



VETERAN WARRIOR TO SCRAP HEAP

TOKYO.—The battered, barnacle-encrusted hull of the U. S. battleship Oregon, veteran of three wars, is soon to be scrapped by a Japanese salvage company which bought her. During the Spanish-American war, the Oregon raced 17,000 miles from the Pacific, around Cape Horn on the tip of South America, in 68 days to bolster the Atlantic fleet off Cuba. It was flagship of the Pacific fleet in World War I, became a memorial in Portland, Ore., until 1943, and then was taken over by the Navy to serve as an ammunition barge in World War II. At Guam, the Oregon drifted onto a reef and later was pulled into position to serve as a breakwater.—AP Wirephoto.

Less Danger of Inflation Seen in Business Trend

By the Associated Press

Government analysts yesterday expressed belief the "sharp edge of inflation has been blunted."

This doesn't mean, one economist stressed, that any general decline in business and the economy is under way. Nor does it mean, he added, that the threat of inflation has entirely disappeared.

It does mean, he added, that inevitable adjustments are taking place that were to be expected after the booming business of 1955, which carried over into the early months of this year.

And, this economist said, there is no reason for pessimism over certain downward trends that may well prove to be temporary. Generally, he said, the outlook is for a continued high-level economy but at rates in the immediate future below those of recent booming months.

On the bright side these factors were noted: The continued high level of construction activity at a \$42 billion annual rate, especially in commercial and industrial lines. Expected expenditures of \$35 billion or more this year by business in expanding its plants and equipment.

High personal income, at an annual rate of near \$315 billion. High Government spending. A rise in farm product prices to levels even with last year. A firming up in used car markets.

On Downward Side

On the downward side, analysts noticed especially the rise in manufacturers' inventories which had a book value of \$48 billion at the end of April or about \$5 billion higher than a year ago. One said this was disturbing because it could lead to a slowdown in production in some lines if the increase continued.

Other declines noted were the

decrease in new automobile sales from a year ago, a cut in production of copper and some other metals, the recent general downward trend on stock exchanges and sales declines in many lines in recent weeks.

One analyst expressed belief that there may be a decline in steel orders. Many firms placed orders earlier in the year to assure themselves of materials and in advance of a possible steel price rise following the present wage talks.

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AFL-CIO Sets Policy Talks And Dedication

By JAMES Y. NEWTON

The AFL-CIO Executive Council will meet here this week to push labor's ambitious political plans for the year and attempt to iron out some sharp internal differences, including a clash between President George Meany and Walter P. Reuther, a vice president of the newly merged 15 million-member organization.

Tomorrow in ceremonies starting at 11 a.m. President Eisenhower will dedicate the new \$4 million AFL-CIO headquarters building at 815 Sixteenth street N.W. Mr. Eisenhower a year ago laid the cornerstone of the imposing 9-story structure.

In meeting starting Tuesday, the 29-member Executive Council will attempt to deal with a number of pressing problems. These include the question of endorsing a presidential candidate. Four years ago, the separate AFL and CIO both endorsed Adlai Stevenson over Mr. Eisenhower. There is, however, considerable sentiment against taking a position this time.

In event it is decided to take an active part in the presidential race, the Council will say whether the endorsement should be made by special convention or by the 170-member AFL-CIO general Executive Board. Actual endorsement would not take place until candidates have been nominated by the Republican and Democratic conventions.

The union organization also will complete plans for the biggest vote drive in labor's political history in an effort to elect a "friendly" Congress.

Some of the AFL-CIO internal

squabbles are old. Others have cropped up since the merger six months ago.

The Meany-Reuther clash is described by friends of each as a result largely of a difference in personalities. Opinions vary as to the seriousness of the differences between the two men who are regarded as the architects of labor unification.

Friends of Mr. Meany charge among other things that the young, dynamic Mr. Reuther has tried to set himself up as the spokesman of American labor in world affairs.

The Meany camp resented Mr. Reuther's recent good-will tour of India. While the former CIO chief was apparently getting along well with Prime Minister Nehru and other Indian leaders, Mr. Meany was denouncing the same Mr. Nehru for what he called aiding and abetting the

cause of Moscow. Mr. Reuther made it clear Mr. Meany was not speaking for him.

Friends of the AFL-CIO president also say that Mr. Meany suspects the younger union leader of attempting to cut the ground from under him in other areas. They say Mr. Meany believes that Mr. Reuther is building the new Industrial Union Department, which he heads, into a too powerful bloc within the AFL-CIO. That department includes unions of the old CIO and many thousands of members of the old AFL.

There have been numerous new jurisdictional feuds between industrial and craft unions of the Building Trades Department. These feuds are of the type that led directly to the AFL-CIO split in 1935.

An issue facing the Executive Council revolves around an order

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