

TRUMAN

L.J. - P. & S. Friday, Jan. 6, 1950. (Coke Placid)

The Presidential economic report was a sunburst of optimism today. It expanded a picture of probable business expansion that would bring our national production up to a rate of three hundred billion dollars a year - this country turning out that much goods. Last year it was two hundred and fifty-nine billion. ^R So the President foresees an increase of more than fifteen percent. Which would add a thousand dollars a year to the average income of the American family. - All that in five years. ^R As for this coming year, the President looks forward to increasing prosperity for at least the first half - although he thinks we may have another moderate recession in the second half. Something like the recession of last summer. ^R But what about taxes? That question of such universal interest is to be taken up in the budget message on Monday, the President today ~~confining~~ ^(confining) himself to hints.

He says his tax proposal will be aimed

at what he called "stimulating business activity".

In the state of the nation report on Wednesday, the President spoke of a "moderate" tax increase.

So how does that jibe with the notion of stimulating business?

We'll have to wait and see what the big idea may be; - but it's likely to have something to do with cuts of war-time excise taxes, such as levies on luxuries which are still in force. There's much talk of that - together with suggestions that the President will want cuts in that direction to be balanced ~~gx~~ by some tax increase elsewhere. Taking it out of corporations and higher incomes.

CHINA

The Chief of the Red Regime in China, Chou En-Lai, broadcast a message today to the diplomatic staffs of nationalist China throughout the world. The Communist boss told those envoys, appointed by the anti-Communist government, to stay at their posts when and if the countries in which they are stationed recognize Red China. It remains to be seen how many nationalist diplomats will stay on - as envoys of the Communists.

Chou En-Lai clearly expects a wave of recognition's -- following the action of Great Britain, which was announced formally today, as expected. France and Italy say they will not recognize the Reds, until the United States does. Which will not be for some time. ■■ But other countries promptly followed the British lead - Norway, Ceylon, followed by Denmark and Sweden, probably. ^RThe Nationalists of Formosa are hit hard by the British announcement today - as they were yesterday. Also, by President Truman's declaration

that they will get no American aid. Both blows weaken their position with their own Chinese following, and with the natives of the island who include primitive tribes. Today Formosan leaders were speaking of a possible revolt, complaining ~~emphatically~~ about suppression imposed by the Nationalists. These leaders are advocates of the independence of Formosa.

SUB ADD CHINA

The swift movement of events has produced a strange situation in the United Nations. China has a permanent seat on the Security Council. The Presidency of which is rotated -- first one country getting it and then another. As it happens, China comes next -- the Chinese delegate scheduled to preside over the forthcoming session of the Security Council.

He is a nationalist representative, of course, although you can't tell what countries on the Security Council will still be recognizing the nationalist regime, when the new session comes around. Tonight, the nationalist delegate took the bull by the horns, and issued the summons for the Security Council -- acting in advance as the President of the next session. In this way, he anticipated the possibility that, in a rush of recognition he himself might cease to be regarded as a representative of China.

MALAYA

At Singapore, they've held a trial of the assassins of the Governor of Sarawak, and sentence was imposed today. Prominent in the evidence was a ~~XXXXXXXX~~ description of a ceremony, a ritual of initiation - whereby members were taken into a secret society of political assassination. The Governor General was murdered by two young Malays, who had taken the oath in that league of Asiatic terrorism.

Sarawak is the legendary principality which for generations was an independent state, ruled by - a white Rajah. Its royal family - descendants of a British sailor named Brooke, who in early days became the sovereign of the Malay tribes of Sarawak. Rajah Brooke - as he and his successors were called. ^{TR} Recently, _A though, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke turned the rule of Sarawak over to the British government, which sent out an administrator, Duncan Stewart as Governor of Sarawak. He was taking office when he was stabbed by the two assassins.

Today in the trial at Singapore, they were sentenced to death, after a ~~xx~~ full confession. They told how the murder was ordered by conspirators pledged to bring about the assassination of British officials in Sarawak, and how they were named to commit the crime. Becoming members of that Borneo secret society, they had taken an oath to sacrifice themselves, if called upon to do so.

Imagination summons visions immediately of some fantastic ritual of the Orient. Some weird initiation - grotesque, exotic oath - taking. But the Malays are Moslems, fanatical Mohammedans, and the ways of Islam can be simple and austere.

