

TRUMAN

L.I. - Sunoco and P. & G. Thurs., May 15, 1947.

President Truman ~~took advantage of~~^{at} his press conference today ~~to~~^d hammer away again at the need for reducing prices. The U.S.A., he declared, can avoid a depression so long as greedy persons are prevented from bringing it about.

He told the newspapermen that some people are cooperating with his campaign to bring down the cost of living, but the cooperation has not been enough. Commodity prices are still much too high, and that's the danger point.

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Ten men, described as economists, turned in a report today on the state of the nation. Three of them are former heads of O.P.A., ~~in fact~~^{with} Chester Bowles ~~as~~ Chairman of the group. They report that in order to avert ~~the~~ a crisis, the government and Congress must take action on a nine-point program. For one thing, just about one-half of the increases in prices since last June should be cut.

The minimum wage should be raised to sixty-five cents an hour and eventually to seventy-five cents. There should be more unemployment compensation; rent control to be extended for another year. Taxes should be reduced by raising exemptions rather than by cuts. The government should start a program to reduce housing costs by twenty per cent, and so forth.

The ten economists declare that the country is headed for an economic blow-up within the next three or five years, and the need for action is urgent. Profits have become swollen beyond anything that business health and vitality requires, at the expense of man's purchasing power.

Such are a few of the points made in this report. President Truman himself has not seen it yet.

CHURCHILL

Winston Churchill today related in public the words of a conversation he had had with President Roosevelt in Nineteen Forty-Three, a conversation which I believe has never yet been made public. F.D.R. asked Winston what name he thought the war should have.

Churchill replied: "I could give you a very easy reply." Then he continued: "I will call it the unnecessary war."

Churchill then explained to his hearers: "It would have been perfectly easy to prevent Germany from rearming in Nineteen Thirty-Five and indeed up to the end of Nineteen Thirty-Six, without firing a shot."

All this the war Prime Minister told to the people of the city of Ayr in Scotland, where they were giving him the freedom of the city. It was noted that all the eight Labor Party members of the City Council remained away.

UNRRA

(President Truman now has on his desk the bill permitting him to give four hundred million dollars to the Greeks and Turks.)

The lawmakers tonight are hurrying through the last stages of the general relief bill for starving Europe. Ten Senators and Representatives arguing that one out in conference. The Senators want to appropriate three-hundred-and-fifty millions. The House, two hundred millions. So the eventual compromise probably will be around three hundred millions.

A cable from Berlin reports that three shiploads of grain have been rushed for the relief of the hungry in the Ruhr district. They were unloaded only yesterday, but they are already being distributed. Those three shiploads will only afford temporary relief.

Mr. Truman today released his report on UNRRA operations in the final three months of 1946. In it he remarked that the spectre of hunger is still close to the peoples of many liberated areas, and that peace can be

realized when people are free from the fear of hunger.

Secretary of State Marshall has drawn up a program outlining Uncle's Sam's share of responsibility for the million-odd dispossessed persons in Europe. First he will take it up with the President, then pass it along to Congress.

Editorials in the New York Herald Tribune are causing much comment -- urging Congress to amend the immigration law immediately and allow four hundred thousand refugees to enter this country within the next two years.

The Herald-Tribune points out that "between 1940 and 1946, immigration fell short of the total possible under the quota system by nine hundred and fourteen thousand, almost a million." And adds that its suggestion would not fill up the country with an ~~excessive~~ excessive number of immigrants. Also, it urges that one hundred thousand Jews be admitted into Palestine immediately.

U.N.

In the United Nations Assembly, the representative from Hindustan today made an impassioned speech, which was quite in the vein of Mahatma Gandhi. The representative from India, ~~incidentally, is~~ a Mohammedan, Asaf Ali, the first ambassador from his country to Uncle Sam, ~~The ambassador~~ implored the U.N. to put an end to power politics in Palestine. ^{TR} The Holy Land, he pointed out, is ringed by the great powers, and if its peace is violated, it will precipitate ^a ~~the~~ third great world war.

