

# Washington Digest

## GOP Sweep Frees Truman Of Burdensome Program

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WASHINGTON. — There is a feel of Christmas in the Washington air which is prompted by more than the evanescence of the joyous spirit of Noel — just try to get onto Connecticut avenue car headed for the F street shopping district. The White House presents its usual decor of pine and ribboned wreath. And, at this writing, the chief tenant is, I believe, dreaming of a Missouri Christmas among his friends.



Baukhage

Whether he spends the holiday beneath his own roof-tree or the one which Uncle Sam so generously provides, it can be said that it will be a far merrier occasion than a year ago. He will be among his friends as well as his family, and as one of his official circle put it, with his "professed" enemies (the opposite party) in power his "unprofessed" enemies (officially his friends) having no further opportunity to toss brickbats or bandy threats about his head.

I recall another crisp, cool winter day last February a year ago, when we wended our way to the President's weekly press and radio conference. Bemused pansies (I recorded in this space) showed frost-bitten faces in the garden of the White House grounds.

We were discussing the difficulties and differences which President Truman already was encountering at the hands of his own party in congress.

"Congress has to be realistic in an election year," I quoted someone as saying. "They are facing real issues. And the President's program isn't realistic."

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

As we look back, it is plain enough that whether it was New Deal or what it was, the program of the President was one that the people rejected on election day, the moral obligations of the past, the effect of the pressure groups, the ukase of the party of bigwigs were swept away and Harry Truman, who didn't want the job that was thrust upon him when death commanded, was made a free man.

The President's satisfaction springs not from any spirit of "I told you so" hurled at his alleged supporters, not from any lack of loyalty to a cause well lost. It was simply the weary but happy flood of relief of a man who, having attempted what he knew was an impossible task, saw that task ended, and friend and foe forced fairly into the open.

### War Terminated

#### Honeymoon With Congress

My mind goes back to another scene shortly before the death of President Roosevelt. I sat in the office of the vice president talking of days when the caissons went rolling along and both of us — many miles apart — rode beside them. We talked also of the then forthcoming San Francisco conference of the United Nations and Mr. Truman's theme was what he felt to be his function. Paradoxically enough—as it turned out later—it was helping establish liaison between congress and the White House, complementing the highly successful effort of Secretary of State Hull which resulted in the forging of a bi-partisan foreign policy. And in so short a time, after Mr. Truman became President, that liaison between Capitol Hill and 1600 Pennsylvania avenue snapped in twain, never to be reunited.

Three months after the President took office I recorded: "The political armistice in Washington will end shortly after the President's (Truman's) return from Berlin—by that time domestic discontent will be crystallizing, the honeymoon will be on the wane."

And I then had the temerity to predict that if "the Japanese was should end" within the year, President Truman will be stripped of the protecting armor of the Commander-in-Chief. Then

the slings and arrows which even Roosevelt's enemies were wont to deflect to congress and other government agencies will be aimed squarely at the man in the White House."

That prophesy required no gift of the occult. Mr. Truman knew it then—or I wouldn't have.

From now on the President is his own man. The legislation he offers, whatever its fate may be, will be moulded to suit his own heart's desire. He has fought the fight to the best of his ability, assailed from the right and the left and the rear as well as the front. Now he will write his own ticket, be it good or bad. Few Presidents have had such an opportunity or faced a more severe test.

### Presidential Bee Hums in Capitol Dome

Washington withdraws from official activity for the holidays without getting any real impact of the advent of the new regime. There has been the preliminary hurly-burly of reorganization on Capitol Hill but the same old faces are evident and the same old voices speak. The active Republican leaders and the same old voices have been so much in the limelight for the last year anyhow that they merely appear to be stepping up, rather than stepping in. It all seems quite routine and casual.

There was just a touch of the excitement of the beginning of a new era when house and senate steering committees had their first meetings and made their first official statements concerning legislation and policy. Most of the steps had been foreshadowed and the change of venue was not fanfare.

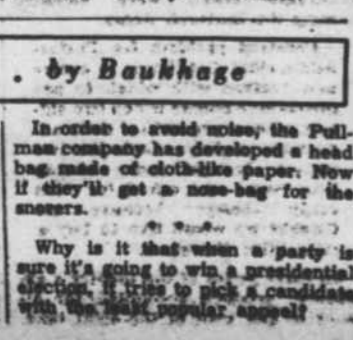
The last 14 years make up the longest period of lean years that any party has suffered. I witnessed the end of two 12-year drouths through which the Democrats thirsted; close of the one that began with William McKinley and ended with William Howard Taft, when Wilson accompanied the "new freedom" to the White House. And the next, another 12-year period, when the New Deal followed Hoover's exit.

