

D.I. - Sunoco and F. & S. Monday, April 21, 1947.

TRUMAN

President Truman took advantage of the annual Associated Press luncheon in New York today, to address a message to the businessmen of the nation. In fact, he talked to them like the proverbial Dutch uncle. They'll have to reduce prices, or else! "Or else," meaning a depression, or, at the mildest, a recession. The one sure formula for that, said the President, is to maintain excessively high prices.

He added that present business conditions make such a reduction imperative; that our system of private enterprise, is now going through the acid test, and will not win, unless we can prove it is not only more productive, but also more ~~xxxx~~ stable, more generous and more just than any other system.

To back up his statements he brought out a lot of figures, which are interesting -- comparing our present conditions with those of Nineteen Twenty-nine. For instance, he tells us that our volume of industrial production, today, is seventy-one percent greater than in the banner year of Nineteen Twenty-nine.

Ten million more civilians are now employed. Also, that our volume of agricultural production is thirty percent greater than in Twenty-nine; our national income now around a hundred-and-seventy-six billion dollars a year as contrasted with Eighty-three billions in Nineteen Twenty-Nine; while the average personal income is One-thousand-and-ninety-dollars a year after taxes are paid, as compared with six-hundred-and-fifty-four dollars back in prosperous Twenty-Nine. Meaning that every man, woman and child in the U.S.A. now has thirty-two percent more buying ability than Eighteen years ago.

He went on to tell the Associated Press editors that he doesn't share the belief of some people that a depression is inevitable. He believes it can be ~~prevented~~ prevented if prompt measures are taken.

The worst sufferers in time of depression, said Mr. Truman, are the millions of American families who have a fixed income.

He told the A.P. executives how necessary it is for Uncle Sam to help foreign nations fight the encroachment of totalitarianism -- help them for our own sakes. Which he said we cannot do unless we ourselves remain prosperous.

He gave the opinion that certain businessmen have it within their power to reduce their prices, and that some of them are cashing in gigantic profits. These he didn't name, said it wasn't necessary because the men he was talking about knew perfectly well whom he meant.

President Truman reminded the country of how he wanted to continue price controls last Spring, adding that a certain group saw fit to sabotage price control, telling the public prices would come down in a free market. Which, he declared, had not been the case. On the contrary, prices went up sharply, and have continued to go up.

He denied that the Government's program of supporting farm prices was responsible for the high

cost of food.

The main tenor of his speech being that prices will have to come down -- or else!

AGRICULTURE - FOLLOW TRUMAN

While the President was talking to the editors, his Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton Anderson, was giving testimony before a Committee of the House, where he said in effect, don't expect any material cut in food prices within the near future. That when the winter crop is released, then wheat may come down to two dollars a bushel.

But, he added that consumers are going to want large quantities of everything for some time to come. Hence Farmers should not think of cutting down on their planting -- instead should increase it. He went on to say that most of us want more than we did a few years ago -- that we buy at least a third more to eat than before the war.

TELEPHONE

The telephone strike became rough today, with mass picketing in New York City, Detroit, Louisville, Seattle, and other places.

In Detroit, where the pickets offered battle to the police, three were injured. And twenty-four were arrested - including three women and two leaders of the union. One was charged with kicking a policeman.

The Telephone Company announced that some of the strikers had overturned a company car and had beaten up four workers who refused to strike. Also that they telephoned the homes of others, warning them they and their families would be beaten if they didn't join the strike.

In the outskirts of New York City, telephone lines were cut and communication disrupted.

Labor reporters estimate that the mass picketing and rough action phase of this telephone strike indicates

that Communists have gained influence and control in certain locals. Decent union leaders, they say, do their best to enlist public sympathy on behalf of the strikers.

In Des Moines, a hundred thousand union members took the day off to stage a protest on the lawn of the State capitol - a protest against the enactment of a law to forbid the closed shop in Iowa. This amounted almost to a general strike, closing stores and factories, stopping transportation in Des Moines and other cities. Governor Blue spoke to a large crowd outside the State capitol, and explained the law to them - amid loud booing. Whereupon he told them they represented only a ~~xxx~~ small proportion of the two and a half million citizens of Iowa.

The demonstration had little effect, since the Iowa lawmakers went right ahead and took another step toward passing the bill against the closed shop.

NEW LEAD CONVENTION (Substitute for early story.)

