

President Truman today carried out his plan for a new government agency to supplant the diminishing war agencies of the federal government. He created an office of temporary controls, with Major General Philip B. Fleming as its head. At the same time, ^{Gen.} Fleming will retain his job as Federal Works Administrator. This office of temporary controls will take over the functions of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, the O.P.A., the Civilian Production Administration, and the Office of Economic Stabilization.

The Housing Agency remains as is, with a new expeditor, Frank Creedon, to succeed Wilson Wyatt. Creedon was Manager of Construction of the ^{vast} atomic bomb plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The head of the National Housing Administration is Raymond M. Foley. In the same executive order, Mr. Truman put an immediate end to the Economic Stabilization Board, and announced that the Wage Stabilization Board will cease to exist next

February Twenty-Fourth.

The Office of Temporary Controls will administer controls on rents, sugar and rice. ~~The~~ ^Priorities on some production materials will expire March Thirty-First, but not on building materials.

At the same time, Mr. Truman announced that he had appointed ~~Dr.~~ John R. Steelman, Assistant to the President. His job ~~will~~ ^{to} be to help the President ~~to~~ coordinate the programs and policies of federal agencies.

Having issued these orders, the President proceeded to tell Washington newspapermen that he had intended long since to declare the war formally over, and to get ride of the emergency powers with which Congress had vested the President. What stopped him was the soft coal strike.

You may recall that the Republican National Committee recently declared that ending those war powers

would be one of the first jobs of the Eightieth Congress. But then ~~the~~ Congressman Earl Lewis of Ohio, Chairman of a special Republican Committee, objected, said that the repeal of those powers now is neither wise nor desirable. Mr. Truman, however, is considering that very thing.

One point ~~which~~ Earl Lewis made was that repeal of the war powers would compel the War Department to abandon the reforms ~~which~~ it recently carried through.

When Newspapermen asked Mr. Truman what he thought about that,

he ~~his~~ answered that he intended to ask the Eightieth

Congress to pass the *military & naval merger legislation* ~~legislation merging the army~~ for

which he had asked the Seventy-Ninth Congress, ~~That laws~~

which he said ~~that he requested~~ embodied the ideas of both the

Secretaries of War and Navy. In the last minute confusion

over adjournment, that bill fell by the wayside. So we

may expect to see the fight about it waged all over

again next year.

Reporters asked ^{the President -} ~~him~~ was it true that he intended to ask the new Congress to modify the Wagner Labor Relations Act. He answered curtly that nobody has any right to ask him about that until he sends his message to Congress. Whereupon one correspondent asked him what was his attitude toward the statements of some Republican leaders that they would not be able to cooperate with the White House if the President's message asked for a radical program. Mr. Truman turned slowly and looked hard at the man who had asked the question. He wanted to know who was in a position to say whether or not a program was radical? Then he repeated that what he would ask of Congress would be what he considered necessary for the welfare of the people at large. Of course the Republicans would have their own ideas and could judge his request as they chose.

AUTO WORKERS

A new demand by organized labor for a widespread wage increases. Meaning perhaps a new turn in the upward spiral of higher prices, higher wages.

In New York tonight, Walter Reuther, President of the United Automobile Workers announced that his Union ask for twenty-three-and-a-half-cents-an-hour wage increase for its one million members. Less than a year ago, workers were granted a raise of eighteen-and-a-half cents an hour. But Reuther says a new price increase is necessary to restore to his union members what has been taken ~~from~~ from them by the jump in the cost of living since the first of the year.

EXPLOSION

Small boys playing with matches set a fire, which causes an explosion, that blew up an ice plant causing it ~~to~~ fell on an apartment house in New York. At least fourteen killed -- 49 injured 26 still missing, men women and children buried under the rubble.

All this in the middle of the night, in a New York ~~area~~ tenement district.

It was an old ice-house, abandoned for fifteen years. Four youngsters broke in, exploring with ~~it~~ lighted candles. Just before midnight a passerby saw the flames. By the time the Fire Department arrived, they found a roaring conflagration. A moment later there was an explosion that shock houses for blocks around. Many thought there had been an earthquake. The roof of the ice-house collapsed and the back wall fell onto an adjoining tenement, turning it into a heap of rubble three stories high.

All through the night and most of today, police and firemen and volunteers were digging in the ruins,

trying to get at men, women and children who were
crying for help.

U.N.

