Washington Digest

Truman Labors Under New Deal 'Inheritance'

Congress Seen Taking Advantage of President's Rightist Leanings; Lacks Influence of FDR to Put Policies Over.



By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

as the President's labor legislation in congress.

We hurried along Pennsylvania avenue, our coat collars turned up, arguing heatedly as newsmen do when they are released from the inhibitions which seize them the moment they sit down and meet the solemn stare of their typewriter keyboards with that threatening noose, the deadline, tightening about the medulla oblangata. the medulla oblangata.

the medulla oblangata.

"The most astounding thing," said one of us, "is the way Truman, with all his experience in congress, can't get along with it. If he would only buttonhole some of the thinkers in the opposition, say Vandenberg in the senate and men like Wollcott in the house, and appeal to their sense of patriotism, he wouldn't have all this trouble."

"It isn't as simple as that," in "It isn't as simple as that," interrupted another, as we paused to show our photographic passes to the guard at the gate (who has known us all by our first names for a decade but who always solemnly studies our cards as if they were allases). "It isn't as simple as that. After all, congress has to be realistic in an election year. They are facing real issues. And the President's program isn't realistic."

"Whether or not it is realistic,"

"Whether or not it is realistic," the third member of the group put the third member of the group put in, "after all it isn't his program. He inherited it. It's New Deal and the New Deal is Old Hat now. It doesn't represent Harry Truman's ideas at all but he has to go through

All I felt I could add to those sage observations, without agreeing that the New Deal was Old Hat or the the New Deal was Old Hat or the latest Downing Street model, whether it was realistic or modernistic or neo-marxian, was that it certainly is probable that if the President were able to shatter his inheritance to bits and then remould it to something nearer his heart's desire, he could probably put a lot more pep into his selling talk to congress.

By this time we were adding our coats to the huge pile of garments on the great Aguinaldo mahogany table in the lobby of the executive offices and taking our place in the line outside the conference room.

Resentment Shades

Chief's Feelings

On this particular day the President started off with the note on which the whole conference was carried. I don't quite know how to describe it. He kept smiling. He didn't lose his temper. But there was just a shade of resentment in his voice and his words. It all sounded more like the later, somewhat disillusioned days of his predecessor, than the merry moments when a Roosevelt interview was always a good show as well as a newsful event—I mean the early days before the weight of war descended upon FDR's wearying brow. There is a weight on Truman today quite as heavy, for peace has its mis-On this particular day the Presias heavy, for peace has its misas heavy, for peace has its miseries as well as war. Just as it was freely predicted that "the United States will never stand for an occupying army for any length of time" (which proved to be so painfully correct), so everyone took for granted that any President in office when the war ended would have an impossible job.

He could have called out the army and the navy, the national guard, the FBI and the United Marching and Social Clubs, and taken over the steel industry the pext have an impossible job.

But let's get back to the crowded office of the President on the winoffice of the President on the winter day I am describing. He sat there smilling, exchanging wise-cracks with the men in the first row. On the table behind him were the photographs of his family, crowned with a great bunch of jonquils from the White House greenhouse. He looked cheerful enough. The usual signal "all in" was sounded. He stood up and began to talk about what he called a "tempest in a teacup"—the controversy over building an addition to the White House. Personally I think it is the height of folly to continue the ef-

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W.,

Washington, D. C.

It was a cool, crisp winter day.
A week before the erratic Washington weather had seduced a whole circle of credulous pansies which pushed their startled faces up from the garden on the White House lawn.
Poor bemused flora! They were soon frozen as solid in their beds as the President's labor legislation in congress.

We hurried along Pennsylvania avenue, our coat collars turned up, arguing heatedly as newsmen do

Why can't Truman get on with congress? Perhaps because he is a little too much like them. This is merely a hunch but I am not the only one who has toyed with the idea: both congress and the President (I realize that "congress" is a loose term because the legislators are a collection of many men of many minds) inclines farther to the right than the inherited Roosevelt program is targeted. Congress, the part of it that knows Harry Truman well, undoubtedly feels that his heart leans just about as far in the same direction. Therefore, he just can't get these more leftish ideas can't get these more leftish ideas across. Harry Truman has a tremendous respect for the office of the presidency, a deep feeling of duty to carry out the program which death placed in his hands—a duty and a function he never sought. He cannot toss this heritage into the discard. And he probably reasons that if he feels that responsibility, the members of the party should do likewise. But it must be remembered thaf it was the powerful influence of a personality which could win an election four times, a task no American had dared to attempt even for the third, which kept congress obedient and even then, toward the end, only falteringly.

