

TRUMAN

L.I. - P. & G. Wednesday, Jan 5, 1949.

The immediate question, after today's Presidential message is - what have the Republicans to say about it? The first reaction from the G O P leadership is anger. Senator Taft of Ohio declares that if today's Truman program is adopted we shall have in Taft's words, "a totalitarian federal government with powers to regulate every phase of individual life". <sup>a</sup> ~~He says the~~ tax burden ~~would be~~ so heavy ~~that~~ it would be hard for private enterprise to survive.

Congressman Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Republican National Committee, describes the Truman program in these words - "a rolling high dive with ~~as~~ the peoples' money". The President, in the Congressman's words, "proposes an unequal distribution of the nation's wealth to pay off every pressure group in the land. If Mr. Truman has his way, this will be ~~known~~ known as the "grab - bag - and pay-off - Congress".

On the Democratic side - cheers and approval. The majority leaders indicate that there will be little

difficulty in passing the bulk of the suggestions from the White House.

The message on the State of the Nation, puts immediate emphasis on taxes, the President demanding a four billion dollar boost of taxation. He suggests that most of the burden should be placed on corporations, most of the tax money to come from business concerns. He mentions an increase of levies on estates - and gifts - this to be exacted from the wealthier classes. <sup>TF</sup> But what about income tax? The President thinks that Congress ought <sup>to consider</sup> ~~to consider~~ that too, a hike of income tax in "the middle and upper brackets."

The tax angle ~~re~~ sounds a note insistent throughout the message; - put the burden on the rich, with government benefits for the poor. This goes on through a series of measures for social welfare, housing, farm benefits, irrigation and electrical power projects.

Comment in Washington tonight on the tax question is that President Truman's action in leaving the details of a new tax bill up to Congress is highly commendable. Chairman Doughton, Democrat, North Carolina, of the House Ways and Means Committee, ~~joint~~ joins Chairman Walter ~~E~~ George of Georgia, head of the Senate ~~Finance~~ Finance Committee, in praising the President on this score. In the Republican camp, Senators Millikin of Colorado, and Taft of Ohio, say they can't tell whether taxes must be raised until they know how much spending Congress will authorize this year.

The professional tax experts, however, are worried as to what Mr. Truman meant when he talked about people in the middle income bracket. Their question is: where does the middle income bracket begin? And their guess is, people with incomes higher than five thousand a year.

They may have to pay more, the experts think, if Congress decides that personal income taxes shall

be raised. But the general feeling in Congress is one of <sup>relief</sup> ~~complete content~~ that Mr. Truman did not come out flatly for a return of the ~~war~~ wartime excess-profits-tax on corporation earnings -- which he demanded of the Eightieth Congress ~~the~~ last year.

Another large emphasis - the Taft-Hartley labor act. The President wants this repealed - and the old Wagner Act restored. But he suggests changes in that Wagner Act - adjustments that would curb jurisdictional strikes, and secondary boycotts, and prevent strikes in vital industries.

Among this labor line, the Republican attitude is middle-of-the-road. For example, Senator Taft says he doubts the Democrats can push through an outright repeal of the statute that bears his name, but there will be amendments at least. Senators Aiken of Vermont and Smith of New Jersey think there should be a new labor bill, combining features of both the Taft-Hartley and the Wagner Act, Senator Aiken says that apparently, in the words of the Senator - "the President wants the new law to retain the Wagner name rather than the Taft name."

Today's message called on Congress to make good the many and sundry Democratic pledges during

the election. It includes stand-by price controls and universal military training.

The President said: "Every segment of our population and every individual, has a right to expect from his government - a fair deal". Which immediately provides a name for the program announced today. It is being called - "the fair deal". Well we've had a new deal and re-deal - and now a fair deal. Which seems like quite a good deal, <sup>including</sup> ~~taxing~~ the taxes.

