

In his long letter of resignation, Secretary Ickes leaves no room for doubt that he is quitting because he and President Truman do not see eye to eye, over the nomination of Ed Pauley as Under-Secretary of the Navy. As a matter of fact, the exit of Ickes is both a little bit more and a little bit less than a resignation. The Secretary had proposed that he should leave his office March Thirty-first. Mr. Truman replied, make it next Friday!

Ickes in his letter reiterated the charges he had made against Pauley before the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs. He recalled the Teapot Dome Scandal. He repeated that in Nineteen Forty-four, Pauley, then Treasurer of the Democratic Party, urged Ickes to drop the Federal Government's action for title to certain tidewater oil-bearing sands. Ickes declared that Pauley told him a California oil man would contribute three hundred thousand dollars to the Democratic Campaign Fund if that suit was dropped. Pauley denied that under oath, flatly contradicted Ickes.

President Truman, in answer to reporters' questions, recently spoke kindly of Ickes, but said he was sticking by Pauley. Did that mean, he was asked, that he disbelieved Ickes? No, replied the President, and then he added that Ickes might be mistaken.

Ickes, in his letter published today, used these words: "It was not proper, even though you be the President of the United States, to pass judgment on the question of veracity between Mr. Pauley and myself."

Ickes also said: "Word came to me indirectly that Mr. Pauley himself had told you of my probable opposition to his nomination." And he continued: "In the circumstances, it surprised me that you did not frankly ask me what might be the basis of such opposition."

At his press conference on February 7th, the President definitely alligned himself against Ickes. And that, said the Secretary of the Interior, made his position as a member of the Truman Cabinet, untenable.

Reporters are describing the Ickes resignation as even more sensational than the feud between former Sec. of Commerce, Jesse Jones and the then Vice President ~~Henry~~ Henry A. Wallace. Which ~~is~~ culminated in President Roosevelt throwing Jones out of his Cabinet -- in January, 1945.

From Washington come reports that the Democrats are distressed ~~ex~~ over the publication of the Ickes letter. They say it will give the Republicans powerful campaign ammunition. Also that it will widen the differences between the Democrat liberals and conservatives. Some say it may even lead to the formation of a third party.

The exit of Ickes leaves Henry Wallace the only out-and-out New Dealer in the Truman Cabinet. Navy Secretary Forrestal was appointed by the late President Roosevelt, but he is not rated as a New Dealer; and, there is a report he'll be out in April,

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to be succeeded by Edwin Pauley.

This ^{also} ~~whole business~~ revives reports that Wallace will resign ^{before long, to} ~~in the summer and that will~~ stump the country, ^{to} ~~arousing the sentiments of the~~ liberals who ^{are for} ~~believe in~~ him.

Harold Ickes bowed himself out today with a press conference of banner size. More than three hundred reporters, photographers and radio people ~~packed~~ ^{jammed} crowded the room. The U.P. correspondent describes it as the best and biggest performance of his career. Said Ickes: "I don't care to stay in an administration where I am expected to commit perjury for the sake of a party." And he added: "I never belonged to any party in any sense as that, and I am too old to begin all over again."

They then asked him whether he would support President Truman in Nineteen Forty-Eight, and whether he thought ~~that~~ the President rated support from the progressives. Said Ickes: "That's hard to say, he has sent some regrettable nominations to the Senate."


When they asked him how he felt, he replied that he felt like a man who has been dreading an operation, and now it's over, and the doctors tell him he is doing well. No future plans, said he. But, he added that he might write a newspaper column.

One man I know will be exceedingly sorry about the resignation of Secretary Harold Ickes. The former ~~state~~ Connecticut squire, Westbrook Pegler. Whenever Peg has needed a column, he would turn his typewriter on the self-styled curmudgeon, the Secretary of the Interior.

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STRIKES

Life improved in New York, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh today. Philadelphia street car strike called off, all buses, subway and elevated trains rolling again. Pittsburghers tonight have all the light and power they need. Here in New York, the tugboat strike is about where it was, in a deadlock. But, business goes on as usual. Some are expressing doubt today that yesterday's disaster control order was necessary. Father Knickerbocker's sons and daughters took their medicine good-naturedly. But it came to light today that federal officials declared the shut-down of activities on Lincoln's Birthday had not been necessary. That there was more than enough fuel in the city for all activities. That



~~since~~ the federal Office of Transportation had brought ^{enough} ~~both~~ coal and fuel ~~in adequate quantities~~ across the Hudson ~~River~~. If there was any shortage, said the O.D.T., the city authorities ^{simply} had ~~not~~ distributed ^{it} properly, ~~the available supplies~~.

Mayor O'Dwyer came back with a statement that if the federal government would only pull out, the city government, could handle the business nicely. He intimated that the O.D.T. had given him incorrect figures on the number of tugs that were operating and the amounts of fuel ~~that were~~ on hand. Hence his drastic order.

Today tugboat owners and employees have been negotiating. It is unsafe to report anything that sounds like a prediction, but the stories about the conference have an optimistic tone.

And, reports from Washington about the steel strike are ^{more} ~~quite~~ favorable. The magazine IRON AGE printed ² a story that ~~the United States~~ ^{U. S.} Steel Corporation and the union have agreed on practically all points.

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The steel companies have been promised an increase of five dollars a ton in ceiling prices; ~~and~~ the ~~big~~ corporations will raise wages eighteen-and-a-half cents an hour, the figure ~~that~~ President Truman suggested recently.

