

The bill empowering the President to reorganize the government is now a law. Mr. Truman signed it today.

As he did so he admitted that it would not save as much money as some people hoped, probably not even twenty-five per cent. ^{That} Substantial savings in federal expenses can be brought about only by cutting down on the elaborate programs which Congress is continually creating.

TP What ~~the~~ bill does is to authorize the President to regroup agencies, to merge some of them, and to abolish some. ~~of them.~~ Seven of them, ^{of agencies are} ~~as you may recall, are~~ excepted ^{one} including the Interstate Commerce Committee, ~~and~~ the Federal Communications Committee, ~~and such like.~~

However, the benefit which the bill will bring to us will ^{mean} ~~be~~ simpler and clearer relations between government agencies and the people.

~~Pres.~~ Truman is not yet ready to tell us what agencies he wants to abolish. In that respect almost every citizen has his favorite candidate or candidates. But, he did say that he is going to start a scientific review of all government functions with the Budget Bureau

and regroup them so that they will function in the most efficient and economical way. Apparently the lion's share of this job devolves upon the Director of the Budget, Harold E. Smith.

STRIKE

President Truman's Fact-Finding Board, trying to find facts about the General Motors strike, ran into troubled waters almost as soon as it had started functioning. The very first argument it received from the Union was that the Board could not properly estimate the demand of the Union for a thirty per cent raise without also scrutinizing the ability of the corporation to pay.

The General Motors retort to that was quick and decisive. No access to G.M. books. If the Fact-Finding Board demands it, G.M. would back out and refuse to cooperate. The question remains, if the Board rules that G.M. profits and prices are irrelevant to the issue of a wage raise, what can the Union reply? The Board is expected to announce its decision Saturday.

Walter Reuther, Vice-President of the Union, sticks to his guns. He told the Board that the executive order issued by President Truman August Eighteenth on wages and prices, makes imperative the

Company's ability to pay.

General Motors' counsel insists that his clients have met all conditions of the President's executive order. There are no maladjustments of wages, no inequities, no sub-standards, to be corrected. The Company has offered a ten per cent wage increase to meet the rise in the cost of living. The Union, he said, has elected to base its case on the rise in the purchasing power of the consumer.

Walter Reuther counters with the statement that the Union does not want a ~~single~~ red cent that would have to be passed ~~on~~ to the consumer in higher prices.

President Truman today again expressed a demand for quick action. And he had something to say about this question of examining the books. He said fact-finding boards must have that power, and he hopes Congress will pass a law quickly to give that power to the boards.

STRIKE - 3

On my way to Radio City from Fox Movietone this afternoon, driving between high banks of snow, I passed the General Motors Building at the corner of Fifty-seventh and Broadway. It was surrounded by a howling throng of pickets. Hundreds of pickets, and they had great searchlights turned on the G.M. Building. Some of the pickets were singing, in a loud voice. One line of the song that the C.I.O. pickets were singing went like this: "C. E. Wilson is a horse thief."

ADD STRIKE

The news from Detroit this evening is that the U.A.W. definitely rejected the offer of the Ford Company—
~~to~~ a twelve point four per cent raise. Nobody expected any other outcome. The Union explained that the offer was rejected on two grounds. First, that it ~~fixed~~ fell short of the thirty per cent demand, also there was a string to the Ford offer, the string being that the raise was conditional upon the Company's turning out almost twice as many cars as it is producing now.

Then the U.A.W. enunciated a bit of Union doctrine:— ^{that} wages should be considered separately from all other matters in a labor contract. Wage rates should be negotiated first, all other conditions later.

~~In short, the Ford offer in union parlance is completely unacceptable.~~

CONFERENCE

At last we have a ~~piece~~^{mite} of information concerning the conference of the Big Three Foreign Ministers at Moscow. A dispatch from the Soviet capital ~~reports~~^{indicates} that they were talking about Turkey, and what the Soviet Union wants from the former empire of the Ottoman sultans.