The President today received a great hand from Congress, applause and cheers from both sides - his own party and the opposition. It was a tribute to the Truman election campaign a few months ago - the cheers that hail <sup>ed</sup> the winner.

## WEATHER

The great blizzard is dying down in the West, after three days of storm and snow, which old-time westerners describe as the worst blizzard in their memory. Today snow - ploughs were in action, clearing the highways, and hundreds of marooned travellers were thereby released.

It is feared that the winter tempest has caused heavy damage to livestock - and it is known that, on the Pacific Coast, ~~the bitter cold wave has played havoc with the citrus crop.~~ Millions upon millions of ~~xxxxxxx~~ dollars in damaged from the devastating freeze that hit southern ~~xxxx~~ California.

## PALESTINE

The curtain raises on the Jewish invasion of Egypt. Tel Aviv lifts the veil of censorship far enough to show that forces of Israel penetrated sixty miles in Egyptian territory, the Sinai Peninsula.

They struck at Egyptian communications and transportation at the great base of El Arish. A Tel Aviv ~~spokesman~~ spokesman calls it a "Ratton-like" operation, referring to the speed and daring of General George Ratton in the Second World War. Israel bands went racing through the Sinai Desert, raising havoc in the rear of the Egyptian Army. They penetrated to within seventy miles of the Suez Canal - the British life line.

~~That is picture behind the representations which Great Britain has made to the United States, pointing to the fact that the London government has a treaty promising to go to the aid of Egypt, if Egypt is attacked. Hence, also, the American note to Tel Aviv, warning that a Jewish invasion of Egypt might bring Britain into conflict with Israel.~~



In London tonight a spokesman ~~fr~~ for the British Foreign Office describes <sup>the</sup> ~~to~~ situation as - grave. He charges that Israel ~~had~~ deliberately violated the territory of Egypt - while other British sources confirm the reports that the British troops have been landed at Aqaba on the Red Sea, near the border of Egypt and Palestine.

Cairo announces tonight that the biggest battle of the Palestine war continues to rage - along that frontier. Jewish forces are said to be attacking in waves, trying to push the Egyptians across the border. At the same time, they are assailing positions the Egyptians retain farther north, like Gaza.

## BASKETBALL

New York has a basketball scandal - the story of how a college player, for long weeks, collaborated with the authorities in bringing about the arrest of alleged game-fixing gamblers. (Four men are in jail tonight, and a grand jury investigation has been ordered.)

David Shapiro is a decorated war veteran, studying law at George Washington University, ~~in New York~~. He is, likewise, co-captain of the George Washington basketball team. Today, the details were revealed - how gamblers tried to bribe Shapiro to throw a big game at Madison Square Garden last night.

It all began last summer, when the law student was working as a counsellor at a camp at West Copake, New York. He received a letter from a man named Aronowitz who said he wanted to see him. Shapiro paid no attention to the letter, and then, upon his return home, this Aronowitz telephoned him - mentioning the fact that Shapiro was co-captain of the George Washington ~~baseket~~ basketball team.

That made the decorated war veteran suspicious,

and he went down to the office of New York District Attorney Hogan. -- ~~When~~ <sup>When</sup> he told the story -- ~~He~~ <sup>He</sup> was instructed to go ahead and negotiate if any offer of bribery was made.

Soon he was approached again by Aronowitz, and there was a long series of meetings and maneuverings - all watched by the police. Three other individuals appeared in the picture, negotiating for fixed basketball games -- ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> ~~Shapiro~~ <sup>Shapiro</sup> offered large sums of money. He pretended to be undecided, and they kept urging him, until finally the matter got around to the actual payment of money, the passing of a bribe.

That happened ~~in~~ last night, just before the Madison Square Garden game between George Washington and Manhattan College. The deal was for Shapiro, the co-captain to fix it so that his team would lose by a large score - fitting in with the point system of betting. He was to be given a thousand dollars. He said that an Uncle of his would pick up the money, and an appointment was made at a saloon near Madison Square Garden.

