

TRUMAN

L.J. - P. & G. Monday, Nov. 17, 1947.

( President Truman surprised the political prophets today. By devoting most of his message to Congress to a request for a revival of controls in the U.S.A.) The prediction was that his address would deal almost entirely with help for Europe, emergency aid, and the Marshall Plan.

The President did begin with the emergency appeal. He pointed out that the nature of the free nations of the world hangs in the balance; with the future of our own economy in jeopardy. He said Austria, France and Italy have almost exhausted their financial resources and must be helped if they are to survive the coming winter without the disintegration of their political and ~~xxx~~ economic system. He pointed out further that the peoples of those countries are in a ~~xx~~ dangerously weakened condition, having suffered years of short rations. That they need more medical supplies, and various other things urgently.

As foreshadowed, Mr. Truman asked forty-

two million dollars for Austria, two-hundred-and-twenty-seven millions for Italy, two-hundred-and-twenty-eight millions for France. And he added that more funds will also be needed to maintain our position in occupied areas. That point skimmed over lightly; but what it amounted to was that we'll have to spend more money to maintain our armies of occupation.

The President ~~him~~ then went on to say that he will send his Marshall Plan recommendations in detail later.

The best way to prevent future wars, he said, is to work for the independence and well being of all nations. That we already have done a lot in that direction, but that our efforts have been blocked by unforeseen and unwelcomed obstacles. He referred with diplomatic politeness to the obstructionist actions of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party in Western countries in the following words: "We have found that not all nations seem to share our aims or approve our methods."



Which is putting it mildly.

"We regret the differences which have arisen and the criticism so loudly expressed," he went on, "but we cannot afford and we do not intend to let current differences hamper our efforts to cooperate in friendly fashion and help the nations who like us want freedom, peace and world stability".

---0---

In the matter of controls, here at home the President today reversed himself. For only last month he declared positively that controls were only for a police state, not for democracy. Today he pointed to the threat of inflation. Pointing to fuel, for instance -- up thirteen percent; clothing up nineteen percent; retail foods forty percent. With the average of all cost-of-living items up twenty-three percent. The housewife shopping for food today finding a ten dollar bill worth only seven in terms of eighteen months ago.

( He said that in the past four months the

cost of living has risen at the rate of sixteen percent a year.) With wholesale textile prices up thirty-two percent in fifteen months, metals thirty-six percent, building materials forty-two percent.

What seems to concern the President still more is the terrific increase of consumer credit. That if credit expands still further, it gives people more money to use in pushing up prices. Therefore he asks Congress to restore credit controls; put a brake on installment buying.

He also would restrain inflationary bank credit. And he asks Congress to pass a law to prevent excessive speculation on commodity exchanges such as the wheat pit.

He also spoke of wanting to encourage more savings, greater efforts by the Treasury to sell bonds to stimulate the saving of money instead of the spending of it.

(And then he took up the problem of rationing and price control. He told the assembled Senators and Representatives that he wants controls



first on basic materials, grain, which he says is too precious to be fed to livestock, and steel, which is too ~~scarce~~ scarce to be used for ~~the~~ purposes that are non-essential. He advocates that the government have authority to allocate scarce commodities and have inventory-control-powers; meaning the restoration of priorities.

Export control should be continued and strengthened, said he. Shipments to be made where they are needed most. And, ways found to prevent ~~the~~ profiteering in exports.

---0---

The President referred to the prophecies of the meat experts that there will be less grain and less meat next year, than this. Therefore, he asks Congress for a ~~third~~ third group of controls. Price ceilings on vital commodities; food, clothing, fuel rent. He explained that he doesn't ask the <sup>lawmakers</sup> ~~lawmakers~~ to revive all the old-time rigors of ~~the~~ O.P.A. That price ceilings should not be imposed on all the items

he mentioned. That they should not be necessary for staple articles of food and ~~six~~ clothing of which there is an ample supply, nor for delicacies and luxuries. As he put it, he wants to ~~re~~ wation the basic things that will help bring down the cost of living.

(What about wage controls? He says that if the government imposes price ceilings, it must have the power to prevent wage increasss which would make it impossible to maintain price ceilings.) The cost of living must be brought, and held, in reasonable relationship to the incomes of the people.

---0---

The President then went on to deal with agriculture. We shall need, said he, programs to increase the use of farm products by industry and consumers, <sup>when</sup> ~~then~~ other countries become more nearly self sufficient! So, he wants measures to enable the Department of Agriculture to expand its conservation program.