There ~~was~~^{is} an end to the deadlock ~~of~~^{on} disarmament among the big powers of the United Nations. They *finally* compromised on a resolution to dump the job on the shoulders of the Council. This means the Council will have a tremendous responsibility on its hands, the responsibility of writing treaties by which nations will agree not to use the atom bomb and ^{all agree to} reduce armaments, ~~and arms~~. Those treaties ~~will~~^{to} then be put up to a special session of the General Assembly ^{some time in} the future. ~~There was~~ No date set for that.

~~We should remember that this is not a disarmament plan.~~ ^{This} ~~It~~ simply gives the Security Council some suggestions on how to write a disarmament plan. In other words, the sub-committee of twenty nations found the disarmament squabble a hot potato, so they ^{pass it along} ~~just threw~~ it to the Security Council. Since the Security Council has hardly ever been unanimous, disarmament still remains a long way off.

Aged Leon Blum for the second time in his life becomes Premier of France. He didn't want the job; he is seventy-four years old and hasn't yet completely recovered from the effects of having a prisoner in a German concentration camp for four years.

Actually, he has been drafted, -- and only accepted when it was put up to him that this was the only way to break the deadlock that has lasted ~~two~~ two weeks and that threatened to wreck the new French Government. So Blum was elected almost unanimously. Out of five hundred and ninety votes, he received five hundred and and seventy five.

The news affected him powerfully, and he was barely able to talk and express his feeling. He said that if it was true that in this way he could be useful to his country, he would make the sacrifice. That sacrifice may well turn out to be his life, because his health is precarious and his doctors have forbidden him to work more than five hours a day.

BRITAIN

Rebellious

~~Various~~ members of the British Labor Party are preparing more trouble for the Attlee government, and particularly for Foreign Secretary Bevin. Part of their fight is a campaign to drive out the experienced permanent members of the British Foreign Office, *The crowd they call* ~~they call them~~ the "old school tie" group; ~~These are~~ the men who really run British foreign policy, because they are always there, no matter what party is in office.

The Labor ^{*mal*} ~~dis~~contents have cabled a message of sympathy to former Secretary of Commerce Wallace, and they have prepared six questions about military cooperation between John Bull and Uncle Sam, to which they demand an answer from the ^{*Attlee*} government.

INDIA

That The London Conference on India ^{was indeed} ~~is~~ a failure, Sir Stafford Cripps admitted ~~is~~ today to the House of Commons. However, he added that the situation is not hopeless, because there is a report that the Moslems are ready to make a concession. ~~At least~~ ^{That} Mohammed Ali Jinnah has promised to take counsel with other Moslem leaders and reconsider their ^{Moslem} ~~is~~ policy of boycotting the Indian Constituent Assembly. [¶] If the Moslems will recede from that position, ^{that} ~~is~~ will be quite a step in the direction of harmony. Cripps told the Commons they should pray that the Hindu Assembly will behave in statesmanlike fashion and not do anything to antagonize the Moslem League or make it difficult for the Moslems to change their minds and enter the Assembly.

Sir Staf- Cripps, ^{of course} ~~as you will recall~~ was the head of the Cabinet mission ^{that} ~~which~~ went to India with a plan for independence. He opened the debate ^{today,} and Winston Churchill

Churchill

followed him as leader of the opposition. ~~He~~ accused the Attlee government of having blundered in the affairs of Hindustan. He declared that it was a great mistake to show preference to the Hindu Congress Party in forming the so-called caretaker government, ~~and to the Hindus in forming~~ *and to the Hindus in forming* the Assembly, which has the job of writing the Constitution. He said it was that mistake which precipitated the dreadful riots and massacres in Hindustan. More people have been killed or wounded in India since that caretaker government took over than in ^{*the past*} ~~in~~ ninety years of British rule, said Churchill. He declared that if the British army were taken out of India before a full settlement is reached, nothing but anarchy and massacre would follow.

IRAN

The army of the Iranian government -- from Teheran -- is nearing Tabriz, capital of Azerbaijan -- with tanks leading the way. This follows yesterday's rebel capitulation. Meanwhile, in Teheran, there was a celebration over the victory. Cheers for Premier Ghavam; shouts: "Death to the traitors of Azerbaijan!"

The parade took them past the clubhouse of the Tudeh Party, and as they marched past, the celebrators shook their fists at the Left Wingers who were looking out of windows. The crowd also shouted denunciation of the leader of the rebels in Azerbaijan and of all those who, they said, wanted to sell Persia to the foreigners.

Unofficial rumors have it that the leaders of Azerbaijan have tried to negotiate with ~~the~~ the central government. Apparently Premier Ghavam will not negotiate until they yield completely. Which in Oriental countries usually means death.

