

# Looking at WASHINGTON

## Specific Authorization For Relief Plan Reduced

While containing specific authorization to expend \$6,800,000,000 for European recovery in the first fifteen months, the Administration's request for \$17,000,000,000 to be used in four years has been withdrawn.

The change came as the result of an exchange of letters between Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and officials of the State Department. Mr. Vandenberg pointed out that one Congress could not bind another and that the amount included in the bill was only "an educated guess of highly doubtful validity" and suggested that the use of exact figures might invite a reliance in other countries which would not be warranted under our constitutional procedure.

Replying, Under-Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett said that, "after consultation with President Truman and other executive agencies, there was agreement with the suggestion made by the Senator" and that the net result of the change was to "recognize the reality that it is impossible to anticipate what the condition of the world will be in the succeeding four years."

Thus, the amended bill will authorize only the appropriations of such sums as might be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act. It would leave to Congress the determination of the amount from year to year. As Senator Vandenberg declares, "This should not be interpreted as any desertion of the principles of ERP because the amounts mentioned will serve as the background for committee discussion." Certainly, if Congress is sincere in passing a bill, designed to facilitate European recovery, it will not hesitate this year, or subsequently, to appropriate the funds necessary to carry out the undertaking.

## Will U. S. Send Soldiers To Set Up Jewish State?

By way of London comes a hint that the United States is considering sending Marines to Palestine for the purpose of guarding the American Consulate at Jerusalem, which was bombed last October.

The State Department, upon hearing about the London report, denied that the American Government asked permission from either the Palestine Government or the British Government to send Marines to Palestine and says that, while some informal discussions have been had, "no decisions were reached and have not been reached."

The plain indication is that the Government is considering the use of American troops in Palestine and the probability is that the London story and the statement of the State Department constitute a "trial balloon" to test public sentiment in the United States.

The hard fact of the present situation is that soldiers will be needed to put into effect the decision of the

United Nations General Assembly upon the partition of Palestine. Without the use of considerable military forces, there seems to be little chance of establishing a Jewish State in Palestine.

The United Nations will have to depend upon the United States to provide some of the military strength required and the net result will be that the United Nations, set up to establish the peace of the world, will touch off a conflict by attempting to impose its decision upon the Arabs.

## Marshall Urges U. S. To Make Decision About Europe

Secretary of State George C. Marshall advises the United States either to meet the requirements of the European problem or to leave the whole thing alone. He warns that if we are not prepared to assist in the reconstruction of Western Europe, we "must accept the consequences of its collapse into the dictatorship of police states."

Mr. Marshall makes it clear that Russia and the Communist parties of Europe will "oppose and sabotage" our program at every opportunity, but he also declares that the United States can undertake the program with success if it acts in time.

The fact that the Russians, who expect to advance the cause of Communism through chaos, bitterly fight the Marshall Plan, is one of the best evidences that it is what the United States should do. Obviously, the Western nations of Europe, together with the others included in the program, suffered severe damage during the war. Its grand design to rehabilitate their economic processes will inevitably strengthen their governments and make them count for more in the council of the nations.

It might as well be realized in the United States that nations which enjoy the freedoms of civilization are not organized to fight the concentrated power of totalitarian or Communist states. We should realize that democracies, with their recognition of individual rights, are not organized for efficiency and that if the weakened democracies of Europe receive help, it must come largely from the United States.

## Congress Faces Problems As People Await Action

The Eightieth Congress, now half way through its term of office, has begun what will probably be the last session of its work. Already, it has enacted the Taft-Hartley Law, secured some unification of the Army and Navy and passed the bill to give interim aid to France, Italy and Austria.

The Congress now in session faces some serious issues and it is probably fair to state that the outcome of the election in November, both as to Congress and the Presidency, will depend upon the action taken by members of the two parties in the next half year.

While tax reduction is receiving considerable attention from the legis-

lators, the threat of inflation undoubtedly take some action but there are other issues of some consequence that likewise await the attention of the solons.

The first in importance, probably, is the Marshall Plan, designed to extend a helping hand to the free, democratic nations of Europe and to enable them to stabilize their economy on a productive basis that will make them self-supporting and contribute to the peaceful development of the world.

A second important matter which must receive the attention of Congress involves the fate of the Hull Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. At present, this represents a fundamental of our economic foreign policy, but on the last peacetime test, it should be noted there was a majority of both Senate and House against it.

Another matter involves the preparedness of this nation for whatever the future may hold in the way of warfare. President Truman has repeatedly recommended the establishment of a system of universal military training but, so far, there has been no indication that a major-

ity of the Congress is prepared to enact such legislation.

We think it fair to conclude that the outcome of the 1948 election will be largely determined by the records made in the halls of Congress. There are other issues which will engage debate and occupy the public mind, but the ones listed, we think, represent those that will mean the most in our future life.

Another item should be added. It is, the question of extending assistance to the States in connection with the education of their children. If Communists Use Force, War Might Begin In Greece

The Communist nations of Eastern Europe have not yet recognized the Communist "state" which was proclaimed sometime ago by General Vassides, but diplomatic advices from Europe suggest that the recognition is only a matter of time.

The Greek Army has been somewhat successful in its operations against the guerrillas. A recent drive on the part of the "New State" to capture a small town for its capital was beaten back but men and material from other countries are entering the guerrilla territory. The Greek

Government makes this change, especially in regard to the Yugoslavian frontier.

British and American officials are said to be in consultation upon the whole question. They seem to believe that the guerrilla objective is

the capture of Athens and realize that, to permit this, would isolate Turkey, endanger oil resources and probably lead to the introduction of Communism into the Arab League.

Apparently, Greece is one of the (Continued on Page Three)



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