

TRUMAN J. - ~~R. G. M. M.~~ May 8 '50.

President Truman is on his tour of the whistle stops, and began today in appropriate style. Galesburg, Illinois, ranks as an historic whistle stop - scene of one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in the days leading to the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln and Stephen O. Douglas, running against each other for the Senate, held forth on topics that have school book flavor nowadays - the extension of slavery, the Missouri Compromise, the Dred Scott Decision, the Wilmot Proviso. But these had ~~not~~ to do with the greatest American question of the time.

So, on the scene of a Lincoln-Douglas debate, President Truman today talked of the great world problem - the Cold War and the need of American cooperation with the other free nations of this earth. He said that the next few months may tell whether there is to be a Third World War - with the devastation of atomic weapons.

After which the presidential train rolled on into Iowa, with rear platform speeches at Burlington and Ottumwa.

Not so historical - and the presidential speeches went on to such subjects as the Democratic Congress and the White House farm plan.

The President was informed he is being followed around by the Executive Secretary of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee, Victor Johnston. Traveling by plane, the Republican chieftain is out scouting the Truman whistle stop trip. Saying - "I want to see how this thing is done." Which the Republican Party might well want to know - after those Truman travels, "pouring it on" in the presidential campaign two years ago.

Hearing all this, the President issued an invitation today - asking the Republican political expert to come aboard the presidential train for the whole trip. And he'd show him personally - "how it's done."

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RETAKE

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thunder. Too much competition -- from the electrical gods. of the sky.

Today was the Truman sixty-sixth birthday, with huge crowds thronging, and the band playing, "If I knew you were coming, I'd have baked a cake." Which was illogical -- because, at each stop, he was presented with a birthday cake.

That's A sweet subject, which takes us to a bit of news from Oakville, Ontario, where they held a cake-baking contest -- for the youngsters. Competing with ten girls, John Hulme, a ten year old boy, won the award, baking the prize-winning cake. While eleven year old Donald Herridge, in competition with twelve girls, won the cookie-baking prize. Which certainly would seem to take the cake.

CIVIL RIGHTS

The big wind began to blow in Washington today - the great gas of oratory that always breezes through the ^{Senate,} ~~Senate,~~ ~~back~~ when the Truman program of civil rights comes up. The marathon of talk was begun by the advocates of the Fair-Employment Bill, but the real prodigies of long-winded wordiness will be performed, as usual, by the Southern Senators, as they filibuster against the racial rights measure, trying to talk it to death. Which they have succeeded in doing in the past. So, for days to come, the Washington news wires will tell of interminable speech-making -- the filibuster.

TAFT-HARTLEY

The Supreme Court upholds the non-Communist oath required by the Taft-Hartley Law, saying that the anti-Red affidavit is - constitutional.

The decision points out that federal office holders are quired to take an oath to uphold the Constitution, and argues that, in the operation of the National Labor Relations Board, union representatives are vested with what the decision calls - "powers comparable to those possessed by a legislative body."

Hence, it is constitutional for the law to require that, if a union resorts to the Labor Board, its officials must swear that they do not advocate the overthrow of the government by violence. Not Communists, in other words.

ACHESON

The United States promises military and economic aid for the fight against Communism in Indo-China. This is the first important decision announced, as the Foreign Ministers of the Western powers hold big-time conferences in Paris. American Secretary of State Acheson talked matters over with French Foreign Minister Schuman, concerning the state of affairs in the semi-independent states of Indo-China, which are under French protection. They are gravely menaced by a spread of Communism from Red China - and today American help was promised.

CHINA - FLYERS

The Chinese Reds announce that they are releasing the two American flyers whom they've been holding prisoner - for seven ^{teen} months. Marine Corps Master Sergeant Elmer Bender of Cincinnati, and Navy Electrician William Smith of Long Beach, California - who were forced down in Red Chinese territory. Insistent efforts have been made to have them set free, all to no avail - until now.

The Communists accuse them of scouting Chinese Red Army movements, and say they've confessed - same old story of confession. But now, according to a Communist radio announcement, they are to be released - to rejoin their families, who have been waiting for them for a long time.—
17 months.

