



**Flames threaten** these federal firemen as they employ hand power saw to fell trees in path of roaring timberland holocaust.



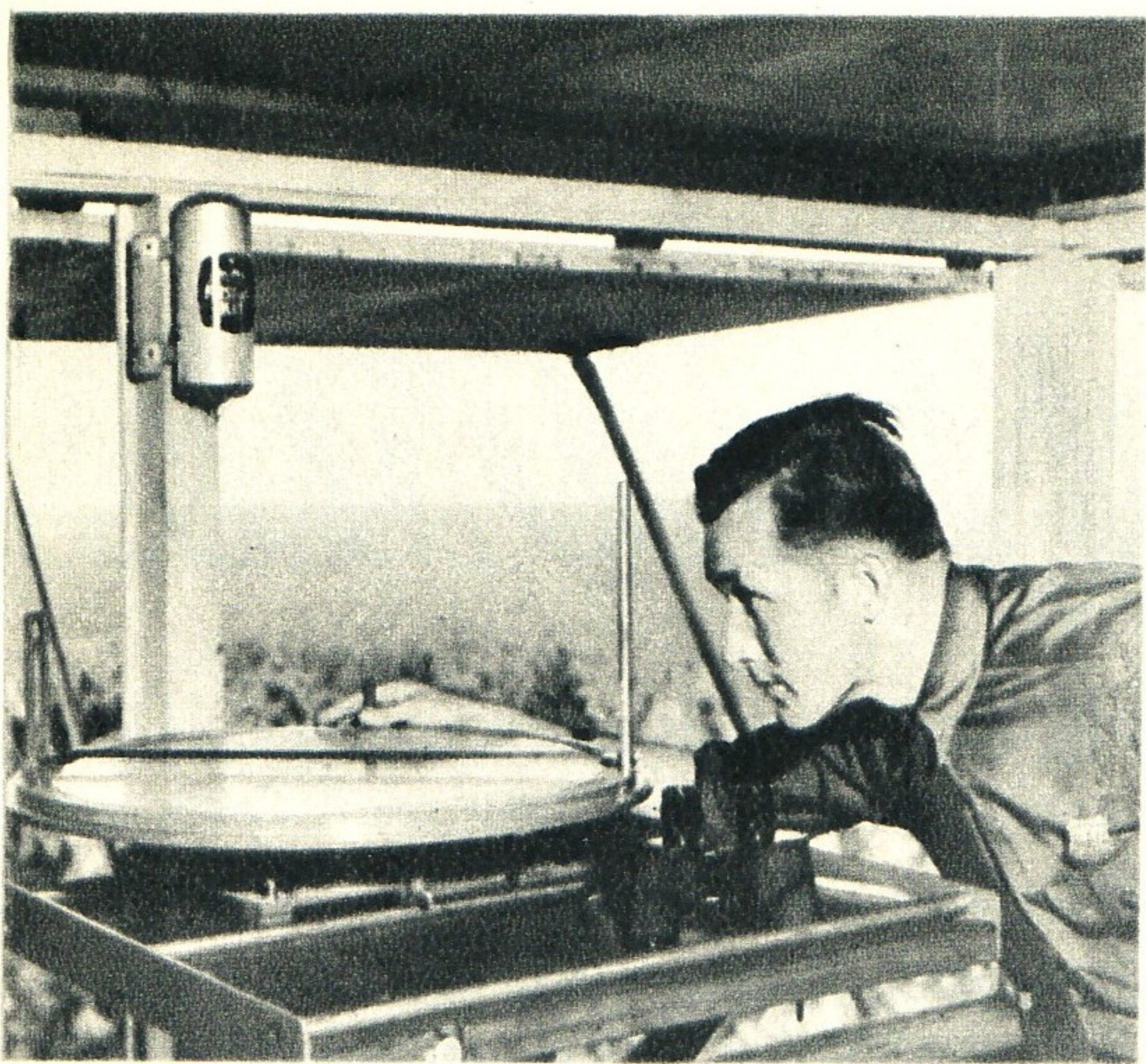
**Helicopters** are part of air arm of U. S. Forest Service and are used for scouting and for transporting men and equipment quickly to the scene of a fire.

## *Forest Combat*

**I**F YOU THINK the lumber for that garage was expensive, stop and consider what it might have cost were it not for a small corps of men fighting "peacetime wars" under the banner of the U. S. Forest Service. With some 460,000,000 acres of commercial timber and 162,000,000 acres of non-commercial woodlands to guard, these federal firemen use every device at their command to minimize forest fire losses, thus saving American consumers millions of dollars each year and preserving a precious natural resource.

Any way you look at it, 622,000,000 acres of forestland is a lot of acreage for these forest fire combat teams to patrol. But, by employing the latest in scientific equipment, a few military stratagems and innovations and a ready reserve of their own developments, they are able to detect—and quench—most fires within minutes after they





**Important step** in forest fire control is spotting flare-ups quickly. Tower observer takes a "fix" on a spiral of smoke.



**Observer's information** is relayed to a zone dispatcher who then locates the exact position of the fire on a huge map of area and sounds alarm.



**Responding to the alarm**, Forest Service paratroops converge on the trouble area quickly before the fire can spread.



**Instructing volunteers.** If fire threatens to get out of control, volunteers and conscripts are recruited and equipped.



**Dodge "Power Wagon"** goes into action transporting men to "fighting line." Only when situation warrants may manpower be conscripted



**The battle line.** Fire boss cups his hands to shout order as firemen frantically clear area to halt fire's headlong rush.

# *Teams in the* **WAR ON FIRE**

start. Any veteran fireman will tell you that the first few moments of a blaze are the most important. That's where the Forest Service paratroops come in—striking swiftly by air to the trouble zone.

But the invasion by air represents only the initial phase in the over-all operation. On foot, by truck—and when the situation permits, over water—the combat teams, made up of Forest Service specialists, volunteers and conscripts, move in to encircle the "hot" area. Meanwhile, a helicopter crew reports the fire's progress to the "foot troops" below. Thus, much like a nation in conflict, these teams fight side by side against a common enemy. And as in real wars, the price in men, money and natural resources is staggering. Remember this the next time you start a camp fire or light a cigarette in a forested area.

**Mopping up operation.** As a precaution against new outbreak, crews methodically extinguish all embers in area touched by fire.

