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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Unbalanced by Fat

ONE BIG fact about President Truman's budget, submitted to Congress yesterday, is that the proposed outgo is bigger than the estimated income.

Mr. Truman made that obvious last week when he said government spending, by the end of the next budget year, would be running between \$85 and \$90 billion a year. And the shortage of government cash to pay that big bill would be around \$16 billion, the President said.

Mr. Truman apparently is not too much concerned about this. He says it is "undesirable" but doesn't seem to see any alternative, short of crippling the defense program.

But a deficit means a debt. It means the government is running on borrowed money. Borrowed money bears interest, which means the government pays more for what it buys.

That's inflationary, and inflation is something the President says he wants to stop, because it is "dangerous." Which it is.

THERE is only one way to avoid a deficit—and that's to balance the budget.

There are only two ways to balance a budget—raise some money, or cut out some of the spending.

Congress is making it pretty plain it has no intention of hiking taxes—not in an election year. So it is up to Congress to slice some healthy chunks out of the spending program.

That won't be easy. Because Mr. Truman is a stickler for keeping up non-defense spending, as the program he laid out in his economic report showed. And the military squeals every time any phases of its budget are challenged.

But the evidence of waste and luxury spending in both the defense and non-defense branches of the government are all around for Congress to see. Such items as changing the Army uniform, an unnecessary and costly scheme.

THE REPORTS of the Senate preparedness subcommittee and other Congressional investigations are full of waste examples. Military occupation forces in Japan and Germany are living high on the hog and there are some plush layouts here at home.

In its own setup, Congress has a relatively simple method for balancing the budget. It is found in the La-follette-Monroney Reorganization Act of 1946, which requires the budgeting committees of Congress to set a spending ceiling on a level with expected income and then wrap all appropriations into one package under that ceiling.

Vive Le Tax

ABOUT one out of every five dollars spent by the United States for military construction in France in the common defense effort will be paid to the French government in taxes, a congressional subcommittee has reported.

"It is particularly significant that the French government will collect in taxes from our procurement transactions in France more than the amount of the French contribution to the line of communications program for the current year," the report stated.

It is estimated that these tax payments may amount to as much as \$100 million.

Belatedly, our Defense Department officials explain that they are discussing with the French proposals to refund some of this money, and to exempt future expenditures from French taxation. But why didn't someone think about this before putting our money on the line? Apparently because the last man anybody in our government thinks about these days is the American taxpayer.

On that same subject, there is the matter of the \$600 million our government has agreed to spend in France before June 30, also as a part of this general defense program.

Half of this money is in economic assistance, which will be used to balance the French budget. The other half was to be in the form of United States expenditures for air fields and communications in France, and of purchases of military equipment there for the use of U. S. forces in France and Germany.

It has become a problem how to get the "military" half of this fund into French hands before the June 30 deadline, according to a report to the New York Times. We quote: "The French must help the Americans spend this money by enabling them to make quick contracts for military works, by less indirect dealings with contractors and by cutting official red tape. Though the French want the dollars, they have not yet done enough in these respects to satisfy United States officials."

Let it be noted that there is no emphasis at all on getting on with the job because of its relation to mutual security. The major effort seems directed toward getting our dollars into French hands. Verily, the French have discovered a goose which lays golden eggs. If this emergency lasts long enough, all of their economic problems should be solved.

In Contempt of Congress

LAWs apparently do not mean anything to officials administering President Truman's Point Four program. The Mutual Security Act of 1951 stipulated that no assistance should be provided under that act to any nation unless it agreed to make its full contribution "to the development and maintenance of its own defensive strength and the defensive strength of the free world."

The act further provided that no economic or technical assistance should be supplied to any nation which did not agree to join in promoting international understanding and good will, and "to take such action as might be mutually agreed upon to eliminate the causes of international tension."

Premier Mohammed Mossadegh of Iran refused to accept either of these conditions for Point Four assistance. So our officials agreed to give him \$23 million anyway.

The Mutual Security Act also declared one of its purposes to be provision of incentives for "a steadily increased participation of free private enterprise in developing the resources of foreign countries." Among the projects on the list for U. S. financing are some large government-owned textile mills in Tehran.