^{TR} "Leave this land alone," cried the ~~India~~ Ambassador ~~from~~ ^{India,} "leave it alone - and ~~and~~ settle down to eternal peace." ~~and he added:~~

^{said he,}
"The Holy Land of all lands," [^] must remain free from power politics. Palestine today," he continued, "is the acid test of human conscience." Upon the decision of U.N. will depend the peace of mankind. If we fail, the world will be cut in twain."

Later on, the General Assembly agreed upon the

special commission which will study the problem of Palestine. Neither the Arabs nor any of the Big Five powers are to be represented on it. They will consist of the delegates from Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, India, Iran, the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay and Jugoslavia.

The elimination of the Big Five from that commission was put through over the repeated protests of the Soviet bloc.

After deciding upon the membership of the commission, the Assembly heard the reading of a resolution offered by the Norwegian delegation:— ~~It was~~ an appeal to all government and peoples, and particularly the inhabitants of Palestine, to call a truce during the activities of the commission. To that the Assembly shouted ~~unanimously~~ a vociferous "Aye", but the Arab delegates kept silent.

There could hardly be a more neutral and impartial membership for any commission of inquiry. Not one of the eleven nations represented has even the remotest direct interest in Palestine.

BEVIN

If the next Big Four conference fails in November, the world will be headed on a dubious course. That's the prediction of British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin.

The House of Commons today opened a full debate on British foreign policy, during which Bevin asserted that if agreement is unduly delayed, the difficulties met by the Big Four Foreign Ministers will grow steadily worse. "It is absolutely vital," he added, "that the treaties with Germany and Austria and the relations between the eastern and western blocs, be settled on a friendly basis."

Bevin, as we know, has been railed at by the Left Wing members of his own party. Today, instead of lambasting them, his tone was friendly towards his rebellious colleagues. He assured them the Government would consider seriously any suggestions they make.

Then he went on to tell the Commons that representatives of John Bull and Uncle Sam have come to

an agreement that will insure the success of the merger, of their two zones in Germany.

About the Soviet demand that the Ruhr district be administered by all four powers; on that he said No -- not so long as ~~there~~ there are separate zones in Germany. This because you can't have partial economic unity.

The London Foreign Secretary ^{spoke so cautiously} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ that his ~~taking~~ audience seemed bored. With one honorable member after another tiptoeing out of the House, and with Prime Minister Clement Attlee nodding sleepily on the front government bench, his hat tilted over his eyes and his feet on a ~~table~~ table in front of him. Hat on? Yes, in the British House of Commons, all honorable members are supposed to wear their hats except when addressing the members. When a member jumps to his feet and takes off his top-piece, that's a sign he's trying to catch the eye of the speaker.

Anthony Eden replied to Bevin, and -- not so cautiously. Eden ~~xxx~~ attributed the failure at Moscow

to what he called the obstinacy, and the intransigent attitude, of the Soviet government. In answer to the Left Wing demands for appeasement of Russia, he said it would be a profound delusion to suppose that by getting farther away from the United States, you necessarily get any closer to the Soviets.

COMMUNISTS

Adolphe Menjou, that glass of fashion and the mold of form, as Hamlet would have called him, has played many a role and played them all well. Now he wants a new one. He told a congressional committee that he wants to be the Paul Revere who sounds the alarm about the menace of Communism, particularly in the part of the country he knows best, Hollywood.

Testifying before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, he said he believed that Hollywood is one of the main centers of Communism in America, because the motion pictures are one of the greatest mediums for propaganda. He declared that pro-Communists are in such high and influential positions in Hollywood that a lot of anti-Communists are afraid to open their mouths. Bewildering as it sounds, he said, many of the Communists are millionaires. There are at least half a dozen Red directors and several Red actors. He is in a

particularly good position to understand about Russia and Communism, because he speaks several languages, including Russian, and has read at least three hundred and fifty books on Russia.

