

Looking at WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON—Hopes for peace with Russia which soared just after the death of Joseph Stalin, have sagged badly in Washington in the last four weeks. The Russians wanted the Korean fighting stopped in March, April and May. They were somewhat hesitant to risk a war with the United States at that time.

Uncle Sam had the hydrogen bomb and the Communists did not. It was like 1946 all over again—when the United States had the atomic bomb and the Russians had not yet developed the weapon. Like 1946 the bomb was the major stop sign holding back the Communist aggression against the free world.

Now Krenin's leaders know they have the hydrogen bomb secret too. There are reports, not confirmed, that the Russians have discovered a cheap and easy way to make the hydrogen bomb. U. S. scientists know that is quite possible, technically, although they doubt the reports for several reasons, but it is possible.

The Reds solved the hydrogen bomb puzzle after the Korean fighting ended, and Premier Georgi Malenkov waved the olive branch for two months after assuming power. Malenkov at that time announced his program would be one of more and cheaper goods for the people, and he aimed the economy in that direction.

There are signs in the puppet countries that this program is official policy. But the Red army is reportedly insisting the armed services get more attention. Malenkov, not a military man, is successfully maintaining his civilian secret police chief Beria out, and a new man in his place. The Army leaders carry more weight.

The next purge of fighting in Russia may be seen in the Army and Malenkov. Either Malenkov is getting bolder as a result of Russian H-bomb progress or he is being prodded by the Army. Whatever the motivation is, Washington knows that relations have suddenly worsened.

And despite the U. S. rearmament program, which has the nation at least partially prepared, the Reds still have a great preponderance of military equipment, especially artillery, tanks and fighter planes. It will be recalled that Nazi Panzer General Heinz Guderian estimated Red tank strength in 1933 at 10,000—an estimate which

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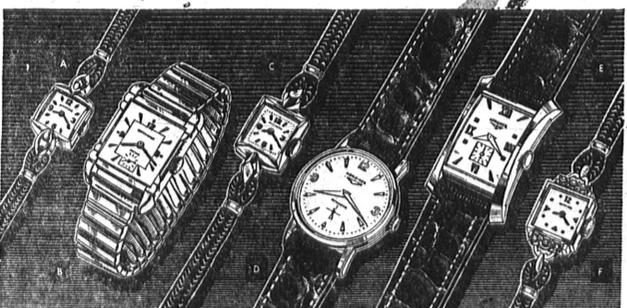


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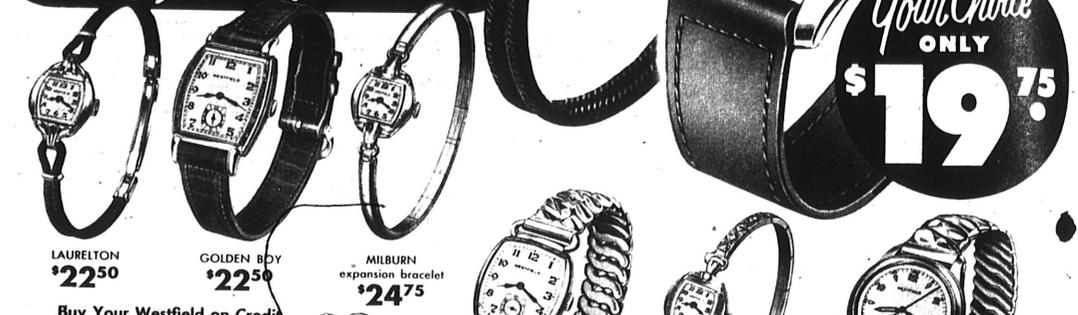


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On the SCREEN

"Trent's Last Case"
This importation from England is a polite and static character, in which Michael Trent, in the title role, plays with smooth veracity the role of the amateur detective who unravels the mystery, while captivating the romantic eye of Margaret Lockwood, a widow, who apparently never sheds a tear over her husband.

"Jack Slade"
For those who like gore-and plenty of it, this film of the Wild West of former days may be recommended for its commendable dabs of stark realism. Mark Stevens has the role of Slade, who was one of the most notorious killers the West ever knew. Dorothy Malone, who is said to have a generous touch of the Comanche in her spirit is the girl Slade marries. The veteran Barton MacLane is around as a boozey braver's buddy who at long last got the drop on Slade and then carelessly allowed himself to be drilled by a bullet.

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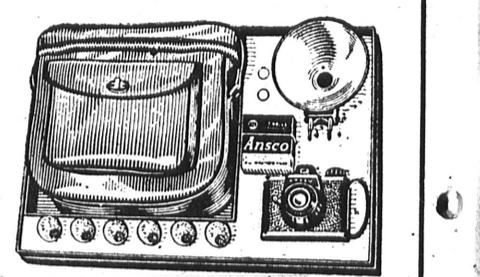
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