But what's a law between bureaucrats?

WELL, WILL HE? . . . By Charles Lucey

How Long Can Harry Keep Up That 'I Will—I Won't' Game?

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—A sizeup of the situation in regard to the Democratic presidential nomination, based in part on politicians' talks with Harry Truman in recent days:

There is fairly general agreement now that Mr. Truman does not wish to run. He is in the candidate-hunting stake and the search is for a liberal Northern Democrat. But the pressure for the President to be a candidate is growing daily and he may yield.

MR. TRUMAN, in conversations with political friends, has not closed the door on being a candidate.

If it becomes clear that Sen. Robert A. Taft will win the Republican presidential nomination, Mr. Truman's friends say he might run. They say he makes no bones on his determination to do whatever seems necessary—and that might mean running—to prevent Mr. Taft from becoming President.

As a politician, Mr. Truman understands the need to disclose his plans as soon as possible to Democratic Senators and Representatives, who are waiting for his decision to plan their own moves. Many wish to align themselves with other candidates if he takes himself out of the picture.

As to timing, Mr. Truman has said only that his announcement will be made before the national conventions. It may not be necessary for him to wait until the GOP meeting to be fairly sure whether Mr. Taft will be the GOP nominee.

Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D. N.M.), who was in Mr. Truman's cabinet and who knows

his way around politically, now thinks Mr. Truman will be nominated. He and others said so last week after talking with the President. The more prominently this view is voiced, the tougher it is for Sen. Estes Kefauver (D. Tenn.) and other possible candidates to win delegates. Many Democratic politicians will make up their minds as to another candidate only after it's certain the President himself is clearly out of the running.

WITH Supreme Court Justice Fred Vinson now mentioned less prominently, runner-up position goes to Mr. Kefauver, who is expected to unveil his candidacy in a few days. Few now hoot at his candidacy, as might have been the case once. Even Democrats who do not care for Mr. Kefauver's politics say that if Mr. Truman

doesn't run and if the Democratic convention is wide open—for the first time in 20 years—anything could happen.

MR. KEFAUVER'S crime-hunting television glamor isn't underrated. If he performed well in two or three Presidential primaries he could be a formidable mass at Chicago.

But among his colleagues in Congress Mr. Kefauver is no exclusive favorite. Many Democrats still see Sen. Paul Douglas (D. Ill.) as the man the Democrats should nominate, and some believe he would be a stronger candidate than Mr. Truman. Mr. Douglas in straightforward language has said he wouldn't accept the nomination. His friends do not question his sincerity but have no idea of letting it go at that. They hope to batter down his resolve.

Mr. Douglas and Mr. Truman haven't been great pals. But this breach could be healed. The President is said to have Gov. Adlai Stevenson of Illinois high on his list. The governor carried his state by a whopping vote in 1948 when it was supposed to go Republican. Yet there are some possible courts against him, among them the fact he is not widely known.

Some see Sen. Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma as a possibility if Mr. Truman doesn't run. He is one of his party's ablest debaters and if he should be Democratic convention keynote—a possibility being discussed—he would be in a strategic spot.

SEN. MIKE MONRONEY (D. Okla.) is urging Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn as the nominee. He contends that, as speaker, Mr. Rayburn has been the No. 2 man in the government, that in 40 years in Washington scandal never has touched him, that he is author of some of the most notable New Deal era legislation, that he is respected by both Northern and Southern Democrats. And, Sen. Monroney says, Mr. Rayburn has Congressmen or former Congressmen who will work for him in nearly every state.

ENGLAND . . . By Ludwell Denny

Can Churchill Win His Fight?

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—Prime Minister Winston Churchill is expected to survive British criticism resulting from his Washington agreements, but opposition to his former Far Eastern policy will continue.

It is assumed he will win when challenged on this issue soon after the House of Commons reconvenes on Jan. 29. However, that would indicate loyalty to the man and the majority's unwillingness to desert the new leader so soon after election, rather than any general conversion to the possible necessity of a retaliatory war against the Red China aggressor.

