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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Tax Cut Tops GOP Legislative Program; States Vote Labor Curbs; Foreign Trade at Peak

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EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.



Almost a year and a half after the end of the conflict, Germans continue to feel the tragic effects of the war. Carrying all their earthly possessions with them, these Germans return to battered homeland from Denmark, whence they fled before allied armies.

CONGRESS:

Act Fast

Hardly had the election din attending the Republican landslide subsided than Rep. Harold Knutson (Rep., Minn.) revealed that he would move for a 20 per cent cut in personal income taxes as soon as the 80th congress assembles January 5.

In addition, Knutson said that the ways and means committee, which he is scheduled to head as the ranking majority member, will open hearings sometime in February to pare or eliminate excise taxes on a long list of consumer goods, including jewelry, furs, cosmetics and liquor.

Republican intentions to slash taxes ran counter to President Truman's position to maintain high levies to balance next year's budget estimated at 40 billion dollars. By juggling off unnecessary expenditures and trimming the payroll, Knutson said, the GOP hopes to scale down the budget to 32 billion dollars, thus permitting the tax reduction and allowing for a substantial retirement of the national debt of 262 billion dollars at the same time.

More to Do

Reduction in taxation was only one of the many issues facing the new GOP congress.

Briefly, others included terminating the President's wartime powers to restrict government by executive decree; widening management's rights under the national labor relations act and providing for impartial administration of the law; hastening abolition of controls to re-



Senator Vandenberg (left), Representative Martin (center) and Senator Taft.

store free enterprise, and formulation of a farm program adjusted to postwar conditions.

In the field of foreign affairs, Republicans were expected to adhere to the current bi-partisan policy mapped by the administration with the help of Senator Vandenberg (Rep., Mich.) as representative of the GOP congressional bloc.

Minority Leader Martin of Massachusetts was scheduled to take over speakership of the house, with Senator Vandenberg of Michigan becoming president pro tem of the upper house and Senator Taft of Ohio, majority leader.

Seek Unity

As the Republican avalanche set up a Republican congress during a Democratic administration, liberal Democratic leaders called upon President Truman to resign in favor of a GOP nominee to assure harmony in the forthcoming session.

Remembering the unhappy results of previous divisions of legislative and executive power between the two parties, when solution of pressing problems gave way to indecisive haggling and both sides maneuvered for political advantage, Senator Fulbright (Dem., Ark.) was the first to call upon Mr. Truman to

give way to a GOP nominee. He said he intended to introduce a constitutional amendment which would permit congress to authorize a presidential election if the two parties divided legislative and executive control.

Marshall Field, crusading New Deal publisher, joined Fulbright in asking President Truman to step down. By turning the job over to the GOP, Field said, the Republicans would be charged with full responsibility for development of a national program, and the issues in the 1948 election would be clear cut.

CANNED GOODS:

Big Packs

Housewives can look to appreciable supplies of canned fruits and vegetables through the coming year as a result of heavy packs in 1946, trade spokesmen attending the ninth annual convention of the Super-market institute in Chicago declared.

Over 190 million cases of canned vegetables will be produced this year compared with 163 million last year, it was predicted. The canned fruit pack will total 75 million cases compared with 40 million in 1945.

Despite adequate supplies of frozen foods, distribution has been hampered by a lack of warehousing space, a large carryover from last year and a shortage of refrigerator cars equipped for low temperatures, it was said.

Vote Labor Regulation

Four states, including a heavy industrial region, reflected popular sentiment for regulatory labor legislation in the face of the growing strength of unions in the economic pattern of the country.

By heavy majority votes, Nebraska and South Dakota adopted constitutional amendments banning the closed shop, which requires all employees of a shop to join the prevailing union. Arizona passed the same law but by a closer vote.

Despite the dominant position of labor in industrial Massachusetts, the electorate voted to require unions to make public their financial records, with 406,827 for and 227,307 against. In all cases, organized labor fought the amendments.

FOREIGN TRADE:

Near Peak

Spurred by U. S. loans, foreign countries, seeking material for reconstruction of war ravaged economies or fulfilling pent-up demand of war scarce goods, promise to buy more from Uncle Sam in 1946 than in the banner export years of 1919 and 1920.