News for New Yorkers interested in where the U.N.O. will make its temporary headquarters. The Committee in London today definitely decided that the secretariat shall be here -- as Father Knickerbocker's guest -- for the time being, until the permanent capital is built, up in Westchester and Fairfield Counties, or wherever.

Now about that selection of the site.

Wherever the U.N.O. goes, there will arise some altogether new problems of government and administration. For instance, the forty-two square miles are to be pretty much immune to the laws of the states, and of the United States. Meaning for one thing, no Customs dues. All kinds of goods to be admitted to the world capital, duty free. What would prevent hundreds of thousands of citizens from rushing in to buy things there at lower rates? Well, that would be one of the many problems. Just one.

And, it has been suggested that the government of the United States would have to conclude an extradition treaty with the U.N.O., in order to pursue criminals who fled to Westchester for refuge.

And what about traffic, particularly traffic from New York to New England, that now goes through Westchester and Fairfield Counties. Would we have to stop at the frontiers to be examined?

Why worry about it? Well, these are just some of the questions now worrying state and county

authorities, also causing a few headaches in Washington.

New York City was chosen for the temporary headquarters only after a long and vehement protest by the delegate from Saudi Arabia. Speaking for all the Arab states, he said the Arabs have nothing against New York City, and they like the American people, but they, the Arabs, doubt that the U.N.O. will find complete impartiality in a city with so many foreign groups as New York. Obviously, referring to New York's large Jewish population. But the Arab delegate was voted down. New York City it is to be.

ADD U.N.O.

The quarrel between Great Britain and Russia went into its seventh day. The Soviets lost out on an important point tonight. The Security Council turned down the proposal of the Ukrainian^{ian} delegate that the U.N.O. send a commission to investigate what British troops are doing in the Netherlands East Indies. Poland was the only country that backed the Soviets up.

Earlier in the day, the Council had rejected the Russian demand for an investigation of what is going on in Greece.

TRIAL

At Nuremberg today, the Russian prosecutor declared that the Germans had executed almost half a million Russian prisoners of war in camps in Latvia and lithuania. Numbers of them, said the prosecutor, were buried alive. Fully another half million Russians captured in action suffered similar treatment in Germany proper. The Nazis made a specialty of transporting their prisoners in open cars in the winter, closed cars in the summer. Some ~~of~~ they loaded on barges which they either sank or set on fire. And, added the Russian prosecutor, it was not unusual for German guards to murder their prisoners just in fun.

ARGENTINA

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British reaction to our State Department's charges against Argentina is that the United States should have submitted those accusations to the U.N.O. As it is, they may still be used as an excuse for an attempt to throw Argentina out of the United Nations Organization. You may remember that at San Francisco, the Russian delegation maintained a tough fight to keep Argentina out. ^{TP} However, the United States ~~Government~~ has no intention of bringing ~~up~~ its charges against Argentina before the Council.

BRADEN

Spruille Braden, Assistant Secretary of State, spoke back sharply today to charges made by Colonel Peron of Argentina. The Argentinian Strong Man had declared that the accusations against Argentina in the State Department's Blue Book, published yesterday, were due entirely to a personal feud between himself, Peron, and and Spruille Braden.

Braden ~~made~~ⁱⁿ a speech ~~at a luncheon in New York today, and~~ said that no government which denies its citizens their basic human rights could be considered a legitimate and respectable government. Braden then used these words: "Our own conscience demands that we make a clear distinction between legitimate governments which derive their judg power from the consent of the governed, and governments which usurp their power from the people."

FOOD

The Department of Agriculture gives us some idea of the food supply we may expect throughout the year. In quantity, larger than last year, and just as nutritious. Actually, more beef and pork; but, much less lamb and mutton. Also, less canned fish, fats and canned fruits. The greatest shortages? Sugar, and, butter.

Less ~~wheat~~ wheat, too, than last year, ~~but~~ but more than before the war. Less milk and cream, but more cheese and canned milk, if you like canned milk. I had my share of it in western and Alaskan mining camps, and in World War One. As for fresh fruit, about the same as last year; but, nine percent less fresh vegetables.

ROOSEVELT

The heirs of the late President Roosevelt have appealed for exemption from a large part of the inheritance tax on his estate, on the ground that he died a soldier.

This appeal was made to the New York State Commission in Albany today. If granted, this will add many thousands of dollars to the Franklin D. Roosevelt estate -- to his heirs. For it would exempt not only income from family holdings, but also F.D.R.'s salary as President. And the Federal exemption would be even greater than the State.

If it is conceded that the War President died a soldier, that will put him in the same position as though he had died in action; hence would include all salary paid him as President and Commander-in-Chief during the war.

A New York statute provides that any person who dies on or after December Seventh, Nineteen Forty-one, while in active service, as a member of the armed forces of the United States, shall be exempted from the

income tax on his income for the taxable year in which his death occurred.

ANDERSON

A story from California that Eddie Anderson is missing -- Rochester. ^{know him?} ~~to you,~~ His performances on Jack Benny's show did so well for Rochester, that he became able to afford a yacht, a thirty-six foot cabin cruiser. And now that cruiser is overdue.

He sailed from Wilmington for Catalina at noon yesterday with two friends. Since then nothing has been heard from him. Patrol boats and P.B.Y. scout planes are out looking for him. From Wilmington to Catalina is only an hour, ~~as any tourist knows,~~ and Rochester, among other things, is an expert mechanic.