

# PLUTONIUM USE SEEN SOON IN U.S. REACTOR

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho, Oct. 2 (UP)—An Atomic Energy Commission official disclosed today that the United States soon would become the first nation to fuel a large nuclear reactor with plutonium.

Plutonium is the man-made atomic explosive used in most United States nuclear weapons. This country has billions of dollars of it in its atomic stockpiles, produced in mammoth plants at Hanford, Wash., and Savannah River, S. C.

The metal is fissionable, as is uranium 235, but more reactive and efficient. However, because it is a deadly poison and thus hard to manage, engineers had been unable to per-

fect means of using it to fuel atomic furnaces.

The revelation that plutonium now may be ready to be used was made casually in a speech by Louis H. Roddis Jr., Deputy Director of the A. E. C. Reactor Development Division.

Mr. Roddis spoke at ceremonies dedicating the new engineering test reactor at the A. E. C.'s reactor testing station near Idaho Falls.

Harold S. Vance, atomic commissioner, speaking at the same ceremonies, indicated that the United States had atomic weapons secrets as important to safeguard as the original atomic bomb.

"The danger to our national security through lack of proper security measures is as great or greater today, Mr. Vance said, "than it has been at any time in the past."

*The New York Times*

Published: October 3, 1957

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