In Nineteen Forty-Eight, the Republicans will hold their presidential convention in Philadelphia. So decided the Republican National Committee meeting today at Kansas City. Philadelphia held out an attractive lure to the G.O.P. -- Two-Hundred-and-Fifty-Thousand Dollars plus the promise of an East Coast television network.

The convention will open on Sunday, June Twentieth. A Philadelphia delegation, headed by Mayor Bernard Samuel, came to Kansas City today with cash, and agruments. They waves a certified check for Two-Hundred-Thousand Dollars to defray conventional expenses, offered a Fifty-Thousand Dollar Entertainment Fund, plus the free use of Philadelphia's Convention Hall, and television.

Chicago was the only other city making a serious bid; although Atlantic City boosters went through the formalities of asking for the convention -- and then withdrew before the vote was taken.

PALESTINE

(In Jersualem's ancient cnetral prison, they were getting ready tonight to hang two Jewish underground fighters, when word came that the two condemned members of the Irgun Zvai Luemi had killed themselves, -- committed suicide as the executioners were preparing for a pre-dawn hanging.)

The men were Meir Feinstein, a one-armed British Army veteran, and Moshe Barazani, both sentenced to hang because of an attack on a railroad station last year. Latest reports are that Feinstein and Barazani committed suicide by blowing themselves up with explosives that had been smuggled to them.

It is reported that the two Jewish underground leaders had inscribed on the wall of their cells, the fateful Biblican words, "Mene, Mene, Tekel Upharsin," (translated, "He counted, counted, weighed, and they ~~Ex~~-divide," --- the hand writing wich Daniel read on the wall at the feast of King Belshazzar.)

The suicides brought immediate and electric action in the cnetral prison area, High Commissioner

General Sir Alan Cunningham racing through the dark streets and hundreds of policemen converging on the prison in motor cars, with sirens whirring.

Early today, before the dramatic suicides, Irgunists continued their attacks on British troops, reprisals for the execution of four men hanged last Wednesday. The organization has threatened to kill ten Britons for every underground man hanged. So Palestine faces the prospect of becoming a battle ground between British Army units and the Jewish underground.

ELIZABETH

At Capetown, South Africa, today, a pretty girl celebrated her twenty-first birthday. Thousands of others throughout the British Empire also came of age today, I suppose, but this one lass stands out, because ^{upon} her head one day will rest the crown of the British Empire -- or Commonwealth of Nations, I should say.

Princess Elizabeth marked the occasion by delivering a broadcast to all the peoples of the British Commonwealth, or Empire, a broadcast that seemed both modest and sincere -- and, charming; addressed particularly to those ^{who} like herself, ^{are} coming of age. She said they should all be ~~xx~~ glad they'll soon be able to take some of the burden off the shoulders of their elders who have fought and worked and suffered so much.

And, she added that they should not be daunted by the anxieties and hardships the war has left behind.

Whereupon she pledged herself to devote her whole life, whether it be long or short, to the service of the British people, adding that she will not have

the strength to carry out that resolution without their support.

The first time that an heir to the throne ever celebrated coming to age in one of the overseas British dominions. Apparently it was a memorable day for the people of South Africa. The climax, a ball at Government House, a brilliant affair, such as the British know how to stage so well. Prime Minister Jan Christian Smuts, in the name of the government of South Africa, presented the future Queen with no fewer than eighty-seven diamonds, designed so they can be set in a necklace. Among them are twenty-one large stones, weighing more than nine-and-a-half karats.

ENGLAND FOLLOW ELIZABETH

The continued hardships endured by the people of Great Britain had caused reports that millions of people in the island were anxious to emigrate. So the London Bureau of the United Press undertook a survey to obtain a closer estimate of the actual number of those millions. The survey shows that not even one million Britons want to leave home; not even half a million. The exact figure is less than two-hundred-and-seventy thousand; less than two-hundred-and-seventy thousand so dissatisfied with what they have to undergo that they want to try their fortunes beyond the horizon. Most of those who would like to move named Australia as their number one choice for a new home; New Zealand next; then Canada; then the United States.

DENMARK

Guns boomed also from batteries around Copenhagen. Myriads of enthusiastic Danes jammed the courtyard of the Royal Palace at Christianborg, while (Prime Minister Kristensen, standing on the balcony, declaimed three times, "King Christian is dead; Long Live His Majesty King Frederick the Ninth").

