

North American Lay-offs Charged to General Motors

A charge that General Motors executives holding key positions inside the United States government may have exerted undue influence in the controversial

cancellation of the 17,000-job Navajo missile contract at North American Aircraft was made Saturday by Alan Cranston, president of the California Democratic Council.

"A careful investigation should be made by Congress to establish whether any General Motors officials serving within the government manipulated the killing of the

Navajo project," Cranston declared. "We are entitled to know if the simultaneous granting of special privileges to a General Motors subsidiary in Wisconsin for a similar missile program is mere coincidence."

Cranston declared there is an "unaccounted squadron of GM officials" in the government. "The squadron is led," he said, "by former GM President Charles Wilson, now Secretary of Defense, who is only one of three GM executives to serve in cabinet posts under President Eisenhower."

31 Per Cent Profit
The Democratic leader, a Palo Alto business man, said that General Motors now makes two per cent of all annual sales in the United States, grosses 12 billion dollars a year, and in 1955 netted a profit of 31 per cent after taxes. "Congress should determine whether actions of the United States government have been the key factor in this unparalleled success for a single company," he said.

Cranston spoke at a dinner meeting sponsored by the Seventeenth Congressional District Democratic Council held at the Torrance Civic auditorium.

The CDC president declared the Navajo cancellation is only the latest of "countless government acts favoring American's superrigant corporations at the expense of their smaller competitors." He charged that one per cent of American corporations now control 50 per cent of American corporate wealth and employ half of America's 64,000,000 workers.

All manufacturing and most distributing and service business will be in the hands of corporations worth more than \$100,000,000 within 18 years if the present rate of big business growth and small business shrinkage is not halted," he said.

Smaller Business Falling
Cranston stated that small businesses are falling at the rate of 250 firms a month. "Business deaths in 1957 will be greater than in any year since 1939," he said. "We must move heaven and earth to preserve the America where any citizen can start a business with some hope of success."

"It was the size of the biggest corporations that led to

their nationalization in England, and it was the size of the greatest cartels that led to their Nazification in Germany," Cranston warned. "Let us be on guard against a trend in our own country that might lead to the end of free enterprise. Let us remember that Lenin, first dictator of the Soviet Union, once declared that the strength of capitalism lies in the strength of small business."

Cranston demanded re-examination of "the many government policies helping big business and hurting small business." Among these policies he listed tight money, taxation, and the placing of "virtually all government contracts with the greatest corporations."

The CDC president charged there is mounting evidence

that efficiency is hindered by bigness, citing a statement by former General Motors President Alfred P. Sloan that "great size leads to great inertia."
"Corporation executives are rapidly becoming as entangled in red tape as the bureaucrats of big business," Cranston declared.

PAPER DRIVE SET

The Jay Cettes have announced plans for a paper drive to be held August 30, 31. Proceeds will go to a charity to be decided upon later.

Papers will be picked up by calling Violet Dussel, Frontier 5-6495, or Louise Mangan, Fair-

fax 8-1029.

Other members of the committee are: Grayce Hansen, contacts; Wanda Johnston, telephone; Virginia Gordon, publicity; and Robin Lyons, prizes.

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JAYCETTES TO ENTER PARADE

At a recent meeting of the Jay Cettes, plans were made to enter a car in the Rancho Days parade. Members will meet at the home of Louise Mangan this week to decorate the car.

The meeting was held at the home of Jaunita Smith and co-hostesses were, Robin Lyons and Wanda Johnston.

The next general meeting will be a barbecue at the home of Robin Lyons, August 20, all J. C. wives are invited.

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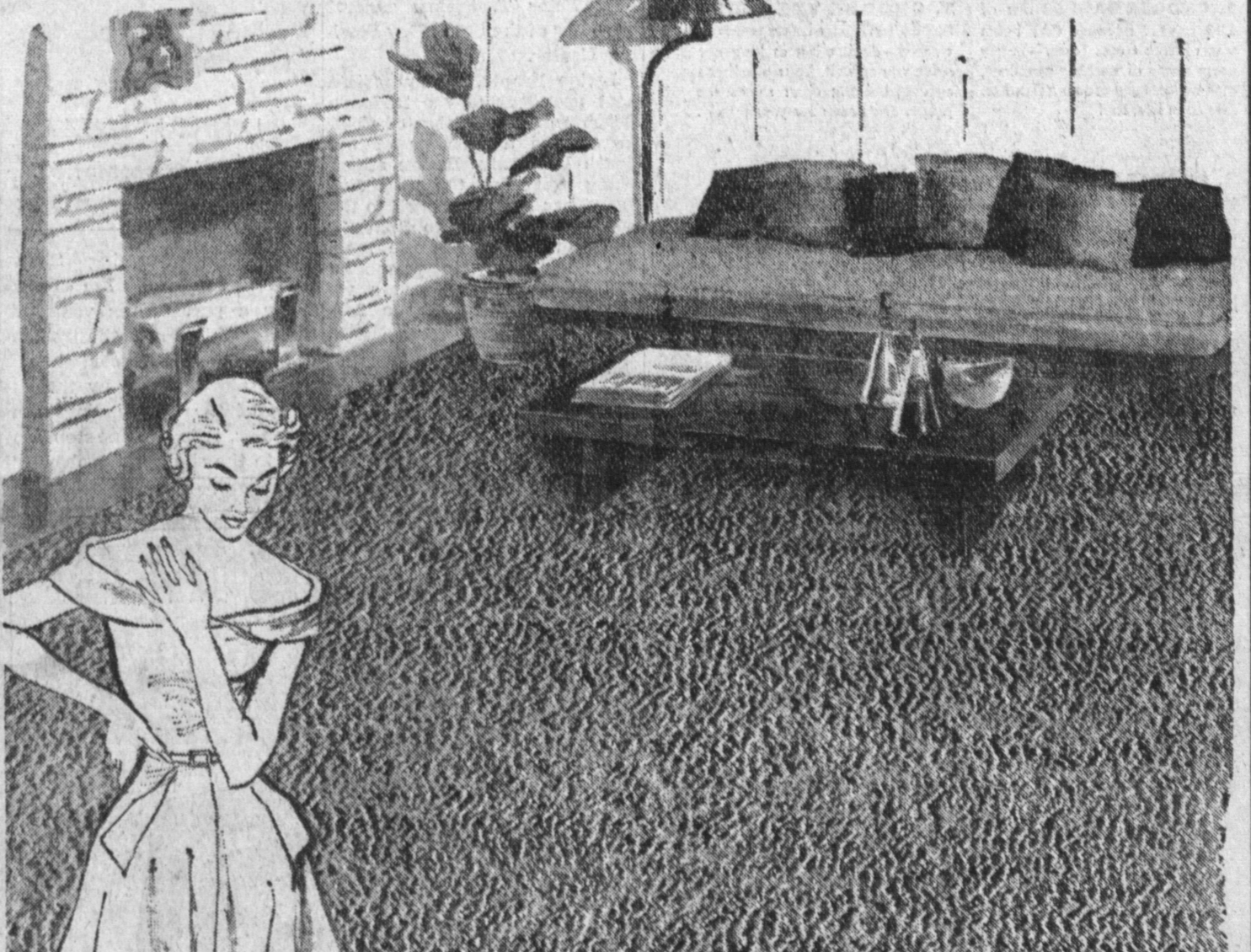
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