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## Plane Design Stays Ahead Of Production

### Vandenberg Statement Bears Out Key Role Of Bomber in Defense

Convair officials were little surprised Monday at the statement Sunday by Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, chief of the Air Force, that the first replacement for the B-36 as an intercontinental bomber already is being designed.

Vandenberg, speaking in Indianapolis at an American Legion meeting, added that production of such replacements is "several years away," and Ray O. Ryan, Convair division manager in Fort Worth, pointed out that "the drawing board is always several years ahead of the production line."

"That is a well known fact in the Air Force and aircraft industry," Ryan added. "It could certainly be an unhealthful condition from the standpoint of national defense if this country didn't have better planes in design than in production."

As a case in point, Ryan cited the fact that with possibly one exception, "not a single plane saw service in World War II that wasn't being designed long before the war began."

"As General Vandenberg indicated," Ryan concluded, "the B-36 will be a key part of American air power for several years to come."