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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### GOP Brandishes Payroll Axe; Move to Regulate Labor Unions; Marshall Steps Into No. 2 Spot

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## CONGRESS:

### Sharpen Payroll Axe

Economy-minded GOP house members, axe in hand, were eying the big federal payroll in their announced drive to scale U. S. expenditures 12 billion dollars below the 1946 budget of 41 billion dollars.

Declaring that there is hardly a government department that does not have twice as many employees as needed, Representative Taber (Rep., N. Y.), chairman of the house appropriations committee, asserted that 1,000,000 workers could be chopped off the payroll of 2,300,000 without seriously impairing services. Not more than 500,000 employees in all are needed, Taber said.

"We are going to cut down government expenditures to a point where the budget can be balanced, a payment made on the national debt, and we will still have room to reduce taxes," Taber snorted.

## Labor Reforms

Sen. Joe Ball (Rep., Minn.) and Rep. George Case (Rep., S. D.) pushed labor reform in early sessions of the 80th congress, Ball proposing sweeping measures for corrective legislation.

First, Ball called for prohibition of secondary boycotts and making labor organizations liable for violating contracts.

Then, he introduced legislation to ban all union and closed shop agreements and maintenance of membership contracts.

Finally, Ball proposed to decentralize collective bargaining to prevent the tieup of an entire industry through general negotiations.

The new Case bill introduced in the house permits issuance of injunctions to prevent strikes impairing the public welfare; forbids unions to coerce employees, seize property in disputes, withdraw essential maintenance workers, or order walkouts with majority approval of members; and makes union liable for damages resulting from breach of contract. The bill also grants the states authority to ban the closed shop.

## ITALY:

### Seeks Aid

Leaving a hungry and discontented populace behind him, Premier Alcide de Gasperi hurried to Washington, D. C., to seek substantial financial assistance from the U. S. to prevent political and economic chaos in Italy.

Negotiations centered around a billion dollar loan first discussed between Italian and U. S. officials at the time of the Paris peace conference. Italy would not be permitted to apply the proceeds against its reparations bill of \$360,000,000 that would use the funds for food, raw material and industrial equipment.

A substantial loan would help Italy rebuild its once lucrative tourist trade. Italy's "biggest industry" before the war, the trade is severely crippled because of the destruction of hotels and their requisitioning for housing, lack of transport and an unfavorable exchange rate.

## BRITAIN:

### Land Control

Proceeding along the path of increasing control of property to assure its wisest possible use for public benefit, the Labor government of Britain moved to regulate the sale and use of real estate.

Under the town and country planning bill introduced in parliament and headed for passage despite conservative opposition, the government would compel the sale of undeveloped but prospectively valuable real estate at existing prices. Only in cases of hardship would prices above the prevailing market value be paid.

In addition, the government would control the use or reconversion of property to prevent industrial blight, preserve the countryside around cities and provide recreation grounds, and allow room "for breathing" in overcrowded areas. The government also would regulate the posting of billboards.

## STATE DEPARTMENT:

### Happy Day

"There are two happy days a man has in public life," former Secretary Byrnes told British Ambassador Kerr. "There is the day a man is elected to office. Then there is the day he quits."

January 7, 1947, therefore was a happy day for the dapper little South Carolinian when he stepped down from his high post in the Truman administration. It was a happy day, too — under the Byrnes' standard — for General of the Army Marshall who was named to succeed him.

But as Byrnes implied, Marshall's cheer was destined to be short-lived as he took over direction of the nation's international affairs. Byrnes had a tough time tussling with the Russians over completion of peace treaties for the axis satellites and Marshall faced the even tougher job of framing the pact for Germany and Austria.

Although friendly with Russian leaders, Marshall is no admirer of Communism or Communist tactics. Just before being named to office, he blasted Chinese Reds for risking the welfare of their country to obtain power and resorting to untruths to tar the U. S.

Some observers also read in Marshall's appointment an effort by President Truman to build the general up as his successor in 1948. Should Marshall make a name for himself in the state department, his work there plus his prestige as the No. 1 military chief in World War II would give the Democrats a strong candidate to offset dissatisfaction with the Truman game in the reconversion period.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL: House Cleaning

College football is headed for a long needed housecleaning as a result of action taken by the National Collegiate Athletic association at its annual meeting in New York.

