

# Washington Digest

## Truman Purge Aimed at Restoring Party Machinery

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—Before the Paris Peace conference even got underway we learned that the rules committee, which heard so much heated oratory, was as powerful as the powerful rules committee of the house of representatives.

It wasn't until after the primary returns were in, and Representative (Truman-hater) Slaughter of Missouri, a member of the rules committee, was defeated, that most laymen realized the importance of that battle, and why the President stuck his neck out as far as he did in helping to beat him.

I can see the President now as he looked up with that pert, bird-like glance he has—just enough of a smile to make you try to listen sympathetically—and say that if Slaughter was right, he (the President) was wrong.

Think what Slaughter could have said if he had been elected!

But he was defeated—and the day after the primary, the real significance of the battle became clear.

Never in American history has any administration been up against the situation which developed when the Roosevelt honeymoon ended. I am not arguing how or why that situation came about. But the fact is we have had a situation where party lines meant little, and the age-old principle of majority rule, the theory on which congress, as a working body, is organized, has been violated.

Outstanding example was the rules committee. There were five southerners—anti-administration Democrats—on that committee, and with Slaughter's help, they could tie up the vote and tie up any legislation Truman asked for.

Now maybe the fact that the administration couldn't get its legislation before congress, or couldn't get it passed when it did, was a good thing. I am not discussing that. I merely say that what happened is not a good thing for the two-party system. And as the situation grew more acute, congress wasn't a working body.

Let's take the testimony of a thoroughly loyal Republican member of the committee and acting minority leader, Representative Michener of Michigan. If the Democrats retain control of the house, Michener said, the absence of Representative Slaughter will permit the rules committee to function the way it was intended to function; namely, the legislation of the party in power will be sent to the floor.

That didn't mean Michener wanted the rival party's legislation passed. It simply meant he knew that Slaughter, teaming up with the anti-administration Democrats and the Republicans, was able to tie the vote and stymie action.

And that isn't two-party government.

### Air-Power Big Killer in War

This has been an aviation year. The first peacetime year that America has been acknowledged as mistress of the air as well as of the sea and the land. It has been a time of reminiscence, of recapitulation, as well as forecast and foreshadowing.

I remember the interview I had with a certain army official during the war. His impatience, smashing the ordinary rules of censorship, had revealed the secret of the bazooka kept "confidential" long after it was in use, and the details of which Germans had long since learned to their sorrow. (The bazooka functions on the rocket principle.)

The officer pointed to an old print on his wall. It was a picture of American soldiers discharging a rocket projectile in the War of 1812.

Why, then, if the rocket principle was known to us in those early days, did we not develop it as the Germans did, I asked.

The reason the rocket was neglected in the Civil war period, I was told, was because ordnance experts were concentrating on the development of the breech-

loading firearm, and the perfection of rifling—the making of spiraled grooves inside the barrel which gave the bullet or projectile a twisting movement, and kept it from tumbling "head over heels." This increased range and accuracy.

The emphasis was still on the rifleman rather than the artillery, and such statistics as we have indicate that the infantry in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 wounded 10 times as many men as the artillery did. Undoubtedly the bayonet claimed many.

By 1914-15, however, artillery produced one-half the wounded, showing the rapid advance which, in part, made experts forget the rocket again.

Artillery, according to the old definition, is "group-served, mounted firearms of caliber greater than that of small arms." This definition could easily be made to include the firearms, shells, or bombs carried by planes, or contained in the war-head of a rocket.

I mention the effectiveness of "artillery" in the latter sense, not to belittle the doughboy who is really the "ultimo ratio," but because the projectile, either carried in a plane or by propulsion in a rocket, is what might be called the definitive weapon.

The point is we did not develop the rocket in the Civil war because we felt we had something better (breech-loading rifled artillery and small arms). And again the rocket was set aside by a decision arrived at before we engaged actively in World War II when our experts, both in the army and out of it, including the great industrialists who could gauge our production capacity, felt the airplane was a superior weapon.

