

The American diplomatic note to Israel presents a grave view. Washington tells Tel Aviv the invasion of Egypt by Jewish forces might bring about war between Israel and Great Britain.

This is based on representations made by the British Ambassador to Washington, Sir Oliver Franks, in a talk with the American Acting-Secretary of State, Robert Lovett. The Ambassador stated that if the Israeli -- did not withdraw from Egyptian soil, the British government would in the words of the Ambassador -- "have to consider its position on its treaty of alliance with Egypt."

The meaning of which is clear enough. ~~But~~ That Anglo-Egyptian treaty provides, that, in case either country is attacked, the other will come to its assistance. An Israeli invasion of Egypt might well be construed as an attack -- hence the danger of open conflict between Great Britain and Israel.

So what does Tel Aviv have to say to that? The Jewish Foreign Office replies that the thrust

of Israeli troops into Egypt was only a part of military operations against Egyptians in Palestine - Israel having no design of acquiring Egyptian territory. Moreover, says Tel Aviv the Jewish troops have already withdrawn from Egyptian soil.

In addition to which, Israel counters with the charge that Great Britain is landing troops at the southern tip of Palestine where the Negeb borders on Egypt. This, in turn, is denied by the London government.

The war in the southern desert is hidden by a blackout of news -- censorship both at ~~the~~ Tel Aviv and in Cairo. But Egypt says ~~that~~ the biggest battle of the Palestine war is on in the Negeb. The Foreign Minister at Cairo declares ^{that} Egyptian lines in the southern desert are being assailed by the most powerful Jewish forces ~~that have been~~ ^{so far} used in the battles of Palestine, ~~thus far.~~

The Egyptians are pictured as being on the defensive, the Israelis attacking.

In Jewish quarters the word is that Israel is getting ready to declare that all Egyptian forces have been cleared from Israeli soil -- that announcement to be made to the Security Council of the U.N. when the Council meets again at Lake Success, New York, next Thursday.

CONGRESS

We hear that President Truman's message to Congress will be about as long as an average magazine short story - thirty-five hundred to four thousand words.

It will set forth what the White House calls - "the peoples mandate." The slogan sounded will be "keep faith with the voters".

All of which is praiseworthy, most laudable, not to say intricate - the Presidential promises to the voters having been both numerous and comprehensive. On the basis of those campaign pledges, that "peoples mandate" covers a lot of ground - which should provide some interesting intellectual gymnastics in the new Congress.

We hear that part of the gymnastics will be higher taxes, giving that experienced athlete, public, more exercise in digging down into his pocket.

PRESIDENT

The new Congress has quick work^{to} to do, at least on one point. The new Speaker, Sam Rayburn, says the eighty-first Congress will give the President an increase - either of salary or expense account.

But they'll have to do it in a hurry, if it is to be of any use to the Truman family. The measure will have to be passed and signed before the inauguration, *J*anuary Twentieth. Because, later than that, the hike of salary or expenses could not go into effect - not until after the new Presidential term has expired, which would benefit not Harry Truman, but his successor.


The Constitution, article *T*wo, paragraph Six, states: "The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services a compensation, which shall neither be ~~increased~~ increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected - and he shall not receive, within that period - ~~any~~ ^{any} other emolument." Very clear, that Constitution.

When he was elected to the Senate Harry Truman left Independence, Missouri, with hardly a dollar to

his name - although he had been in politics most of his life - holding office for years as a Judge on a road commission.

In Washington, he immediately ran into financial difficulty. The salary of a Senator was Ten Thousand Dollars a year, two hundred dollars a week - and a Senator has considerable expense to meet. Senator Truman eked out the financial stringency in the familiar way. He was entitled to have ^a Secretary at Thirty-five Hundred Dollars a year. So he gave the job ^{to} ~~at~~ his wife, Mrs. Bess Truman - keeping it in the family - that extra seventy bucks a week.

Then he became Vice President and was suddenly plummeted into the White House. A long-time friend says he doubts that Harry Truman had more than a thousand dollars in cash when he succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt as the head of the government of the most powerful nation on earth.



His financial condition so very different from that of F.D.R., a millionaire - who could pay deficits at the White House out of his independent fortune. Franklin D. Roosevelt could afford to be President. But Harry Truman was up against it. So, the first thing he did was to call in an old Missouri friend George Allen, and ask him to find ways of cutting White House expenses - so the Trumans could make ends meet. George Allen, although a good business man, found himself up against a financial problem to baffle J. P. Morgan -- or his present day successor, young Tom Lamont!

The President gets seventy-five thousand dollars a year, minus the usual income tax for the higher brackets. That tax comes to about thirty-seven thousand, in addition to which Harry Truman has to pay a Missouri state income tax of about a thousand a year. Which leaves him about thirty-seven thousand.

Out of this he must pay the food bill at the White House - for his own family and twenty-five

servants, not to mention personal guests. If an official guest comes to dinner, like the President of Cuba, that can be charged off on the White House expense account. But it comes out of the Truman salary if the dinner guests happen to be old timers of Battery D - Conrades-in-Arms in the First World War.

Moreover, the President has to pay some of the salaries at the White House, the wages of the help. The cooks, for example. The government pays for White House servants of various kinds - but not the cooks. Somehow, the idea seems to be that the President doesn't eat, or maybe the First Lady of the Land should get into the kitchen, poke her head into the oven, and baste the roast.

On top of it all, the President must give money to a number of charitable organizations and make contributions to the Democratic Party.