The tremendous growth of the game and the phenomenal increase in betting on contests as a result of widespread interest finally led the collegiate officials to control the sport and avoid discredit through threatened scandal.

Starting rather late — after the growth in popularity of the game, the organization of alumni and the erection of gigantic stadia — the N.C.A.A. moved to curb recruiting of athletes, extension of shady financial assistance to players and competition with violators of the new rules. The curbs are to be incorporated in the N.C.A.A. constitution, to which 252 colleges subscribe.

At the same time, the N.C.A.A. adopted a six point resolution aimed at the gambling evil. Besides asking for strict enforcement of anti-gambling laws, the resolution called upon newspapers to refrain from printing odds on games, and coaches and athletic directors were requested not to make pre-game predictions.

## Used Car Prices Off

Gone are the days of sky-high prices for used automobiles, a nation-wide survey has disclosed.

With buyers no longer disposed to pay almost anything for cars, prices have dropped from 10 to 30 per cent, with dealers expecting further declines. One big dealer in the East expected a drop of from 20 to 40 per cent within 30 to 90 days.

Boston recorded the biggest price decline of from 10 to 30 per cent. New York, Philadelphia and Denver followed with 25 per cent; Atlanta, 15 to 18 per cent; Chicago, 15 per cent, and Los Angeles, 10 per cent, with heavier cars more.

## SENATE:

### Dixie Sees Red

When Senator Bilbo's bitter personal enemy, James O. Eastland, also of Mississippi, rose in the senate to denounce the move to unseat his unpopular colleague, he was expressing the apprehension of every southern senator lest the move set a precedent against conservative members from Dixie.

Although Bilbo was temporarily barred because of an investigating committee's charge that he had accepted favors from war contractors, the real impetus to the move was furnished by liberal groups opposed to Bilbo because of his fight against the fair employment practices act and poll tax, and his encouragement of discrimination against Negro voters.

While Bilbo was the immediate target because of his nationwide reputation, the issue touched southern senators from all "white supremacy" states. Charging that liberal pressure groups were working for Bilbo's debarment, Senator Ellender (Dem., La.) cried: "Toppie him off and find out what is going to happen to others who share his views and courage."

## ECONOMICS:

### President Reports

In the first annual economic report issued by the President under the employment act of 1946, Mr. Truman set forth the principles for a prosperous America. Drawn by a three man council of economic advisers, the report called for continuation of the traditional free enterprise system supplemented by constructive government assistance where necessary.

Long-range recommendations include maximum use of labor and productive facilities, prevention of economic fluctuations, cooperation in international trade and finance, and promotion of welfare, health and security.

Because of their immediate bearing, the short-range recommendations were of greater interest. The report asked for the maintenance of present tax rates to provide for substantial retirement of the national debt; lowering of prices wherever possible to increase consumption; moderation of labor demands to head off additional price rises; increase in the minimum wage above 40 cents an hour, and extension of the fair labor standards act to workers now excluded.

Mr. Truman also asked for extension of rent control beyond next June. Decontrol would result in immediate rent increases, which would materially impair purchasing power, he said.



## Man About Town:

Memos of a Midnite: Insiders hear next year's flying time from N. Y. to Miami will be 200 minutes. Many of the show gals are worried silly that their names will be dragged into the Alvin Paris football bribe scandal because they were Paris' dates. Paris hasn't had so much publicity since French postcards. . . John Murray Anderson's chums hear he is experimenting with the Russian "youth" serum. He is in his 60s. . . Bing will make close to a million dollars out of his platters this year, not including his many other chores. . . Rodgers & Hammerstein are taking no risk with their gold mine, "Annie Get Your Gun." They are paying Mary Jane Walsh the highest wage yet for an understudy—just to stand by in the wings. \$750 per week. . . Top loss to Moss Hart (whose apt. was burgled) was the gold cigarette case signed by the cast of "Winged Victory."

