

British Voice Alarm Over H-Bomb Tests

Wash. Post-Herald 26 March '54

LONDON, March 25 (A.—Brit-
ain broke out today in a rash
of hydrogen-bomb jitters.

Reports of the awesome and
unexpected fury of America's
hydrogen bomb test explosion
in the Pacific March 1 prompt-
ed fresh demands in Parliament
and the press for all-out diplo-
matic efforts to banish the
threat of atomic war.

The Laborite London Daily
Herald, in a rare front-page edi-
torial, demanded that the
United States call off any more
hydrogen-bomb tests before it
turns the Pacific into "a source
of peril." It called on the Brit-
ish government to take the ini-
tiative in seeking international
consultation "on all the prob-
lems involved for mankind in
possession of the bomb."

"The Pacific is not an Ameri-
can lake," it said.

Reheated by Guardian

The influential, liberal Man-
chester Guardian also warped
of the possible "most serious"
consequences of further hydro-
gen-bomb tests.

Newspapers used "scare"
headlines over President Eisen-
hower's news conference state-
ment Wednesday that some-
thing must have happened at
the March 1 explosion that sur-
prised and astonished scientists.

In Parliament, Laborites have
renewed their demands for
some sort of fresh approach to

Russia. A few Conservatives
also have asked questions along
these lines.

Lord Salisbury, Britain's
atomic chief, told the House of
Lords last night the "hideous
reality" of the hydrogen bomb
makes necessary a live-and-let-
live understanding between
Russia and the West. He warned
that no one could win an atomic
war.

Other peers expressed simi-
lar fears. Lord Henderson, La-
borite, proposed an "all-in" Eu-
rope security treaty which
would recognize the continued
existence of both the East's de-
fense arrangements and the
West's NATO alliance. Lord
Salisbury said the government
would be ready to study the
idea.

Maps Portray Peril

Many papers carried round-
ups of latest atomic and hydro-
gen-bomb developments
throughout the world. Maps
and diagrams spelled out for
average Britons just how a
single hydrogen bomb could
obliterate or devastate much of
their island homeland.

The science editor of Lon-
don's liberal News Chronicle
said the extended risk area now
announced for future American
H-bomb tests in the Pacific
would cover territory equal to
all the British Isles, half of
France, all of Holland and Bel-

gium and Germany as far west
as Frankfurt.

He added that "no means of
controlling the hydrogen reac-
tion can be foreseen."

The News Chronicle warned
editorially that fear and despair
over the hydrogen bomb may
develop into a helpless apathy
which might make atomic war-
fare "not only possible but inev-
itable." The newspaper referred
to President Eisenhower's invi-
tation to Russia to join in pool-
ing atomic energy for peaceful
uses but said "the time has
now come to have done with the
oblique and to go directly once
again for the goal."

Might Kill All Humanity

The Daily Herald quoted an
unnamed British atom scientist
as saying it is theoretically pos-
sible to make a hydrogen bomb
that would disperse sufficient
radioactivity to kill all human-
ity. He added, however, that
the bomb's immense size would
make it impracticable "in any
foreseeable future."

"But in my scientist's view,"
he was quoted as saying, "the
Americans have now reached
the stage at which they should
remove their experiments far
from any land or any shipping
routes."

The Communist Daily Work-
ers blared "H-blast got out of
control." Alongside it quoted
the demand of a Communist
candidate in a parliamentary
by-election: "Abolish every A-
bomb."

Lord Beaverbrook's pro-

empire Daily Express front-
paged the first of a day-by-day
roundup report on "this stu-
pendous problem—the H-
bomb."

A "Point of No Return"

Dr. Donald Soper, president
of Britain's Methodist Confer-
ence, who frequently espouses
left-wing causes, issued a press
statement calling on Christians
everywhere to petition their
governments to ban or abolish
atomic and hydrogen bombs.
He said, "I believe we are ap-
proaching in this atomic experi-
ment a point of no return."

Much of Britain's "atomic un-
easiness" followed last Janu-
ary's speech by United States
Secretary of State John Foster
Dulles announcing America's
policy of instant and massive
retaliation against aggression.
Prime Minister Churchill him-
self sought to ease these fears
by assuring the House of Com-
mons that the United States
would consult Britain before
launching any atomic counter-
attack from bases in Britain.