

TRUMAN-INTERNAL REVENUE

(The White House announces a crack-down on the Bureau of Internal Revenue -- the first measure taken by President Truman to fulfill his promise of all-out action to clean up the income tax corruption in his administration. He announces "a sweeping reorganization."

In this, the offices of the sixty-four income tax collectors are abolished. Of the sixty-four, seven have resigned or been fired in recent months, two of them indicted for corruption. Now, there will be no more of those regional tax collectors - politically appointed, their jobs political plums.)

Instead, the regional operations of the Tax Bureau will be handled by not more than twenty-five district offices, each headed by a commissioner, who will be selected through civil service. (Other political jobs will be abolished - and the entire income tax bureau will be put under civil service as long ago recommended by the Hoover Commission.)

Except for the top official, the Internal Revenue Commissioner in Washington. He will remain a political appointee, the only one.

Today's crackdown is in line with recommendations made by the Hoover Committee - which under the supervision of former President Herbert Hoover, drew up a program for government reorganization. They stressed civil service as the best way to clean up income tax abuses.

(The President says the crack-down will take the scandal-ridden tax agency out of politics, and protect it from "influence peddlars." Today's action - only the beginning. There will be further administrative changes, all in one large program - which will be submitted to Congress.)

Simultaneously, the Chief of the Tax Collection Agency states that fifty-three more employees have been

fired or forces to resign. Which brings the total of those ousted to one hundred and sixty-six -- that many out of jobs in the scandal ridden tax agency.

We hear of the resignation of an attorney in the Department of Justice, Howard G. Campbell.

He ^{was} ~~is~~ at the same time, a member of a law firm which provided some of those famous minks. The testimony was that the law firm, of which the Department of Justice Attorney was a member, supplied free fur coats to the daughter of the ousted Assistant Attorney General, Mr Lamar Caudle and the wife of an aide to Caudle.

Well, that small animal, the mink, sure does loom large in Washington politics - almost as large as the American Eagle.

TRUMAN-POLITICS

We have a statement - that President Truman will declare himself, in a month, by February Sixth. This - from Democratic representative Hayes of Ohio after a conference at the White House today.

He says the President wants to announce his political plans by the deadline for filing in the Ohio primary. Which primary requires the written consent of candidates entered for presidential nominations. If President Truman intends to run again, and wants his name in the Ohio primary, he'll have to speak out by filing time - February Sixth.

(The statement made by the Ohio Congressman was taken to the White House - where it got a conditional confirmation. Presidential Secretary Short explained that it does not represent any definite commitment, but that the President does hope to reveal his intentions early next month.)

Congressman Hayes is a strong supporter of
Tennessee
~~Kentucky~~ Senator Kefauver for the Democratic nomination
-- if President Truman does ^{not} run again. He went
to the White House as a Kefauver supporter, and says
the President may have a meeting with the Tennessee
Senator for political discussion. Should be an
interesting confab -- the President and the Senator
with a presidential boom building up.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court handed down an interesting decision today - in reversing the California conviction for possession of narcotics.

The prisoner had two morphine capsules in his possession - and, when arrested, he swallowed them. The cops took him to the hospital, where the doctors put an emetic into his stomach - and up came the two capsules of morphine.

The Supreme Court condemns this as "illegally breaking into the privacy of the petitioner."

Well, you would think his stomach should be private.

The court reasons that the police are not permitted to use force in making a prisoner talk - extracting what is in his mind. So, by that same token, they are not allowed to extract what is in his stomach.

BLIZZARD

Tonight, on the border of Colorado and New Mexico, two freight trains are snowbound, with fifty-five men aboard. They are trapped near ^{Lamona} ~~the~~ Cumbres Pass at an altitude of ten thousand feet. Caught by great storms and blizzards in the West, the two freight trains have been stalled there for four days.

Today snowploughs were boring through giant snowdrifts to release the fifty-five railroad men. Food packages were dropped to them by ~~an~~ airplane, the pilot reporting that the snow was so deep - the railroaders, in going after the food packages, stepped out ~~xxxxx~~ onto the snow from the windows of their cabooses.

ATLANTIC STORM

Another wild Atlantic storm, and there was a crackling of distress signals today.

The renewal of the tempest makes it look bad for the half-capsized freighter, "Flying Enterprise" with its determined skipper. Captain Carlsen still remains aboard his ship, which is now listing at a seventy degree angle -- and in danger of turning over all together, as high waves break over the derelect.

FINLAND

(The Government of Finland announces that the Northern ~~Re~~ Republic has paid ninety-five per cent of its reparations bill to Soviet Russia.) When the Second World War ended, with the Finns on the losing side, Moscow handed them a huge bill--huge, that is, for the small population of the land ^{that borders on the} ~~up toward the~~ Arctic. With concessions, the reparations came finally to an equivalent of two-hundred-and-twenty-six-million-~~and~~ five-hundred-thousand dollars. Of this, Finland has paid two-hundred-and-sixteen million, and will have the rest on the line by next September--all paid up.

(Well, the Finns are that way about honoring their debts. We remember how, after the First World War, Finland was the only country that kept up the payments on its debt to the United States.)

LITVINOV

Dispatches from Russia tell of stately funeral honors for Maxim Litvinov who, for so long, was the Number One Moscow Diplomat. The amount of elaborate ceremony is rather surprising, since Litvinov had been out of Soviet favor and in obscurity for years.

