

This Week in WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D. C. — "The job of reconverting our plants from war to peace is virtually completed."

That statement was made by President Truman at a recent press conference in which he gave other interesting figures to show what has been happening in this country since V-J Day. Other statements of an optimistic nature, made by Mr. Truman were:

"Total employment has now returned to the V-J Day

level and is expected to continue to rise.

"Unemployment is far less than had been expected. This means that the disruption of our economy has been less than anticipated.

"The metal-working trades on which we depend for most of our consumer durable goods, are in such shape that they expect by the middle of 1946 to ship goods at 21 1/2 times the 1939 rate.

"Retail sales are up 10 per cent now as compared with the same period last year.

"The cost of living has declined 0.3 of 1 per cent since the surrender of Japan, compared with a rise of approximately 1.3 per cent in a comparable period after the last war."

It was a rosy picture Mr. Truman painted, even though he admitted that there had been approximately 1,500 strikes since August. Belittling the danger which most people see in the labor situation, the President said that the man-hours lost because of strikes amounted to only 0.76 of 1 per cent of the total working time available.

The only danger which the President seemed to see ahead was that of inflation. In regard to this he warned: "Inflationary pressures are still great, and danger signals pointing to a further building up through the winter and spring are in the rise of real estate, wholesale and raw materials prices. We must continue to hold the line. We cannot permit inflation."

Although the President made the labor problem appear to be a minor one, so far as reconversion is concerned, it was immediately pointed out by congressmen who are working for labor legislation on that his figures were based on time lost before the General Motors strike, and that they did not touch on what might happen in the next two or three months. "If the steel workers walk out," said one congressman, "that strike alone would more than double the

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Successful Parenthood

BABY SHOULD BE TALK'D TO

Before a baby can walk his bones have to grow strong enough to hold him upright. For this, you provide food, sunlight and exercise. Before a baby can talk his mind must connect sounds with images. For this you give him words, of course, but you also give

him a sense of the companionableness of talk. All babies babble. But unless you talk back to them their flow of sounds will take much longer to form into recognizable words. Moreover, parents who complain that their child is slow about learning to talk have usually let him get what he wanted by pointing.

You can, for instance, dress a baby in much less time if you tend strictly to the business of getting clothes on him. But why not combine dressing with a lesson in words? After many repetitions you'll find your child recognizing them. Go on like this, for example: "See, here is baby's shoe—can you show mother where it goes? That's right! Well, you even guessed the right foot this time! Any way, we know it goes on a foot, don't we? And now we're ready for your cap and coat—I thought you'd be glad to see them! Well, how about helping a little? Where's that arm? Good—now whose does it go? Right in the sleeve! All right—now we're all ready for our doors."

You speak in a conversational tone, but put emphasis on the names of things he is familiar with.

It doesn't take long for a baby to learn the names of his toys. Long before he can repeat the sound he'll run to the object and pick it up when you name it. He gets such pleasure out of this that you should make it a favorite game. Be sure to use the same word each time for an object. Don't call a woolly toy a "bear" one time and a "Teddy" the next. The first time the baby says a word is a wonderful experience

man-hour losses, referred to by the President." It is believed here that the months of January and February are apt to be the blackest, so far as the strike situation is concerned, and that several million men may be on strike at that time.

Final settlement of the General Motors strike is expected to set the pattern for the settlement of most other large strikes, but at the moment, unless one side or the other gives in, it may take legislation of some kind to force a settlement. A law requiring labor unions to accept responsibility for their acts is considered by an increasing number of congressmen to be the key to eventual settlement.

Scandal-hunting seems to be one of the chief pastimes of congress, these days. Until recently these activities centered chiefly around the work of the committee which is trying to decide who to blame for the Pearl Harbor tragedy; but now the charge made against the state departments by Gen. Patrick Hurley, when he resigned as ambassador to China, have almost overshadowed the Pearl Harbor investigation. The state department is in for the most searching investigation ever made, and it appears quite likely that many changes in the department will result. If there are Communist elements in positions of power in the state department we will soon have the facts.

Six Inch Sermon

REV. ROBERT H. HARPER

Exalting Christ in the Life of the Nation.

Lesson for December 16: Isaiah 9:23, 6-7, Luke 1:26-38.

Memory Selection: Isaiah 9:6. Light has always been associated with life, from Creation to the supreme god, Zeus, as the light giver. Jesus came as the Light of the World. In the moral darkness prevalent at the time of His coming the world greatly needed the revelation of God and the teaching of the Master.

both for the baby and his parents. Just because your friends may not greet the news as of earth-shaking importance doesn't mean you should try to be wise about it, because psychologists tell us that talking is learned because the baby's first attempts at speech are so pleasantly rewarded. Your praise is important in making even a baby want to repeat something that has pleased you.

Parents shouldn't use baby talk, not because it "babies" a child, as parents were told in the days when austerity was supposed to be good for babies. But you must give a child accurate speech patterns if he is to learn to speak clearly.

Although early speech is by no means the only indication of a child's intelligence, the ability to make himself understood will simplify much of his learning. But remember, you have to make the baby realize that speech is important. Left to himself, making amusing sounds is all he cares about.

Isaiah foreshadowed the fulfillment of David's kingdom, not as a kingdom such as David ruled, but as the heavenly kingdom, the spiritual empire that should have no end.

Luke writes of the angel's prophecy to Mary of the Child's coming and His greatness. His name would be Jesus, a later form of Joshua, meaning Savior. The Son of the Most High, he would reign over the house of Jacob forever. Mary's question implied that she found the wonderful tidings mystifying the angel told her that Elizabeth in old age would bring forth a son—the great forerunner of Jesus—and added that "no word from God shall be void of power." Then said Mary, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord;

be it unto me according to thy word."

Consider now how the coming of Jesus exalted Mary and has exalted womankind, children, and the home. And as we approach the Christmas season, with thanksgiving that it will be much better than the last, let us think again of what the coming of Jesus, has brought to the world, and dedicate ourselves anew with hope and zeal to the blessed work of spreading the joy of His coming as far as our hands can reach.

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