



Congress To Dig In

ADMINISTRATION leaders told Congress last week to complete action "one way or another" on the extensive Truman program or face the possibility of a special session this summer. Adjournment is scheduled for July 31 but the lawmakers will have to step up their pace by that time. Sen. Scott Lucas (D-La), Senate majority leader, said that if the lag continues he would ask the President to keep Congress working all summer and fall.

The President's legislative program has been making slow progress. And directly ahead is the big job of stop-Communism legislation—foreign aid and the Atlantic pact to be followed by a proposal of arms for America's partners in the security alliance.

The Record

Although the records show some 30 bills enacted since Congress convened last January 3, only a few rate major classification. The others are non-controversial or minor.

New laws include continuance of the anti-inflation program through voluntary controls, rent control extension, raising the President's salary, emergency relief to the snow-bound west, continuance of export controls, authorization of a nationwide radar network and financial aid for Palestine refugees of Arab-Jewish fighting.

Docket Is Heavy

Still kicking around are these big bills, most of them on the Truman program:

Repeal of the Taft-Hartley labor act, cleared by committees and awaiting both Senate and House action.

Raising existing minimum wage levels, approved by the House labor committee.

Veterans pension, rejected by the House, but now back again in revised form.

Standby price controls and inflation-curb powers for the President, no committee action taken.

Tax increases, nothing done and nothing in sight at present.

Federal aid to education, approved in committee, awaiting Senate action.

Extension of reciprocal trade, passed by the House, Senate hearing.

Oleomargarine tax repeal, passed by the House.

The House is well ahead of its normal past schedules on money bills but the Senate still is engulfed in a pileup from the three-week filibuster on civil rights.

Aerial

Raising the Umbrella

The Air Force has ordered 36 more B-36 long range bombers and five more B-47 high speed jet bombers. It cancelled an order for 44 B-54 four-engine bombers, diverting the funds to the new orders.

The B-36, built by Consolidated-Vultee, is powered with six conventional-type engines and is designed for a 10,000-mile range. The B-47, a light bomber, holds the transcontinental speed record. Powered with four jets, the B-47 is rated at over 500 miles an hour, with an action radius of more than 800 miles.

Along with the shift in orders, the Air Force announced the strength of its four heavy bomber groups of B-36s and two long-range reconnaissance groups of B-29s will be increased from 18 to 30 planes for each group. It said the extra planes will step up capabilities of the groups with little change required in the number of personnel.

At Long Beach, Calif., Douglas Aircraft Co. is reported building a new cargo plane with "clam-shell" doors. It can carry two full-size city buses and such items as 155-millimeter field pieces. The plane has a gross weight loaded of 175,000 pounds and can carry a payload of 50,000 pounds.

Earlier in the week, the world's largest commercial airliner made its first Atlantic hop, crossing from Gander, Newfoundland, to Shannon, Eire, in six hours and 45 minutes. The huge Boeing stratocruiser, operated by Pan American World Airways, can carry 75 passengers.