## Broadway Ballad:

(By Don Wahn): I do not blame the young for being sick. . . Of giving alms to beggars of the past. . . Why should they turn to watch a shabby trick? . . . Why should they care if terror joined the east? . . . We had our roses, redolent of spring. . . We had our nights of revelry and mirth. . . We had the softest, loveliest songs to sing. . . We had the shining rapture of the earth. . . Yes, it is gone and shortly we will go. . . The golden girls, the roses and the wine. . . And newer lads will find the nights aglow—with all the misty magic that was mine. . . And when they find that love and beauty die. . . I hope they leave—more gracefully than I.

The Broadway Lights: J. Durante, X. Cugat and the dice tables were the reason the new Flamingo (Las Vegas) attracted 28,000 patrons in the first three days. . . Midtown hotels had their worst week in five years. One had 370 empty rooms, another 320 and another 300. . . Buddy Kaye made so much coin out of the ditty, "Till the End of Time," that he is among the producers of the new Jerome Robbins show, "Look, Ma, I'm Dancing." . . . A short titled "The Last Bomb" comes across with atomic impact, particularly one episode wherein the camera slowly moves through the rows of graves at Iwo Jima. After viewing that, you'll cherish every moment of peace like it was the last minute of your life.

Broadway Story: The most valuable song copyright in the world is "White Christmas." . . . It was published in 1942 and sold over one million copies during its first four months. . . On some days it sold over 50,000 copies. . . Each year (since) it was purchased by 350,000 people. . . The recordings totaled five million records—two million of which were Bing's version up to this year. . . Decca says this year it out-sold any of the previous seasons—over 500,000 platters. . . But this is why it is the most valuable copyright. . . A copyright lasts 56 years. . . It has over 50 years to go—and selling at the rate it is going—you can imagine how much richer the tax department will be.

The Story Tellers: The latest edition of Who's Who reveals that the American general who has won the most decorations (40) is Brig. Gen. Edgar K. Hume. This is the first time we ever came across his name. . . Joff Keate's cartoon chuckler has been widely reprinted in the dailies. A child specialist is giving advice to a mother: "You'll have to handle this child carefully; remember you're dealing with a sensitive, high-strung little stinker." . . . The Minnesota state prison's newspaper (edited by a convict) ran this editorial: "Those caught stealing items from the papers will be dropped from our list of contributors. Stealing from another's writings is one of the lowest bits of thievery!"

Washington newsmen enjoy spinning this one: A group of them once accompanied FDR to a show. They thanked a secret service man for providing them with excellent seats.

"Don't mention it," the secret service retorted. "Just notice the seating arrangement. You'll discover no one can take a shot at the President without hitting one or two reporters first!"

## EDISON CENTENNIAL

### Early Efforts Backfired but Lessons Brought Lasting Fame

## WNU Features:

During his lifetime Thomas A. Edison found time to root around in about everybody's backyard, doping out a gadget or a machine or a formula that would help his neighbor. He was crammed with ideas about many things, some of which, as everybody knows, brought him enduring fame. There were some, however, that his 84 years did not give him time to perfect.

As the 100th anniversary of his birth, on February 11, 1847, approaches, there are probably very few people who know that Edison once won a patent on a "flying machine." Back in 1910, he doped out an idea on a helicopter, in which field he thought the future of aviation lay. On another occasion he was granted a patent on a method of preserving fruit, and when he died he was working on a formula for extraction of rubber from the lowly goldenrod.

## "Wizard" Was Human.

Edison once even worked on an insecticide, and this experience shows a human side that belies any suggestion that he had a "magic thumb" in the inventive business. He was just coming into fame as the "Wizard of Menlo Park" when he was approached by a neighboring farmer whose principal crop was threatened with destruction by an invasion of potato bugs. The year was 1878, Tom was 31, and he already had to his credit such inventions as the phonograph and a score of telegraph patents. The farmer allowed as how an up-and-coming young inventor ought to be able to find a way to kill off the potato bugs.

Accepting the challenge, although he knew relatively nothing about bugs and plants, Edison collected a quart bottle full of potato bugs and set forth to compound a lethal potion. Testing every chemical in his laboratory, he hit upon bisulphide of carbon as a sure-fire potato bug killer. Jubilantly, he and the farmer sprinkled the infested potato vines and waited to tabulate the results.

