

# Atom-Powered Locomotive In Next 10 Yrs. Held Unlikely

NEW YORK, May 23.—(AP)

—An atomic powered locomotive is unlikely on the United States railroad system for serving the general public in the next ten years, a railroad specialist declared today.

Failure of safety equipment in such a locomotive would present a dangerous situation, B. C. Gunnell, chief mechanical engineer of the Southern Railway System, Washington, D. C., told a meeting of the Atomic Industrial Forum Inc.

"It would stop the control rods from operating: The reactor in this case could get so hot that it might melt down and run out on the ground. Of course, if this happened, the ground would become so radioactive that personnel could not come near it. The track would have to be abandoned for a long period of

time, or the ground dug up and carried away by the use of very special equipment."

Gunnell said, "there is one place I feel that an atomic locomotive would prove very valuable at the present time and that is in military service. Think what a wonderful advantage it would be to have a military locomotive operating in some remote field, that only required refueling every six months."

..He did not elaborate on the area in which he proposed that such a locomotive be used. . . .