BERLIN

Soviet Russia has opened a new drive to get the Western troops out of Berlin - this latest manoeuvre taking the form of an agreement to hold a free election throughout the German capital. The election was first suggested by the Western Allies. So now the Red response is - yes, provided that all occupation soldiers are withdrawn, Russian as well as American, British, French. But that, of course, would leave the scene to the Communist police, organized by the Soviets - a police force militarized to such a degree that it amounts, actually, to a German Red army.

(You can imagine what kind of democratic election would be likely under such conditions - and the Mayor of Western Berlin immediately calls it - a "joke." The American view is that it's a new propaganda stunt in the long time Soviet effort to get the ~~Western~~ Western powers out of Berlin.)

POLES

In the Polish Consulate at Frankfurt, Western Germany,

six members of the diplomatic staff held a consultation -

and serious it was. ^{Two} ~~They~~ had received orders to return home -
and the others were afraid they would soon be sent
back to Poland, behind the Iron Curtain. They came to a

decision, which they put into effect today - which was pay-day.

They collected their salaries, and went straight to the office
of the American High Commissioner, and asked to be permitted to
stay in Western Germany, as political refugees. American
officials sent them to the German authorities, to put in a
request for political asylum. Which they did - and their plea
will undoubtedly be granted.

GUIDEPOSTS

This program tonight is being given in surroundings that are symbolized by a large painting, which hangs here in vivid color. Also - by the story of the artist, Howard Chandler Christie, famed for long years as one of the greatest of American illustrators ^{and painters.} Time was when Howard Chandler Christie was going blind, his eyes failing from over-work, darkness coming upon him. What tragedy could be greater - the brilliant painter stricken blind at the height of his career? But Howard Chandler Christie had his sight restored, ~~so he can see as well as ever,~~ and the story he tells is one of faith, belief, prayer, a resort to religion. Hence the subject of the picture here, the superb painting of the Saviour and his Apostles. Howard Chandler Christie painted it after prayer had conquered blindness - whereupon, as a natural expression, he turned his art to religious subjects.

Recently, Howard Chandler Christie related that story of personal religious experience in Guideposts, and this occasion is the Fifth Anniversary of that religious publication.

which has had a surprising career. It was begun at Pawling,
New York, by Raymond Thornburg, a businessman, ^{and Norm. Vincent Peale, both of} who believed

that a solution of the perilous problems of this modern
industrial age could be helped best by a resurgence of religion-
and that this could be aided by the publication of stories of
personal religious experience.

Hence - Guideposts, a non-profit magazine, ~~founded in~~
~~collaboration with Dr. Vincent Norman Peale.~~ One of the editors
is Grace Oursler, wife of the prominent editor and old friend of
this program, Fulton Oursler. Bishop James H. Griffiths,
representing Cardinal Spellman, is here - and so is Rabbi
Morris N. Kertzer. Which gives an idea of the breadth of
religious interest. The guests at the dinner represent a
veritable catalogue of renown. All of which makes an
interesting and significant audience for a recital of the news.

TYPHOON

The Island of Guam is a scene of the wrath of the elements tonight -- in the blast of a typhoon. When this latest despatch came in, a seventy-mile an hour wind was roaring and shrieking -- and Airforce typhoon scouts predicted, that within hours, the full brunt of tropical tempest would hit Guam -- with winds up to one-hundred-and-thirteen miles an hour. Repeating the performance of last year when twenty million dollars worth of damage was done by the stern demons of the tropical sea. *It's an old story at Guam.*

WEATHER -- WINNIPEG

In Winnipeg tonight Canadian Army troops, joined by all available civilian volunteers are battling to keep the dykes from breaking -- as the Red River threatens to swamp the metropolis of Manitoba with a wall of water twelve feet high. Already the pressure is about as much as the dykes can stand -- and rain storms are predicted, adding new floods of water to the deluge of the river. So forces of soldiers, together with everybody else that can be recruited, are building sandbanks to protect a city of three hundred thousand -- in which more than seven thousand have already been washed out of their homes.

