

TRUMAN

C.J. - P. 8. Feb. 13, 1950 - Monday.

Here's an answer to the question that is being asked more and more - will President Truman run again? Will he, in Nineteen Fifty-Two, be a candidate for a third term? The reply would seem to be - maybe so. [!] The President is thinking about running again - according to one of his chief California supporters.

George Luckey of Los Angeles ^{is} vice chairman of the California Democratic Central Committee. He is in favor of - Truman for a third term. So, visiting the White House today, he plugged that idea with the President. ^{So} what was the Truman reply? "He said - Maybe so!" ^{That was what} Luckey told the newsmen afterwards. And ^{he} added: ^{"The President} ~~he~~ said if we have the same team together again, maybe we could do something."

Whereupon the Californian explained that by "The same team" the President was referring to his rally of supporters in the last election.

Well, there's nothing very definite in all this - but it's a ~~long-time~~ American tradition that,

when it's a question of a President and another term
in office, even the slightest whisp of straw in the
gentlest breeze is watched with bated breath.



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ADD TRUMAN

The latest is from California, and we are reminded that George Luckey has taken the place of James Roosevelt, as the California Democrat closest to the administration. In the election of Nineteen Forty Eight, James Roosevelt opposed the nomination of President Truman, while Luckey was one of California's top ranking ~~California~~ ^{Truman} supporters. The inference is obvious -- but, tonight James Roosevelt comes out for Truman for a third term in Nineteen-Fifty-Two. Luckey seems to be the front-running horse with James Roosevelt trying to overtake him -- in the favor of the Truman Administration.

report to Congress cites an example, a school advertisement as follows: "Learn tailoring - special offer, today, one hundred dollar suit free to veteran students." So the Ex-G.I. is virtually paid to put his name down and enable the school to collect from the government.

~~The kind of scholarship that goes on in some of these educational institutions, is weird and wonderful. One Ex G.I. student tells how he got academic credits for copying a letter from a blackboard and sending it around to government officials and radio commentators. Which, I suppose, qualified him for the degree of doctor of propaganda.~~

A lot of ex-G.I.'s go to school, simply to get the subsistence money the government gives to student veterans. Which enables them to live and loaf at Federal expense - and some switch from one school to another in bewildering fashion. Today's report gives the record of a seeker of education who studied tailoring for five months, then went to a school for

VETERANS

President Truman is asking Congress for a thorough-going reform in the educational program for veterans, under the G.I. Bill of Rights. There are complaints far and wide that the whole business of ex-G.I.'s going to school at government expense has turned into a considerable racket. One outstanding feature is that - four-and-a-half years after the end of the war, the costs of the program are at an all-time high.

You'd think that, as the years go by, the figures would decrease - but not at all. For example, the cost for Nineteen Fifty was originally estimated at something less than two billion, but now that figure has had to be revised upward - with more than an extra three-quarters of a billion tacked on.

Some schools, or alleged schools, are merely in the business of getting money from the government under the G.I. Bill of Rights. Some go so far as to give financial benefits to veterans who enroll, and some have the gall to advertise that. ~~figures~~. The

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actors, after which he took a course in beauty culture. When last heard from, he had quit a welding school, and was making an application to study singing.

Well, there's one ex-G.I. who certainly can go through life with a variety of professions. If he gets tired of working as a tailor, he can be an actor. Then, if he doesn't get enough applause on the stage, he can start in giving the ladies the message and permanent wave ^{treatment.} If he doesn't like that, there's a welding job for him, building a skyscraper. Or, finally, he can sing in opera. Old boy Jack-of-all-trades had nothing on that diversified scholar.

ASIA CONFERENCE

In Siam, the capital city of Bangkok, a big-time conference is on - a meeting of American diplomacy in Asia. Representatives assigned to countries from Japan to Pakistan, with Australia and New Zealand included, have assembled to advise with officials of ^{our} ~~the~~ State Department - headed by roving-Ambassador Philip Jessup and Assistant Secretary of State Walton Butterworth.