VENEZUELA

That rebellion in Venezuela turned out one of the shortest on record -- even for Latin America. Less than twenty-four hours after it started, the Army with a few Air Force units, broke and squelched the uprising -- and, without any fatalities we hear. However, Caracas, is still in a state of siege. The only outward evidence being the presence of army guards at strategic points.

Romulo Betancourt, the provisional president, announced that the Constituent Assembly will meet next Tuesday as planned, -- that yesterday's trouble will not make the slightest difference in the arrangements. The first task of the Assembly, which was elected on October Twenty-Seventh, will be to frame a new Constitution. After that, it will set an election day for a Constitutional President. The Democratic Action Committee, which is the party of the provisional government, will be in control of the Assembly, having a decided majority.

RACING

American horse players in Nineteen Forty-Six have bet one billion, seven hundred and sixty-six odd millions on races. That is, the horse players of only nineteen states, the states in which horse racing is most popular. With New Yorkers leading the list, with four hundred and seven odd millions, -- which is less than they bet in Nineteen Forty-Five.

These figures refer only to the money bet by means of the pari-mutual machines. It doesn't take into account the many more millions placed illegally with bookmakers.

Californinas come second -- with three-hundred and-forty-seven million, seven-hundred-and-forty-five thousand.

one square mile for each square mile turned over to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.

Does it mean that some pale faces in Palm Springs are going to get scalped?

And that brings us to Chief Rain-in-the-Face Nelson Case.

Taken early 12/12

U.S. Army engineers came forward today in Washington as witnesses against Senator Bilbo of Mississippi. A sub-committee of senators is investigating charges that Bilbo took tips from war contractors. The military engineers testified that Bilbo had used his influence to procure contracts for the building of two airfields, ~~to favored firms,~~ one ~~of them~~ a firm to which his former campaign manager belonged. It is charged that Bilbo ~~had~~ received more than thirty thousand ~~dollars~~ in cash, a car, and a completely furnished house for his services.

The engineers described this campaign manager of Bilbo's as an engineer without resources, a promoter and front man. *All of which so* ~~that~~ annoyed Bilbo, *that* ~~who~~ got up on his hind legs and shouted: "He was the brains of the organization!" Then he added: "I know that because he elected me twice."

It turned out tonight that the Senators have

asked the F.B.I. to look for ^{one} Edward P. Terry, formerly Bilbo's secretary. Terry has been missing for weeks. He told friends that he and his family had been threatened with death if he gave evidence against Bilbo.

This came to light after a member of the Committee, Senator Ferguson of Michigan, asked the Chairman to call Terry. ~~to give testimony.~~ Counsel for the Committee then said he had been looking for Terry since last Saturday, and ^{had} learned ~~that~~ he had been missing ~~for~~ a long time. ^{and}

^{that} Terry told the Committee's counsel about these threats in a letter. ~~He~~ Said he had received the threats by telephone, ~~one~~ in April, ^{and} ~~another~~ in October, ^{and one} ~~another~~ on November Twenty-Sixth. So he wrote and asked counsel not to call him as a witness in the Bilbo investigation, in view of the threats to his wife and daughter.

STRIKE

~~Many people~~ ^{today some} In Washington, who tried to use the telephone received the reply, "Sorry, operators are on strike and we cannot give you service."

The strike was confined for the most part to one exchange. The operators were annoyed because the Company employed three girls who do not belong to the union. They asked the Company to fire them, but the Company refused. So the operators, after thirty minutes' warning, folded their hands, sat still, and declined to put through any calls.

And now Hugh will you
unfold your hands - and take over.

Can Drop

SENTENCE

Here's a story ^{of special} ~~that ought to~~ interest you, Hugh.

A citizen of Mississippi, driving a car, hit a pedestrian

crushed him against a truck. He died, leaving twelve

children, eight of them ^{quite} young. ~~ones~~ A jury convicted ~~him~~ ^{to}

^{that driver} today, and the judge offered him his choice of two

sentences. He could either go to jail for a term of two

to twenty years or he could pledge himself to contribute

toward the support of ~~these~~ ^{the} eight dependent children,

five dollars a month for each ~~of them~~ until they ^{all} ~~reach~~ ^{reach}

~~reach~~ the age of eighteen, ^{the} the youngest being two ^{now} ~~years~~ ^{years}

~~and~~

^{and} The convicted man has two days to make up his mind, which sentence ~~he will take~~

That ^{like} seems ~~to be that~~ a judicial decision

worthy of ~~our~~ old ~~friend~~ King Solomon. ~~What do you say,~~

~~Hugh?~~