Actually, there is no definite proof that Byrnes, Bevin and Molotov discussed ~~the matter~~^{Turkey at all}, but there was a letter in the leading Russian newspapers, written by two of the foremost historians in the Soviet Union, and the gist of it was a claim to ten thousand square miles of land now occupied by ~~Russia~~^{Turkey} land right next door to the oilfields of Batum. If you look at ~~the~~^{the} map of the Black Sea, you will find that this ~~indicates~~^{covers} a large slice of ~~territory~~^{territory} in the province of Kars, which formerly belonged to Armenia. It was ceded to Turkey in ~~1921~~^{nineteen} Twenty-One -- Twenty-Two. ~~And~~^{And} it extends all the way along the coast of the Black Sea, a hundred and sixty miles from the Russian border to the ancient Turkish city of ~~Trebizond~~^{TREBIZOND}, and it stretches some seventy

miles inland. It is also next door to Georgia, native land of Stalin.

Since this letter had the authorship of two celebrated historians, who are in an official position, and was published in the Moscow newspapers, the assumption is obvious that it had official sanction.

The story from ~~M~~ Moscow reports that ^{See} Byrnes spent his entire morning studying that letter, which took up four columns of print. The issue is dynamite. Relations between ~~Soviet~~ the Soviet Union and Turkey have been ^{settling} sour for more than a year, even before the end of the war. The diplomatic tactics are pretty obvious. Stalin wants the Dardanelles, just as Peter the Great, the Empress Catherine, and every leading Russian has wanted ^{the Dardanelles,} and this is no secret. ^{TP and} ~~that's~~ one of the eternal stumbling blocks between Russia and Britain. It was the underlying cause of the Crimean War. ~~But~~ Long before that, as early as the days of William Pitt the Elder, the Foreign Office in Downing Street was ~~it~~ determined that Russia should not have

those Straits leading from the Black Sea to the
Mediterranean. ^{That steadfast policy} produced a rather amazing picture
in the international scene, Christian England allied
with the Mohammedan Ottomans against another Christian
power, to the outspoken indignation ^{in those days} ~~of a great~~ many a
devout ^{Burton} ~~nonconformist and Low Church Briton.~~

U.N.O.

The Senate has confirmed the delegates whom President Truman nominated to represent Uncle Sam in the United Nations Organization. This was not entirely without demurrer. ^{For} There were objections ^{the appointment of} to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, also to Edward Stettinius, Ex-Secretary of State. The objections to Mrs. Roosevelt achieved nothing except to give opportunity for Senator Barkley, Senator Chavez of New Mexico, and Senator Taylor of Idaho to break out in a rash of ~~adjectives~~ praise of the former First Lady.

The New Mexico Senator emphasized the fact that Mrs. Roosevelt is a Christian mother. Senator Barkley said that Mrs. Roosevelt never allowed the fact that she was ^{the} First Lady of the Land to interfere with her activities ^{-which not} ~~was~~ even Westbrook Pegler will dispute. ~~that. The~~

The principal objection to Stettinius came from Senator ~~Bill~~ Langer. ^{The} North Dakota ~~a state~~ ~~usually famous for good wheat.~~ The Senator claimed that Stettinius represented big business. But, all the appointments were confirmed.

GOERING

Here is a diagnosis of Herman Goering, made by a German woman, one of his own party and ^a close associate. She was a test pilot in the Nazi Reich and ^{an} expert on aeronautical research, hand in glove with Herman Goering, Hitler and other top Nazis. *This aviatrix puts* ~~she lay~~ the blame for the ruin of the once famous and formidable Luftwaffe on Goering himself. She describes him as a dope fiend with a Caesar complex. *She* ~~he~~ says ~~that~~ he destroyed the Luftwaffe during spasms of ecstasy induced by the copious quantities of Morphine he took. ~~Under~~ *adds* Under that influence, ~~this~~ *adds* this woman test pilot, he twisted production figures and lied his head off to Hitler about the actual strength of the Luftwaffe. He not only fooled Hitler, but fooled himself. *And, he* kept himself constantly surrounded by yes-men. *Which is common enough* ~~of course that does not exactly distinguish~~ *in other countries.* ~~him there are men who do that much closer to us than~~ Germany.

But in the case of Goering it was fatal, *says she, because his* ~~the empire of which his bloated figure was a symbol.~~ ~~These~~ yes-men helped him cook up phoney production figures.

EDDA

4 For a long time we've heard little about the daughter of the late Benito Mussolini, Edda Ciano, widow of the Duce's hapless Foreign Minister. A special court in Sicily today disposed of Edda, the sentence -- two years. This doesn't mean two years' hard labor or even two years in prison. The way the sentence reads: "two years' confinement under police supervision."

