

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 30 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 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 committeemen, 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 least 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 committeeman, 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 retirement 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 protegee'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.

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 \$800,000 estate to found an orphanage, also remembered his protegee, but gave little to his wife and son.

Mr. Fields and Miss Monti met on the Paramount lot in 1922, 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.'"



HOAX FORGIVEN—Pvt. James M. Hill today admitted that his story of foiling an attempted robbery while on sentry duty at Hamilton Field, Cal., was a hoax. His fiancée, Rosemary Watson (right), immediately announced she still wants to marry him, but he must yet make his peace with military authorities.

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 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 cigars, 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 in training now.

Henceforth, 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.

End in 6 Months

War-time laws which will end in six months unless extended by congress, include:

The Smith-Connally war labor disputes act. This means that the government must relinquish within six months any plant, mine or other facility seized under the act.

The statute of limitations, particularly as it applies to prosecution of any person held responsible for any part in the Pearl Harbor disaster. Thus, Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short and Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel, army and navy commanders in charge at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese struck Dec. 7, 1941, could not be prosecuted after June 30.

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Meet America's Number One Liar

(Continued From Page One)

N. Y. won honorable mentions for their tall tales.

A farmer friend of Mr. Nedrow's angered an Alaska mosquito one day while sinking fence posts. The mosquito went off to get his gang, and when they returned, one peeled off in a terrific power dive at Mr. Nedrow's friend who side-stepped just in time.

The mosquito was going so fast that he couldn't pull out in time and rammed his stinger into the frozen ground. That gave the farmer an idea. He began moving around the field, ducking every time a mosquito dived at him. Each mosquito wound up with his proboscis sticking in the ground. When all were trapped the farmer shot them, sawed off their stingers and strung his fence wire to them.

Mr. Kleinstuber's story told of the remarkable hybrid animal bred by a friend. It seems the friend crossed a beagle hound with a tom cat. The result was a weird animal that looked a little like a dog but meowed like a cat.

The dog-cat has proved invaluable for catching catfish. It stands near the edge of the water and meows. The catfish come into shallow water to investigate. While they are assembling, the dog-cat swims around between them and deep water. Then he barks like a dog and the frightened fish leap onto dry land where the animal trees them in the nearest sapling.

Driverless Bus Crashes Building

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foundation and the side, about 15 feet from the curb, was smashed. Several radios were damaged. W. W. Horeley, operator of the radio shop, said.

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 Yandes 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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From Army Hero To Sad Sack No. 1

(Continued From Page One)

a window in the finance office with the end of my gun. Then I got scared and started shooting so I could claim robbers had done it."

The rookie from Robinson, Ill., explained that he was nervous at being "stuck on sentry duty" the very night he was supposed to have been married.

At the moment he was inadvertently jabbing his gun muzzle through the finance office window, he said, his bride-to-be was "waiting at the church" in San Francisco.

"Sure I'll stand by him," Miss Watson said today. "I still think the world of him. And he hasn't done so much. He hasn't committed any crime."

Fire at Wet Bushes

Army officials and the FBI probably wouldn't have been so glibly had it not been for the sensitive imaginations of the military police reinforcements. They answered Jimmy's call for the corporal of the guard.

Having no reason to doubt the sentry's story, they deployed themselves strategically behind jeeps and trained their guns on the terrain where Pvt. Hill indicated the "bandits" had withdrawn.

The driving rain and wind-lashed foliage did the rest.

After the battle was over, the M. P.'s swore they had seen dark figures of "at least six men" scurrying away into the darkness.

One military policeman solemnly reported having seen one of the enemy stumble when he was "winged" in the hall of lead from the defending forces.

Officers explained today that the M. P.'s shot at rain-drenched bushes moving in the wind.

Comedy of Errors

The story was even more believable in view of the fact that the finance office of the San Francisco presidio actually had been robbed by burglars only 24 hours earlier.

"It was all a comedy of errors," said Col. Jerry Page, the base executive officer. "The young kid was scared to death when he broke the window. He just got himself deeper and deeper into the web at every turn."

"But when the FBI announced they would keep trying to solve the case, even after Pvt. Hill left for his assignment in Germany, the kid broke down and confessed it was a hoax."

"He didn't want to chance some innocent man being caught and prosecuted for something that did not happen," the officer said.

Col. Page said Pvt. Hill would be taken off guard duty and given some other chore. He would probably go on K. P.—until the commanding officer, Col. John A. Peagin, decided whether punishment was necessary.

Cold New Year's Eve Forecast

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nation shivered under the cold wave.

The weatherman said New Year's eve would be cold and "snappy" in a wide area from the Rocky mountains to the Atlantic seaboard, except for the southern tip of the Florida peninsula.

The mercury skidded to a low of 42 degrees below zero during the night at Bemidji, Minn., and dipped to 28 degrees at Texarkana, Ark.

The thermometer registered 35 below early today at International Falls, Minn., 17 below at Mason City, Ia., 18 below at Presque Isle, Me., 14 below at Lebanon, N. H., and 3 below in northern Illinois.

A fine, sunny day was predicted for the Rose Bowl game in California, but gridiron fans in most other sections were warned to bundle up or take along an umbrella.

Put Atom First, U. S. Urges UN

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international control of atomic energy.

The security council then decided to postpone general debate until next week.

Herschel Johnson, U. S. delegate on the council, submitted a formal resolution asking the council to give "first priority to the establishment of international control over atomic energy and, accordingly, it will consider and act upon the forthcoming report of the atomic energy commission as soon as received."

Other Plans Expected

"The council will thereafter consider what further practical measures it should take and in what order of priority for the implementation of the general assembly resolution (on general disarmament)," the resolution stated.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the U. S. and other countries would have disarmament proposals. He said they should get simultaneous consideration.

Andrei Gromyko of Russia replied to Mr. Johnson.

Soviet Measure Called 'Practical'