

TRUMAN SALARY

R.I. - P.O.S. ~~Wednesday~~ *Wednesday, January 19, 1949.*

President Truman is having a big inauguration with all sorts of splendor and festivity. But ~~all~~ that noisy hurrah tomorrow will be of less importance practically, than a small, undecorated ceremony held today. ^R It was hardly a ceremony at all. The mere writing of a signature -- just as the President scribbles it on many a bill passed by Congress. The bill -- that presidential raise in salary and boost of the White House expense account. Congress rushed it through so that the increase could be in effect during the new Truman term, which begins tomorrow. Salary raise -- from seventy-five thousand to a hundred thousand ~~dollars~~ a year, out of which income tax has to come. The expense account increase -- from fifty thousand to ninety thousand, which is tax free.

After all we've been hearing about those huge White House expenses and how hard a time the President has been having to make ends meet - today's little ceremony of signing will mean more, in a strictly practical way, than all the

TRUMAN SALARY - 2

blaring of bands and the tramp of the marchers along Pennsylvania Avenue tomorrow.

The Truman luck seems to be holding up -- in the matter of the weather. The forecast today bears out the indications we had last night -- cold and cloudy. But none of the storm that seemed as if it might threaten the inauguration.

The Middle west is having a storm -- a blizzard in the Dakotas, four to eight inches of snow in parts of Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri; the blast of icy gales whistling across Michigan, winds up to ninety to a hundred miles an hour. In some places the temperatures plunged to thirty below zero.

The latest weather bulletin puts it in these words -- the winter's worst cold wave, from the Pacific northwest to the Great Lakes.

TROMAN

On this eve of the inauguration we have some information about President Truman on the night of the election. Just what did he do that night, when the figures were telling that long story of suspense -- who was elected President.

We have this inside Truman story from the best possible of sources, the President himself.

Tonight a big pre-inaugural dinner was given for him and Vice-President elect Barkley. Harry Truman made a speech, and told what he did election night at his old home, Excelsior Springs, Missouri. We all heard that he went to bed early. He says he turned in at six-thirty that evening -- while all the country was in a dither. But he woke up at about midnight -- "for some reason or other" as the President explains it. Whatever the reason, he turned on the radio -- those election figures that were pouring out. As it happened, he tuned in on one of us radio commentators and another on another. Each one said that Truman was ahead by a million votes but that the tide would soon change, and Governor Dewey would

forge ahead, and win out.

So what did the President do? He says he turned over, went to sleep again. He sure must have been tired -- or calmly serene, as a veteran warrior well may be.

He slept until about four A.M., when he was awakened by a Secret Service man who said that he had better listen to the radio. So he tuned in -- and again heard one of us radio commentators. This time the analysis was that Truman was two million ahead, and the opinion was given that the election would go into Congress.

The effect of that on the President was to make him remark to the secret service man: "It looks as if I had been elected." And that was that. He was elected.

INAUGURAL PLANE

It was found today that a mere half an hour supply of gasoline was ~~left~~ left in the Army transport plane saved by radar in a blinding Maryland fog.

The Air Force C-eighty-two had aboard thirty cadets from Austin, Texas, boys flying to the inauguration in Washington. The plane got lost in blinding

weather, and flew ~~endlessly~~ ^{aim}lessly around for three hours, trying to find Bolling Field, ~~in~~ Washington -- and was saved from a possible mass tragedy by the radar at the Naval Air Station at Patuxent, Maryland.

The pilot was ~~kindly~~ ^{and the} guided in, ~~the~~ ^u gas tank showed that they missed disaster by just half an hour.

COLLISION

In a dense ~~am~~ fog out in the Atlantic today an episode of the sea occurred -- reminiscent of the old story of the soldier who survives many battles, without a wound, and then is a victim of a street accident, upon returning home.^{TR} The Coast Guard steamship Eastland was an ice-breaker, with a famous record in the Second World War. The Eastland with tremendous power, crashed her way through ice-floes off the arctic coast of Greenland and broke up a Nazi attempt to establish a weather station in the Far North.^{TR} So what now has happened to that reinforced vessel that ~~ran~~^{rammed} through Arctic ice?

In the fog today, one hundred miles outside of New York harbor, the Eastland was hit and fatally damaged, by ~~a common~~^{an ordinary} run-of-the-mill oil tanker.