He has an expense account of forty-thousand dollars a year, which sounds large. But that has to cover all those official receptions - like the one for

the diplomatic corps, at which a thousand foreign dignitaries have to be entertained. Also, the reception for the press, when some two thousand guests of journalists are likely to show up.

Such were the facts that confronted George Allen, the Presidential friend who undertook to scale down expenses. He trimmed the figures in every possible way. But, when he was through, all he could show was a net of forty-two hundred dollars a year. Out of that, the President had to pay his family expenses: His own clothes - and we can't have a shabby President. Dresses for the first Lady of the Land, and also for Daughter Margaret; and our national dignity prevents them from wearing a three ninety-five mark-down from a department store basement.

Other items include, insurance, and keeping up the Truman family home at Independence, Missouri - all out of forty-two hundred dollars a year, about eighty bucks a week.

Such were the financial facts of life that confronted Harry Truman, when he became President. But after a while, he did get some relief, Congress cut taxes; that same eightieth Congress against which Candidate Truman thundered with such fury in order to get himself elected. He vetoed the tax cut, which Congress passed over the veto -- and saved the President some ten thousand dollars a year. Which helped a lot.

But now the Truman policy may include a boost of income tax. Which would leave the White House finances just where they were before.

So, you see the situation, as Congress prepares to act - in a hurry. They will try to do something to enable the President of the United States to make ends meet, and even save a little money - that President who directs the spending of billions and billions of dollars.

WEATHER

Now for some freakish news, ~~ix~~ weird and peculiar - the weather. On the Pacific Coast - the coldest on record. Los Angeles today reported a temperature below twenty-eight, more than four degrees below freezing. Which would be balmy in a lot of places, this time of the year - but it's the coldest Los Angeles has ever had.

The previous record was in January of Nineteen Thirteen when the ~~thaxum~~ thermometer sank to twenty-eight and four-tenths. That became a legend in Southern California, "the year of the big freeze". Today it was half a degree colder - which I suppose will create legends of "the year of the bitter frost".

In the great areas of citrus groves, heavy damage. In the orange Country the temperature fell as low as eighteen degrees, with citrus farmers making frantic efforts to save the crop. They do it with smoke pots. And, today, the smoke from the pots was so great that in ~~the~~ orange ~~the~~ growing communities the visibility was measured in feet, not miles.

A howling blizzard is raging in Colorado and Wyoming, with snow and gale lashing northwestward, heading toward Minnesota. Today Cheyenne, Wyoming was virtually isolated for the second day in a row. Transportation tied up far and wide. The Chicago and Northwestern reports that twenty-two of its crack streamliners and fast passenger express trains are stranded - with seventy-seven hundred passengers aboard. No hardship, because the trains are snowbound near towns. Motor traffic is stalled all over the place and in Denver today an Air Force transport, a C-forty-seven, took off to drop blankets and food to blizzard-bound people in automobiles and buses.

The blizzard, sweeping the north of the Mississippi Valley, threatens to have repercussions to the south - tornado repercussions. Weather experts today explained that the stormy cold, reacting with the warmer southern atmosphere, is likely to set the air whirling. Yesterday, a tornado devastated Warren, Arkansas and today the warning is - more twisters may strike in the south.

MRS. KOSENKINA

The Russian school teacher, Mrs. Kosenkina, was received into the Greek Catholic Church today. The woman who jumped from a third story window, escaping from the Soviet Consulate in New York, has completed her revolt against the doctrines of Communism by embracing Christianity officially. The Greek Catholic Church, also known as Ukranian, is an offshoot of the ancient Church of Rome -- with a ritual in Slavic, not Latin.

BLUEBEARD

In Tennessee, the authorities are investigating what the news is calling - the Bluebeard-Lady case.

This concerns a small, grey haired, middle-aged woman, mild looking and bespectcled - who is said to have had six ~~hus~~ husbands. Which makes her name, Mrs. Alma Herring Cook Calvert Cox McClavy Theede Gill.

Three of the six husbands are said to have died violent deaths, and a fourth divorced her, for threatening to kill him.

Husband number two was shot to death - and she did it, but was set free on grounds of justifiable homicide.

Husband number four ~~was~~ was shot by a boarder. The lady was implicated, and ~~was~~ sent to prison.

Husband number five was the one who departed from the marriage, charging murderous threats.

Husband number six ~~has just been found, shot~~ has just been found, shot to death on a lonely road outside of Memphis.

The police are investigating to find out what happened to husbands one and three - in what they are calling the Bluebeard-lady case.

CRIMES

At this point, I think we should heave a sigh of sympathy for a crook in Memphis, Tennessee, a thieving rogue, guilty of a sneaky crime.

Today the Travelers Indemnity Company, which sells insurance against robbery, released a batch of sad stories for nineteen Forty-Eight, melancholy misadventures of unfortunate burglars. For example, there was the one that robbed a doctor, in Los Angeles. Breaking into the physician's office when the doctor was not there, he climbed through a transom, took a fall, and cut himself so badly he had to phone the doctor to patch him up. This the Doc did -- arriving with the police.

But the real sad story tells of the sneak thief at Memphis, Tennessee, who robbed a clergyman, a minister of the gospel. He broke into the Reverend's automobile, and got away with a brief case. But when he examined the loot, he found the brief case contained a three year supply of - sermons.

I [^]~~should~~ like to have seen the face of that crook when he took a look at the pious preachings.

Maybe he read the sermons, became converted, and mended his ways. Or most likely, he uttered words that no preacher ever used.

And now, Nelson, will you utter some appropriate words.