

The Week in Washington

A Review of Governmental Happenings in the National Capital

Washington, April 24—Just as relatives, who may have been at odds with one another for years, are brought together by the death of a member of the family, so has officialdom here temporarily become united by the sudden death of President Roosevelt. Petty squabbling, and even major differences, have been relegated to the background while leaders of all parties and all government agencies ask themselves, "What can I do to help?"

During the short period since the President's death there has been a very noticeable attitude of greater co-operation in government. Countless conferences have been held. President Truman, recognizing the desirability of holding onto the men who are in the know about government policies, is making a determined effort to keep all branches of government functioning along the same pattern as under President Roosevelt. He is also avoiding making any more statements than necessary to the press until he gets things more under control.

There is great speculation here on what President Truman will do eventually. There is talk of a coalition cabinet, but for the present at least there will be no changes in the cabinet. There is much discussion on his attitude toward labor,

but since his candidacy for vice-president was approved by Sidney Hillman, head of the CIO's political action committee, it is felt that he is definitely pro-labor.

President Truman's rise to the presidency is probably the most stranger story in American history. He did not seek the vice presidency and, in fact, is understood not to have wanted it particularly. The same was true of his election to the senate in 1934, when he first entered national politics.

After serving for some time as a county judge, he went to Sam Pendergrast, head of the Kansas political machine, and asked for a more lucrative job as collector of internal revenue. Pendergrast's reply is said to have been: "Harry, the best I can do right now, is a United States senatorship." In the senate he did not bring much attention to himself during his first two terms and was re-elected by only 7,000 votes in 1940. But during the war he achieved considerable fame as leader of the senate war investigating committee and last year was voted by Washington correspondents as the man, next to President Roosevelt, who knew most about the war.

Except for his work on that committee, his background would hardly seem to make him presidential timber. But, although he got to the senate, the vice-presidency and now the presidency without seeking any of those offices, there is an increasing feeling here that he will do all right. He is considered the type of man who will readily admit his weaknesses and who will pick men to work with him who have the abilities he lacks. Unlike President Roosevelt, who concentrated governmental power in his own hands, President Truman will probably shift responsibilities to those whom he considers most capable of handling them.

One of the big questions debated here is how he will make out in conferences with Churchill and Stalin. The probable answer is that he will not take them on single-handed, as President Roosevelt did, but will surround himself with authorities on the subjects to be discussed and share the limelight with them.

Ever since the last election there has been a feeling of fear, in many government circles, over what would happen if President Roosevelt died. But already that fear has almost vanished and is being replaced by confidence in reaching our goals of victory and a lasting peace.

In Germany



Pfc. Thomas L. Ward, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Ward, of Sugar Grove, is somewhere in Germany. He is radio man of the Third Army and landed in England in January. He took his basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala.

American Legion Jr. Baseball Trophy

Silver trophies resembling the plaque bestowed on the national champions will be awarded this summer to all American Legion junior baseball teams winning state championships.

With American Legion approval, the Ford Motor Company announced it would present the newly-created state awards at the close of the state championship playoffs. Individual players on the victorious team will receive lapel emblems.

Legion-backed nines the nation over, said to outnumber the 25,000 in the 1944 competition, are poised to start play within weeks. Expectations are that at least 44 states and the District of Columbia will be represented in the race for the national toga won last year by a team of the Robert E. Bentley Post No. 50 Cincinnati.

At no time in the 17-year run of Legion baseball have Ford dealers other sponsors pledged such material aid to the teams.

A temporary grazing crop of small grains and winter legumes, planted by September 1 and well fertilized, will generally pay for itself with fall grazing. Spring grazing is clear profit.

Almost all of the cigarette paper used in America now comes from Brevard, N. C. Formerly it was imported from France.

SHOULD PACK BOXES BETTER

Post Office Department Warns That Many Packages Are Badly Damaged

Attention has been called to improper packing and insufficiently wrapped parcels for overseas shipment, by the post office department.

Due to the fact that thousands of improperly wrapped parcels have to be re-wrapped and packed by postal employees at ports of embarkation, the post office department at Washington has advised local postmasters that such packages should not be accepted.

