

# Weather Modification Fuss Grows

THE WHITE HOUSE doesn't depend solely upon weather forecasts provided by various federal weather agencies. On occasion, weather advice has been sought from a private meteorological firm whose methods have been denounced by bureau officials.

In a new book, "STORM, Irving P. Krick vs. the Federal Bureaucracy" (Putnam, \$7.95), the author, Victor Boesen of California, reviews the long feud over forecasting and weather modification.

"Soon after Jimmy Carter took office as president of the United States, there was a telephone call from Washington, D.C. to the Krick weather service in Palm Springs, California," Boesen begins.

The call came from the social secretary at the White House to request that Krick do for the Carters what he had done for the Lyndon Johnsons — predicting weather for parties and special events. Krick also had been consulted by the Eisenhower and Kennedy staffs.

Krick is quoted as saying he could have told President Carter five

years earlier what kind of weather he would have for his inauguration — cold but sunny, allowing him and his family to stroll down Pennsylvania Avenue in comfort after the ceremony.

"We couldn't predict who the president would be, but we knew what kind of day it would be," Krick said. He is well-known in Oklahoma for his forecasts and cloud-seeding.

Because of forecasting techniques he helped develop at California Technological Institute, Gen. H.H. "Hap" Arnold retained Krick to provide weather guidance for the Air Force during World War II.

Government-career weather men argued that Krick couldn't possibly have better methods than their own, but his successes kept him moving along with key military activities. The dispute came to a climax when Krick accurately forecast weather conditions needed to accomplish the invasion of Normandy in 1944.

Diehard weather bureaucrats refused to believe it, and they still insist that long-range weather fore-

casting can't be done.

After the war, Krick quickly took up the new science of weather modification, which the Weather Bureau wouldn't touch. Instead, officials assailed Krick so vigorously that he was compelled to shift operations to other countries in order to stay in business.

In 1969, Krick forecast the drought of the '70s and as a result a dozen cloud-seeding operations were set up in Oklahoma.

Krick is now 72. The pioneering that he has done in long-range forecasting and weather modification may never pay off for him. He might not even get lasting credit for what he has done.

A citizens' panel has been urging Congress to set up a 20-year "weather resources management program," boosting research funds as high as \$90 million annually.

Federal weather officials are swinging around to methods developed by Krick, but don't expect them to admit it. They want the credit for discoveries themselves.