

U. S. Faces Critical Decisions at Home and Abroad in '48

BY NEWS SPECIALISTS OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A CRITICAL YEAR promising momentous events is the prospect for 1948. Rough going is in prospect diplomatically, economically and politically. But the outlook is bright in science. More food, but more shortages; higher prices, but possibly less labor trouble are among the paradoxes on the horizon. This will be a presidential election year and that factor is being felt at home and abroad. Here is the likely shape of things to come.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

New Crisis Abroad, But War Unlikely

IN THE field of international affairs, 1948 seems destined to be one of history's crucial years, although not likely to produce a general war. There may be a lull in Russia's propaganda during the U. S. election campaign to avoid the possibility that the ensuing administration might go into office in an atmosphere suggesting a popular mandate for a continued "tough" policy toward Communism. But the Communist fight to sabotage the European Recovery Program will continue. Vital decisions regarding the future of Germany can be expected. The probabilities are for no formal "separate peace."

The United States will become more involved in the business of bolstering other countries against the Communists. A full-fledged program for China is in the cards. China, wary of what might happen if she aggravates Russia into supplying more help to Communist rebels, probably will continue to block a formal Japanese peace conference without Russian participation. Russia, standing to gain little or nothing from a treaty, will stick to her demand that it be handled by the foreign ministers. The U. N. "Little Assembly" may get around the Russian boycott by calling special sessions of the General Assembly. Jewish emigration to Palestine probably will have serious repercussions. The winter will further strain the socialist government in Britain, and a coalition substitute or return of the Conservatives to power is not out of the question.

POLITICS:

Hot Fight Seen For Presidency

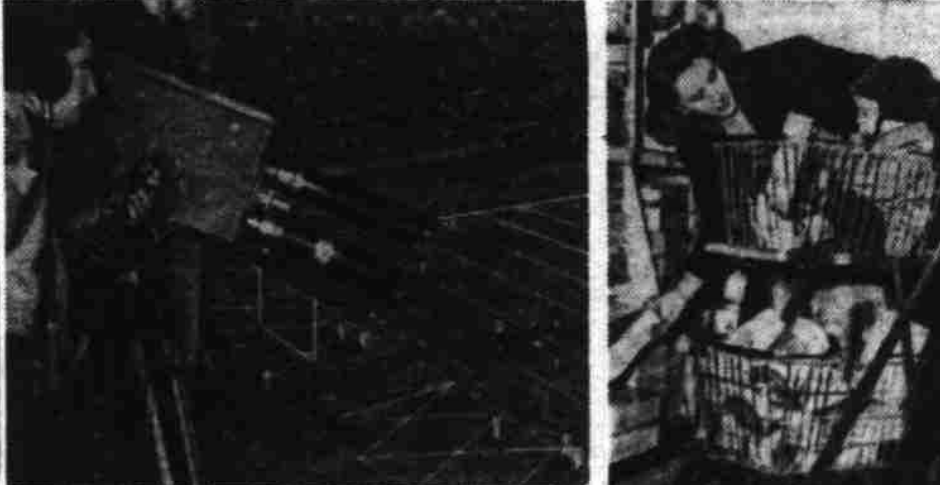
ABOUT the only political forecasts that can be made with virtual certainty seven months before the presidential nominating conventions are:

1. The Republicans have a horse race on their hands with no less than six candidate possibilities jockeying for position.
2. President Truman has the Democratic nomination if he wants it.
3. It's not going to be any walk-away.
- Republicans were saying right after their sweep in the 1946 congressional elections that they could win with almost anybody in 1948. They've changed their tune. Not necessarily in order of strength, the six GOP prospects at Philadelphia will be: Dewey, Taft, Stassen, Warren, Eisenhower and MacArthur.
- Dewey, 1944 standard bearer and unannounced as to 1948, is beginning to speak out on some important issues. Taft, Stassen and Warren are avowed candidates. Eisenhower and MacArthur may be classed as receptive.
- Prices will still be sufficiently high to be the big issue. Whom the voters will blame is debatable. Money in the pocket usually helps the party holding the White House. Money in the pocket, but with many necessities of life nearly out of reach of the average man, may mean another story.
- If the Republicans win the presidency next year they no doubt would keep control of the Senate and House. It's more of a question whether the Democrats could regain Congress while keeping the White House.

FOREGOAST FOR '48



TRUMAN RENOVATED: The President can run again if he wants. But he will have a hot election fight.



NEW LOOK OLD: The long style will win greater acceptance.

TELEVISION BOOM: In the new year "video" will come into its own.

of wage increases could be felt throughout the economy.

SHORTAGES: Continuing in nearly everything made with steel. Automobile makers expect to be behind orders most if not all of the year. Appliance makers in same position. Grain and some other foods and in many sections gasoline, fuel oil and other oil products will be short. Many textiles, particularly decorators' items, will remain short.