In the long run, of course, the Prime Minister must carry the country with him or fall. Whether this will be possible in a Korean or Indo-China emergency will depend largely on the enemy's skill in confusing the issue, and on how much time Mr. Churchill has to educate the uninformed British public on Far Eastern facts.

Opposition in England to the Churchill policy is taken seriously here not because of bitter attacks by leftwing Benavites, or discomfort of the still dominant Attlee-Morrison wing of the Labor Party, but because of criticism by independent. Such highly influential organs as The Times of London and the Manchester Guardian fear Mr. Churchill may have gone too far here in the direction of a so-called MacArthur policy.

Counterattack and Denials

IN MEETING this widespread criticism at home the Prime Minister is expected to use both counterattack and denials. Denials are apt to cause less alarm among Washington officials than among some American headline readers, who assume he made far more sweeping pledges than he did in fact.

Three statements on the Far East made by the Prime Minister, or by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden on his authority, are involved. One was the warning to Red China not to attack Southeast Asia. Another was that British response to violation of a Korean truce "will be prompt, resolute and effective." The third was praise for United States refusal to "allow the Chinese anti-Communists on Formosa to be invaded and massacred from the mainland."

Many Britons fear these statements mean Britain is pledged to an all-out war against Red China if Southeast Asia is attacked, a Korean truce violated, or Formosa invaded. So far as can be learned here the Prime Minister made no such specific commitments and signed nothing resembling a blank check.

A Naval Blockade?

IN EVENT of clear aggression elsewhere or breach of a Korean truce, Britain would be expected to withdraw diplomatic recognition from Peking. But—

Would Britain join in a naval blockade of Red China? Or in retaliatory bombing of Chinese ports, rivers, transport lines, bases, and strategic centers? Or in supporting anti-Red forces on Formosa in a counterattack against the Red mainland?

On these questions the Prime Minister appears to be in a position to answer his British critics that his government remains free to decide, in the best interests of Britain, if and when the time comes.

American officials seem to be so pleased with the Churchillian general attitude regarding the Far Eastern menace that they are content to leave it at that for the present.

They are much less concerned about Mr. Churchill may have to say to counter British fears that he and President Truman have been warmongering, than about the effects on Moscow and Peking of any softening of his Washington warnings against more Asian aggression.

Views on the News

By DAN KIDNEY

BIGGEST worry of many Americans is that in the next national campaign scrap, both fighters may be under weight.

SMILE—Breathless as a "drafted" candidate.

CORRUPTION in government has reached the point where the Justice Department is figuring on hiring some attorneys.

NEW DEFINITION of "reactionary"—a public official who can't be bought.