Truman Reveals His True Self

On this particular day of which I am speaking, I think we heard Truman revealing his true self. He believes that the White House should be enlarged. He resented the opposition which he suspected was at least in part personal and political least in part personal and political rather than the product of sincere conviction. I thought I heard that in his voice.

But I also think I heard in his words, a similar expression of his own philosophy, when he said that he thought the present industrial strife was a struggle for power bestrife was a struggle for power between labor and management. In
other words that basically it was
not the demands of the men who
work for more pay nor was it an
objection on the part of industry to
pay higher wages, as much as it
was a pitch battle between labor
leaders and the top men in management to see which could beat the
other down.

To one who brags about being To one who brags about being middle-class, without even a drop of blood of an Irish king in his veins, it sounded like good, sound (call it stuffy if you want) middle-class resentment. Then the President added that he thought that both labor and management had too much power and it was time for the government to stee in and assert the ernment to step in and assert the power of the people which govern-ment is supposed to represent.

But when we asked the President if and how the government was go-ing to assert itself to exert the "pow-

He could have called out the army and the navy, the national guard, the FBI and the United Marching and Social Clubs, and taken over the steel industry the next day. But a step like that, which was no more than the wave of a tapering cigarette holder yesterday, was one which no cautious middle-class, middle-western, middle-of-the-road American would like to take except under duress. If say that

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

In youth it sheltered me." Remem-ber the poem. Now it's USE that tree, forests produce jobs as well as timber.

Are you a hypochondriac? Per-haps the government can help you. The Maritime commission will sell you a fine life-saving suit for \$15. One piece, from boot to bood.

Farm prices are going up, the Alexander Hamilton institute thinks. They did after the last war and similar trends are evident.

What's a slogan worth? The National Safety Council's "safety first" plus a lot of hard plugging has cut down death from accidents at a rate of 85.5 per 100,000 in 1913 to 71.7 in 1944.



LOSS OF HANDS AND FEET DOES NOT STOP HERO . . . Pfc. James Wilson, Starke, Fla., demonstrates that loss of hands and feet is no bar to driving an automobile. He is shown (right) at New York City as he was greeted by city council president, Vincent Impelliteri (left), and Bess Myerson, "Miss America of 1945."



"WINNIE" AT HIS FAVORITE PASTIME . . . Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, vacationing in Florida, spends some of his leisure moments at his easel. In addition to being a statesman and author, Churchill is a recognized artist. He is shown completing an oil painting of an ocean and cabana scene at a surf club near Miami.



FROM PRISON CAMP TO HOME WITH HIS VALENTINE... To Lt. J. Welling Pidcock, Trenton, N. J., Valentine's Day this year will be far different than what it was a year ago. Holder of the air medal with cluster and the Purple Heart with cluster, Lleutenant Pidcock was shot down over the Brenner pass during a bombing mission and spent Valentine's Day last year in a German prison. This year, like millions of other returning heroes, he will be welcomed home by the familiar sight of a sentimental valentine from the girl who waited.



PRECIOUS PACKAGE CONSIGNED TO U. S. A. . . . At Tidworth reception camp, where G.I. brides and their babies are waiting to board ship for a trip to the United States to join their husbands and fathers, Pamela Esme bids good-by to her six-month-old cousin, Maureen Hazel Lawrence, who is going to her father, Bruce Wesley Lawrence, Fond du Lac, Wis, Hundreds of brides and babies are awaiting transportation.



Marsh, Brighton, Mass., while only five years old, has learned how to earn money by saving it. With a bill in his hand, that "mom" gave to have his tooth pulled, Larry per-forms operation on dentist's door.



LEWIS RETURNS HOME . . . John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine workers, pictured as announcement was made that his union had re-affiliated with the AFL. Lewis has



MASTER-MIND OF THE AIR WAVES . . . Maj. Edwin H. Armstrong, 55, former Columbia university professor of electrical engineering, and inventor of frequency modulation, as well as other basic radio patents, who is credited with ra-dar's trip to the moon. Since 1930 he has won many awards for out-standing radio and radar development. Armstrong also served in World War I.



