

Truman, Dewey Comparison On Specific Issues Now Possible

By PETER EDSON

NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—President Truman at Akron and Governor Dewey at Pittsburgh gave the voters their first real basis for comparison of the two candidates' campaign promises on specific issues. They line up like this:

MINIMUM WAGE LAW: Truman—"I believe that we should increase the minimum wage from 40 cents an hour to at least 75 cents an hour." Dewey—"The present minimum wage set by law is far too low and it will be raised."

Both statements head the same way. The difference is that Truman is specific and Dewey is general. The difference is that President Truman advocated his increase during the last Congress. Dewey Not Specific.

SOCIAL SECURITY: Truman—"I believe Social Security should be extended to the large groups of people not now protected. I believe that the insurance benefits should be increased by approximately 50 per cent." Dewey—"We will overhaul the Social Security system for the unemployed and the aged and go forward to extend its coverage and

increase its benefits."

Both statements head the same way. The difference is that Truman is specific and Dewey is general. The difference is that President Truman advocated his increase during the last Congress. Dewey Not Specific.

COST OF LIVING: Truman—"I believe we should do something, at once, about high prices." Dewey—"We will make sure that soaring prices do not steal food, clothing and other necessities from American families."

Both statements head the same way. The difference is that Truman spelled out a specific anti-inflation program for the past session of Congress. This program was largely blocked by the last Congress while Republicans were in control. The difference is that Dewey hasn't said how he

proposes to carry out his promise.

HOUSING: Truman—"I believe the Congress should provide aid for slum clearance and low-rent housing." Dewey—"We will break the log jam in housing so that decent houses may be provided at reasonable cost for our people."

Both statements head the same way. The difference is that President Truman specifically supported the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill in full. In the housing session, slum clearance and low-rent housing sections were killed by the Republican Congress. This, however, is not the complete housing story. New York state's record in slum clearance and building of subsidized rental housing for low-income families under Governor Dewey is above criticism. If he can do as well in a federal housing program,

there can be no complaint.

TAFT-HARTLEY LABOR LAW: Truman—"I believe that we should repeal the Taft-Hartley Act." Dewey—"The new law is not perfect... wherever and whenever it needs change it will be changed."

Here there is real difference. There is no question about what the President's statement means. But Governor Dewey's statement could mean anything. It could mean that some sections of the act might be made stiffer just as well as it could mean that some sections might be repealed.

What Dewey apparently means is explained in other sections of

the Pittsburgh speech. He said that the Taft-Hartley law had reduced strikes instead of increased them, that it had reduced the discharge rate instead of increased it. That the Truman administration had itself used the law seven times to head off major strikes, being successful in six cases.

Dewey also promised to make the Labor Department equal in actual cabinet status; to Agriculture and Commerce. The record shows that it was emasculated by action of the last Republican Congress.

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