In the courtroom at Singapore, the two Malays told how the ceremony was enacted. On a table lay the Koran, the Bible of the Moslems. In front of the book stood a glass of water - Islam being a creed of water drinking, ~~xxxx~~ wine forbidden. Each candidate spoke the words of the murderous pledge - then sealed it by drinking

the glass of water sanctified by the Koran. No
fantastic ritual of the exotic Orient - but
deadly just the same.

MARAGON

There was a slip of speech in Washington today - when John Maragon faced the court, and was ordered to go to trial on February Twentieth. Maragon - the Greek-American featured in last year's investigation of the salesmen of influence, the five percenters! Now-indicted on a charge of having committed perjury in that investigation. Headlined as a friend of ~~the~~ White House military aide, General Vaughn, the alleged salesman of influence is known to be a fast talker, saying the smart thing, with a ready gift of speech. But today he said the wrong thing - in ~~an~~ a slip of speech. I've made a few of those things myself, and I can sympathize.

Today, as John Maragon faced the tribunal of justice, the clerk of the court asked the formal question - how do you plead? To which Maragon replied "guilty". Then he corrected that quickly - you know the way you do when you say the wrong thing. He stammered: "I mean - not guilty".

Well, it can happen, not only in the best regulated families, but also in the best regulated radio broadcasts.

HISS

In the trial of Alger Hiss, a psychiatrist today described Whittaker Chambers in these words: "A psychopathic personality; ~~and~~ under the influence of certain imaginings and fantasies."

At the previous trial, the psychiatrist was not permitted to testify as a witness for the defense - but now it is different. The prosecution having presented its own evidence partly in the form of documents like the Pumpkin papers - ~~xx~~

The defense tries to prove that the accused, Whittaker Chambers, merely dreamed up the story of how Alger Hiss, while a prominent official at the State Department, worked for Soviet espionage.

Today Dr. Carl Binger of the Cornell Medical School told the jury that Chambers displays twelve definite symptoms of mental illness - indicating that he has lived a life of illusions and falsehood - reality all mixed up with fantasy and lies. The prosecution protested vigorously,

but the Judge permitted the Cornell psychiatrist
to testify at long length.

WHITE HOUSE

A curious discovery was made today at the White House - where ^{that} a big renovating job is going on. Workers were fixing the floor in the entrance hall of the Presidential Mansion by replacing marble slabs. One of the slabs bore a marking which for years has been pointed out to visitors. It reads: Seventeen Ninety-two -- Nineteen oh Two. The figures - surrounded by bronze stars. Seventeen Nine-two was the year the White House was built - Nineteen Two, the last time it was renovated and repaired. ^{TR} So today that slab was removed, and the discovery that followed makes it worthwhile to commemorate the name of the discoverers, marble ^(setter) ~~setter~~ R. J. Murphy, and his assistant, Lawrence McIver. When they lifted up the slab with the memorial dates, they saw a box - a handsome marble box hidden under the floor of the White House entrance. Nobody ever suspected any such thing - a kind of unofficial corner-stone most unofficial.

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When the box was opened, the following articles were found inside: "two newspapers, several business cards, two notes, some small coins, a whiskey label and a whiskey bottle." Which certainly was a surprising ~~xxxxxx~~ revelation.

The inside of the box was marked with ~~a~~ the ~~xxxxxx~~ date December Second, Nineteen Two - that, and the names of W. S. Parker, a White House guard, and Ike Hoover, the famous White House usher, who died about a year ago.

The two newspapers were the Washington Star and The Old Washington Times - each featuring accounts of a message to Congress by President Theodore Roosevelt in Nineteen Two. One of the business cards was that of John Keim Stauffer, long time White House correspondent for The old Washington Times. (The messages were written on letter-heads of a ~~xx~~ New York construction firm, which handled the White House construction job in Nineteen Two - ~~xxxxxx~~ one of them signed by the construction ~~xxxx~~ superintendent, who identified

himself as a great grandson of Peter Lenox, White House superintendent from Seventeen Ninety-three to Eighteen-thirty. The small coins were put in for luck, apparently.) The whiskey label was

that of a well known brand of Baltimore rye; ^{that is,} ~~well~~ ^{well known to some people - not well known to me,} On the whiskey bottle was pasted a message with the name of a construction employee, who laid the floor slab with the dates.

Well, it all points to ^(some) ~~the~~ sort of celebration, forty-eight years ago - a celebration headed by a newspaper man and by that renowned old time White House personality, Ike Hoover. No doubt the occasion was ~~the~~ worth commemorating with a sort of impromptu cornerstone - though they might have left the whiskey, that Baltimore rye, out of their memento under the slab with the dates, ^{there} in the entrance hall of the White House.

