

WASHINGTON

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, Feb. 8, 1946.

A trip to Florida doesn't seem to be such a momentous thing -- judging by the swarms of visitors flocking down this way to ~~sitting~~ winter warm weather. And simply cancelling a trip to Florida might merely seem something to *relieve* the congestion. However it is President Truman who has changed his plan, and Presidential moves are likely to mean something -- like the weathervane on top of the steeple. We only need ~~know~~ note that yesterday the optimism about the strike crisis was promoted by the fact that the President said -- yes, he was going to Florida. The schedule ~~of~~ for his vacation trip had not been changed. But all that was reversed today -- by the White House announcement! -- "Florida trip cancelled." And the explanation was given -- "because of the immediate critical situation". The strike situation, of course.

President Truman stated that he hoped to announce a new wage-price policy today or tomorrow -- after which he could leave Washington. And it was noted

today that the cancellation of his trip came right after the conversation that he had with Price Administrator Chester Bowles. This is accompanied by reports that Bowles is in disagreement with reconversion Director Snyder -- on the subject of a wage ~~high~~-price policy. It has been made clear that on this policy depends the settlement of the steel strike -- price increases to offset wage increases. And, if the wage-price thing is being held up, it looks as if the settlement of the steel strike would be held up -- and other strikes too.

So there is an abrupt change of mood in Washington. Yesterday's optimism succeeded by pessimism today. Speaking of the calling off of the President's trip to Florida, the speaker of the Lower House, Sam Rayburn states:- "The cancellation comes as a disappointment to me. I had hoped that by today they'd settle these strikes. But now, "he adds, "It doesn't look like it! -- not immediately.

However, the United Press ~~is~~ quotes another government official who says he understands a ~~ix~~ wage-price agreement for strike ~~attlement~~ has been reached -- almost complete in written form. He says he is puzzled by the President's cancellation of the Florida vacation.

TRUMAN

President Truman has cancelled his trip to Florida. He was to have had a few days in the southern sunshine -- but that's off. The President cannot ~~must~~ leave Washington because of what the White House calls -- "the immediate critical situation" -- meaning in particular - the matter of wage-price policy and the strikes.

*And now* About the Presidential trip from Chicago to New York -- Airline officials in the Windy City hopped to ~~at~~ attention when they got a phone call reserving a seat in the plane for President Truman. Senator Murphy called, and made the reservation, and so the seat was held. A sailor finally got it, and flew to New York in place of the President.

Apparently the air line officials were not

well enough informed about the government of their

country *to know* ~~as~~ whether or not there was ~~or was not~~ a

Senator Murphy. By the way -- is there? It's hard

to keep track of all those legislators. *Yes, it was* ~~anyway, the~~

*just a practical joke. Those* ~~airline officials were hiding their red faces today~~

~~after the practical joke was played on them. These~~  
pranksters are an incurable lot, and that's the latest  
along their line of humor -- Senator Murphy reserving  
a plane seat for the President. Well, anyway, it was  
a break for Sailor Norman Sherman, who was on his way  
to Norfolk to be discharged from the Navy. He happened  
to be on the spot to be picked to ride in Presidential  
style.

U N O

They marked time in London today -- at the U N O. The Security Council is brooding over that bouquet of thorns handed to it yesterday -- the new Soviet charge against Great Britain, the accusation that the hostilities between the British and the Indonesians constitute a violation of the charter of the U N O and a menace to the peace of the world. The Council is trying to figure out what to do about that one -- a task the more urgent ~~was~~ because time is short. <sup>TP</sup> We hear that every branch of the U N O session in London is getting busy to wind up its work -- in the hope the session may be over early next week. The delegates hope to adjourn -- Tuesday night.

There is one piece of business that may be put off until the next session - September. That's the question of a permanent site -- so much talked about. The French delegation today proposed that no action be taken ~~a~~ the recommendation that the United Nations organisation make its home in the Stamford-

Greenwich area. The French claim the problem is too much to be handled during the remaining few days of the present session. So put it off until the next one - September.