We did not entirely neglect study and experimentation on the rocket during the war, however, and now we are probably farther advanced in this type of "artillery" than any other nation. We also have learned to project our "artillery" by means of the "drone" (pilotless airplane). On August 7, the drones droned their way from Honolulu to California. One of them dropped a bomb. The rest landed successfully. A plane with no pilot can bomb a nation that far distant without risking human life.

### Is This the Army, Mr. Jones?

In World War I when YMCA and Red Cross canteens were established right up into the zone of the advance, and even nearer the front, some of the "old timers" of those days wrote to the editors insisting that the Civil war was won on "salt horse and likker" (I recall that phrase in one of the letters) and we were just softening the boys.

Well, it didn't soften them too soft for Chateau Thierry and the Argonne.

Then came World War II, and some of the veterans of the earlier war raised their eyebrows at the USO, turkey dinners at the front on Thanksgiving, ice cream (instead of beans, salmon, corn willy or nothing).

But, soldier, you ain't heard nuttin!

When they say "This is the army, Mr. Jones," to you future G.I., you'll hardly believe it.

Did you hear what Field Marshal (blood, sand, and green for the Normandy hedges) Montgomery had to say? He believes enlisted men in the British army ought to live like other folks. Bedrooms, not barracks.

"You had your breakfast in bed before," goes the warning song, "but you won't have it there any more." Maybe not. But if Monty has his way, British soldiers can read in bed.

And what about those tricky uniforms American soldiers are going to wear?

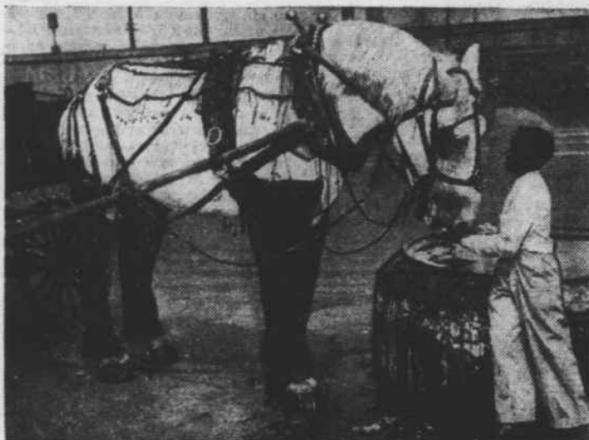
Blue! (like the boys in blue who said good-bye to Blue Bell). And perhaps "two-note," with a lighter shade for the trousers! And overcoats AND CAPES!

You aren't in the army now, Mr. Jones. You're in grand opera!

And then there is that terminal leave pay bill passed by congress, I suppose, to pacify the fellows who got out of the army without knowing what they were going to miss. Almost three billion dollars dumped into G.I. pockets to even them up with what the officers received for furloughs they hadn't taken.



TO SETTLE ALL INDIAN CLAIMS . . . President Truman as he signed a bill creating a claims commission to handle all Indian claims. He expressed the hope that the measure "will mark the beginning of a new era for our Indian citizens."



PANTS-WEARING HORSE . . . William Aeklin, 12, Chicago, is one young man who believes in giving his horse every consideration. During the hot summer months, William not only put pants on "Timmy" to keep off the flies but also feeds his steed a nighttime dessert of watermelon. Rather expensive food for a horse at current prices of watermelons on Chicago markets.



RECORD FAMILY AT CHILD CITY . . . Here is the all-time record of children in the history of Mooseheart, the "child city," 35 miles from Chicago, operated by the Loyal Order of Moose. With Mrs. Esther Wuchts, 33, Joliet, Ill., are left to right: Mary, 14; Delores, 13; James, 11; Shirley, 10; Albert, 9; Kenneth, 7; Patricia, 6; Rose Marie, 5; Robert, 4, and Esther, 22 months. The baby held by Mrs. Wuchts was born at the Mooseheart hospital.