With practically all areas of the world sharing in our expanded overseas trade, commercial exports have been running two to three times above the volume of the late '30's. Of total exports of approximately 8 billion dollars, U. S. goods probably will finance 35 per cent or 2.8 billion dollars.

Indicative of the heavy overseas business, Canada is buying almost 200 per cent more than before the war; Latin American countries 200 per cent more; continental European nations, 150 per cent more; and the United Kingdom, 50 per cent more.

FARM INCOME: Slight Dip

Gross farm income will dip only 5 per cent in 1947 under this year's mark of 27 billion dollars but higher operating costs will trim operators' net return, the bureau of agricultural economics declared.

Production expenses for 1947 are expected to be 2 1/2 times as large as in 1938, but nearly half again as big as in 1920. The agency based its projection on soaring costs of all production items, including labor and purchased feeds. As a result, net income may dip 10 to 15 per cent under 1946.

Estimated gross farm income of 27 billion dollars for this year was based upon actual receipts of \$13,918,000,000 during the first eight months. During this period, \$7,854,000,000 was derived from meat, poultry and dairy products; \$5,312,000,000 from crops, and \$752,000,000 from government payments. The latter are expected to pass the 1939 peak of \$807,000,000.

PACIFIC:

To Retain Bases

In proposing a U. S. trusteeship for strategic Pacific bases under the United Nations, President Truman provided for substantial American control of these areas in any agreement.

While nominally subjecting the U. S. to U. N. authority in fortifying the bases and developing the political and economic life of the inhabitants, Mr. Truman stipulated that U. N. inspectors could be excluded from certain strategic centers of these outposts.

By providing for ultimate U. S. authority over the new bases, the President sought to satisfy service demands for effective American control over the areas. At first, the army and navy had held out for outright possession of the bases, but Mr. Truman overrode this position to adopt the department of state's recommendation for a nominal U. N. trusteeship to express American co-operation for world peace.

Although maintaining military and political control over the bases, the U. S. would grant all other members of the U. N. equal trade and commercial rights.

Good System to Follow

When the administrative and budgetary committee of the U. N. assessed the U. S. 49.89 per cent of the annual costs of the international organization on the basis of per capita income, U. S. Delegate Vandenberg protested. If the American economic system is so good as to provide its people with 50 per cent of total world income, he said, then other nations would do well to adopt it. Britain was assessed 10.5 per cent and Russia 6 per cent.

COAL:

Study Demands

Company spokesmen were quick to hit at John L. Lewis' new wage and hour demands for the United Mine Workers as threatening the future of the industry against the increasing competition of gas and oil. While the government presently is running the pits, private interests were thinking of their position when the properties are returned to them.

Declaring that "... Mr. Lewis is going to price his boys right out on the street," company spokesmen ridiculed the idea that a reduction of the work week from six to five days would lower operating costs and permit the operators to pay a 25 cent an hour raise. Under the old contract, miners were paid \$1.18 1/2 cents an hour, with overtime rates beyond 35 hours.

While the operators remained skeptical, UMW economists figured that a shorter work week would trim production costs from 20 to 70 cents a ton, with an average saving of 45 cents. Since miners dig from four to five tons of coal daily, the saving of \$2 per day would cover the contemplated wage increase, they said.

JAPAN:

Helped PW's

Like everywhere else, there are good as well as bad among the Japanese.

In the midst of minor war crimes trials in Yokohama, allied supreme headquarters revealed that Lt. Col. Chigeo Emoto's treatment of U. S., British and Dutch war prisoners "stood out like a beacon" against the atrocities practiced by less human commandants.

Relieving Col. Toshio Hatakayama in a PW encampment at Hakodate after high Japanese authorities had become alarmed at the high death rate at the site, Emoto quickly set things in order. Beatings were banned. Food allotments were increased. PW's were worked only the required hours. Inmates dying from natural causes were afforded full military burial.

Praising Emoto, PW's exclaimed: "He brightened our lives."