~~Another movie actor, Robert Taylor, testified that during the war he was forced, against his will, to play the lead in a picture called "Song of Russia." He had objected because the script was full of Communist ~~propaganda~~ propaganda and set up Russian ideas and institutions as better than the ideas and customs of America. Taylor declared that an O.W.I. agent came all the way from Washington to bring pressure to bear upon him.~~

BUILDING

In Elko, Nevada, today -- with a roar a building collapsed. A two-story apartment house tumbling into a hole that had been excavated next door for a new building. The collapse occurred early enough to cost the lives of three sleeping tenants, injuring four.

Eye witnesses told of being awakened by a loud cracking. Rushing to their windows they saw that three-family building start moving sideways. Its wall bulging out. Then -- with the fury of an explosion, it hurtled bricks across the hundred-by-fifty foot excavation next door. Sliding in with a roar; carrying the sleeping families with it.

One tenant rushed into what he thought was the bedroom of his wife, only the bedroom was no longer there, and he ran out into space, falling fifteen feet into the debris as the rest of the building came down behind him. And he was not among those seriously injured.

ROUNDUP

An impromptu cattle roundup in Tacoma, Washington today. Right in the downtown center of the city.

A Hundred bewildered cows charged into the business district, bowling over pedestrians in their milling about. And with business men, secretaries, clerks and shoppers cheering the blue -- coat - cowboys -- or maybe they were cheering the cows.

The animals, on their way to a packing plant -- the last mile for them -- got loose into the streets, some falling into cellar doorways, others barging into alleys and back yards.

At the end of six hours, the cowboys -- the cops I mean -- had rounded up sixty; forty or so still missing, some permanently maybe. There's an old saying: a steer in your own deep freeze is better than two at the butcher's.

BARRYMORE

It is worth twenty thousand dollars to smack a cop in Louisville, twenty thousand dollars apiece. That's what it will cost Diana Barrymore and her husband, if three members of the Louisville police force win their ^{law} suits.

This is another aftermath of the alleged free-for-all in which Miss Barrymore and her husband are said to have taken part Sunday morning. Their trial, on charges of disorderly conduct, assault and battery, has been postponed to May Twenty-Sixth, ^{Meanwhile} ~~and~~ they are out ~~of jail~~ on bail. But the three cops who arrested them are losing no time in bringing damage suits. They want a total of sixty thousand dollars from Miss Barrymore and ^{her tennis-Pro husband} John Howard, ~~her husband, who is a tennis pro.~~

The complaint charges that Mr. and Mrs. Howard used violent, vulgar language, ^{and} struck ~~xxx~~ the poor policemen with such force as to do them bodily harm, -- ~~and~~ without just provocation. They furthermore say that

Mr. and Mrs. Howard reflected invidiously upon their professional and personal characters, and hled them up to ridicule. Mr. Howard is reported as having said that when he was released ~~ix~~ on bail he did not get back all the money he had in his pocket when he was pinched.

That promises to be quite a trial on May
Twenty-Sixty, Louisville!

And now order in the court. Let's hear the
case. I mean the Case.

COAL

John Lewis today backed down from his previous insistence that he would talk contract only with the soft coal mine industry as a whole. Which had produced a complete deadlock, since the owners of the Southern mines had declined to talk on that basis.

Tomorrow Lewis will begin negotiations with three-quarters of the bituminous operators. Then when they have come to terms, he will consider how to deal with the Southerners.

AIR SHOW

New Yorkers will see quite a show tomorrow.

Staged by that wizard, General George Kenney of Uncle Sam's Air Forces. Shortly after noon, tomorrow, we'll hear the roar of some five hundred powerful motors over our heads, as a vast armada of B-29s attacks Manhattan.

General Kenney says he is sure we will be able to see them, because the skies will be clear. He has that from his own weather prophets.

A hundred and thirty B-29s in all. Coming from all parts of the country, some from as far away as Texas and New Mexico. A rendezvous over Cape May, New Jersey, and then a sweep down on New York, at twelve thirty P.M., Eastern Daylight Time.

In the lead plane will be General Kenney himself. He says he wants to show the folks in the east a part of what their taxes are paying for. And, he wants them to remember that the wartime raids on Tokyo involved as many

as six hundred of the great Superforts.

From New York the B-29s will fly up the Hudson to Newburgh, then back to Newark, New Jersey, Trenton, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore and Washington.