The bugs died like flies—but so did the potato vines; and Edison had to pay the farmer \$300 damages for, as he put it, "not experimenting properly."

He never again made the mistake of not experimenting enough. Consequently, some of his inventions took him years to perfect, and because of his patience the world has become a much better place in which to live. His invention of the electric light made necessary a system of electrical distribution which brought not only light but also scores of electrical gadgets to the farm home as well as city residence. His phonograph put the best music into the home, and his numerous other inventions, including the motion picture, made life easier, more comfortable and entertaining.

## Worked Too Well.

There was one other of Edison's creations which backfired, but it wasn't because he hadn't perfected it; this one, on the contrary, worked too well. At one time he was working as night telegraph operator in the Grand Trunk railroad station at Stratford Junction, Canada. One of the requirements of the job was that Edison, then 17, must check in on the wire every half hour by sending the signal 6 in Morse code to the train dispatcher at a nearby station.

Edison deplored this arrangement because it prevented him from catching up on the sleep he wasn't getting during the daytime, which he spent in study and experimentation. So he rigged up a device for automatically sending out the signal 6. He hooked up the instrument to the office clock so that every 30 minutes the signal went out over the wire, thus reassuring the dispatcher that Edison was on the job whereas, in fact, he was sound asleep.

This ruse was successful until one night the train dispatcher tried vainly to contact Edison on the wire during one of his catnaps. Alarmed by the prospect that the Stratford Junction telegraph office was unmanned, the dispatcher made his way to Edison's office on a hunch. He arrived just in time to find Edison blissfully sleeping while the young inventor's machine obediently dotted-and-dashed the prescribed signal.

The next day Edison started looking for another job, but the experiment proved of incalculable value because it started him on a

Two highlights in Thomas A. Edison's amazing career are shown in these pictures. Top, Edison is shown demonstrating his first phonograph at the White House on April 18, 1878. Lower, the inventor is shown operating an early and crude model of his first motion picture machine.



train of thought that led him first to the invention of a stock ticker and an automatic telegraph, thence to the phonograph and later to the motion picture camera.

## Edison First Money.

With the idea planted in his mind of constructing telegraph apparatus that would automatically send and record messages, Edison invented and patented an improved stock ticker. It was so much better than the crude tickers which antedated his that a telegraph company paid him \$40,000 for it—the first money Edison ever received for an invention.

With the \$40,000 Edison established a shop in Newark, N. J., in 1870, and began the manufacture of stock tickers. He was 23, and for the first time in his life he had enough money to experiment with the hundred and one ideas that coursed through his agile mind.

One of a score of telegraphic patents he took out as a result of his experiments in Newark was on an automatic telegraph, which could send and record messages on a strip of paper tape at a rate far beyond the speed possible in sending and receiving by hand. In seeking to improve his first automatic telegraph, Edison experimented with a machine employing a turntable covered with a paper disc. Perforations in the paper disc sent out dots and dashes when the turntable was rotated. One day, however, the turntable was operated at an excessive speed and, instead of dots and dashes, the result was a musical hum. Edison was quick to sense the possibilities of his discovery, and on July 18, 1877, he made the following entry in one of the 2,500 notebooks he filled with scientific data and reports before his death at 84 on October 18, 1931:

"Just tried experiment with a diaphragm having an embossed point and held against paraffin paper moving rapidly. The speaking vibrations are indented nicely and there is no doubt that I shall be able to store up and reproduce automatically at any future time the human voice perfectly."

Less than a month later he did just that.

## First Movie Was "Talkie."

Ten years later, in 1887, Edison set out, as he later commented, "to do for the eye what the phonograph did for the ear." The result was the birth of what today is probably the most glamorous industry in the world—the motion picture industry.

Thus it was that the germ of an idea which took root in Edison's mind when he was fired as a telegraph operator ultimately led to invention of the stock ticker, the automatic telegraph, the phonograph and the motion picture camera.

Edison probably is best remembered as the inventor of the first practical incandescent lamp. The lamp was a handy symbol of achievement seized upon by the public, but actually it constituted only a small portion of his work in the

field of electric lighting and power distribution.

From 1862, when he received his first patent for an electrically energized voting