The Democrats had only a short interlude at the pie-counter between Taft and Harding and their return in 1933 came in the midst of such a domestic crisis, with the mad days of the NRA following on the heels of the bank holiday, that our attention was diverted from politics. But what the Democrats did to the Republican officeholders "wasn't good," as one Republican put it recently. He added: "We are going to do the same for them."

Congress begins with the Republican Presidential plum within easier reach than any which have dangled in many a year and it is no wonder many hands are reaching hopefully for it. In fact, Senator Vandenberg early sounded the warning that more thoughts should be concentrated on the responsibilities following the victory of '48, and less on the possibilities of '48, for the good of all concerned.

The battle between the Taftites and the anti-Taftites began even before election and the Ohio senator himself is so determined that this time he will win the nomination that he leans over backward to avoid criticism. He refused to go on a broadcast for even a three-minute statement of Republican policy, and he took off for Central America shortly thereafter.

Senator Taft Politically Cautious



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THREE NEW U. N. MEMBERS . . . Seated in front of the dais at the U. N. general assembly are the representatives of three nations admitted to membership in the United Nations. They are shown as they listen to Paul Henri Spaak, center on dais, as he welcomed them to the fold. Left on dais is Trygve Lie, secretary general. At right is assistant secretary Ivan Kevno. Seated in front are Oesten Unden, Sweden; Thor Thors, Iceland, and Aboul Hossayn Aziz, Afghanistan, new delegates.



WINNERS OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE . . . Dr. John R. Mott, New York, left, secretary-general of the World Student Christian federation, and Miss Emily Greene Balch, Wellesley, Mass., president of the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom, who were awarded jointly the 1946 Nobel Peace prize by the Norwegian parliamentary committee of the Nobel awards commission. Four other Americans won awards in physics and chemistry.



WELL-DRESSED SOLDIERS . . . Clothing for use in heavy winter conditions is being tested at "Task Force Frost," Camp McCoy, Wis. From left to right are Pfc. George E. Deal, Big Stone Gap, Va., in ski mountain boots, gaiters and cotton parka with liner; Pfc. Alvis Geins, LaFollette, Tenn., in Arctic shoes, overwhite trousers, parka and winter mask; Pvt. Eugene Tranthan, Springfield, Mo., in mukluks, pile lined parka overcoat; G.I. in air forces parka B-7; and Pfc. Robert Westermute, Newton, N. J., in sleeping suit.



TWIN NURSES CARE FOR TRIPLETS . . . Student nurses, twin sisters, Georgette, left, and Colette Dussault, St. Albans, Vt., hold the Skicks triplets, all boys, born at the Dundy Maternity hospital, Albany, N. Y., to Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Skicks. The triplets are the first children born to the Skicks. All are in excellent health and thriving. So far they have not exhibited themselves about their good fortune in having the twin nurses take care of them.



OFF TO COLLEGE . . . Roy Fox, II, complete with bag and Rhodesian college hat, is shown in London ready to depart for Rhodesia to attend Fairbridge college at Bulawayo. He is one of 700 recruited from British families.



'JIMMY' WALKER DIES . . . James J. Walker, New York City's most colorful mayor, who died as the result of a blood clot on the brain. The ready-witted politician and former song writer was ill only three days before he passed away.



SIGNS COAL ORDER . . . Federal Judge T. Alan Goldsborough, Washington, D. C., who signed temporary order restraining John L. Lewis, head of the UMW from terminating the Krug-Lewis agreement and calling a strike of all soft coal mine workers.



FIRST G.I. BABY IN JAPAN . . . To Mrs. Melina Eita Dugas, wife of Chief Gunner's Mate Robert J. Dugas, Milwaukee, Wis., goes the distinction of giving birth to the first child born to navy personnel in Japan.



UNDER THE DOME . . . Speaker Sam Rayburn doesn't want the job of minority leader. . . . Southern congressmen are not enthusiastic over continuing the leadership of Massachusetts' John McCormack and they have the votes to put him in or out. . . . One fixture in the capitol regardless of political turnover will be the Rev. James Shera Montgomery, the house chaplain. . . . Appointed by the Republicans in 1951, he was continued by the Democrats.



### MORE DUPLICATION

WASHINGTON. — President Truman is a sincere, hard-plugging advocate of unified armed services, but he should persuade his army to obey the policy of its commander-in-chief.

At present the army is building a special wing to Walter Reed hospital at 12th and Dahlia streets in Washington which will exactly duplicate the navy's.