Then the crowd cheered louder than ever, as the guns continued to roar their salute. The new King appeared from a balcony on the opposite side of the palace, bowed to his subjects, said a ~~few~~ few words about the loyalty of his father to the Danish people and expressed the hope that he himself would be worthy of the same ~~fav~~ confidence.

One of those in the crowd, by the way, was Henry Wallace.

(The new King of the Danes is a strapping fellow, six-feet four, like his father.) He rides

hunts, shoots, rows, plays tennis -- all with considerable skill.

Nor is he a stranger to us. When he was Crown Prince he visited the World's Fair, with his bride, the former Princess Ingrid of Sweden, and at that time traveled over much of the United States.

SWAN

One of the inhabitants of a park in Los Angeles was a handsome swan named Gus. The park authorities had a problem on their hands when Gus suffered a bereavement, his wife died. ~~Then~~ The swan is a one-woman bird, whose fidelity would put many ~~of us~~ humans to shame. ^{He} Gus became gloomy Gus. He pined, lost his appetite; and his plumage lost its ~~pink~~ sheen. They tried to find him a new wife, but we would have none of the lady birds on the west coast.

So they shipped him to the Chase Animal Farm at Egypt, Massachusetts. The owner of the farm undertook the offices of a matrimonial Bureau. He trotted out one beautiful lady swan after another, but Gus just yawned. Finally a bird named Henrietta came strolling by. Henrietta is a swan of solid old New England stock, like the Lowells and the Cabots who speak only to God. The minute Gus caught sight of Henrietta, he got a gleam in his eye. Henrietta ^{honked} ~~and~~ ^{and} Gus honked back, ^{the} the first time he had made a sound since he had left Los Angeles. He left his lettuce

and he left his drinking trough, and went right after Henrietta.

Today he is Gloomy Gus no longer. He's a bridegroom, on his way back to the coast with Henrietta, where they'll live happily forever after, we hope, eh Nelson?

GERMANY

Taken from early 4/21 bc.

The election returns from the British Zone of occupation in Germany are interesting. The largest number of votes went to the Social Democrats. In the days of Kaiser Wilhelm, the Social Democrats ^{were} ~~much~~ hated by the Prussian aristocracy, by all land-holders, and by the middle class in general. Today they rate as Liberal Socialists, and seem rock-ribbed Conservative when you compare them with the Communists. In fact, the Communists ~~wx~~ vent their hatred on the Social Democrats more than on any other group.

The Social Democrats polled thirty-five percent of the votes in the British Zone; second came the Christian Democrats, with thirty-three percent. They correspond to the once powerful Catholic Centralist Party of Germany.

So, these two parties combined have a comfortable majority over all others.

A reassuring feat^{re} of this German election is that the Communists came through with only ten percent of the votes. However, they form a compact,

well-disciplined, and always dangerous|minority.

PRIEST

The police of New Orleans today had a peculiar and difficult problem on their hands, trying to find out why a young marine veteran from Houston, Texas, stabbed a Jesuit priest ~~yesterday~~ as he was celebrating high mass. Don Laurentz, twenty-seven years old, declined to give any reason for having attacked the Reverend James Courtney, ^{slashing him} four times with a pocket knife, at the Communion rail. The surgeons at the hospital report ^{say the} ~~that Father~~ ^{priest} Courtney had a satisfactory night and ^{that} his chances of recovery are better than even.

^{today} Laurentz refused to say a word, either to the police or to his sister, brother and brother-in-law, who rushed to New Orleans from Houston, Texas, to help him. He wrote replies to a few questions with a pencil, but refused to explain his behavior. When the officers asked him whether he believed in God, he just shrugged his shoulders. When they asked him whether he had any

trouble with priests while he was in the Marines, he wrote the word "No." When they asked him whether a girl was involved, he threw the pencil down angrily.

After several hours of questioning, the police lieutenant in charge could arrive at no better conclusion than that this ex-marine was a ~~non-descript~~ psychopathic case. ~~of some sort.~~

Newspaper files brought to light a somewhat similar event at Denver, thirty-nine years ago. On that occasion, a Franciscan friar was administering the sacrament in church, when a man shot and killed him. In that case it was established that the assassin was a professional priest hater. And the Vatican right now is deliberating whether that Franciscan friar, the Reverend Leo Heinrichs, should be canonized.

CONVENTION

Here's an item that just came in. The Republican convention in Nineteen Forty-Eight is to be held in Philadelphia. The National Committee just decided.