MOSCOW

In Moscow today a statement widely quoted was made by Kaganovich. ~~Has~~ never heard of him? Neither did most of us. But Lazar Kaganovich is an important member of Stalin's inner circle, the group that really rules the vast land of the Soviets. Kaganovich, in an address, declared that, after victory in the war, the Soviets ~~must be~~ <sup>must be</sup> more vigilant than ever. Because, said he, Soviet Russia is encircled by capitalist nations. And still another member of the inner circle at Moscow called for an increase of Soviet ~~is~~ military power. "We must always remember" said he, "that our friends will respect us, so long as we remain powerful. That is why, in order to consolidate our victory", he went on, "we must first of all strengthen the socialist state and the glorious Red Army".

These are interesting to pass along, as ~~and~~ intimations of the policy of Soviet Russia.



## YAMASHITA

Once again -- the ~~is~~ doom of Yamashita.

The defense of the Jap General convicted of atrocities in the Philippines, was allowed to take its case all the way to the President of the United States. After General MacArthur yesterday had ordered the execution of the sentence of hanging, the War Department in Washington countermanded this -- until an appeal could be made to President Truman, a plea~~ant~~ for clemency. And now the War Department announces -- the President has decided to take no action in the case of Yamashita, condemned for responsibility in some of the most horrible crimes of the war.

# NUREMBERG

We have heard much about the enormous  
havoc of the war in Russia -- and today figures  
were given. At the Nuremberg tribunal, the Soviet  
prosecutor stated that in Russia the Germans destroyed  
property <sup>worth</sup> in excess of one hundred ~~thick~~ billion dollars.  
~~worth~~ <sup>By</sup> leveling <sup>ing</sup> a whole series of towns and  
destroyed <sup>ing</sup> the homes of twenty five million people.

## BOMB

We have had occasion to note that in London Buckingham Palace and the meeting place of the U N O *have been* ~~are~~ in danger from an unexploded German bomb -- if it should blow up. Well, today it did blow up. A huge blockbuster dropped by the Nazis in the great blitz. Buried deep in the bed of a duck pond at St. James's park it defied the efforts of British demolition experts ~~in~~ who dug a shaft down to the bomb and tried to make it harmless. Their efforts were useless, and they had to dispose of the bomb by blowing it up. This they did -- with elaborate precautions. The whole thing was carefully planned and controlled, with ample protection provided. So today, the bomb *pond in the center of London,* buried in the ~~first pond~~ exploded with a roar. *and* The blast did no more damage than to rattle the windows of Buckingham Palace, the meeting place of the U N O, and also the House of Commons.

## HOUSING

A congressional committee has put its okay on the Patman Housing Bill. This is a measure designed to deal with the shortage of dwellings. The bill calls for a price ceiling on new homes -- the committee having decided not to put price ceilings on existing dwellings. That is, a ~~limit~~ limitation of prices to be charged for houses that are to be constructed, but no limitation on ~~prices~~ places already built. The new measure likewise calls for the establishment of an office of housing stabilization, run by a Director of Housing. All of which amounts to a copious -- a full house, as you might say.

ALLEN

The Senate Banking Committee has put its okay on George Allen, as the new Director of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The Allen appointment, is one of two made ~~made~~ recently by President Truman. Both the subject of consideration <sup>ble</sup> controversy. George Allen, named to run the R F C, is described as a jovial southerner, a man of jokes and smiles -- a favorite presidential companion. Harry Truman likes a joke, and George is ~~at~~ adept at providing it -- being in addition an experienced insurance man, which provides the business background for running the R F C.

~~The other Presidential ~~man~~ appointment was that of Edwin Pauley, the California oil man named as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Pauley has promised a full answer to the charges made by Secretary of the Interior Ickes -- a cabinet member blasting a presidential appointment. But then Ickes always was original. He told a senate committee that Pauley proposed three hundred thousand dollars in contribution to the democratic party fund, -- in an~~

## WALLACE

Something of a political storm has been aroused by Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace, <sup>who</sup> ~~he~~ has announced his support of a candidate in a congressional election in New York. The Secretary of Commerce in the democratic administration, and former Vice President to President Roosevelt might be expected to come to the aid of a Democrat. Not at all -- nor ~~to~~ a Republican either. The candidate who gets the Wallace nod is running on the American Labor Party ticket -- and against a regular Democrat.