Among factors contributing to damage are: shipping containers made of too light and brittle material to carry safely; outer wrapping paper that is too thin and easily torn; insufficient cord too light to withstand strain; insufficient and improper packing of breakable articles, such as bottles of shaving lotions, jars of preserves, etc., which when broken cause the outer container to disintegrate; loose packing of articles with sharp edges and corners.

Boxes for overseas transmission should be stronger than containers used for parcels which do not leave the country, and should be made of metal, wood, solid fiberboard or strong, double-faced corrugated fiberboard, testing at least 200 pounds.

Each box should be tied securely with strong cord.

'Long Night Is Ending' British Leader Says

London, April 20—Prime Minister Churchill declared today that the "long night in Europe is ending," but that Britain still faced formidable tasks afterward that are not ones "for novices or theorists."

"After nearly six years the strenuous and costly efforts this country has made are to be rewarded by a great victory," said Churchill. "But let no one be so simple as to imagine that victory in the field will of itself bring peace and plenty to this land of ours. We are still committed to a hard and stern war in the Far East."

YANKS KILL 11,738 JAPS ON OKINAWA

Guam, April 23—Doughboys of the 24th army corps have killed 11,738 Japs and captured 27 on Southern Okinawa alone, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced today. This excludes Japs killed by the marines on Northern Okinawa. Nimitz also reported desperate

Jap defenders hold the 27th, 77th and 93th infantry division to no gains through Sunday as heavy artillery, naval and air bombardment continued all along the southern front.

Lumber is a critical war material. Uncle Sam needs 40 billion board feet of lumber and 16 million cords of pulpwood for war and essential civilian requirements.

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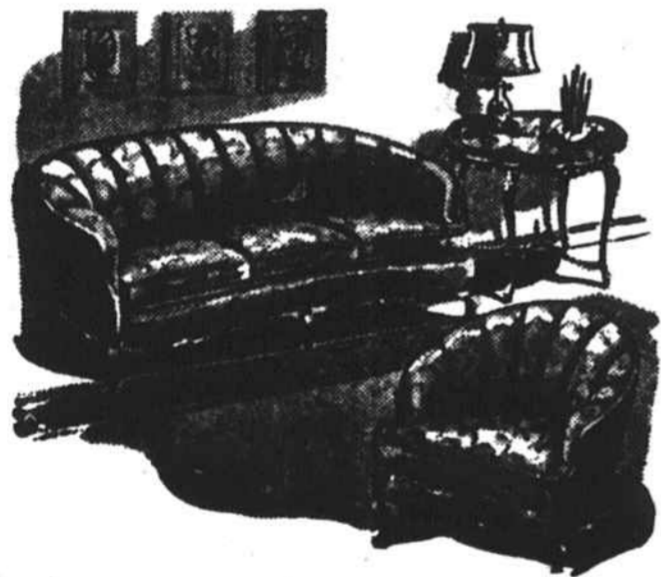
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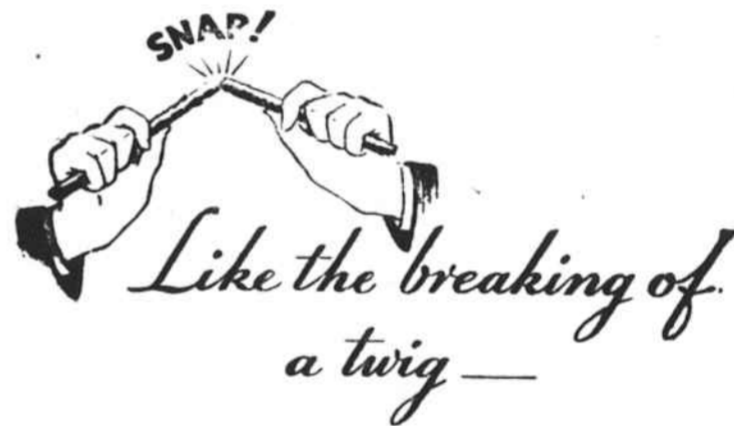
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