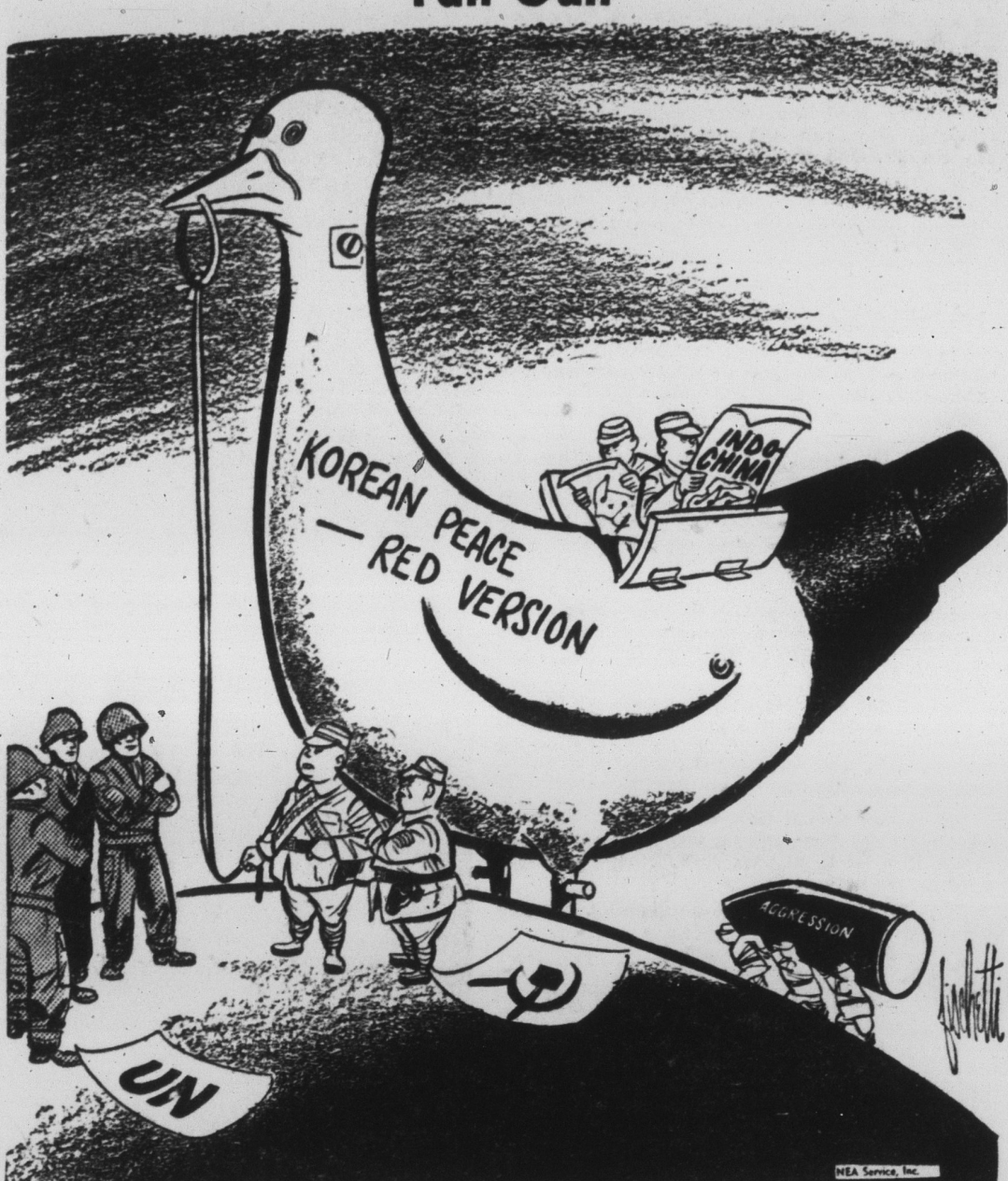
THE ADMINISTRATION budget proves that President Truman still thinks he can spend all we can make.

OPS Administrator DiSalle has substituted the word "bafflegab" for "gobbledygook." That should land him a place on the Democratic platform committee.



Mr. DiSalle . . . bafflegab

Tail Gun



A MATTER OF AGE . . . By Peter Edson

Winnie Gets by at 77—So Can I?

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—There were a lot of people in Prime Minister Winston Churchill's audience when he spoke to Congress who probably looked at him and listened to him and thought:

"If Winnie can still get by at 77, so can I."

But there were others on the floor of the House and in the gallery who came away from that third appearance of Mr. Churchill before Congress with the feeling, "He's still one of the world's greatest statesmen, if not the greatest, but he's not what he used to be."

It was Mr. Churchill's first speech-making appearance before television, so the TV audience had no basis for comparison with past performances.

Radio audiences may have sensed the situation accurately. This was a good speech. But it didn't lift them out of their seats, cheering.

Consideration of old age among politicians is not necessarily disrespectful. It is a fact of life. Not present in the House of Representatives chamber when Mr. Churchill made his speech, but watching the proceedings by television in his office was President Harry S. Truman.

He will be 68 years old on May 8. That's nine years younger than Mr. Churchill.

If Mr. Truman could get re-elected President next November and serve out another full four-year term, he would be only 72 in 1956, or five years younger than Mr. Churchill is today.

"If Winnie can still get by at 77, so can I," Mr. Truman may have thought that as he listened to the speech. But intimates of the President say that a different line of thought has sometimes been running through his mind.

The Trumans are a long-lived breed. If Harry S. Truman were to resign from the presidency after 15 or 20 years of life.