Man About Town:

Russian delegates are privately stating that if the veto power of the Big 4 is cancelled, Russia will take it on the lam for home. . . . It will be denied, but the British foreign office is using heavy pressure (politically) on American delegates—to play ball with British policy—or else. . . . Those who have suffered from Bilbo's cussedness will be overjoyed to learn that he is in agony. Can't, we hear, ever again filibuster. Might kill him if he tries. Can hardly whisper, too, without something like a stiletto cutting his throat. . . . A guy on the coast who does a column called "Pikes Peek" is threatening to sue Earl Wilson for titling his comical book that way. That's what comes from writing books. . . . And why write books? They invariably show up in Broadway drug store windows (on sale for 19c) a few months later. A certain syndicate is letting column-raiders take all they want for their alleged books. . . . Then, next year, demand an accounting and royalties from their publishers at \$1 per copy.

New York Novelleto: She had been his woman for years. . . . She had him well-trained, too. . . . Frixample: If she felt he was neglecting her (not phoning or seeing her often enough), she got immediate action with her "system." . . . She'd dial his number—wait for the phone to ring once, then hang up. . . . Thus saving her pride by not "actually calling him." . . . He knew what the One Ring meant, and he would call right back. . . . This system, however, was her undoing. . . . When she started two-timing him, some of his pals heard about it but didn't want to wound him by informing him directly. . . . Soooooo one 2 a. m., one of them dialed his number—let it ring once—and hung up. . . . Our Hero immediately phoned her. . . . A man's verve answered. . . . And That (as Confucius used to say) Was That.

A newsmag's boom for Conant of Harvard (as the ideal Republican-didate) has brought many favorable replies. . . . In China Patrick Hurley is supposed to have told Stilwell: "You have four stars and I have only two, but when I get back to Washington it will be either you or me!" Stilwell returned a broken man and so was his heart. . . . Insiders hear that rent controls will be scuttled by the new congress, whether it is Repub or Dem. . . . Whisky interests on December 1 will up the price on straight Bourbon \$2 to \$25 more per case. Raises on others have not been decided yet.

E'way Wiseguy: We know a kid whose mother thinks he'll become president, but his father hopes he'll amount to something.

A scandal bigger than the Garrison case is brewing. Somebody took a powder after a big pay-off was made. . . . An air-purifier is to hit the market soon. It should make fight arenas and night spots breathable. . . . The Tass agency (the Russians) and a Chicago gazette's offices at Lake Success are the only press staffs with locks on their doors. . . . Pat O'Brien, the star, tells chums "no more producing." Learned his lesson with "Crackup." . . . When the chaplain at Lakehurst naval station (he's a red-hot southpaw hurler) joined the officers' bowling team there, they promptly changed the name of the team from "Barflies" to "Holy-Rollers." . . . Since the N. Y. recreation committee closed, they report that it is "impossible to get theater seats for vets." Vets well enough to leave hospital beds for relaxation. Showmen oughta be ashamed!

Quotation Markmanship: G. De Manassas: She wept like a gutter on a rainy day. . . . Sinclair Lewis: A smile like an airy pat on the arm. . . . J. K. Jerome: Idleness and kisses. . . . O. Wilde: Women are meant to be loved, not to be understood. . . . L. Montgomery: Man doesn't see all the facts, but just the portion that comes through the filter of his prejudice. . . . H. Youngman: She was an old maid, waiting for someone to happen. . . . James Whitcomb Riley: Good ideas are great warriors.



By EDWARD EMERINE

WNU Feature.
"We do not live, but only stay,
And are too poor to get away."

Life on the frontier is always hard. It was doubly hard in Kansas where the pioneers had to endure border wars over slavery, bad men, drouths, grasshoppers, blizzards and dust storms, in addition to the ordinary hardships of a new country. But they stuck it out.

They stuck it out—and "sticking it out" until the battle is won is still a characteristic of Kansas people. Perhaps it was the crucible of those early years that steeled and tempered the Kansas spirit which conquered the prairies. They stuck it out, rose above the trials of the hour and developed that rare sense of humor which enables Kansas people to laugh at themselves and the follies of mankind.

Despite Coronado and other Spanish explorers, and French traders, Kansas remained Indian and buffalo country for two centuries after English colonists settled in New England and Virginia.

Slow in Settlement.