COMBAT POLIO WITH DDT . . . Lloyd Yetew, left, foreman of mosquito abatement of Lyons, Ill., Bert Bielby, center, and Mayor T. L. Bulat, spray DDT in a drive to beat polio in Lyons. So far their village has not been struck by the much feared disease, but spread throughout the nation brought about the campaign. DDT has been proven effective in tests made in other sections, following its successful use in the armed forces in Europe and the Pacific.



JUNIOR GOES TO COLLEGE . . . Paul Scrimshaw, 24, G.I. student at American university, Washington, D. C., takes junior to classes as Mrs. Scrimshaw serves as nurse at the American university's dispensary.



ROCKET-BORNE ATOM MISSILES . . . Capt. Stedman Teller, USN, chief of the navy's guided missile section, who has stated that "World War III, if and when, will be a Buck Rogers-type of war with remote controlled rocket-borne atom missiles."



MOST IDENTICAL TWINS . . . Billie, left, and Barry Valentine, 3, Melbourne, Australia, are the most identical twins anywhere, according to their father, who has offered prize if his boys cannot win in any identical twin contest.



WANT TO BUY A BLIMP? . . . A bargain in blimps at only \$7,500 may be had at Moffett Field, Calif. This is the asking price, inflated and ready to fly away, of the war surplus authorities.



PEREZ TAKES OFFICE . . . Dr. Mariano Ospina Perez, conservative party candidate, is shown taking oath of office to become the first conservative party president of Colombia since 1930. He will serve a four-year term.



### SIDES FOR NEXT WAR

PARIS.—Perhaps it has ceased to be news but, even so, it can't be emphasized too often that this so-called peace conference is actually a choosing up of sides for another war unless something vital and electrifying in the way of diplomacy steps in to prevent it.

Events are moving with terrific speed while this conference moves with humdrum slowness. In the Russian zone of Germany, 12 factories are pouring out munitions for the Red army. In Czechoslovakia, the sum of 400 million dollars has been appropriated for munitions—all of a standard type, interchangeable with either the Czech or the Red army. Yugoslavia and Poland also are pouring out standardized Russian arms.

Meanwhile this peace conference talks sonorously, piously of procedure and precedents. Meanwhile, also, the sides are chosen—the line-up, unless heroic measures head it off—for the next war.

The line-up of Russian satellites never varies. In all the conference voting from San Francisco through the United Nations assembly in New York to Paris, Russia's stooges only once voted against their masters in the Kremlin. That was when Byelorussia got its signals crossed. Russia can be absolutely sure of the following votes on every rollcall, come hell or high water: Byelorussia, the Ukraine, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

The line-up on the other side varies. It is significant that the British dominions frequently desert England. This proves there's real democracy in the British empire. Australia and New Zealand vote more than half the time against England; Canada about 50-50. South Africa and India frequently are aligned with England, although not always.

The most forthright leaders of the anti-Soviet bloc are Australia, the Netherlands, Brazil and Belgium.

Note—Most pathetic satellite in the Soviet line-up is Jan Masaryk of Czechoslovakia, now nicknamed "The Prisoner of Zenda." Son of old President Thomas Masaryk, who founded the Czechoslovak republic in Pittsburgh in 1918 under the godfatherhood of Woodrow Wilson, Jan Masaryk's sympathies are all with the United States and Britain. But with his country solidly surrounded by Russia, he votes consistently with the Russian bloc.

### ACCUSED OF SNOOPING

It isn't being advertised but Lt. Gen. Sir John Harding, commander of Allied forces in Venezia Giulia, has sent a hot cable to the White House and the British foreign office against dynamic ex-Mayor La Guardia of New York, accusing the fiery Fiorello of snooping in Trieste. General Harding demanded that the White House and the British crack down on La Guardia and prevent him from slandering American and British troops in Trieste. In fact, General Harding even threatened his resignation unless he got full support. As a result the British, which have some jurisdiction over La Guardia because UNRRA is international, sent New York's former mayor an appeal to pipe down.