If he continues in public office, attempting to bear all the burdens certain to be heaped on his shoulders and desk in the next four years, he might die before the term was out. Is the game worth that price?

Seated on the rostrum behind Prime Minister Churchill as he spoke were Vice President Alben W. Barkley, who will be 75 next Novem-

ber, and Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn of Texas, a mere boy of 70.

Friends of the Vice President report that, here of late, he has become an authority on the lives of elder statesmen.

He can cite all the facts about Georges Clemenceau, who was World War I premier of France at 77 and lived to be 88. Or of Field Marshal Paul Von Hindenburg, who was President of Germany right up to his death in 1934 at age 87.

All this interest of the Vice President's in people who are not only 17 but three score and 17 comes naturally.

For there are those among the Democratic hierarchy who think that Mr. Barkley should step aside to let some younger man run for his office. With this idea, Mr. Barkley has shown no sympathy thus far.

"If Winnie can get by at 77, why can't I?" Facing Mr. Churchill in his audience were a number of venerable Senators and Representatives who may have had this same thought.

There was, for instance, Sen. Theodore Francis Green of Rhode Island. He will be 85 in October.

A Good Impression

SENATOR GREEN was all over Europe last year, and every place he went he made a good impression. He attended every briefing, and in between official business sessions he went to all the art museums, instead of carousing around the way some junketers do.

He was indeed a credit to his country in spite of his years.

But before Mr. Churchill was also Sen. Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee, who will be 83 years old on Jan. 29, though he keeps his birthday out of his official biography in the Congressional Record.

He hobbled into the session on a cane, and has been noticeably even more enfeebled since his return to Washington this year. He is up for re-election this November, and there is a chance he will not be back.

Sen. Walter F. George of Georgia will be 74 on Jan. 29. Sen. Tom Connally of Texas is 75, and so is Sen. Carl Hayden of Arizona. Sen. James E. Murray of Montana is 76.

On the house side, there was Adolph Sabath of Illinois who is 86. Robert L. Doughton of North Carolina is 89. Robert Crosser of Ohio is 78. Daniel A. Reed of New York is 77. And others.

"If Churchill can get by at 77, why can't I?"



Mr. Barkley . . . why can't I?

Hoosier Forum

"I do not agree with a word that you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."—Voltaire

'Going to the Dogs'

MR. EDITOR:

Before last summer, we lived on a nice, clean, quiet, peaceful street outside of the city limits. Before last summer we all paid for our own scavenger service, until the city decided to send the city collectors for garbage and ashes, etc., into our district, which now clutters up the once clean streets with garbage and ashes. After the city trucks go by each Monday morning it is quite a sight to see each housewife outside cleaning up the dirty, filthy mess.

Today something new was added; the city street cleaners came parading down the street with shovels on shoulders. Why? No dirt to clean, nothing to shovel.

Why doesn't someone see to it that the streets that need cleaning, and these are plenty, are taken care of?

Not only the above complaints, but the city dog pound now picks up our dogs from in front of our houses.

To sum it all up, it looks as if a once beautiful community is now going to the dogs.

—C. V. Morrow, City.

'Remedy for Hiccups'

MR. EDITOR:

Open letter to Donna Mikels: I'm writing you as I don't know of any other way I can get this off my mind.

Whenever any of us gets a slight case of hiccups, I always think of a person I read about. I think The Times carried the story last summer about a person who has had the hiccups for an extremely long time and has the doctors baffled.

I often wonder if that person has got over the hiccups. If he hasn't, would he try another remedy if he hasn't already?

It is simply to put a pencil across your mouth like a horse's bit, then drink a glass of water. I have heard of and tried several remedies for hiccups that haven't worked. But I have had success with this one with several different people.

If this will help this person, I feel I should come forward. I can't remember any more about the story.

My only hope is that he has found a cure long before now. But if not, I certainly hope the pencil and water does help.

—A Times Subscriber, Morristown

'In His Record'

MR. EDITOR:

People are expressing such dismay over the actions of Mayor Clark. Why?

His record on the bench was anything but inspiring, to put it mildly. If voters would have studied that record instead of indulging in hates and prejudices, there would be no surprise.

