

Doubt Truman Will Recommend General Income Tax Cut

Hints Revenue Must Remain At '46 Levels

White House Skeptic Of GOP Proposal

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press White House Reporter
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—President Truman does not intend to recommend a general income tax cut to the new congress, White House sources said today.

According to these informants, Mr. Truman believes government tax revenue must be kept at current levels to pay off the national debt.

He was represented to feel that the public should pay high taxes now while "times are good."

The sources were skeptical of reports that the President might advocate a tax reduction for lower-bracket wage earners through higher exemptions. They pointed out that even a small increase in exemptions would cost the government billions.

Estimate \$5-Billion Cost

At the same time, the White House informants strongly doubted the feasibility of a 20 per cent across the board tax reduction, as proposed by some Republicans.

They estimated such a cut would cost the government \$5 billion, the yearly interest charge on the national debt.

Meanwhile, bi-partisan opposition to a 20 per cent cut developed in the tax-writing house ways and means committee. Rep. Harold Knutson (R. Minn.), who is in line to become committee chairman, said again yesterday that such a reduction was possible. He promised to have the necessary legislation ready by Jan. 27.

Express Opposition

Two Republican committee members, however, expressed outright opposition to a cut of that size although both believed some tax relief was necessary.

Rep. Bertrand W. Gearhart (R. Cal.) said he favored graduated tax reduction instead of Mr. Knutson's across-the-board proposal.

"I believe we should give the greatest relief to the taxpayers in the bottom level and the last at the top," Mr. Gearhart said.

He described a 20 per cent cut as "rather drastic" and recommended that congress look for other sources of revenue before trimming income taxes too heavily."

Cut Hard to Achieve

Another Republican committee member, Rep. Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska, said he thought a 20 per cent cut would be hard to achieve. He favored a reduction that would "treat all groups alike."

"But I do not want to see taxes reduced unless we can achieve a balanced budget and set up a debt reduction program," he said.

Democratic members of the committee likewise opposed Mr. Knutson's proposal, but they saw little hope of blocking it.

Fields' Wife, Protege Disagree

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hard-drinking comedian gave her long ago.

"I haven't wound it since he died, Christmas day. But the hands keep moving, not keeping time, but slowly. He's speaking to me, through that watch."

"I feel closer to him now than I ever have. I've never been a mother, but it must be sort of mother love I feel for him. He's been sick so long. He suffered so much."

"I was near him much of that time—18 months when he was in the sanitarium the first time. I was there every day, all day, from dawn on."

Wanted No Funeral

The pretty protege's appearance at Mr. Fields' funeral would be a direct challenge to Mrs. Harriet Fields, the comedian's estranged wife, who announced through her attorney that the family did not want to see Miss Monti at Forest Lawn Thursday morning.

Miss Monti said it was entirely up to Mr. Fields. She said the kind of funeral arrangements Mrs. Fields had made were exactly what Mr. Fields did not want.

Mr. Fields left written instructions that no one should view his body after death and that it should be cremated and the ashes scattered.

Mrs. Fields and their son, W. C. Fields Jr., in a "compromise agreement" between their "religious scruples" and Mr. Fields' adherence of being buried in the ground purchased a mausoleum crypt.

Willed Little to Wife

Another battle between Mrs. Fields and Miss Monti was expected after Mr. Fields' will is filed for probate today. Friends said it left the bulk of an estimated \$600,000 estate to found an orphanage, also remembered his protege, but gave little to his wife and son.

Mr. Fields and Miss Monti met on the Paramount lot in 1932, when both were working in the same picture. Their friendship continued, although both had turbulent temperaments.

"We had fights, but we got over them quickly," she said.

She said she was the last person to speak to him.

"His last words were to me. It was a typical remark. I was feeling emotional and he said:

"Don't kid the actors."



Truman Declares Hostilities Ended

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and mines already seized may be held by the government for six months more—until June 30, 1947.

Mine Contract Awaited

It was under this law that Mr. Truman last May seized the nation's soft coal mines. The mines still are under federal control. They will continue to be until mine operators and the United Mine Workers (A. F. of L.) negotiate a contract.

At present the mines are being operated under a contract signed last May between John L. Lewis, U. M. W. president, and the government.

While the specific seizure power is terminated, it has been pointed out by officials that the government in some cases might be able to invoke general emergency powers to seize strike-bound facilities where the public welfare is affected.

Sugar rationing and rent controls are not affected by the presidential proclamation.

Rent control authority is contained in the OPA extension act which ends next June 30. Sugar rationing authority is contained in another statute.

Foreign Service Limited

Mr. Truman's action also means the end, effective immediately, of tax-free shipments of cigarettes, cigars and tobacco to servicemen.

It also ends the armed forces nurses training program. The war department pointed out, however,

that no army nurses are training now.

Hereafter, no army officer or enlisted man will be required to spend more than two years in certain foreign stations.

Cancelled immediately is the statute waiving certain immigration restrictions for workers imported from western hemisphere countries. This does not affect last year's law providing for the admission of agricultural workers.

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Bus Slightly Damaged

Indianapolis Railways officials said the driver William Hinesley, 721 N. Gladstone, parked the bus to go in a nearby establishment. He left it in gear and did not put on the handbrake, officials said.

The bus, one of the new Mack's delivered last March, was slightly damaged.

A streetcar crash also was reported today. A College streetcar, operated by Clinton A. Ginn, 2334 Roosevelt ave., was in collision with a car operated by Charles B. Jones, 34, of 1903 Yandee st. There were no injuries.

Chiang Signs New Law

NANKING, Dec. 31 (U. P.)—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek signed the new Chinese constitution today. It will come into effect on Christmas day, 1947.

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