DOCTOR

Down in Georgia, "Old Doc" Bramblett is embarrassed.

He made an appeal, and the response is large - but not the right kind. Recently, at the town of Forsythe, Dr. R.T.

Bramblett put an advertisement in the local paper, stating that he had to undergo a major operation, and needed cash.

Also - that he had stacks of unpaid doctor bills, twenty-five thousand dollars' worth. So, would a few of his patients pay up?

Whereupon, money began to stream in. The story got around, was republished, and all sorts of kindly people have been responding. Plenty of contributions - but mighty few payments of doctor bills. Which is embarrassing for the "Old Doc," who doesn't want gifts. All he asks is some payment for medical service rendered, and today his son, "Young Doc" Bramblett, stated that all the contributions are being returned with a note of thanks.

So here's a dispatch from Cincinnati, saying that a check for a hundred dollars has been sent - after the Reverend

Jonathan Hochstatter of the Congregational Church made a mention of "Old Doc" Bramblett in the Sunday sermon yesterday, and one hundred dollars was taken up in a collection. But that only adds to the embarrassment - not being in payment of doctor bills.

Well, it's an old story - that the doctor gets paid last, if at all. Which I, myself, can appreciate - my father being a doctor. He was a ~~town~~ ^{the city} physician in the old ^{Victor} Cripple Creek mining camp, in the days of the gold boom - and still remembers that Potts-Fracture, more than fifty years ago, the smashed ankle of a gold miner, which required the utmost of skill and care. Bill -- seventy-five dollars. Never paid. Nor does he forget the twins, for which he rigged up a primitive, early-day, incubator, made of a grocery box and mining camp whiskey bottles. *And the miner shot in a riot. He saved his life - But the bill* *at unpaid. P* ~~But~~ He says - even at that, the miners and prospectors, tossing gold onto the doctor's table, were much better pay than he found later in other parts of the country.

He ^{and} estimates - that, after more than half a century ^{of} practicing
medicine, ^{that} only about sixty per cent of his bills were paid.

Yes, it's the doctor who must be patient.

Extra

There seems to be some slight confusion between the Governor of Montana and the Mayor of New Orleans. Governor Bonner, attending an oil convention at Biloxi, Mississippi, denies that he was the ~~stupid~~ drunk arrested in New Orleans. He says he's utterly mystified by the news ^{that,} ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ _A ~~agax~~ in the old French quarter, ~~where~~ the police locked up an inebriated gentleman, who declared that he was the Governor of Montana. "Not I," says Bonner at Biloxi.

But, nevertheless, he gets an apology from Mayor Delesseps Morrison of New Orleans, it being disclosed today that His Honor the Mayor, has written to His Excellency the Governor, as follows: "We profoundly regret any embarrassment that may have been caused you over an incident of little consequence." Interesting dialogue: Governor - "It wasn't I - not me." Mayor: "But, anyway, we apologize."

BRAWL

Out in India - something of an international incident when, at a hotel in New Delhi, an Englishman poured a pitcher of ice-water on the head of the Argentine Ambassador. It happened in the ball room of the Imperial Hotel, where Britisher John Edwards, bearded veteran of the Royal Air Force, was dancing with a lady from Canada. At a table nearby was the Argentine Ambassador, Dr. Tascheret - and the lady from Canada declares that the Ambassador kept gazing at the aesthetic effect of the strapless evening gown she wore. Which was followed by an expression of appreciation, still more eloquent, when His Excellency blew a tin whistle at her.

That was when the Englishman, beard and all, grasped a pitcher of ice-water and poured it over the Ambassador's head, down the back of his neck. Whereupon the diplomat from Argentina threw into the face of the Englishman a Scotch highball, which streamed down and dripped from the beard.

Today the police in New Delhi gave their decision in these unseemly doings in the world of statecraft,

dismissing the case as -- too trivial. The Hindu view of this latest manifestation of Western civilization.

Nelson -- from something trivial shall we now turn to something important?