

The surprise presidential proclamation today puts an end to one of the three great legal measures of war. President Truman issues the official declaration that hostilities have ended -- which terminates the late President Roosevelt's proclamation for a state of hostilities. This, of course, followed the Pearl Harbor attack. Two other measures are still in force -- the proclamation of emergency issued by President Roosevelt in Nineteen Thirty-nine, and again in Nineteen forty-one. That -- and the state of war, the declaration of war voted by Congress. This can be cancelled by Congress only.

Today's presidential proclamation puts an immediate end to twenty important wartime laws, which were enacted for the duration of the state of hostilities. These concerned chiefly such matters as the presidential power to seize industries tied up by strikes. Industries already taken over by ~~gx~~ the Government are <sup>not</sup> ~~xx~~ immediately affected -- like the coal mines. Federal authorities can retain control of

these for a period of six months following today's cancellation of hostilities.

Other statutes abolished ~~by today's proclamation~~ are measures of taxation. Taxes on furs, liquor, jewelry, cosmetics, and other luxury items are now taken off -- a cut of revenue that will amount to one-billion-~~and~~ two-hundred and fifty million dollars. To this there is immediate reaction on the Republican side -- leaders of the new Republican Congress stating that they will make up for the loss of taxation by reducing government expenditures. They add that there will be still further cuts in taxation -- like income tax reductions.

Congressman Knutson of Minnesota, ~~xxx~~ who is to become Chairman of the Congressional Committee that deals with taxation, repeats his former contention, that it will be possible to make an income tax cut of twenty percent.

President Truman's proclamation of the end of hostilities marks a major step in a reversion to ~~xxxxxx~~ peacetime conditions -- and comes  $\longrightarrow$  ~~xxxxxx~~

dramatically as the new Republican Control<sup>led</sup> Congress  
is about to meet. To a large degree it anticipates  
a generally expressed Republican determination to make  
an end of wartime legislation.

BILBO

Signs of a Republican attempt to oust Bilbo

increased today, with a decision by the G.O.P. Steering

Committee to start ouster proceedings against The Man.

*The latest quotes*

^ Senator Taft of Ohio, Chairman of the Committee, <sup>as saying that</sup> ~~his~~ his

group will make this recommendation to the Republican

*Conference*  
~~Congress~~

when it meets Thursday afternoon, - <sup>Then</sup> the Steering

Committee will offer the proposal that Bilbo be denied

a seat in the Senate. - <sup>And</sup> a recommendation <sup>by</sup> the

Steering Committee is certain to carry a lot of weight.

U.N.

The Security Council of the United Nations has postponed action on atomic control *and* disarmament, until early next week. Today the United States demanded that the right of way be given to the American program for outlawing the atomic bomb, while Soviet Russia insisted that the Soviet plan for immediate disarmament be taken up first. The Security Council heard the two contradictory arguments, and then put the matter off until early next week.

# SUEZ

~~-----~~  
We all know that ~~the~~ <sup>de</sup> Lesseps built the Suez Canal; that great French engineer <sup>Count Ferd - de Lesseps -</sup> having won immortal renown in the digging of the canal across the Isthmus at Suez. The news today is -- that <sup>de</sup> Lesseps has been arrested for trying to destroy the Suez Canal. That is - <sup>a</sup> the grandson of the original <sup>de</sup> Lesseps.

This grandson tonight is in a Paris prison, charged with playing a part <sup>in</sup> wartime attempts by the Germans to bomb the Suez Canal. The French Government says it has unearthed evidence that the grandson of the canal builder tried to sell to the Nazis land he owned in Turkey -- land to be turned into a German air base for raids against Suez. On his side, the arrested <sup>de</sup> Lesseps declares that the whole thing is a French Government scheme to get out of paying forty million dollars that it owes him.

## CLEMENCY APPEAL

This New Year, a woman suffering from an incurable malady, is going from California to Jackson, Mississippi - to appeal for the lives of two negro youths, who are under sentence of death. She is Mrs. Blanche Meiers of Oakland - and she's the mother of eight children. The doctors have told her that she has <sup>n</sup>ot long to live, and that sombre fact has incited her interest in the two teen age negroes.