This wing is to take care of the President of the United States.

Simultaneously, the navy also has a floor of its Bethesda Naval hospital reserved for the President. It is all set to take care of him at any time. However, medical officers have changed in the White House and a navy doctor isn't in command any more. The army now runs the show.

Roosevelt, always partial to the navy, appointed Adm. Ross McIntire White House physician. But Truman, who served in the army, selected Brig. Gen. Wallace Graham as White House physician.

And of course an army doctor does not like to practice in a naval hospital. Therefore the army medical corps, wanting to avoid the humiliation of sending the President to a naval hospital, authorized a new wing to the Walter Reed Army hospital. Thus, at the expense of thousands of feet of scarce lumber, tons of strategic metal and several thousand bricks, the special wing for the President is being built.

### U.S. VS. U.S.S.R. DEMOCRACY

Secretary of State Jimmy Byrnes has been telling the following story about the difference between democracy in Russia and the United States.

"An American soldier," he relates, "was talking to a Russian soldier in Berlin. The American said that in his country, he could go to Washington without a permit, go to the White House, wait his turn, get in to see the President and tell him that he doesn't like American foreign policy. 'That's democracy,' said the G.I.

"That's nothing," the Russian replied. 'In my country I can go to Moscow, knock on the door of the Kremlin, walk in, wait my turn, see Stalin, bang on the desk and say, "Mr. Stalin, I don't like Truman's foreign policy either!" And nothing would happen to me. That's real democracy.'"

### SUPPRESSED REPORT

While President Truman and other high government officials continue their enthusiastic support of the new Philippine government of President Roxas, there remain locked in the files of the White House and Attorney Gen. Tom Clark two copies of a report which, if made public, has explosive power nearly as great as that of the suppressed Rogge report.

The Philippine report was written by a special investigator sent to Manila last winter to determine what action should be taken against islanders who had collaborated with Jap occupation authorities. Inside fact is it pins guilt on nearly all the leaders of the present Philippine administration. Documentary evidence of collaborationist records of a large part of the present senate, cabinet and President Roxas himself is included.

The charges include such criminal acts as aiding the Japs to wipe out patriot guerrillas, conspiring to seize food from famished Filipinos for use by the Jap armies, in addition to the declaration of war against the United States in 1944.

Although the vast majority of the Filipinos hated and resisted the Japs, corruption spread through the top layers of political and industrial leaders. Result was that the justice department investigators recommended that the most important collaborationist clique be tried not in the Philippines, where it would be difficult to find a native court completely free of bias, but in San Francisco.

Reason this recommendation was never acted upon, officials say, was largely Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

### MERRY GO ROUND

All cabinet members are strengthening their legal staffs, knowing they face the most exhaustive series of congressional investigations in the last 20 years. . . . Retiring Speaker Sam Rayburn tells friends that he will serve in the house only one more term. Sam has been a congressional fixture for 25 years, now wants to retire. . . . New members of the new senate are former newspaper men and publishers; three are former teachers. Sixty-four senators are lawyers, the largest group.



One of the ways to keep silverware bright and shiny is to line the drawer in which it is kept with dark outing flannel.

When you sink a fence post, coat the end that goes into the earth with a good grade of roof paint.

Frothy and dotted marquisette curtains with plump dots the size of a pebble will take your eye one of these days when you are shopping. Straight hanging, they give a lift to limp looking living rooms. A pair of deeply ruffled curtains will perk up the appearance of your bedroom.

A vacuum coffee-maker filter is excellent for straining baby's formula or orange juice.

Lemon juice added to the fruit mixture for most pies will bring out the fruity flavor. A tablespoon or two will do the trick.

Have you tried serving raw sliced apples with cheese for dessert? The different textures and flavors of the apples and cheese afford a very refreshing taste.

## CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

FARMS AND RANCHES  
FRESTON, MD.—Poultry farm, 4 modern brooder houses, Capacity of 20,000 chickens. Very profitable business. 8-room house 17 acres land on main highway. Edward W. Freston, 501 N. Charles St., Baltimore 2, Md.

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ONE expert Looper fixer for Soto and Wright steady state loggers. Steady work, excellent pay. MORRIS HILLS, INC., P. O. Box 478, Nashville 3, Tenn.

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BARBS . . . by Baukhage  
Mademoiselle, magazine for smart travelers. Advices. Take along a spot remover — even for the pleasure spots.  
Five years ago, says the Aircraft Industry publication, "Planes" all things was measured in feet. Now it's miles. How about buying the same measurement in miles?