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ROY W. HOWARD President WALTER LECKRONE Editor HENRY W. MANZ Business Manager



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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 squalls 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 plow layouts here at home.

In its own setup, Congress has a relatively simple method for balancing the budget. It is found in the Lafollette-Moroney 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

A BOUT 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

L AWS 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 stage 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 his 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 man 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 is 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 break 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 counts 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 keynoter—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, has never 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.

## 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 come 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: 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 is to mince them get a little authority 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

Little things stamp of big in and business, to buying a quicholate.

AND I ADMIT IT

that easy. Lawyers tell me that when a man is dead, he is not effective.

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MR. WHEELER

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## 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—Breathe 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 . . . bafflegab

Mr. DiSalle

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

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith

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 half 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 has to carry it far.

The \$85,400,000 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 \$5500 to remodel the Congressional barber shop.

Take the \$1,000,000 for 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