They are fourteen and fifteen respectively, and have been convicted for the robbery ~~of~~ and murder of *the* Mississippi sawmill operator. Under sentence of death, their case is now being considered by the Governor - who has before him a plea of clemency, based on their youth.

That plea will be urged by the woman from California, who has <sup>n</sup>ot long to live. Today she explained: "I want to do something good before I meet God. I'm the

mother of eight children myself, and I cannot believe that ever, under any circumstances, boys hardly more than children, should be given the extreme penalty."

That's the argument she seeks to place before the Governor - as she makes a New Year's trip from California to Mississippi.



## ARMY-NOTRE DAME

All over America there has been much debate today regarding the calling off of the annual Army-Notre Dame football game -- often referred to as the Nation's Number One gridiron classic. ~~That is~~ <sup>with</sup> the series end<sup>ing</sup> next season after Army pays a ~~final~~ visit to South Bend.

I ~~have~~ just been talking it over with John Kieran, sage of INFORMATION PLEASE. John, as most of you know, built his first great reputation as a sports writer. And he still is a top man on just about everything that concerns sports. ~~So~~ I asked him for his slant, and here's what he said:-

"It seems to me there is no need to look for any other explanation than that offered by General Taylor, Superintendent at West Point, and Father Cavanaugh, head of Notre Dame. The game really had gotten out of academic control. It had become a public circus. The behavior of the players was fine -- on the field. ~~But,~~" added John Kieran, "the behavior of some spectators ~~has~~ left much to be desired."

John Kieran, wise when it comes to so many things, went on to say that in his opinion, it is a wise decision, ~~and~~ one that will benefit not only the two institutions, but intercollegiate athletics in general. He also remarked that it was a grand gesture on the part of Army to go out to Notre Dame for ~~the a~~ *final* ~~last~~ game, *thus ending* ~~and that the visit to South Bend will close~~ the series on a high plane of sportsmanship.

## SHOOTING

One of the weirdest events happened in a New York subway today. - ~~and the subway rang~~ <sup>A subway station reverberating</sup> with a blast of shotgun fire. A woman was standing waiting for a train, when a pretty blond girl stooped, and pointed a fancy Christmas package - whereupon the roaring shot rang out, the Christmas package containing a sawed off shotgun. The woman, waiting for a train, fell to the station platform - badly wounded in the legs and hip.

When the police came, and asked her who had shot her, she said: "My husband shot me."

She was Mrs. Olga Rocco of Brooklyn, who had been wounded in a previous shooting. That ~~was~~ in the beginning of November, and her husband ~~was~~ suspected. He ~~had~~ disappeared, and the police had <sup>yt</sup> been looking for him ever since. So now the wife, shot by the blonde, said immediately - "My husband shot me."

~~and~~ The blonde, meanwhile, was standing in an

utter daze. When the police arrested her - she told a story as fantastic as the shooting in the subway. She said she had been employed by a man who represented himself as an insurance investigator, and he had instructed her to follow Mrs. Rocco - a job of shadowing. He had given <sup>the blonde</sup> ~~her~~ the brightly wrapped Christmas package, telling her that it contained a camera - with which she was to snap a photograph of Mrs. Rocco's legs. He had shown her how to operate the thing, "just point this end of it at the object to be photographed - and then pull the trigger." The blonde had followed instructions, had trailed Mrs. Rocco to the subway station, and there saw her chance to get the presumed picture. She pointed the alleged camera at the woman's legs, pulled the trigger, and was astounded at what happened - the shooting.

Her story is the more plausible, because the

26

SHOOTING - 3

employer she names has disappeared from his address -  
and the blonde has tentatively identified a picture of  
Mrs. Rocco's husband as that same employer.

## St. LOUIS

It may not be a very happy New Year's Eve -- far from it -- for the celebrants in St. Louis. Not ~~xi~~ unless they're willing to stay out all night or walk home.