That common-place craft hit the ice breaker, and crushed its bow. The Eastland caught fire, and the blaze got out of control. The order came - abandon

ship. ~~Perhaps as many as ten lives were lost --~~
~~reports have the flames out - and are~~
~~when the war-time snasher of the Arctic ice met~~
~~bringing back the fire-scared hulk.~~
~~its end in a collision with a common tank tanker.~~

PALESTINE

The report that Britain is ready to recognize Israel is more definite tonight -- with the news that the London government has been conducting negotiations in Washington. We hear that Britain is ready to extend recognition to the Jewish state, if the U.S. will agree to a joint British-American policy. The belief in London is that the British government wants an agreement with the U.S. concerning the borders of Israel -- an international understanding on just what frontiers the Jewish state shall have permanently.

In London there was a full admission today about ~~that~~ British planes flying over territory held by the Israeli -- the matter of those British planes shot down. Prime Minister Attlee accepts full responsibility for sending military planes on that mission, during which fire from the ground brought down five. The House of Commons was told today the Royal Air Force flew twenty reconnaissance missions over Palestine and that this was done with the knowledge of the United States and the

United Nations.

All this developed in Parliament today when Winston Churchill insistently demanded -- had the British government ordered the planes on that fatal mission? Secretary for Air, Arthur Henderson evaded the query. Whereupon, Churchill turned on the Prime Minister ~~xxxxx~~ and called for an answer. Then Attlee made the admission saying "the government are responsible ~~xxxxxx~~ and are prepared to answer for it". Which settles the question and also gives us a reminder that the British use the word government as a plural, and give it a plural verb -- "the government are responsible."

~~A report from Rhodes where peace talks are going on between Israel and Egypt. The word ^{there} is that if the present negotiations break down, Great Britain will supply armament to Egypt. London has a mutual aid treaty with Cairo, guaranteeing protection, and under the ~~xxxxx~~ anglo-Egyptian pact the British government has pledged itself to~~

to send arms to Egypt -- if the negotiations at Rhodes ~~it~~ should break up. Such, at least is the report.

Both the government and the Communist Party have since then unconditionally, in effect, invited both sides to appoint delegates to the negotiations.

This is the official response to the Communist conditions for the cessation of hostilities. The conditions include the punishment of the Communist leadership as a war criminal. It is to be noted that the Communist pronouncement calling for a truce at once, did not reject the Communist conditions.

At Peiping a truce has been agreed upon, a local armistice. The Red forces besieging the city have ^{granted} agreed to a proposal to stop fighting for 100 days -- while peace talks are on.

CHINA

Nationalist China has asked the Communists for a truce -- an immediate cease fire order and a peace conference. In a formal statement the Chiang Kai Shek regime requests the following:

"Both the government and the Communist forces to cease fire unconditionally, immediately, and for both sides to appoint delegates to start peace negotiations."

This is the official response of the Generalissimo to the conditions of peace demanded by the Red leaders -- conditions which, by the way, include the punishment of the Generalissimo himself, as a war criminal. It is to be noted that today's pronouncement calling for a truce at once, did not reject the Communist conditions.

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HUNGARY

The Red government of Hungary today published a confession ^{purported} ~~expected~~ to have been made by Cardinal Mindszenty. The Primate of Hungary is quoted as admitting that he plotted against the Communist regime and hoped the United States and Great Britain would help ~~in~~ over-throwing the Hungarian ^{Reds,} ~~Communists.~~ Moreover he is said to have done spy work for the Americans and British, giving them information about the movement of Soviet troops in Hungary. ^R Friends of the Cardinal, friends who escaped from the Red dictatorship, declare that he gave them advance warning, of a possible confession. At the time when he expected to be arrested by the Reds he warned them ~~that~~ about things he might admit as a result of what he call^{ed}: "Human frailty". He repudiated in advance ^{any} ~~a~~ confession the Communists might extort from him."

INCH

Now let's go inching into this next bit of news, or rather two bits of news. The little inch and the big inch had an explosion in Indiana, while the biggest inch blew up in California.

The Indiana blast was a burst of flame in the town of Batesville, a pumping station along those two gas lines called the Big Inch and the Little Inch. It is not clear what touched off the sheet of flame, But the pumping station was burned out -- one man injured slightly. Late news states that service has been resumed, the gas flowing again on a restricted basis.

The biggest inch is ^a ~~cross-country~~ ^{continent} natural gas line which burst near Moreno California, ^{today.} There was a panicky ~~in~~ fear of flame, but no fire broke out -- as gas roared forth under a pressure of fifteen hundred pounds per square inch. The gas pressure ripped open the pipe line, and the police describe the sound as being like the constant roar of a fast train.

