

Editorial

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H. A. Stalls, Editor and Publisher W. M. Witter, Associate Editor

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TRUMAN TRIP SEEN AS A "HOT FOOT" FOR CONGRESS, TAFT

President Truman packed his bags for a long train jaunt and speaking tour to Grand Coulee Dam, Wash., and back that was seen as a political "hot foot" to get Fair Deal legislation passed before congressional adjournment.

Mr. Truman is also expected to rake Senators Robert A. Taft of Ohio, Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin and others obstructing the expansion of social security, extension of rent controls and other welfare measures for the people in the House and Senate.

The tour was scheduled to start May 7.

Of eight speeches only the one to be delivered May 15 at the climax of the three-day Democratic national conference and Jefferson jubilee in Chicago is an avowedly political address. It will be carried over all four national radio networks, with the Democratic party paying for the time.

But the train will be making about 40 stops for 5 minutes or longer during daylight and early evening hours on the way to Grand Coulee and back.

The talks listed on the schedule for the trip, released by the White House, will be: May 8 at Lincoln, Neb.; May 9 at Casper, Wyo.; May 10 at Pendleton, Ore.; May 12 at Butte, Mont.; May 13 at Fargo, N. D.; May 14 at Madison, Wis., and May 15 at Chicago.

As it heads west, the presidential train will pass through Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Swinging back, it is to touch again in Idaho, then head into Montana, across North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin and once more into Illinois. The earlier stage of the trip out is then reversed.

Democrats admit privately that the trip will reap political hay in many a mile of the 6,400 to be traveled. The tour comes as much of the Fair Deal program is stymied in Congress. The President, even if he were able to maintain a nonpartisan plane, would have to touch upon these issues.

The effect of the President's speeches in the hustings, Democrats believe, will result in pressure on Congress for legislative action and support for Democratic candidates standing for election this fall.

Are you listening to Frank Edwards?

PEPPER LOSS HURTS T-H LAW REPEAL; MEANS HARDER WORK

Organized labor is one vote farther away from repeal of the Taft-Hartley law than ever as result of the defeat of Senator Claude Pepper in the Florida primary election on May 2.

Senator Pepper, veteran New Dealer and anti-Taft-Hartleyite, was defeated by Rep. George A. Smathers, who accepted the support and financial backing of a Dixiecrat Republican coalition that wants the Taft-Hartley law retained.

Mr. Smathers' victory was achieved despite a grand job of getting voters registered and out to the polls by a united labor front.

The causes for defeat were a combination of circumstances traced to Mr. Smathers' "hate-the-negro" campaign, his communist charges against Senator Pepper, backing from the American Medical Association, and the inability of labor in the time available to educate the non-industrial areas of rural Florida on the issues involved.

Senator Pepper's defeat means that labor must redouble its efforts not only to get voters registered and out to the polls but to see that non-labor voters understand the issues and are convinced of the soundness of labor's position.

There is no reason to underestimate the magnitude of Senator Pepper's defeat. In 1948, organized labor did not lose a single favorable vote and picked up a number in the Senate. The 1950 job was to hold all the favorable seats and gain at least five more to assure Taft-Hartley repeal in that chamber.

The job is tougher now and calls for even harder work in the political field.

The peoples' causes for which organized labor stands were helped by the renomination of Senator Lister Hill in Alabama in the May 2 primaries.

There were no net changes in the House delegations from Florida, Alabama, Ohio and Indiana.

In Ohio, Democrats picked State Auditor Joseph T. Ferguson to oppose Senator Robert A. Taft, co-author of the Taft-Hartley law. Mr. Ferguson is certain to receive labor support in November.

Aside from Senator Hill's victory, liberal-labor forces won a tremendously important decision in Alabama where regular Democrats won control of the state party machinery and nominated their gubernatorial candidate over the States' Righters-Dixiecrats.

This victory was achieved in the state which led the march out of the Democratic convention in 1948 and struck at the heart of the Movement which has retarded passage of liberal legislation in Congress.

LABOR WON'T QUIT POLITICAL FIGHT

AFL President William Green told the AFL United Hatters convention that "labor will not be counted out or knocked out in this campaign" to elect a liberal Congress in 1950.

"We are in this political fight to the finish," Mr. Green said. "And we don't know the meaning of the word 'defeat.' We are determined as never before to organize, to work and to fight until this crucial battle of the ballots is won.

"Labor's program for increasing mass purchasing power, for widening and improving social security and for raising the living standards of all American citizens is at stake in the congressional election of November 7.

"In fighting for a progressive legislative program and in

fighting for release from the oppressive effects of the Taft-Hartley Act, the organized workers of this country feel they are doing their patriotic duty. In the American tradition we are going to the people in the congressional elections this year for their verdict.

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Who Ignored What?

Washington. — Marquis Childs, syndicated columnist, complains that "few Americans are aware" that "this nation has signed a pledge to maintain full employment."

He says that a United Nations report on national and international measures for "full employment" has been "almost totally ignored in this country."

For the record, the AFL News Service published a special story on this subject on January 17, 1950, by Arnold Beichman, New York correspondent, which began "one of the most meaningful documents to come out of the United Nations since its inception has just been published."

Beichman's story was widely used by AFL newspapers serving 8,000,000 Americans.

The report, Mr. Childs, has not been ignored.

But too little is being done to make it work against a world depression which already has a toe-hold in mounting unemployment around the globe.

GAIN 5-CENT RAISE.

Cohoes, N. Y. — A strike threatened by more than 275 AFL United Textile Workers at four mills here and in Green Island has been averted as a result of union acceptance of a 5-cent hourly pay increase. Stephen C. Davis, state mediator, said that Local 446 voted 289 to 87 to accept the offer. The union had sought a 10-cent increase and had authorized a strike when its contract expired. The increase will lift the hourly rate to \$1.13 1-2.

The AFL supports the American Heart Association drive.

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RESUME TALKS. New York.—Contract negotiations have been resumed by the AFL National Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots and Atlantic and Gulf Coast ship owners.

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