



50-Foot Radio Telescope to Study Static from the Stars

WHAT looks like a gigantic chafing dish on top of the building above is a new 600-inch "radio telescope" at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington. At right, workmen lower into place the last of 32 aluminum sections forming a concave reflector that will focus radio waves from the heavens onto an antenna in the center. Installed on a five-inch-gun mount, the reflector can be rotated a full circle and aimed vertically from below the horizon to beyond the zenith. The 75-ton instrument will extend scientists' observations of radiation from the



sun, moon, and stars. Their findings, besides enlarging man's knowledge of the universe, are expected to be useful in long-range weather forecasting and in predicting solar disturbances that interfere with radio communication.

Rocket Power Tested in Stand

SPEWING flame like a giant blowtorch, the powerful rocket engine at left would fly faster than sound if released. But North American Aviation engineers keep it tied to this stand in the mountains of southern California while instruments measure its power. Platforms atop the stand are used to install fuel and pressure lines, and water jets below prevent fires during guided-missile tests for the Air Force.

Catapult to Hurl Jet Aloft

TO SAVE precious seconds in heading off enemy planes detected on a radar screen, the Navy's new, batlike XF4D interceptor, below, is designed to be catapulted from a carrier deck. Expected to climb rapidly to a height of eight miles, the Douglas-built tailless jet craft has completed high-altitude test flights.