For St. Louis, a city of one million people faces a crippling transport strike, to be called at Midnight, tonight, New Year's Eve. The President of the bus drivers and street car operators association in St. Louis has been pleading with his men all day to submit their troubles to arbitration.

But so far the workers are adamant. So it will be a woldcat strike.

Whether the strike is authorized or not will be of little interest to joy-bent citizens of St. Louis who may be left stranded at midnight without transportation home. Every hotel, restaurant and night club in the city has been booked ~~xi~~ solid for a gay evening. And a long, cold walk home after the festivities could be a real anti-climax.

For the merry-makers in San Francisco, the same bad news -- just in a lesser degree. About one-third maybe one-half of San Francisco's cab drivers are going out also. And at the psychological time, midnight.

So San Francisco, after midnight, will see its happy warriors clad in evening clothed riding home in street cars. An operating taxi after twelve o'clock will be a gold mine for its driver.

The ~~px~~ President of the Luxor Cab Company has abandoned his own plans for New Year's Eve. He now palns to drive one of his taxis; help reap the golden harvest.

## LABOR PROBLEM

Another of those labor problems was decided today by the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which ruled that an employee has no right to quit a job, even though the boss is a little late in making coffee for him.

This decision of Solomon was rendered in the case of Stanley Novak, who worked in a pool room run by Gus Glumac. The wages were normal, in addition to which Gus agreed to make coffee for his pool room employee, every afternoon at five o'clock.

That went along all right, and the working conditions were satisfactory, until one day Gus neglected the coffee. The petition today gives the reasons as follows - "due to several distractions." I suppose Gus had to fix up some pool tables, rack up the cues - or maybe get behind the eight ball. Anyway, he failed to make coffee for his pool room worker until



four hours later. Whereupon his indignant employee  
quit the job-- and claimed unemployment compensation!

## GOOSE

There may be a gold hunt up around Montreal - and, if so, it will be very much like a wild goose chase. The news today tells how Walter Jork bought a big fat goose for New Year's dinner. He took the goose home, and was dressing it - when his eyes bulged. As he split the gizzard, he saw the gleam of yellow metal - gold.

*T* In the gizzard of that goose there was a mixture of gold nuggets and bits of quartz - the type of rock in which gold is found. In the gizzard of the goose was forty dollars' worth of gold, and today all Montreal was wondering, where was that goose accustomed to eat?

*T* Apparently the bird had been grubbing for food in ground that had a lot of gold bearing quartz. So the trail of gold would depend on a search for the feeding place of the goose that, while not laying any golden egg, had gold in its gizzard.

Last night, you <sup>may</sup> remember, <sup>we had that story</sup> ~~we told you~~ about Private James Hill, who was King for a Day at California's Hamilton Field, until he admitted that he hadn't foiled a burglary in the post finance office after all.

This New Year's Eve Private Hill is peering out at Nineteen Forty-seven from behind mountains and mountains of potatoes. They all need peeling, and the Army has decided that Prankster Hill, why, he is just the lad to peel them.

Hill's commanding officer says that naturally the boy will not be allowed on sentry duty again until he is sent overseas three months from now -- but that there is a post for him in the G.I. kitchen. Which, by the way, is the only punishment Hill will get for his fantastic yarn about battling armed robbers and saving the payroll, a tale which interested his commanding officer, the San Francisco newspapers, and the FBI.

The real loser in the whole affair appears to be twenty-year-old Rosemary Watson who would have

married Hill tomorrow had not fate and implacable Army discipline interfered.

But Rosemary is being brave about it. Says she:

"I'll keep right on loving my Jimmy, hero or bum."

And that's the right spirit for  
New Years Eve don't you think, Nelson?

BIRTHDAY

*Taken from Early Broadcast 12/31/46.*

It's always rather striking to have one's birthday on <sup>the</sup> New Year, and it might seem to be remarkable for two brothers to have their birthdays on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day respectively. However, the two brothers in this account are twins - and this <sup>year</sup> ~~xxx~~ one of the twins celebrates his birthday in Nineteen Forty-Six. The other one - in Nineteen Forty-Seven.

At Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, Oakley Stiffer<sup>l</sup> was twenty today, while his twin brother will be twenty tomorrow. Oakley was born shortly before midnight on December Thirty-First. Then, shortly after midnight, his twin brother was born - which produces a few odd twisters - for twins. For example, in a technical sense tonight - the elder twin will be a year older than the younger twin.

INTRODUCTION TO MR. KIERAN.

The news all over the country today had been<sup>5</sup> debating the severance of football relations between the Army and Notre Dame -- the nation's number one gridiron classic called off, after a final Army-Notre Dame contest next year.

All the experts are expertizing so I thought I'd appeal to a sports writer whose name is legend.

John Kieran, who has won radio renown on "Information Please", built his first great reputation as a sports writer, and he still is a top man in writing on topics of sports. So tell us, John, what do you think of that Army-Notre Dame headline?

MR. KIERAN:-

I see that some football fans are wondering what's behind the official statement given out by Major General Maxwell D. Taylor, Superintendent of the Military Academy, and Father John J. Cavanaugh, Rector of Notre Dame. I don't think there's anything behind it. I believe it's all out in front. It seems to me that there's no need to look for any other explanation of the ending of this famous football series than that offered by the heads of the two institutions. Everybody connected with football knows that the ticket situation surrounding this game was impossible to solve with any satisfaction to anybody concerned. And as the official statement said, the game really had gone out of academic control. Instead of a college sporting contest, it grew to be something of a public circus. The behavior of the football players was fine, but the behavior of some of the spectators, who were neither alumni nor students of either institution, was on the rough side on many occasions.

It naturally came as something of a shock to

hear that a game so famous was to be lost to the annual sports calendar, but I believe that Father Cavanaugh and General Taylor made a wise decision and one that will benefit not only the two institutions but intercollegiate athletics in general. It took academic courage to reach that decision. I only hope that the heads of other educational institutions that are having athletic problems will be equally wise and forthright in finding a way out of their difficulties. It's a grand gesture on the part of Army to go out to Notre Dame for the last game of the series. The feeling between Army and Notre Dame has been fine and friendly since away back in Nineteen Thirteen, and this last gesture will close the series on a high plane of sportsmanship.



## TALL STORY

As a one-time Grand Giraffe of the Tall Story Club, I'm always interested in the various whopper competitions ~~they have~~ in this truth-loving land of ours. So I noted with deep interest today the New Year award made by the Liars' Club of Burlington, Wisconsin, which has elected and crowned - "the champion liar of Nineteen Forty-Six." I was not only interested, but also a bit critical - when I studied the whopper that won the first prize for mendacity. ~~Two others were granted~~ honorable mention, and they likewise are related. <sup>Andol</sup> I wondered - on just what prevaricating principle the judges made their awards.

The truth loving brother hailed as a champion liar is Atanacio ~~Gerza~~ of San Antonio, Texas, whose voracious contribution was couched with a charm of English that savored of the border - down there on the Rio Grande. Atanacio ~~Gerza~~ tells a fish story. "I am

Whereupon the farmer shot them, one by one, and sawed them loose from their stingers, which remained sticking upright in the ground. These he proceeded to use for posts, and strung his fence along the stingers of the mosquitoes.

Then there's Robert Kleinstuber of Suffern, New York - who crossed a beagle hound with a tom cat, and the result was a critter that looked like a dog but meowed like a cat. This astonishing animal saw a shoal of catfish - so he meowed at them like a cat in a gentle way and thereby drew the catfish in <sup>to</sup> shallow water.

After which he swam out like a dog, and chased the catfish onto land. ~~And~~ Then, when the <sup>frightened</sup> catfish ~~were~~ climbed a tree, the astonishing hybrid climbed right up after them, like a cat.

That combined old cat and fish story seems to me to have as much championship quality as the fish that broke into a violent perspiration - a cold sweat, no doubt, since it was in the chilly water.