As for his campaign promises. What promises? Clark campaigned on a national platform of "hate Truman." He promised one thing . . . that he would deliver this city and county to the Republicans in 1952. To do that, he will play politics with everything he touches.

In addition, he is surrounded by a bunch of young upstarts who think the first thing to do the minute they get a little authority is to fire all the "gray heads" in sight. Most of those "gray heads" have forgotten more than the young punks will ever know.

But then, that is the way it is. People are always voting for something they don't want, and getting it.

—F. M. City

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"We're saving like mad to pay our taxes—so we're just visiting friends instead of stepping out and enjoying ourselves!"

WHEW . . . By Frederick C. Othman

How to 'Sprain an Arm' in One Lesson

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 — President Truman's budget (1222 pages, five and a quarter pounds, \$5.75 per copy) I cannot recommend to lovers of good books. It is a volume destined to break a taxpayer's heart, sprain his arm if he places to carry it far.

The \$85,400,000,000 Mr. Truman wants is a sum so vast and so replete with astronomical zeros that I doubt if anybody can comprehend it all at once. I have, however, been thumbing through Mr. Truman's mighty book and perhaps I can give you some vague idea of it, by jotting down a few, a very few, of the places where the money goes.

Take the \$195,500 for repair of the furniture of the House of Representatives; this indicates either that Congressmen throw their furnishings, or that they are too fat and sit down too hard.

The budget calls for \$10,000 to keep the Senators' subway cars running, \$3000 to build them packing boxes for their souvenirs, and \$8500 to remodel the Congressional barber shops.

THEN THERE'S the \$40,000 listed for making drawings of

the newly remodeled White House. These will be placed in the National Archives, it says here in the fine print, for the benefit of future Presidents who may want to remodel the place again.

For maintaining the White House and its grounds the President asks for \$367,200, or better than \$36,000 a month.

For inspecting locomotives he lists \$761,000 and for inspecting meat, \$13,365,700.

The General Services Administration needs \$128 million for buying stuff for the government, but says its new tire-testing laboratories are going

to save \$14 million in keeping governmental motorcars shod.

Every agency in the government, bar none, needs more sedans. The Atomic Energy Commission, for instance, already owns 2223 automobiles and intends to spend \$911,300 for 450 new ones, including 34 buses and 39 station wagons.

The State Department intends to buy a number of limousines for ambassadors at \$3600 per copy.

Agricultural research in Alaska, including how best to feed milk to make their coats pretty, will cost \$270,000. Im-

proving milk cows is down for \$347,200, while killing bugs of all kinds wholesale will set us back \$12.3 million.

ABOUT ALL I can say to the \$82,521,054,300 for the Department of Defense is, ouch. I did note, however, that this sum includes \$25 each as rewards to pay for the capture of deserters and \$3000 to be spent any way he pleases by the governor of the Panama Canal Zone for entertainment.

The Commission of Fine Arts, which advised President Truman not to build that back porch, needs \$26,400. For the health of Indians we must spend \$22,348,000 for the education of Indians, \$26,498,000 for the welfare of Indians, \$4,124,000; and for law and order among Indians, \$517,000.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, which collects taxes, wants \$305 million to do it. Points out that it probably have to issue 18,833,000 delinquent tax bills. The mint intends to spend \$5,780,000 manufacturing two billion coins, including 1,379,000,000 pennies; 191 million nickels; 260 million dimes; 116 million quarters; and 54 million half-dollars. It will make no silver dollars.

—By Ben Burroughs



CADILLAC

On its 50th engine on the

That, I t anyone else, w the big motor I suspect if the ante, Cad again. It int most powerfu can road.

One of the do not understa is that it is not ury car, althou and like riding

GENERAL big stake in C it is the same roiet, smartest that stake is ing must come

A Cadillac pr more to drive period that w you don't drive year, and they radically. And ingly thrifty.

A CADILLAC small car a pr economy alone. I have never moment that C back basking in twiddling its th her popped with power eight.

Auto manufa game, but it is But everyone v champ is in for

THAT'S WHY horses under th