



By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

The principal newsworthy happenings of this 81st congress thus far was the speech on the state of the union by President Truman. There have been some behind-the-scenes skirmishes on the Democratic party side of the House of Representatives, but Speaker Sam Rayburn and his lieutenants are capable people, and succeeded in handling such situations so that what reached the public gabe was mostly sweetness and light. The Republicans in the house, being very definitely in the minority, held a brief and routine caucus, elected Speaker Joe Martin to the position of minority leader, and will now await the onslaught of the administrative legislation.

Before Congress convened it was rumored that drastic changes might be made both in the house committee on rules and in the Un-American activities committee authorization. Neither of these rumors materialized as advertised. Nothing at all has been said as yet about the Un-American activities committee. House rules governing the functioning of the rules committee were considerably modified by an overwhelming vote of the house, but that action was clearly unimportant, because the rules committee will be heavily weighted with administration members.

There are three noticeable divisions of the majority side of the house, namely, the left-wingers, the southern democrats and the 100% Trumanites. Since the latter group is by far the largest, it obviously dominates the majority side of the house. The result of this will be a complete control—not only of the house itself—but of all committees by the Truman forces. This fact is what

makes the Truman speech to congress on Jan. 5, so extremely important. He can secure the passage of any legislation that he really wants, and his message to congress clearly indicated that he wants a great deal.

I am endeavoring to make a rough tabulation of the total additional annual federal expenditures involved in the requests made by the president. Apparently, if congress passes all of the legislation requested, the federal government will be obligated to spend a minimum of 15 million dollars per year more than at present, or, in other words, a 30% increase in federal expenses over a federal budget that is already outrageously high. If this program is carried out, the president's original demand of an increase of four billion dollars in taxes is only a starter.

One sentence in President Truman's speech was particularly alarming to me. I refer to the paragraph wherein he requested legislation "to authorize an immediate study of the adequacy of production facilities for materials in critically short supply, such as steel; and if found necessary, to authorize government loans for the expansion of production facilities to relieve such shortages, and furthermore to authorize the construction of such vate industry fails to meet our facilities directly if action by pri-needs."

Quite unintentionally, I am sure, the president has used a phrase that is extremely popular with the American Communists and left-wingers—"if private industry fails, the government must do it."

This phrase is particularly deadly to our way of life and our system of government when taken together with a government policy of discouraging private industry and private capital by every known means, including high taxes, regulation, and a 'swat business' attitude.

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For the past week, ending on Sunday:

	Max.	Min.	Rain
Jan. 10	46	26	
Jan. 11	54	34	
Jan. 12	58	33	
Jan. 13	68	39	
Jan. 14	54	39	
Jan. 15	53	31	
Jan. 16	55	36	

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