Who is he? Well, the radio waves of this news program should quiver proudly while giving the reply. He's a radio news commentator -- my New York colleague, Johannes Steel. Today's news dispatch states "Steel's political views are generally considered definitely left wing". Well, I'm not such an expert on political views - left <sup>w</sup>ing, right wing -- red or white, or even blue. But, if my old pal Johannes ~~Steel~~ were to ~~play a game of baseball, I know which side~~ <sup>play as an outfielder in baseball</sup> ~~hold up. The fans would rail - southern~~ <sup>there's no doubt but what he'd play</sup> a little to the left of center with apologies to John Vandercook.

## FILIBUSTER

From Washington the word is -- the end of the filibuster, ~~That is -- the end of the millions of words in~~ the southern effort to kill the F E P C ~~by~~ by talking it to death. The purpose of that Fair Employment Practices Commission, ~~is of course~~ to stop discrimination in the giving of jobs, -- and the South, with its race problem, ~~is~~ <sup>has been</sup> against <sup>it.</sup> ~~such legislation.~~

In the Senate the F E P C could have been passed by a majority. So, the law makers from Dixie resorted to the old practice of filibustering; <sup>keep</sup> ~~according to~~ ~~the parliamentary rules of the Senate,~~ they would keep on ~~be~~ debating one thing or another, never let the F E P C come to a vote. ~~That is -- not as long as their lungs hold out. So the F-E-P-C appears to have been talked to death.~~ In that way they would use their ever lasting debate, tie up all Senate business -- until their opponents were worn out. And so the F E P C appears to have been talked to death.

*Now* A settlement has been made whereby there is to be a vote of clothure. That is, to close the

debate. If a vote of clothure fails, the advocates of the F E P C have agreed to let the matter drop -- so as to get on with Senate business. And the Southern Senators know that a clothure vote <sup>will fail.</sup> ~~cannot be had.~~ It takes a two thirds majority, and this cannot be obtained.

The whole thing has been one of those Alice in Wonderland affairs -- as a filibuster is likely to be. It began on January 17, more than three weeks ago, when a bill ~~to put through~~ <sup>for</sup> the F E P C was introduced. The southerners ~~promptly~~ promptly used a technicality to start a debate -- and don't think they didn't have a prayer. They did. They moved to insert a prayer in the Congressional Record, and started <sup>a debate on that</sup> ~~in talking to give reasons for that prayer procedure. In the Senate there were speeches day after day. Technically on the subject of the the prayer.~~ After a week of ~~talk~~ <sup>talk,</sup> the prayer was duly inserted -- but the Dixie land debators immediately came forward with a proposal to put something else in the Congressional Record. That is, the names of the



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Senators who failed to answer the roll call on the subject of the prayer. The question of the names was an excuse for two weeks more of debate.

The Senate has got itself into such a snarl that the lawmakers have got to take back all the motions. Senator Berkley withdrew his motion to close the debate. And then the motion to insert names in the Congressional Record was taken back -- by Senator Hoey of South Carolina.

All that remains is to hold a new clothure vote -- which is certain to fail to pass. It was scheduled for one P.M. tomorrow. But that has been delayed -- though not by a filibuster. The reason this time is -- marriage. I don't suppose you could call marriage a filibuster, although more than one husband has cried -- "she's talking me to death."

The original proponent of the F E P C was Senator Chave<sup>z</sup> of New Mexico, and his daughter is getting married tomorrow <sup>at noon.</sup> ~~the time being around one o'clock.~~ The Senator wants to be at the clothure vote, ~~business~~ but he <sup>also</sup> wants to be present at his daughter's wedding - father's duty being to give daughter away. So the ~~clothure~~ vote, which will terminate the filibuster, will be held at four o'clock, also ending the consideration of the F E P C;--  
finally ending plenty of conversation.

1/2 And now to finally end this conversation will switch to N.Y. for my s-l-u-Monday. So  
Back to you Hugh.