, Secretary of the Air Force; Thomas S. Gates, Jr., Secretary of the Navy; and Wilbur M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army.

► THE WEATHER Bureau issues more than 4,000 original forecasts a day in order to keep the public continuously informed of upcoming weather conditions.

Under Secretary of Commerce Louis S. Rothschild, in charge of Weather Bureau activities, said this figure indicates the "importance of weather in every undertaking in all walks of life."

During the past ten years both Government and private weather forecasting services have expanded greatly, he told the First National Conference on Applied Meteorology meeting in Hartford, Conn. Mr. Rothschild said this expansion reflected

the requirements of a "growing, dynamic and changing economy."

He compared the Weather Bureau to a wholesaler, providing information to all, and the private meteorologist to a retailer serving specialized needs.

One arm of the Government itself, the Air Force, requires weather services not provided by the Weather Bureau, Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman, commander of the Air Weather Service, told the Conference.

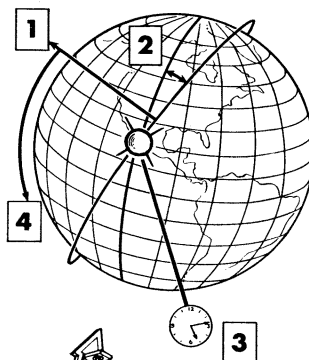
The possible effects of weather on military operations cannot be handled satisfactorily by current weather forecasts or conventional climatology. Only "down-to-earth applications of our whole knowledge about the general weather environment" help solve the problems of military planning.

Francis Courtney Jr. of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's Georgia Division told how the weather near Marietta, Ga., was thoroughly investigated to insure the safest possible operation of a nuclear reactor there.

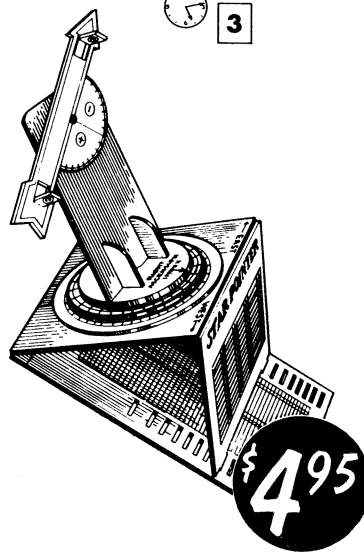
Problems of the aircraft industry, which is now planning for the 1965-75 era, present a "real challenge" to five-day forecasters, R. D. Roche, also of Lockheed, said.

Science News Letter, November 16, 1957

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