An analysis of American policy is being presented to the diplomatic representatives - while they, in turn, are giving an account of political affairs in the countries where they are stationed. The major subject is, of course, the sweep of Communism in Asia.

CHINA

Peculiar word comes from china, which may not mean anything much. But it is peculiar -- according to the old legend about the Chinese. As expressed by Bret Harte -- the Heathen ~~is~~ Chinese is peculiar.

From Peking, Capital of Red China, we have an explanation of the prolonged stay of the top Chinese leader in Moscow -- Mao Tze-Tung. Together with Red Foreign Minister Chou En-Lai, he has been in the Soviet Capital for so long that there is no end of world speculation - since ~~he~~ he went to Moscow to negotiate a treaty with the Soviets, and that should have been over a long time ago.

Tonight's dispatch from Peking explains that Mao Tze-Tung and Chou En-Lai are continuing their stay in Moscow to absorb what the Red dispatch translates as ^{know} ~~one~~ "how". That is, the way the Soviets do things.

Most peculiar of all is the fact that this explanation emanates from the present head of the

Red regime, who is no Communist at all. He is Tan-Akh-Kee, who is described as "a democratic personage." This individual -- never having been a member of the Communist Party.

He goes out of his way to denounce rumors of a split between the Chinese Reds and Moscow, and declares that in China "Titoism" is - an impossibility. All of which may mean nothing - or it may be one of those odd signs peculiar to the peculiar Chinese.

GERMANY

In the Red areas of Germany, there was a "minute-of-silence" at noon today - decreed by the Communists. This was on the fifth anniversary of the bombing of Dresden, capital of Saxony. According to the German Communists it was needless destruction - a "senseless" bombing. So they are trying to make anti-American propaganda - by denouncing the air attack as a crime. In the Soviet zone flags were at half mast today, wreaths were placed on bombed-out buildings, and that "one-minute-of-silence" was declared.

The American Air Force explains that the bombing of Dresden was carried out at the direct request of the high command of the Russian Red Army. The German Communists may call it "senseless" now, but it done to help the Soviets - and, maybe it was senseless.

All this ties in with something said today about the way the Reds are perverting the history of the Second World War. In Chicago, deputy assistant

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secretary of state Howland Sargeant declared that in Russia, the Soviet press is now conveying the impression that the United States was an enemy, not an ally, in that war which has resulted in such power for the Soviets.

COAL

The coal strike is on still - notwithstanding two injunctions and an order from John L. Lewis.

Today the miners remained away from the pits, calling out defiance against the Taft-Hartley Law. They refuse to obey Lewis, who told them to go back to work.

Their answer being -- that Lewis was forced by the injunctions to issue the order.

In Washington, there seems to be little notion of what to do about it -- how to make four hundred thousand miners do what the injunction says and return to their jobs. The one ray of hope lies in the fact that Lewis, in accordance with a mandate from the court, is going into conference again with the mine owners -- seeking a settlement. Meanwhile, stocks of coal are sinking, and the crisis deepens across the nation.

TORNADOES

There's tragic irony in the tornado news, which tells of a heavy loss of life during five stormy days down south. Eight lives lost in a twister that struck today in western Tennessee, where the story combines two varieties of storm. The headline reads - tornado at Hurricane Hill.

Sixty-three years ago, a tropical storm swept up from the Gulf of Mexico, and blasted all the way to Tennessee, where heavy damage was done to houses on a ridge. Which thereafter was called - Hurricane Hill. Today the tornado repeated the story all over again, in still more savage fashion. There was a farmhouse on Hurricane Hill, with a family of eight inside. The twister picked up the house, and carried it sailing through the air for eighty-five feet. Then smashed it down, shattered to bits in the thicket, the entire family killed.

This season has been strange, with summer-in-winter weather. Also - hurricane breeding weather.

ADD TORNADOES

Northward throughout the Middlewest, the news tells of storms of snow and sleet, which g have tied up transportation, [^]icy roads, traffic stalled, wires down. In other places - floods.

