

# 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.

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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 floral! 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 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 oblongata.

"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 senate and men like Willcott in the house, and appeal to their sense of patriotism, he wouldn't have all this trouble."

"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 alibis). "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," 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 with it."

All I felt I could add to those sage observations, without agreeing that 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.

### 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 newsworthy 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 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.

But let's get back to the crowded office of the President on the winter day I am describing. He sat there smiling, exchanging wisecracks with the men in the first row. On the table behind him were the photographs of his family, crowned with a great bunch of jonquills 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-

fort (begun by Theodore Roosevelt) to try to house the office work of the President under the roof of "the President's House," but I mention this controversy simply because it reflects the seamy side of White House-congress relations. Many of the President's friends feel that trying to make a modern office out of a beautiful old American colonial residence is folly, but they also felt that much of the furor raised in congress was due to a desire to embarrass Mr. Truman.

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 leftist 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 that 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 faltering.

### 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 position which he suspected was at 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 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 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 step in and assert the power of the people which government is supposed to represent.

And so congress, part of it responding to the pressure of management and part of it under the pressure of labor, fiddles and filibusters while industry contentedly lives off its fat, labor on union funds or relief and the "people" with all their alleged "power" wonder how long, oh Lord, how long!



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 Impellitteri (left), and Bess Myerson, "Miss America of 1945."



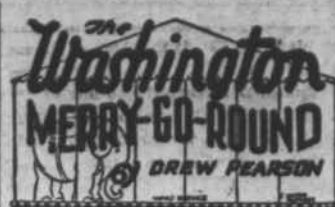
"WINNIE" AT HIS FAVORITE PASTIME . . . Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, vacationing in Florida, spends some of his leisure moments at his easel. In addition to being a statesman and author, Churchill is a recognized artist. He is shown completing an oil painting of an ocean and cabana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



FROM PRISON CAMP TO HOME WITH HIS VALENTINE . . . To Lt. J. Weiling Pfc. 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, Lieutenant Pfc. was shot down over the Bremer 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.



HOW TO SAVE MONEY . . . Larry 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 performs operation on dentist's door.



LEWIS RETURNS HOME . . . John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine workers, pictured as an announcer made that his union had re-affiliated with the AFL. Lewis has taken his place on the AFL executive committee.



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 radar's trip to the moon. Since 1939 he has won many awards for outstanding radio and radar development. Armstrong also served in World War I.



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



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 filibuster. He demanded that all nations disarm.

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## When Your Back Hurts - And Your Strength and Energy is Below Par

It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood.  
You may suffer nagging backache, rheumatic pain, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with burning and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.  
There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won countrywide approval than on something long known. Doan's have been tried and tested many years. Are at all drug stores. Get Doan's today.

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## BARBS . . . by Baukhage

"Woodman, spare that tree! . . . In youth it sheltered me." Remember the poem. Now it's USE that tree, forests produce jobs as well as timber.

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.

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