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There, at the appointed hour the Uncle appeared, and contacted the fixers. They were all set to do the bribing and make a killing, the only trouble being that the supposed Uncle was a city detective.

Arrests were promptly made, four men seized - including Aronowitz.

In the game that followed Shapiro appeared, playing as co-captain. He seemed un-nerved by the gambling plot, was off his game, and soon retired on fouls. George Washington won - which would seem to be a blow to the crooked gamblers, if they were <sup>betting</sup> ~~haggling~~ on the assumption that they had been able to fix the war veteran, who has four Army battle stars.

LADA

Romance has come to a painful crisis in Berlin. The Army today brought charges against Edward Lada of Newark, New Jersey, who ran the Soviet blockade. The Army may not be able to get supplies through on the ground, but Lada got through - inspired by love and heart's devotion.

His depth of sentiment was profound, though a bit confused. An ex-G-I he went over to Germany to marry a blonde fraulein whom they call "Bootsie" Schmidt. Landing in Germany, he made his way through the Soviet blockade - all for love of Bootsie Schmidt. But then, arriving in Berlin, the romantic blockade-runner changed his mind and decided to marry another fraulein - a brunette. He announced that he was renouncing his American citizenship - also for love.

The Army picked him up, but he escaped from the military hoosegow - to spend Christmas with the brunette. He was recaptured and today came the cannonade - a barrage of charges. The Army accuses the former G I of entering Germany illegally, of possessing American dollars without authorization,

also American occupation script and British occupation scrip, and posing as an employee of the American military government and of breaking out of Army jail. All of which might be good for ten years in prison.

On top of which, the fraulein, the brunette, is found guilty of hiding the ~~fi~~ fugitive, ~~and so are~~ <sup>- she and</sup> her mother and two friends, <sup>so</sup> they <sup>too</sup> will be punished.

Well, it sounds like a fine thing to break the Soviet blockade - but not for love and romance.

## PARIS CONTEST

There was an uproar in Paris today. To get the picture, or rather the sound track - just imagine the loudest argument you ever heard, in French. The reason? the Chief of Police of Paris, has banned a beauty contest. He forbids a competition of pulchritude to decide the question - who shall be Miss France? He says: "Young French women should first learn to be good wives."

To this the contest committee replies with biting sarcasm - saying that the Chief of Police is afraid of the effect the beauty competition will have on his gendarmes. ~~They~~, <sup>that the gendarmes</sup> The committee intimate have a way of devoting their attention to ~~Miss~~ <sup>Mlle Labelle</sup> France, instead of chasing crooks.

The committee, with ~~Fordant~~ <sup>M</sup>  ~~satire~~ <sup>S</sup>, makes mention of the number one gangster in France who is called - Pierrot the Fool. "For the past few years," declares the committee "there have been as many gendarmes hanging around Miss France as there have been hunting for Pierrot the Fool".

Actually, the contest was intended to be <sup>a</sup> sort of return match, a repetition of a beauty pageant held a couple of weeks ago when the pulchritudinous proceedings ended in a brawl. The <sup>(winner)</sup>~~(winner)~~ was a Red-haired Model, Juliet. But the decision was close, and was jeered by the audience, the howling spectators hurling a bombardment of champagne corks at the jury.

The climax came when a disappointed contestant, a blonde stepped forward and slapped the face of Miss France -- and then burst into tears.

That led to a free-for-all fight between the news photographers and the gendarmes. The Parisian News-  
men probably wanting the face-slapping to be done all over again, to get a better <sup>camera</sup> angle.

The contest was so controversial, that it was decided to hold a return match - <sup>Mlle.</sup>~~Miss~~ France agreeing to defend her title. Which is what the Chief of Police of France has now forbidden. - And the question remains

12 <sup>is</sup> it because young women should first learn to be good wives? Or is it because the gendarmes of Paris spend too

much of their time hanging around Miss France?

*And now from Miss France let's turn to Mrs. Nelson case;*