It was not until the Kansas-Nebraska bill was passed in 1854 that the land was opened to settlement. At that time the entire white population of Kansas consisted of about 700 soldiers, based at Fort Leavenworth and Riley and Walnut Creek



Whether for or against slavery, Kansas settlers lived in log huts, shake houses, sod shanties, dug-outs and other humble shelters, using grass, brush and buffalo chips for fuel. The "sod crop" was corn—and corn they ate! Corn bread, parched corn, hominy, corn-meal mush—they boiled corn, fried it, baked it, stewed it. Fortunately, they had beef, pork and milk to go with it, and a coffee substitute, made of dried sweet potatoes, dried green okra and parched wheat ground together and boiled.

Would Kansas be slave or free territory? On its first election day in 1855, hundreds of Missourians "with rifles on their shoulders, six-shooters in their belts and a liberal supply of whiskey in their wagons" crossed the border and voted. All of the pro-slavery candidates except one were elected! And when the "bogus legislature" met in July, the Missouri slave code was the law of Kansas.

The curtain-raiser to the Civil war was fought in Kansas. Men were murdered in cold blood. Border ruffians ravaged anti-slavery settlements. John Brown and his sons took up the challenge and took after the slaveholders. "Bleeding Kansas" was no misnomer during the next few years. But gradually the anti-slavery forces won and Kansas became a free state. Only two slaves were listed in the census of 1860.

Many notables have trod the Kansas stage. Heading the list is Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, great military leader of World War II.

Frontier Personages. The history of the Old West is represented by such Kansas personages as "Wild Bill" Hickock, the marshal of Abilene, and Buffalo Bill, the scout. Carrie Nation and her saloon-busting hatchet also brought the state into the limelight.

In Statuary hall in the nation's capitol is the figure of John J. Ingalls, senator, orator, essayist, poet. Ed Howe, the sage of Potato Hill, and his contemporaries, Walt Mason and William Allen White of the Emporia Gazette, were Kansas folks.

But the unknown soldier, the unhonored hero, of Kansas is the man who introduced the plow. He was not a glamorous figure, and his hands were gnarled and blistered and bent to the shape of a plow handle.



BREAD BASKET OF THE WORLD . . . Kansas is the No. 1 wheat producing state of the nation, yielding almost a fourth of the entire U. S. crop.

Rich in Resources. Kansas is ideally situated for agriculture, but it took a plow to break the sod. Where William F. Cody used to hunt buffalo are the greatest wheat lands in the world. Kansas produces more wheat than any other state in the union—almost one-fourth of the entire United States crop. It is first in milling and wheat storage. Corn, alfalfa, hay, sorghum, broom corn, sudan grass, potatoes, sugar beets, barley, flax, rye, soybeans, vegetables, fruits, truck crops—Kansas produces almost everything that is grown on a farm.

Rich in Resources. Kansas finds riches below as well as above the surface of her rolling, fertile acres. Kansas is one of the leaders in oil production, with its companion, natural gas. Lead and zinc are mined extensively. Coal is produced in most parts of the state. Under Kansas is enough salt to last 500,000 years! Volcanic ash, gypsum, limestone, clays and other resources are mined in Kansas. It is an important source of helium gas.

As the geological center of the United States, Kansas was—and is—the land of trails. These were sought land in Oregon, gold in California or Colorado, trade with the Mexicans in Santa Fe, or cattle from Texas, used Kansas as a highway.

The Santa Fe Trail, the California and Oregon Trails, the Butterfield Trail, the Smoky Hill Route, Overland Trail, Pony Express Route, Jim Lane Trail and the cattle trails from Texas, including the Chisholm, Old Shawnee, Ellsworth and Western Trails, all used Kansas for a right-of-way.

Kansas today bears some of the scars of long ago—ruts made by thousands of covered wagons and hooves of cattle among them. Lonely graves still may be found, and bridge bits, parts of wagons and other mute reminders of the past are picked up occasionally by grandchildren of the pioneers.

Kansas is great, not only as one of the food-producing states of the nation, but as a great family of people who retain much of the pioneer spirit. They stuck it out a few generations ago. And Kansas are still "sticking it out" for freedom of thought and of action, and for the right to progress by their own efforts.