HOUSING: Five per cent gain in all residential buildings over 1947, but only one per cent gain in one-family and two-family dwellings. Apartment house construction expected to rise 14 per cent over 1947. Prices higher, at least for first part of the year. About 70,000 new prefabricated homes will be built. Shortage in all housing will remain acute.

STEEL: At the very roots of the economy, steel will continue short. Production increase of 1,000,000 tons over 1947 anticipated, but demand will be for 66,500,000 tons in 1948. Shipments of 62,000,000 tons, a peace-time record.

LABOR:

Industrial Peace Hinges on an 'IF'

THE new year probably will not be a big year of strikes. It's true there are uncertainties and trouble spots. The cost of living looms importantly in the picture. Wage demands will be heard. Court battles will be fought over the Taft-Hartley act. John L. Lewis' soft coal contract will expire June 30.

But leaders of both sides—if business continues at a high level—will have particular reasons to meet one another halfway.

AN ENCOURAGING SIGN: They are being virtually ruled out in the steel industry, which is usually a wage pace-setter among manufacturing industries.

The two-year steel contracts run until April 30, 1949. The CIO Steelworkers Union has said these contracts "definitely assure peace in the steel ploy for two years" even though they can be reopened for wage negotiations after April 1.

Union leaders will try to channel the main energies and emotions of their members into the 1948 political campaigns. They will seek to elect a friendlier Congress.

AGRICULTURE:

Farmers Watching The Weathervane

THE weather will have more than anything else to say about what American agriculture does in 1948.

Agriculture will have a market for all the food, with a few possible exceptions that it can produce. Farmers plan to plant larger acreages. They have more tractors and other machinery. The fertilizer supply will be a little larger. There will be no critical shortages of workers.

And they have the incentive. Agricultural department officials predict a continuation of favorable prices.

But drought took hold of the rich wheat-producing area of the southwest last fall. As a consequence, there was a serious de-

cline in fall seeding of winter wheat.

But despite this setback, it is still possible to harvest another bumper wheat crop—providing there is enough winter and early spring rain.

It was the weather that hit the 1947 corn crop, first by a wet, cool spring and later by dryness during the growing season. As a result, the corn crop dropped 25 percent below 1946 to create a shortage in feeds which will force farmers to lower their production of livestock for 1948.

Barring widespread drought and an unforeseen sharp drop in farm prices, agriculture's net income in 1948 should about match the 1947 record of \$18,000,000,000.

AVIATION:

Supersonic Speed Tops 1948 Show

AVIATION will mark 1948 as the year man raced sound and won.

Researchers will pace: (1) What looks like a new high in air transportation, (2) another tough—and for some companies a decisive year in aircraft manufacturing, (3) a further shake-down to "normal" levels in personal flying, (4) a vast experience in flying military jet planes, (5) reshuffling of the government's aeronautical agencies, (6) continued swelling of the number of pilots and civil aircraft.

Underlying most of that is the development of a new national aviation policy. Compared with 1947, relatively few new types of planes will be announced. The big outpouring of new designs conceived during the war is about ended.

However, it will be a year of new planes on the airways, with the first operational flights of the Boeing Stratocruiser and the Convair 440, along with increasing use of the Martin 202, the Lockheed postwar Constellation and the Douglas DC-6.

The airlines expect to carry nearly 15,000,000 passengers—more than a million over 1947—on domestic runs, and to increase international air travel by nearly 40 per cent.

Manufacturers expect to turn out about 1,400 to 1,500 military planes, about the same as in 1947. The output of personal planes will likely fall below the 15,000 built in 1947.

The federal airport building program will have its first full year, with about 500 projects.

SCIENCE: Nineteen-forty-eight should be the first year of atomic power, in a nuclear-electric plant at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

This pilot plant will make enough electricity so that engineers can blue-print the costs of atomic energy. It also will answer problems of safety—dangers not likely from atomic explosions, but from radioactive atoms.

Backing up the Oak Ridge experiment are others using different materials, such as heavy water, and concentrated plutonium, instead of uranium. If and when concentrated atomic metals can be safely used for power, the already small weights of atomic fuel will be further reduced. The new drug, streptomycin, is

Forecasters for 1948

THIS SYMPOSIUM is compiled by the following new specialists of The Associated Press: J. M. Roberts, Jr., foreign affairs; Harold Oliver, politics; Harry T. Montgomery, economics; Max Hall, labor; Ovid A. Martin, agriculture; Howard W. Blakeslee, science; James J. Streb, aviation; Robert Geiger, education; Dorothy Roe, women; W. G. Rogers, arts; Bob Thomas, movies; C. E. Butterfield, television; Jack O'Brian, entertainment; Frank Eck, sports.