All of which seems like a sort of mild version of the treatment administered by Roman emperors to their female kinswomen to whom they didn't want to give the extreme penalty of death. History students will recall that the mother of the Emperor Nero was banished for a few years to one of those islands in the Mediterranean, where she had to earn her livelihood by diving for sponges.

Well, Edda Ciano does not have to dive for sponges -- altho she was once quite an athlete. She'll merely have to behave herself under the watchful eyes of the Italian Carabinieri.

I forgot to mention the charge against her.

Of course some people might say just being Edda Ciano was a sufficiently punishable offense. But under the new anti-Fascist law, the lady was accused of conduct inspired by Fascist methods and Fascist malpractices.

The authorities considered her guilty of moral and social, rather than political, collaboration with the Fascist regime. And the bill of indictment was broad and general, because they seem to have had insufficient evidence to connect her positively with Fascism.

From the property of her late husband, Count Ciano, which was confiscated by the state, Edda will receive a hundred-and-forty dollars a ~~net~~ month, just to keep the wolf from Edda's door. But not enough to enable her to live in the style to which she became accustomed, no mink coats, no pearl necklaces, no diamond bracelets. And some might call that extreme punishment.

TIRES

Now here is news which really strikes into the homes of millions of American people. It's about tires. No more rationing of tires commencing January Tenth. That means the only thing left on the ration list is sugar.

In case you want tires before January First, turn in your certificates, and your dealer may be able to help you out. But after December Twenty-first no more certificates will be issued except to cover emergencies.

Now, this cheerful announcement from the O.P.A. doesn't guarantee that you'll be able to get tires. It ~~just~~ just means that in case you can find any, you won't need any ration certificate to buy them. And, we ought to be able to get them. For tires are now being turned out by our factories at the rate of about four million a month, soon to be stepped up to five-and-a-half million a month.

Price Administrator Chester Bowles asks

dealers to use discretion in selling such tires as are available, consider those who most urgently need them, such as doctors, and other ^S~~persons~~ who use their cars in the pursuit of their lawful occupations, particularly owners of taxicabs. ^{TP} Apparently there will be an ample supply of tires for trucks and buses.

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ROMANCE

~~"Journeys end in lovers meeting", as our old friend Shakespeare remarked.~~

Two years ago, First Class Private Dominick Casciari of New Caanan, Connecticut, a handsome young paratrooper, was wounded in France. The surgeons sent him to a military hospital at Nottingham, in England. While convalescing, he saw a pretty English lass, *and fell in love with speed and vigor.* Rita Blankley, Dominick then was twenty, ~~but~~ Rita ~~was~~ only sixteen.

Like most young Americans in a hurry, Dominick lost no time. Evidently he made good time, because Rita accepted him with a string to the acceptance that Dominick would also have to get the consent of ~~Papa~~ *the Pater.* Said Papa: "That's all very well, my lad, but sixteen is too young for a girl to marry. Come around again when the war is over."

Presently the war was over, and Dominick the paratrooper was demobed *tried* and sent home to the U.S.A. ~~There~~ he was discharged; *with* Rita ~~was~~ still uppermost

or wherever it is.

in his mind, or ~~at any rate~~ his heart. According to the story, he had to borrow the money to go back to England, which does not explain what he did with the three hundred ~~dollars that~~ Uncle Sam gives to every discharged soldier. ~~After obtaining a passport which included the statement - "Object, matrimony."~~ Anyway, he did get back to England, after obtaining a passport which included the statement - "Object, matrimony." But he first took the precaution of writing to Rita to find out whether the journey would be fruitful.

Rita answered by return mail, "come quickly."

So he did. He took ^a ~~the~~ plane from Boston and thought he was going to surprise Rita in her home at Nottingham. But it isn't easy to pull off a surprise of that kind in ^{these} ~~the~~ days of modern newspapers. Rita read all about Dominick's journey by air. In fact, she and the whole family sat up all night, last night, waiting for him. But air transport inside the British Isles is not so enterprising, and Dominick had to take

an all-night train from the airport to Nottingham.

At any rate, he walked into the garden around the Blankley home this morning, and out came Rita, rushing and blushing - well, anyway, rushing, and threw her arms around him. Papa Blankley beamed and said: "Bless you, my children", and soon they will marry and, we trust, live happily ever after.

*A simple story - just a
Winter's Tale - but it does
indicate the close ties that
are being forged between our
two countries - in spite of that
loan and all the harsh words.*

*And now H - whose words
are never harsh.*