

Truman Tells About Firing Morgenthau After Refusing To Take Him To Conference

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Harry S. Truman says he accepted Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr.'s resignation on the spot after refusing to take Morgenthau to the 1945 Potsdam conference.

Truman tells the hitherto-undisclosed story of Morgenthau's departure from the Cabinet in the latest installment of the former Chief Executive's memoirs. They are being published by Life Magazine.

In this installment, Truman discusses what he thinks the vice president's role in government should be—a matter which drew added point from the situation stemming from President Eisenhower's illness.

Truman also recalls circumstances leading to his 1944 nomination as vice presidential running mate to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, on whose death in 1945 Truman rose to the presidency.

Morgenthau was sponsor of a plan to turn industrial Germany, then prostrate in defeat, into an agricultural country. While plans were being made for the Potsdam conference of Russian, British, French and U.S. leaders, Truman says Morgenthau asked to go along. But Truman says he told Morgenthau the secretary of the treasury was "badly needed in the United States—much more so than in Potsdam."

"He replied that it was necessary for him to go and that if he could not, he would have to quit," Truman relates. "All right," I replied, "if that is the way you feel, I'll accept your resignation right now."

And I did. That was the end of the conversation and the end of the Morgenthau Plan."

In New York, Morgenthau said he would have no comment "for the time being."

In talking about the vice president—in which he served for about three months—Truman says he feels that officer should be a sort of "spare Chief Executive," not just an "appendage to the presidency." Truman says that under present conditions a vice president cannot properly equip himself, mainly because he cannot be taken fully into the President's confidence.

Turning to the Democratic political maneuvering of 11 years ago, Truman says he balked at accepting the vice presidential nomination until he was convinced he was Roosevelt's personal choice.

Wholesale Food Prices Take Year's Sharpest Fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Wholesale food prices as measured by the Dun & Bradstreet index took the sharpest weekly fall of the year this week as a long list of foods declined.

The index stood at \$6.17, the lowest since Aug. 30, when the year's low of \$6.15 was registered. A week ago the figure was \$6.29 and a year ago \$6.69.

The index represents the total cost at wholesale of one pound each of 31 foods in general use.

Lower this week were flour, wheat, corn, rye, oats, bellies, lard, coffee, cottonseed oil, cocoa, beans, eggs, potatoes, prunes, steers, hogs and lambs. Higher were barley, hams, butter, sugar, milk and currants.

Child's Operation, Paid For By Grant, Is Success

PORTLAND (AP) — The operation that Jasper Grant promised to pay for with his new fortune was performed Tuesday and doctors caring for 2-year-old Cathie Ploense said it was a success.

"I'm the happiest Indian in the world," said Grant, when told about it.

Grant recently came into line for half of \$1,175,000, paid for his timber land near Gold Beach. He said then his first spending would be to pay for Cathie's operation. She is the daughter of his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ploense, and has been unable to speak properly because of a palate defect.

MINT CONTROL PLANNED

SALEM (AP) — A mint control area will begin operating in Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes counties starting Monday.

The State Agriculture Department said this means that no planting stock can go into those counties without being cleared by plant officials.

The purpose is to prevent spread of diseases and insects to that area.

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