Free College Drive Begins

GOVERNMENT advisers are proposing revolutionary changes in American education to give schooling to millions of more students at public expense. These are aimed at producing thousands of more trained leaders to keep America ahead in all branches of science, and educating the "little people" who don't want to be leaders—how to get more happiness out of life.

THE ARTS:

Creative Hopes Spring Eternal

WILL 1948 give us at last the great American novel? Will we hear the symphony we've waited for all our lives, or the soprano with the voice of our dreams and face of our match? Will some artist paint the incomparable masterpiece? The answer to these questions will probably be no, as it has been for other years. Critics will continue to hope, however. Publishers, impresarios and gallery directors will be hopeful, too. Masterpieces mean money in their pockets. They did



STRIFE ABROAD: Europe's left-right fight will go on. War is unlikely.

JOE LOUIS KO'D? The champion, growing old, may be upset. Photo shows him floored by Galento in '39.



BUMPER CROP YEAR: Farmers again will find markets for everything they can plant.



WOMEN: Career girl bows to femininity. Women achieved the "new look" in 1947 (not without a struggle) and now are prepared to make the most of their new elegance in the first Leap Year since the war.

EDUCATION: Free College Drive Begins. The outlook for 1948 on the distaff side seems to be an accent on femininity, not only in clothes but in manners. The days of the strict "un-empowered woman" as well as the comradely and efficient career girl of war years are passing. Women will do just as earnest and important work in 1948, but they will make less noise about it.

TELEVISION: Prices May Ease In 'Video' Boom. Television could very well look upon 1948 as its first "boom year." The past year saw stations springing up in new cities and manufacturers getting receivers on the market in impressive numbers.

ENTERTAINMENT: Deflation Booked For Broadway Run. The Theater has slimmed down its activity from the carefree, inflated conditions of the war years, when it was literally easy to get money to back the worst dramatic stinkers.

SPORTS: Baseball Crowds May Hit New Peak. The sports picture of 1948 looks bright. There is a possibility that the major baseball leagues may draw 20,000,000 fans for the first time. However, some minor leagues may fold.

THE MOVIES: Gals, Gags, Gats To Cut Film Costs. HOLLYWOOD faces another perilous year in 1948. In 1947, the U. S. motion picture industry grappled with its most difficult problems since the advent of sound movies. A "shopping" film audience made producers re-evaluate their programming. Pyramiding costs brought new terrors to the film makers.

THE ECONOMY: Prices Climb; Shortages Grow. PRICES will be higher and many shortages will continue in 1948. The course of the fight against inflation, the fate of the Marshall plan and the shape of the new tax program all are variable factors which will affect 1948.

THE ECONOMY: Prices Climb; Shortages Grow. Many feel that a recession is in the cards, and at least the threat of a perhaps serious depression. Authorities in their respective fields see these things ahead for 1948.

THE ECONOMY: Prices Climb; Shortages Grow. PRICES: Increases already announced for automobiles, textiles, including clothing and carpeting, many foods, tires and other rubber products and a great variety of items made with steel, including refrigerators, washing machines and other appliances. New round

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THE ECONOMY: Prices Climb; Shortages Grow. American tennis will lose a lot of prestige including the Davis Cup now that Jack Kramer has turned professional. The national championship may go to Frank Parker or Ted Schroeder.

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ed to the cash-green forests of Hollywood, reading new scripts. Night club business will continue generally to be "brutal," which is the trade term for a night club slump. Waiters are snow blind from looking at unbroken expanses of white tablecloths.

Restaurant business will continue its gaily inflated jog so long as food shortages continue, high profits keep falling into playful pockets and spirits remain high. One successful New York operator is opening a new steak house for the "medium priced" trade because there "isn't a place on Broadway where you can get a \$2.50 steak."

Broadway movie mesquites already have felt public resentment against high movie house admissions, in one instance promptly lowering a \$2.80 tariff for a single movie when patrons stayed away. The incredible amounts paid to stage stars (as high as \$40,000 a week to Frank Sinatra and Danny Kaye), have been adjusted sharply. Night club salaries, which hit their height with \$10,000 a week to Milton Berle, have tilted back toward \$5,000 to \$7,500 a week if your name is big. The war is over, and so is the gleeful Broadway party.

THE MOVIES:

Gals, Gags, Gats To Cut Film Costs

HOLLYWOOD faces another perilous year in 1948. In 1947, the U. S. motion picture industry grappled with its most difficult problems since the advent of sound movies. A "shopping" film audience made producers re-evaluate their programming. Pyramiding costs brought new terrors to the film makers.

The crushing blow came when the British slapped a 75 per cent tax on American films and other foreign countries followed suit with financial restrictions. Unless there are diplomatic developments, film companies will have to depend on the American market for their profits. This means that expensive flops will have to be avoided in fact, the traditional multi-million-dollar epics will become a scarce commodity. The order of the year will be for wisely planned, tightly-filmed money makers.