WEATHER

The floods in the midlwwest have sent one particular community of thirty-five families fleeing from their homes to high ground. They are the people from Soup-Bone Hollow, in Indiana, where Feather Creek is overflowing its banks.

These thirty-five families are used to it. Nearly every year Feather Creek washes them out of Soup Bone Hollow. But the bottom land is fine farming, and they stick it out. Tonight a Red Cross official said: "they are taking care of their own problems. They are used to it."

BIRDS

From Oklahoma City - a strange story of the saving of the birds. Rangers of the game service went to the rescue of a flock of blackbirds, in an ~~xxx~~ episode that probably could only have happened in the southwest, ~~where~~ they have - the norther.

Night before last I told how, in the freaks of weather this country has been having, a norther hit the southwest, an icy wind howling down from the Canadian Arctic, and warm weather turns^{ed} to bitter cold so suddenly that it was like a nightmare of falling temperatures. That's what struck the blackbirds.

A hundred and twenty-five of the handsome feathered fliers, raven black with red ~~xxx~~ wings, ~~xx~~ were on their annual migration south. They landed on a shore of Lake Oberholser - to tarry there a while, it was so warm. The birds were on the bank, busily feeding on the seeds of grass and weeds, when the icy wind blew suddenly. It was what

they call a blue norther. The worst kind, with the most abrupt fall of temperature.

In a minute, the lake was lashing with waves, and spray was hurled over the blackbirds on the bank - spray that immediately froze. Before the birds could take off, they had ice on their wings, a frozen coat thick enough to pin the whole flock to the ground. The blackbirds were helpless. More spray flew over them, turning into ice, and they were frozen in - until they were like lumps of ice, with beaks and eyes' left sticking out.

Attempts were made to save them - by throwing salt to melt the ice. But it didn't work. So today the rangers of the Game Service were on with ice picks. (They chipped the birds free - the job - one by one) Some were frozen to death, but most were alive. In an hour or so, twenty five or thirty were chipped loose by the ice picks - and away they went winging south, where it ^{is} warmer. Some fifty others were too cold to make it, and they were taken by the rangers to the city garage to thaw out. Then they too went winging South - in the direction of Mexico.

SHOW GIRL

In a New York traffic court today appeared a beautiful show girl from Hollywood named Cara Williams - and she had three tickets in her hand, The Judge seemed to be a bit shocked by three traffic violations all at one time. But Miss Williams reassured him.

"Oh" she exclaimed. "I have Nineteen more tickets at home."

The astonished judge stared at her and said: "I think you want to go to jail".

Oh no she cried, "I don't. Jail clothes don't look well on me. I don't photograph well in ~~xxx~~ jail clothes." The bewildered magistrate fined her seven dollars for the three tickets in her hand - after which she paid one hundred and ninety-five dollars for the other nineteen traffic violations. Just Hollywood in New York,

Nelson.

ADD WEATHER

I wonder if the Norwegian ski team brought the snow? The Norwegians are supposed to have special influence with Ulla, the Norse King of Winter. At any rate, after waiting ~~xx~~ for all these weeks, lo and behold the snow arrived on the wings of the wind, ~~at the same time~~ ^{the same wind} that brought the Norwegian champs ~~to fly in~~ ^{winging} across the Atlantic. Their first appearance will be ~~in~~ ^{at} a big ~~xxx~~ meet at Salisbury, Connecticut, ^{day} Sunday, ~~after~~ tomorrow. ~~and~~ The folks in Salisbury early this week ~~xx~~ were developing a fine case of jitters. No snow on their ^{big} rebuilt jump, ^{and} the world ~~to xxx~~ champs arriving. ~~and~~ The Salisburyites had decided to go ahead ~~xxxx~~ anyhow even if it meant paying everything to pay for crushed ice. ^{They were starting to put artificial ice} But the snow has come, and Lake Placid, Stowe, North Conway, Mont Tremblant, Franconia, Mad River and all the other ski places, as well as Salisbury, are rejoicing -- despite the fact that millions have already been lost, ~~xxx~~ in the north country, because of the Christmas-New Year thaw.

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 (11)
 Feb. Start the Lake Placid Olymp. start, tells me this is the first time
 the side trail to Lake Placid is free. Big Lake Placid ice free. Jim's
 first from the start.

on their hill today.