REACTION

*Reaction to*  
The reception of President Truman's  
message <sup>will</sup> give <sup>an</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>pretty fair</sup> inkling <sup>of whether</sup> ~~that~~ this is going  
to be a stormy special session. <sup>What is</sup> The reaction? ~~was~~ Well, it's  
remarkable, not so much for Republican resentment of  
the price control suggestion, <sup>as far</sup> ~~but for~~ the number of  
influential ~~&~~ Democrats who <sup>are taking</sup> ~~took~~ a dim view of the return  
of O.P.A. ~~Of course, the flamboyant~~ <sup>old</sup> ~~new~~ dealers, like  
Pepper of Florida, are for it all the way. But,  
Senator Thomas of Oklahoma thinks the administration will  
have a hard job convincing the people that they will get  
rid of economic controls if they bring them back now.  
Even the Democrats who did not criticize the control  
proposal, expressed themselves with extreme caution,  
such as Texas Tom Connally, who said they will require  
considerable time and attention by congress before the  
problems can be solved.

Senator Taft of Ohio reserved his comments

He will make them tonight in a radio speech nationwide,  
*at 10:00 o'clock.*

But his campaign manager, Representative ~~Fix~~

*Ch*arence Brown, ~~says that~~ the Democrats ~~had~~ got us into

this mess and he doubted<sup>s</sup> whether they can get us out of it. ~~Representative~~<sup>R</sup> Halleck of Indiana, ~~the~~ Republican floor leader, said the President ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> making use of the world crisis to get the people in the United States to give up a large measure of their freedom. Our experience with O.P.A. he added<sup>s</sup>, showed us that control ~~is~~ leads to scarcity.

Senator Ball of Minnesota said the message contained no news ~~for~~ for him, since he read the whole program last week in the official publication of the C.I.O. In other words<sup>that</sup> the whole country is asked to subject itself to the ideas of one group of labor unions. In the President's own state, Senator Ken described the message as the same old political bag of tricks.

But all the lawmakers, Republican as well as Democratic, seem to be agreed on giving Mr. Truman what he asks in the way of emergency aid for Europe.

for The Marshall Plan, that's a different story. Most of them ~~are speaking of that~~ look at it with caution and reserve.



## EUROPE

It Italy rioting promoted and led by Communists, was spreading all through Lombardy, the Piedmont, and other busy industrial regions of the Peninsula. The worst of the violence occurred in Milan, but the De Gasperi government moved thousands of troops and police into the city. Each party headquarters and each newspaper office was surrounded by thick cordons of police, and troops protected police headquarters and public buildings. Premier De Gasperi denounced the Communists as raising the specter of Civil War, and he warned the Reds that he will give them the same kind of fight that he would give to any Fascist movement which attempted to overthrow the government by what he described as "squad action".

In Paris, there was an uproarious scene at the meeting of the city council, when the brother of General Charles DeGaulle was elected <sup>President of</sup> ~~President of~~ that body. Pierre DeGaulle won by a two-to-one vote to the music of the screams of the Communist councilmen, who yelled insults, hooted, ~~hissed~~ banged on desks, and

finally walked out. The council held its meeting behind a thick wall of police, while mobile guardsmen in full battle kit stood by in reserve.

Throughout several parts of the rest of France ~~the~~ rioting continued, with strikes all over the place, particularly at Marseilles. In Paris and elsewhere, bakeries were obliged to close down because the millers, strike shut off their supply of flour. Eleven thousand ~~miners~~ miners went on strike in the coal fields near Calais. And there's a chance that all hundred and ~~if~~ fifty thousand diggers in that area may walk out.



PALESTINE

Once again Uncle Sam and Soviet Russia are in agreement at Lake Success. They have finally agreed upon the compromise of a plan for dividing up the Holy Land. ~~This is pretty much~~ as foreshadowed on Thursday. It provides that the British shall evacuate August First. Two months after their troops have withdrawn Palestine <sup>to be part</sup> ~~will consist of independent~~ Jewish, <sup>part</sup> ~~and~~ Arab states.

The United Nations will send a commission to the Near East, a commission of the representatives of five nations, to plan the process of partitioning. This <sup>to</sup> ~~will~~ be under the control of the Security Council, <sup>with</sup> ~~but~~ the right of veto <sup>by</sup> ~~of~~ the ~~Big~~ big powers <sup>veto</sup> ~~over~~ the operation of <sup>the</sup> ~~that~~ commission ~~is~~ to be limited.

All this was agreed at a meeting of the special committee, consisting of delegates from the United States, Soviet Russia, Canada and Guatamala. Temporary governments will be appointed for the ~~Jewish~~ Jewish and Arab states with a provision that eventually

regimes will be elected by democratic process<sup>es</sup>. The city of Jerusalem itself and other holy places ~~will~~<sup>to</sup> be under United Nations control accessible to both Jews and Arabs.

This compromise was reported to the General Assembly, whereupon President Aranha of Brazil moved that all debate ~~shall~~ be finished by Thursday; ~~and~~<sup>with</sup> Saturday ~~will~~ be the deadline for ~~a~~<sup>the</sup> final decision by the assembly.