The coming year will find studios searching desperately for solutions to these problems. Personnel cut-backs will probably continue. New methods will have to be found for cutting costs. The year will mark the revival of the B picture, abandoned during the moneyed era. Producers are discovering that the lower budget films, though much maligned, can nevertheless bring in much-needed revenue.

The screen menu for 1948 will reflect the producers' belief that the public wants "entertainment." This means a fare of gals, gags and gats.

Women's interests for 1948 are as wide as the world, but their hearts are safe at home. Women have their serious interests for 1948. They are determined to help avert another war if that is possible. They do not want to send their husbands, sons and sweethearts into an atomic war.

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A YEAR PACKED WITH FAMOUS ANNIVERSARIES

FOR those who like to get their historic perspective measured in round figures, 1948 offers many diverse anniversaries.

One hundred years ago, the following events were just around the New Year's corner:

Gold was discovered in California, Jan. 24, touching off the famous rush westward by prairie schooner and around Cape Horn by clipper ship. The "Communist Manifesto" was published the same month in Europe by Karl Marx and Frederic Engels, sparking a chain of events still reverberating around the world. The U. S. for \$15,000,000 on Feb. 2. The great revolution of 1848 began in Europe with Louis Philippe forced to abdicate, Feb. 24, when the second French republic was proclaimed.

Another throne tottered when Prince Metternich was overthrown in Austria, Mar. 13, and four days later Italian patriots revolted in Milan. Within five days rebellion flared in Berlin.

The Associated Press was formed by six New York newspapers in May and the Mexican War was ended with the treaty of Guadalupe, May 19. Wisconsin was admitted as 30th state, May 23. The cornerstone of the Washington monument was laid July 4. The first American woman's rights convention met in Seneca Falls, N. Y., July 19.

Oregon was organized as a territory, Aug. 14. Lt. Ulysses S. Grant, 26, married Julia T. Deft of St. Louis, Aug. 22. James A. Garfield, 15, began driving mules along Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal. Old "rough and ready" Gen. Zachary Taylor, hero of the Mexican war and "no-platform" nominee of the Whigs, was elected President of U. S., Nov. 7. Louis Napoleon was proclaimed president of France for four years, on Dec. 20.

Among its many golden anniversaries, 1948 will mark the passage of exactly 50 years since:

New York became a corporate city of five boroughs on Jan. 1; the Curies discovered radium and polonium in Paris; Lewis Carroll (Charles L. Dodgson), author of Alice in Wonderland, died, Jan. 14; the battleship Maine, just after taps, exploded and sank in Havana

harbor, Feb. 15; Emile Zola was condemned to jail Feb. 23 by the French for reviving the Dreyfus case with "l'Accuse"; U. S. Navy's first submarine made its first dive, Mar. 17; the first recorded sale of an automobile was made on Apr. 1 for \$1,000. Andrew S. Rowan landed on the Cuban coast Apr. 25 to carry the "message to Garcia." U. S. declared war on Spain, Apr. 25; Adm. Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay, May 1.

U. S. won the battles of San Juan Hill and El Caney, July 1. Capt. Joshua Slocum completed a round the world trip, alone in a 36-foot boat, July 3. Peace was formally proclaimed between U. S. and Spain, Aug. 12. Hawaii was annexed by the U. S. the same day. Queen Wilhemina was enthroned at the Hague, Sept. 4. The treaty with Spain was signed Dec. 10, U. S. taking Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam.

Among cities to which next year will be important as an anniversary, are Detroit, which was first visited by LaSalle in 1648; Nashville, which was incorporated in 1848; Sacramento, Calif., which was laid out in 1848, and Worcester, Mass., which received its charter in the same year.

For a broader view of 1948 in relation to history, consider that 300 years before, English Royalists rose in arms to try to free Charles I and were defeated by Cromwell; 450 years before, Vasco da Gama found an all-water route to India; 700 years before, Louis IX led the Sixth Crusade against the Turks; 2,000 years before, Caesar put down a revolt of the Gauls and Cleopatra then an enticing 17, inherited a half share in the Egyptian throne.

The year will be the 200th anniversary of Ben Franklin's experiments with electricity; the 100th anniversary of the College of the City of New York, University of Mississippi and University of Wisconsin; the 50th anniversary of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, Order of Eagles and DePaul University; the 10th anniversary of the CIO, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and U. S. Trotting Association.

And according to Vreeland's anniversary almanac, 1948 will mark the 50th birthday of Katharine Cornell, George Jessel, Paul Robeson, Gene Tunney, Beatrice Lillie, Albert B. "Happy" Chandler, Ernest Hemingway, Walter Pidgeon and Gracie Fields.