COMMUNISTS

In the trial of the Communist leaders, Judge Medina today refused to disqualify himself. The lawyers for the Reds argued that the Judge was tied in with the Grand Jury system, and claimed that New York Grand Jurys have been -- "captured by Wall Street and Park Avenue". ^{TF} Nothing like Wall Street for an old-fashioned bug-a-boo, while Park Avenue is famous as a symbol for the Blue Book and the High Hat. But this is the first we've heard of Wall Street and Park Avenue ~~captured~~ capturing the New York Grand Jury system.

CONVICT

Detroit gives us a melo-dramatic story of a convict and a boy - with an unexpected final twister.

The boy, fifteen year old Eugene Newsom, works in a drug store run by Mrs. Baumgartner. They were in the store with two customers - when a masked bandit appeared. The robber with pointed pistol ordered the boy to open the cash register, but the fifteen year old refused -- having plenty of nerve. ^P However, Mrs. Baumgartner told him to go ahead and open the cash ~~door~~ ^{drawer}. Well, Eugene Newsom understands that he is required to do what his employer tells him -- and he obeyed.

The robber then ~~herded~~ ^{herded} the woman, the boy, and two frightened customers into a back room. And, Eugene got a pistol from a closet - Mrs. Baumgartner telling him to put that gun away. But this time Eugene did not obey. He ran around to the front door and when the bandit came out, he opened fire. The robber blazed away in return. The boy fired another shot. The crook doubled up as if he were hit in

the abdomen. But he was ^{able} ~~about~~ to run away, and escape.

Hours later, the police picked up an ex-convict, with a shot in the abdomen -- a bank robber who had been convicted of second degree murder and had served years in prison. So that seemed to end the story. ^{TR} But, when they confronted the boy with the prisoner, Eugene said that the ex-convict in no way resembled the masked bandit with whom he had had the gun fight. Which leaves the police of Detroit in a quandry tonight.

FINGER PRINTS

Thirty years ago, an escaping Oklahoma convict, Leonard Lebeau, tried to get rid of his finger prints - so that he could not be identified. He burned his finger ends with a lighted cigarette, and scraped them until the skin came off, all that torture to escape the tell-tale prints.

Recently, ~~in~~^{at} Decatur, Illinois, he was arrested on charges of burglary, and receiving stolen property. As a mere matter of routine, they took his finger prints - the impression of old scars from cigarette burning and scraping. Nobody thought they could mean anything much. But the prints were sent to the F B I in Washington, and today the report came -- identifying Lebeau as the escaped Oklahoma convict of thirty years ago. In the blur of scars and grown-over tissue, there were still signs, ~~signs~~ enough for identification -- those inescapable finger tips.

FOOTBALL

There is no peace in the professional football world. A dispatch late this afternoon tells of the end of talks for an agreement between the older organization -- the National Football League, and the new comer in the professional game -- the All-American conference. The conference has just announced that it will continue as an independent outfit, no amalgamation, which ends all hope of peace in professional football.

NEW YORK RELIEF

New York is having a lively revelation of unemployed on relief - and vacationing in Florida. It is disclosed that the State is paying ~~thirty~~^{twenty-two} thousand dollars a week in unemployment benefits to people who are basking in the Florida sunshine.

A spokesman for the State Labor Department says:

"There is real hard-boiled chiseling going on down there and we intend to put a stop to it. Frankly, there is a big group down there for a vacation and nothing else."

So New York is now establishing an office in Miami to look into the case of some fifteen hundred vacationists ~~who are~~ on the New York unemployment rolls - the jobless in the sunshine.

*And now Nelson Case speaking
from the gloom of country life*

GOLDWYN

A blast was hurled in the world of motion pictures tonight. The cannonade was fired by Sam Goldwyn, ace producer. The target -- Eric Johnston, President of the Motion Picture Association of America.

Yesterday Eric Johnston said he was glad that Goldwyn was quitting his connection with the major studios in Hollywood. Johnston issued a general criticism of Goldwyn, who now retorts with the charge that the President of the Motion Picture Association is using the film industry as a spring board to public office. Goldwyn says that Johnston's activities have consisted in the words of Goldwyn -- mostly in turning the offices of the film organization into a personal press bureau for Eric Johnston."

Well, it all makes a lively uproar in the world of film, a sound track brought up loud.

And now let's hear the Nelson Case sound track -- so mild and soothing.