However, there still is a path to be travelled, possibly a thorny one, before all this is accomplished. The compromise reported by that special sub-committee today, will have to be considered by a sub-committee of partition, consisting of nine nations. After they're through with it, it must be referred to the full committee of the General Assembly, all ~~fix~~ fifty-seven nations. What's more the Arabs have a plan which must at least be considered, a plan to erect ~~P~~ Palestine into an independent state, under joint Arab and Jewish control.



## HUMAN INTELLECT

At Leland Stanford University, Doctor Robert Maynard Hutchins, Chancellor of the University of Chicago, said today that the human race knows too much -- so much, that we don't know how to use it. Our knowledge of science far exceeding our human capacity to use it for good. Doctor Hutchins referred to the atom bomb saying that scientists have come along so far in their knowledge that we ordinary people cannot conceive of the tremendous danger inherent in atomic energy. "We have now reached the point" he says, "where bad character, or even the momentary carelessness of the human race may lead to its extermination by the tremendous discoveries which the human intellect has made."

And he adds that we can't stop our scientific progress and wait until the human race catches up with himself. As Plato warned twenty-five-hundred years ago: "The unjust man and the unjust state bear within themselves the seeds of their own destruction."

## HUNTER

Here is an item that will interest some of my friends in Bay City, Saginaw and Flint, Michigan where I was this past weekend. They were all telling me about the opening of the deer hunting season and the great exodus of hunters ~~from~~ streaming north for their first trek into the ~~wild~~ wilderness.

Last night, driving back to Detroit, we passed dozens of cars with deer mounted on the front fenders.

And now here comes the first hunting story for the season:

Donald Wolfe of Spring Lake ~~Park~~ Park, Minnesota, flushed a deer and killed him with one shot; while stooping over the animal, a stranger came out of the thicket and asked Wolfe if he intended to claim the kill. Wolfe said he did, because he had shot him. The stranger then declared, the only way Wolfe would get that ~~de~~ deer would be over the stranger's dead body. Whereupon he raised his rifle and fired, wounding Wolfe above the heart, and then fired again



wounding him a second time.

So the way to make sure of getting a deer is to trail a man who ~~has~~ has shot one and take it away from him, even if you have to kill him.

## WEDDING

Light went on this evening in the great gold and white ball room of Buckingham Palace, official residence of the Kings and Queens of England. The first time in eight years for those crystal chandeliers to be all lit, up, the first time since the beginning of the Second World War. They were turned on for the state ball in honor of the marriage of Princess Elizabeth. Nothing like this has happened in London since the coronation of King George the Sixth or the jubilee of King George the Fifth in Nineteen-Thirty-Five.

We hear that all at one time their dancing on the floor were five Kings, seven Queens, twelve Princes of the blood royal, with twenty Princesses, plus more than a hundred members of royal and noble families, grand dukes, archdukes and just plain dukes -- including Hapsburgs, Hohenzollerns Romanoffs, and Spanish Bourbons who still think they have a chance to come back, also Bonapartes, and members of the House of Savoy, Naassau, Karageorgevitch and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. In short, the cream de la cream of the Almanac De Gotha, register of



European Royalty and nobility, as well as from Burke's peerage and landed gentry.

The day started with a semi-public view of the wedding gifts that fill five rooms of the place. From the far corners of the earth as well as from nearby in the United Kingdom, came presents:- precious jewels, gold and silverware, paintings, furniture, beautiful china, rare books, furs. From Burma a necklace of rubies pigeons blood rubies. A bachelor in the African province of Tanganyika, Dr. John Williamson, sent a pink diamond, fifty-four karats, supposed to be worth more than sixty thousand dollars. Dr. Williamson is a multi-millionaire and a legendary character.

General and Mrs. Eisenhower sent a silver ash tray, they may come in useful, eventually; but for the time being, the young Consort has sworn off smoking. From the Dowager Queen Mary, her grandmother, the bride received two diamond tiaras, a huge diamond stomacher, whatever that is, diamond bracelets, a diamond and ruby bracelet, a pair of birdseye pearl earrings and two

diamond brooches. From her father and mother, she received a diamond and ruby pendant, which according to reports is worth a royal ransom -- that is, if anybody would ransom royalty today -- plus a double string of pearls the size of marbles, to say nothing of a couple more tiaras.

From the newspaper accounts, those five rooms of Buckingham Palace are just a littler of necklaces, bracelets, earrings, brooches, tiaras and other jewelry. From the Dionne Quints an autographed photo of themselves, which will surely be an xx ornament to the bridal quarters.

In short, the young couple, according to the best of estimates, will start housekeeping with gifts worth not less than two million dollars.

Would that be enough to start up housekeeping Nelson?