

Repetition Of President's Program Puts Congress Back At Previous Session Status

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—(AP)—The opening of the 1950 Congress was about as unusual as listening to an old phonograph record. President Truman handed Congress the program he wants passed. But this was just the unfinished part of the program he offered last year.

Right away the Democratic leaders said this was a very wonderful program, indeed, which is what they have been saying all along.

And right away the Republicans condemned the program. "It's Socialistic," they said, which is what they have been saying all along.

This brings us to where we were when Congress quit for a few months last fall. Nothing's changed.

As for the program, Congress probably will pass some of it, leave most unpassed, which is

what it did with the same program last year. In the elections of 1950 and 1952 the voters ought to be able to make a pretty clear-cut choice between Democrats and Republicans to run the country.

They can by their votes show whether they want the Truman program or some program the Republicans offer by election time. They don't have any program of their own now. They're trying to figure out one.

The only way the voters can show a real preference is by giving one side or the other overwhelming control of Congress, which will mean enough votes for the winning side to ram its program through.

The Democrats now have a slim majority in Congress. But the Trumanite Democrats broke a minority any time the southern Democrats want to break away and vote with the Republicans.

So long as this up-and-down situation continues in Congress, with neither side in strong control, any program, Democrat or Republican, will have slow going, and we'll get more talk than action.

In a two-party country like this, a fairly well divided Congress is a check against either side going too far too fast. That's the argument against too much control by any one party.

The other side of the argument is this: If at any time the voters



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By J. R. Williams

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At Least Six Of Truman Requests Face Quick Death

By JACK BELL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—(AP)—Congress met the conciliatory tone of President Truman's state of the union message with a virtual promise today of quick death for at least half a dozen of his proposals.

In a surprising surge toward budget balancing, the election-minded lawmakers lighted on Mr. Truman's request for a "moderate" tax increase and apparently showed it to be head of the list marked for rejection in this session.

Out of a cascade of reaction to the President's message Wednesday came clear indications that important members of both parties will okay continued red ink spending only if drastic economy moves fall—and then reluctantly.

Similarly, Congress members in a position to act said in about as many words for continuation of the military draft, Taft-Hartley repeal, the Brannan farm plan, medical insurance and the St. Lawrence Seaway will go on the shelf for this session.

There was an apparently clear road for (1) expansion of social security coverage and benefits and (2) continuation—on a reduced scale—of economic and military aid to non-communist countries abroad.

There the list of certainties ended. These proposals doomed. Lawmakers jumped in the doubtful category the presidential proposals for middle-income housing aid, continuation of rent control, expansion of displaced persons admissions, aid to education and the "point four" program of economic help for the world's backward areas.

They gave even less chance of passage to an international trade organization resolution and the president's civil rights program. In his mildly-phrased message,

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Butter Trade Held Peril

He told a reporter that margarine manufacturers "are holding prices in check until they get a monopoly." He added that with "cutrate prices" they could put butter out of business and then later raise prices.

Fulbright hit at charges that "profiteering" in yellow margarine might follow repeal. He labeled this propaganda and said the margarine industry is highly competitive.

He told reporters that on the average margarine has sold over the years for about half the price of butter. This competition, he said, "is the reason why there is strong opposition today to repeal of oleomargarine taxes."

Senator Humphrey (D-Minn.) predicted in a statement that the Gillette-Wiley amendment will be adopted by the Senate.

He said it is endorsed by dairy farmers, "important segments of organized labor and many agricultural groups aside from dairy farmers."

Negro Soldier's Wife Dies Of Bullet Wounds

SEATTLE, Jan. 6.—(AP)—Mrs. Marvline Gant, 26, wife of a Fort Lawton army sergeant who police said killed himself after shooting her in a family quarrel, died yesterday of her wounds.

Mrs. Gant, an expectant mother, had come here from Stockton, Calif., to visit her husband, James, during the Christmas holiday. Both were negroes.

Detective Dale Schmeiser said neighbors in a dingy skid road hotel reported the couple had been quarrelling for some time when Mrs. Gant dashed into the hallway.

He said the sergeant shot his wife as she was attempting to escape, then returned to his room and killed himself with a shot in the head.

South Korea Saved From Reds By U. S.

SEOUL, Korea, Jan. 5.—(AP)—American military and economic aid has kept South Korea "from falling again under cruel foreign rule," President Syngman Rhee said today.

"Korea is the combatant outpost of the non-Communist world on the East Asiatic continent," Rhee said.

"Here, every day, our soldiers and sailors, our police and our common citizens are in deadly combat with Communist soldiers, Communist armed bands, Communist terrorists, all directed and supplied from the homeland of all the world's Communists."

"The struggle for freedom and Democracy against Communism and totalitarianism is not academic in Korea. It is a daily matter of life and death."

"American postwar aid to Korea has made this life, this liberty and the free pursuit of happiness possible for our citizens."

The president's remarks were made in a statement issued on the first anniversary of the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA) program in Korea.

Australia is staging a campaign to curtail the mistletoe which kills many of that continent's forest trees.

Battle To Repeal Taxes On Oleo Opens In Senate

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—(AP)—Senators fighting a House-passed bill to repeal federal oleomargarine taxes today opened their drive to ban the yellow product from interstate commerce.

With Senator Gillette (D-Iowa) as their lead-off speaker, opponents of the repeal legislation hoped to rally support for a substitute that would permit yellow oleomargarine to be sold only in a state where it is manufactured.

Gillette and Senator Wiley (R-Wis.) are the chief authors of the proposal but 23 other senators are listed as co-sponsors.

Like the House bill, it would wipe out the present federal taxes on oleomargarine. These include a 10-cents-a-pound tax on yellow colored margarine, a one-quarter cent a pound levy on the uncolored variety and occupational taxes on manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers.

The Senate battle got underway yesterday with Senator Fulbright (D-Ark.) calling the proposed substitute "thoroughly mischievous."

It "would disrupt the entire margarine industry and would sharply raise costs to consumers," he said.

Wiley, in turn, said the House bill represents "an attack by one segment of the economy on another."

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Predetermination Of Sex Tried By German Doctor

FRANKFURT, Germany, Jan. 5.—(AP)—A German doctor looked into the eyes of 35 pregnant American women Wednesday and tried to forecast the sex of their unborn babies.

The Wiesbaden doctor, Dr. Wilhelm Witzel, claims that after ten years of experiments he has solved the age-old riddle of how to tell whether an unborn infant will be a boy or a girl.

The army allowed Witzel to enter the women's clinic of its 97th General hospital here to settle whether the German really has

the answer. Witzel took an ordinary medical instrument for examining eyes and peered into the irises of each of the 35 American women.

The women, wives of U.S. military and State department personnel in Frankfurt, all were in the last month of pregnancy. The army said it would be several months before the validity of Witzel's claims could be judged by army doctors.

Ice-Bound Blackbirds Being Freed By Rangers

OKLAHOMA CITY, Jan. 6.—(AP)—Salt—by legend used to capture birds—was sprinkled on more than 100 ice-bound blackbirds Thursday in an effort to set them free.

The birds became icebound at Lake Overholser when falling mist froze them to the ground. Many of the birds had only their bills sticking out while others had their feet frozen to the ground last night.

Game rangers are feeding the birds and sprinkling salt on them. The salt is supposed to melt the ice. A few were freed with ice picks.

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