ROBBER

In Cleveland, the police have arrested a young robber, who had an interesting hideaway - a place where they hardly thought of looking for him. Cleveland has an old abandoned ball park, where the Indians used to play in days of long ago - and that was the home of the youthful crook, a seventeen-year-old running a long string of burglaries and automobile thefts.

He lived underneath the grandstand, right next to the locker room once used by the Cleveland Indians. In a cubbyhole eight feet square, he installed a gas heater to keep warm, and pushed several chairs together for a bed. Let's hope that, in those surroundings, he knew his baseball history well enough to be impressed by memories of Tris Speaker and Napoleon Lajoie, ^{Lajoie} —

But the cops finally caught him, and he told them it was all because he didn't want to live with his grandmother at Barberton, Ohio. "It was a hick town," he said. He was a big city character. So he

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went to Cleveland, where he could steal and rob, and dwell amid memories of Tris Speaker in the outfield and Nap ~~Green~~ ^{Lajoie} Lajoie at second base.

GAME LAW

In Washington - a statement that one-third of the game birds shot last year were bagged by illegal hunters, poachers with guns, out of season. This comes from the director of the government fish and wild-life service, Albert Day, who is asking for an increase of funds and agents to enforce the game laws.

He told a Congressional sub-committee that last year twenty-five million game birds were shot - seventeen million by legal hunters, eight million by illegal poachers. Which sounds like a mass extermination of birds. Actually, it's about half of the figure for the total of game birds now going through the winter -- the wild-life official estimating that there are now about fifty-five million on wintering grounds.

CUSTOMER

Here's an exercise in mental arithmetic, which drug store clerk Frank Mascola couldn't solve - not right away. He was at ~~his~~ ^{in New Haven,} cigar counter, when a customer bought a pack of cigarettes - for which he forked over a five dollar bill. Frank gave him the change. Whereupon the customer asked Frank to give him back the five dollars and handed Frank a one dollar bill. The clerk had the one dollar bill in his hand, when the customer pushed back the five dollar bill and four dollars out of the original change, and asked for ten dollars. Which Frank gave him.

It was all too fast for Frank to figure out. And it wasn't until some time later that he found he was out - four dollars and eighty cents and a pack of cigarettes. He called the cops, and they had some trouble figuring, but it works out that way:- I give you five dollars and get back four-eighty. I give you one dollar and get back five. I give you nine dollars, and you give me ten. So you're out four

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eighty in cash.

It still has me bewildered, but it was a clever swindle, and look out for it - somebody going into a rapid fire switch of change, ^{with} ~~and~~ you have to do ~~the~~ ^{your} mental arithmetic fast.

LONDON ZOO

As Britain goes into the general election, the London Zoo has been taking a poll of its own inhabitants -- and the result gives us a picture of social affairs in the animal kingdom. The London Zoo is an old historic institution, and has a total population of six-thousand, seven-hundred-and-ninety-four. The scale⁹ aristocratic rank is governed by the prices put on the various inhabitants. For example, the lowest commoner, the meanest plebian, is a tame mouse, priced at twenty-eight cents.

Among the aristocrats is an Australian Lung Fish, two-hundred-and-eighty dollars - the most valuable of the fishes. Among the reptiles is the oldest resident -- a Mississippi alligator named George who arrived in Nineteen Twelve - and nobody really knows how old he is. The price tag, four-hundred-and-thirty dollars. ~~Among the birds~~ The highest ^{of the bird} aristocracy a seven hundred dollar ^{terror} ~~price~~ from the Philippines - a monkey-eating eagle. You can imagine the alarm, the screaming and chattering, if that

London

eagle should get loose in the monkey house.

The lion may be the king of beasts, but the real royalty in the zoo is - a queen. Worth ~~Fifty~~ fifty-five hundred dollars, her majesty ~~is~~ a cow Okapi from the Belgian Congo - the Okapi being a king^d of cross between an antelope and a giraffe.

Aristocratic class distinction, the Burkes peerage - in the London Zoo.

Aristocratic - does that suggest anything to you, Nelson?