Apparently it did no good, however. It was after receiving the London appeal that Fiorello boasted that 25 good New York cops could clean up the thieving in Trieste. La Guardia previously had demanded that the Anglo-American troops in Trieste prevent the wholesale disappearance of UNRRA supplies.

Note—During the war, F. D. R. promised La Guardia a commission as brigadier general and the job of helping to govern Italy, but the army brass hats blocked it. Apparently they figured they could never handle the ferocious Little Flower. British generals now think their American colleagues were right.

### DON'T MISS A TRICK

Chief trouble with the American delegation at this peace conference is that it lets the opposing team take too many bases on balls and steal second too many times. Meanwhile, the Russians are on the umpire's neck, yelling themselves hoarse over every close decision. They don't miss a trick. If a bunt down the first baseline is called a foul, the Russians will argue until blue in the face that it was a fair ball. Finally, the opposing side gets tired of wrangling and arguing and gives in.

### MOLOTOFF COCKTAIL

The hard-hitting, mercurial foreign minister of Russia has changed his tactics a lot since the United Nations conference at San Francisco. Also, since the council of foreign ministers in London last September.

At Paris, Molotoff is playing his cards more carefully. Perhaps he realizes that public opinion has crystallized against Russia. At any rate, instead of hurling Molotoff cocktails when things go against him, he has been outwardly calm.



Milady's dresser need not be marred by lotion or perfume spots if a piece of waxed paper is placed directly under the dresser scarf.

Gone are the days when a woman bought an extra quarter or half yard of material to allow for care-less cutting. Figure exactly how much fabric you need for a garment and then buy to the inch.

Do not hang glass or china cups by the handles. They may chip or crack and finally break off entirely.

Make a dustless dustcloth that will remove the dust and not just push it aside by soaking a piece of flannel or thick flannelette in a mixture of two parts of paraffin oil and one part of turpentine. Wring out the cloth and let dry before using.

The handles of discarded toothbrushes make good tags for household keys. Break off the brush end and smooth the broken edge with sandpaper or a file. Tie or wire keys through hole in the handle.

## CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

### FARMS AND RANCHES

1—GRAIN AND DAIRY FARM in Howard County, Maryland, four miles west of Ellicott City, near Route 40. About 330 acres, 230 acres cleared. House built early 1700's. New barn and other buildings, etc. Silo. Quick freezer, Electric lights, Telephone connections. Some very desirable saw timber, including walnut. Quantity of pulpwood. About 300 cords fire wood already cut. Price \$35,000.

2—ABOUT 130 ACRES in Washington County, Maryland, near McCoy's Ferry. View of Potomac River. House needs repairs. Land cleared but not tilled. Timber for cordwood. Price \$2,500.

R. U. DARBY, Middletown, Md. Phone 49.

300 A. MODERN dairy, truck, grain farm on paved road. Felton, Delaware. Sale includes 128 clear, 174 timber; 6-room bung; large barn; milk house with electric pump. Cooler, milkers, etc. 14x40 tractor, silo. 28 purebred Holstein cows and heifers, hen house, 100 broilers. Tractor, truck, wood saw, all farm equipment & machinery. \$6,000 worth crops growing. Poss. Immed. C. L. SIPPLE Price \$30,000. Felton, Del.

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### MISCELLANEOUS

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## BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Roy G. Ownes, said to be an engineer economist, offers me (and you) this suggestion: Only by supplying the mouse with cheese to the point of self-satisfaction can the mouse be taught to abstain from stealing. He says man is much advanced beyond this point.

Remember that onto each race-track a little rain must fall.

It seems to me White Russia and Ukraine have as much right to a separate vote in the UN as do California and Maine, not to mention the District of Columbia, which ought to have a vote somewhere.

Automobiles soon will be sold through army post exchanges. Neither jeep nor cheap.