By a big majority, Dr. Trygve Halvoan Lie, 48, Norwegian foreign minister, was chosen by delegates to be United Nations secretary-general. His salary will be \$20,000 a year.

Adm. Chester Nimitz, new chief of naval operations, was sitting in the navy building barber shop near a captain in the naval reserve. The four-striper, exchanging pleasanties with the former U. S. commander in the Pacific and the pacific a



DISARM OR FACE RUIN . . . Was the theme of a two-hour speech with which Sen. Millard E. Tydings (D., Md.) interrupted, but did not stop, FEPC fillbuster. He demanded that all nations disarm.

FARMERS AND LABORERS

WASHINGTON. — It gives no joy to issue storm warnings. But the price-wage turmoil of today may have equal or even greater repercussions next spring when farmers lose their food subsidies.

What most people don't realize is that the public is squarely in between two powerful, well-organized pressure groups, both with very conflicting interests, both sometimes taking a public-be-damned attitude. One is organized labor. The other one is organized labor. The other is the farm organizations, which, while they can't strike, can and will exert effective pressure when subsidies are removed.

Both groups work against each other in the following manner: When labor raises wages in the cities, this sucks labor away from the farms. Whereupon the farmer has to raise farm wages in order to com-pete with the cities. This in turn increases his cost of production, forcing him to increase prices or go out of business.

At present, the farmer can't in-crease prices because of OPA. So the government, recognizing the injustice of his higher operating costs, gives him a subsidy. When this subsidy is removed, he will have to increase prices — unless operating costs are reduced. And the current strike wave is constantly forcing up the cost of labor.

All this operates in a vicious eircle. For, the minute food prices go up, labor will come in for more wage increase, based upon the cost of living. Organized labor, of course, can

better take care of itself. But unorganized and unprotected are a great body of white-collar workers, unskilled labor, plus the middle-class business men who get squeezed in between. This is the group which is getting sorer and sorer at labor. There was a time when they were sympathetic, but not new. This is the red flag of public opinion which organized labor needs to watch.

U. S. MARES TO EUROPE Biggest foreign purchase of horses since Mussolini drained the south-west for his Ethiopian transport divisions is now taking place in the middle west. UNRRA is buying 16,-000 American mares for disposal in Greece, Yugoslavia, Poland and Czechoslovakia — countries from which the Nazis drove away most of the horse population.

The mares are being purchased under the supervision of the department of agriculture which has passed the job on to the Sparks-Norris horse and mule company in St. Louis, Owen Brothers in Memphis, and Dean Bowns and W. L. Elder in Des Moines. Average price paid by UNRRA to the dealer is \$77 and \$97.50 per head.

This has aroused criticism in the farm belt, because dealers are paying only \$50 to \$60 per horse, thus netting a profit of about \$25 each. However, agriculture department officials defend prices on the ground that dealers take a risk on sick horses, accidents during shipment,

The army paid an average of \$165 per head for horses during the war, but was more particular, rejecting horses for scars and blemishes.

Mares now being purchased must be
three to eight years old, broken
for both work and riding. They are
being shipped overseas from Baltimore, New Orleans, Jersey City, and Portland, Me.

NOTE. — Tip-off to the fact that Mussolini was planning to conquer Ethiopia came two years before his war started when, in 1933-34, the Italians suddenly bought \$342,798 worth of mules from Missouri, Arkan-

ADMIRAL NIMITZ'S POINTS

points to get out of service, and seemed just as anxious to be sepa rated as the average seaman first

Smiling mischievously, Nimita replied, "I never thought I'd get enough points to get out of the Pacific."

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Those two one-time epemies, AFL's William Green and United Mine Workers' John L. Lewis, were seen, heads together, lunching at the Mayflower hotel here recently. "This may be an historic confer-ence." Green remarked to a passing friend.

consin regarding a department of peace: "I would be in favor of spending as much for this type of program as we are spending for the military establishments today. I military establishments today. I would like to see a secretary for peace within the cabinet."... Teachers' Digest has sent to 30,000 leading educators the following sage advice: "You may admire Russia or you may dhilks her violently. No matter how you feel, one fact remains: If Russia and the U. S. agree, these two countries can assure the peace of the world,"

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