Today Pravda, official newspaper of the Russian Communist Party, published a flattering obituary headed "Old Bolshevik and Prominent Diplomat". Which, in itself, has a turn of oddity. Litvinov was an old Bolshevik, all right--one of the few left after Stalin almost exterminated ^{all the comrades} ~~the companions~~ of Lenin, the veterans of the Bolshevik Revolution. Litvinov, still alive, was like a reminder of the great Purge Trials in which the old Bolsheviks were doomed.

He was a personification of that former Soviet policy of collaboration with Liberal Nations of the West. (~~First Moscow Ambassador to the United States,~~

after we recognized the Soviets in 1933;--and, prominent in the League of Nations, when Hitler loomed as a menace. The more dangerous Nazi Germany became, the more friendly Stalin grew toward the West - and Litvinov was the Foreign Minister/in charge of that policy.)

Then, when the Soviets joined the Nazis in the Hitler-Stalin Pact--Litvinov dropped out of sight. Later when Hitler attacked Soviet Russia, Litvinov was dusted off and brought forward again--sent as an Emissary to the United States. But, once Hitler had been crushed, out went Litvinov again--disappearing into oblivion when Soviet Russia turned bitterly against the West. Dying at seventy-five, nothing had been heard of him in the last half-dozen years.

But now he gets a State funeral, with solemn honors,- And it makes you wonder, Could this have any meaning in terms of Soviet Policy? Another of those Moscow puzzles.

KOREA-TRUCE

In the Korean truce talks, the U N delegation today, set forth a compromise proposal for prisoner exchange. This is about as complicated as you can imagine ^{combining} ~~combining~~ the two contradictory principles of -- "man for man" and "all for all". To explain how these opposites are put together, with a long string of clauses and provisions, would require half an hour.

Actually, the key to the whole thing seems to be the ~~2x~~ question of prisoners who don't want to go home -- which would apply to captured soldiers of the ~~Communist~~ ^{Red} Army who have been treated well and have turned against the Reds. It would be tough to make them go back to their Communist overlords, and one clause in today's program reads: "Delegates of the international committee of the Red Cross

shall interview all prisoners and all civilians

affected to make sure that none is repatriated against his will."

This was not likely to please the Communists, and the first reaction of the Red representatives today was - unfavorable. They said they'd consider the U N suggestion but their tone was reluctant and grudging.

FOLLOW KOREA -TRUCE

On the battlefront-- no news at all, as a new day comes to Korea. Tonight's bulletin reads: "A hush like a quiet descended on the Korean battlefield and the Eighth Army reported that the war was at a ~~virtual~~ virtual standstill. The United Nations' the dispatch goes on," sent out patrols during the night, but ^{the} communists apparently ~~were~~ buried deep in their bunkers".

In the air there was a little activity-- with U.S. planes bombing enemy flying fields.

EL MANTE. CALIFORNIA

A turn of strange mystery appears in the killing of the former big league pitcher, Herman Bithorn - shot by a police officer in Mexico. The policeman declares that he fired the shot only when he was attacked by what seemed to be a maniac. He declares that the former ball player, as he lay wounded said: "I am a member of a communist cell on an important mission." This makes no sense to anybody who has investigated the case - the communist angle being a blank mystery.

ARMY

There is an old Army saying -- "You never had it so good." Which pleasant remark has been uttered many a time over in occupied Germany. Officers and G. I.'s living the life of Reilly--only Reilly "never had it so good."

But a change is announced--an economy program. Recently Senator Ellender of Louisiana raised an uproar, saying the Brass in Germany was living in Princely splendor. So ^{the} Army takes the hint. The G. I.'s will retain ordinary Army comforts, but the luxury bars for Officers will be eliminated, and some of the Military golf courses will have to go. Hollywood swimming pools in Germany will be abolished, and the Brass will no longer dwell in castles on the Rhine. Another feature on its way out is -- free maid service. Today's dispatch states that in all the Allied Occupation Forces, the American, British and French, maid service has been

provided--at a cost of one million and five-hundred-thousand-dollars per year.

In this country, too, there's an economy demand --hitting G. I. "suspender buttons." We don't think of a soldier wearing galluses, but each pair of G.I. pants with the winter uniform, has half a dozen buttons for ^{galluses.} ~~them~~

This draws the wrath of Congressman Norblatt-who says that, while sewing on the suspender buttons, the Army forbids the G.I. to wear suspenders. ~~Sounds a bit contradictory,~~ ^{and} ~~but~~ the Army comes back by saying that the G.I. is permitted to wear galluses if he wants to. He is merely required to keep them concealed under his blouse or jacket.

The Congressman retorts that local Commanders have established their own rules--and G.I.'s think that only belts are permitted.

The Legislator declares that he made a personal

investigation, and found that soldiers didn't even know they had suspender buttons on their pants--until he showed them.

There are two million men in the Army, and the suspender buttons come to a total of twelve million. So, if anybody should walk up and ask you--"Button, button--who's got the button?" the correct answer is--the G.I.'s have them on their pants, for suspenders they don't wear.

DRIVER

At Waltham, Massachusetts, the Police charge that a lady celebrated the New Year too well to be driving a car. She pulled up at the Police Station and said to a cop; "Fill her up." The cop failed to do, and she demanded scornfully; "What kind of station is this, anyway"? They told her, and escorted her inside- where they booked her on the charge of driving an automobile, when she didn't know the difference, between a Police Station and a Gasoline Station.

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New Nelson