Sidelights

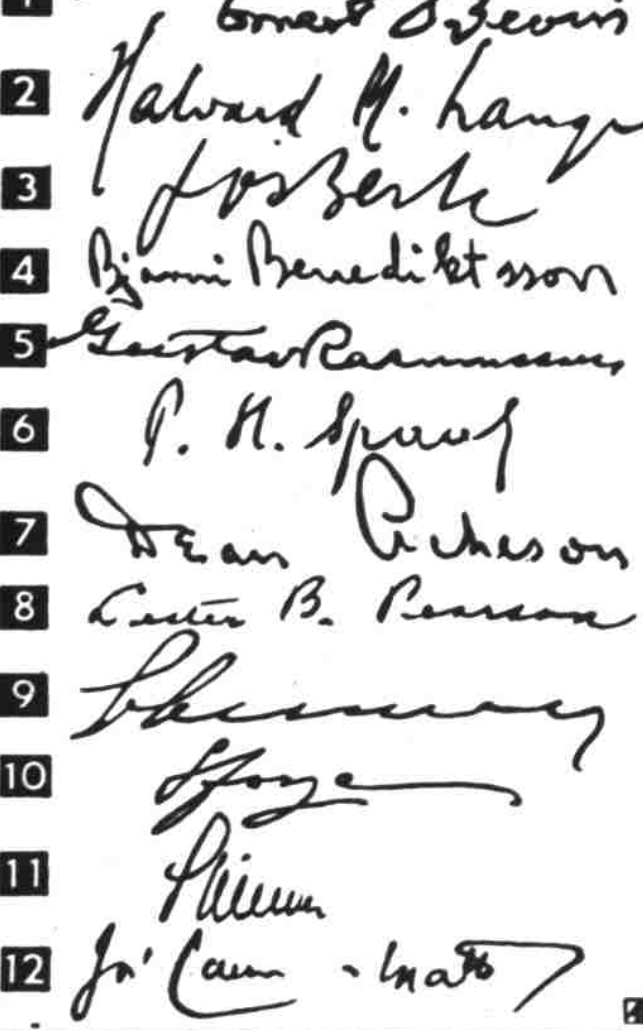
- Postal authorities are checking anonymous letters describing the teachers profession as "an old maid factory," which have been sent to women students in teachers colleges from coast to coast.
- In Union, Ia., a cow with a wooden leg is one of the highest milk producers in the blooded Brown Swine herd of Howard Martin. The cow fell and broke her leg two years ago. Veterinarians, trying to save her unborn calf, fashioned an artificial leg. She goes to pasture with the other cows and grazes in cornfields in the fall.
- In New York City, two riding academy horses were killed in a head-on crash on a bridge path, injuring their riders.
- In Chicago, Jacob Walker's car stalled in traffic. He got out to push and his wife moved behind the wheel. As Walker pushed, the motor started and the car rammed a parked vehicle. Police gave his wife a ticket for driving without a license.

The WORLD This WEEK

SIGNS ON THE ROAD TO PEACE



HISTORIC MOMENT—President Truman (center background) watches as the 12 foreign ministers affix their signatures to the North Atlantic Pact. The signers by number are: (1) Ernest Bevin, Britain; (2) Halvard M. Lange, Norway; (3) Joseph Bech, Luxembourg; (4) Bjarni Benediktsson, Iceland; (5) Gustav Rasmussen, Denmark; (6) Paul-Henri Spaak, Belgium; (7) Dean Acheson, United States; (8) Lester B. Pearson, Canada; (9) Robert Shuman, France; (10) Count Carlo Sforza, Italy; (11) Dirk Stikker, the Netherlands; (12) Jose Caetano de Matos, Portugal. In the rear are ambassadors of the Atlantic Pact nations. Signatures of the diplomats on the historic document appear at the right.



PACT: A Shield Against Aggression for the Free World

IN A very literal sense, the United States became the diplomatic center of the world last week. It will remain that until the answers are in on two very vital questions.

In Washington, the Senate soon is to open hearings on the newly-signed North Atlantic pact. Unless the Senate ratifies it by a two-thirds vote, the treaty is little more than a scrap of paper—a fact recognized on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

In New York, where the United Nations General Assembly is in session, the question is how far will the Soviet Union press its campaign against the defensive alliance. Verbal hostility was anticipated. It may even hasten ratification of the pact by the 12 signatory powers.

Drafters Must Approve

The treaty cannot become effective until it has been ratified by all seven of the original drafters—the U. S., Canada, Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The alliance includes, however, these five other signatory countries: Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Iceland and Italy.

and reiterated that all western countries still hope for United Nations agreement on an international force to preserve world peace.

But Soviet reaction may pass beyond the stage of verbal hostility. In the past fortnight there have been disquieting indications. Russia began exerting pressure on two little nations who are not in the security fold—Iran and Finland. The Kremlin charges that Iran has become an outpost of western militarism and there have been border clashes between the Red Army and Iranian troops in Azerbaijan province.

In his speech just prior to the signing ceremony in Washington, the President saluted the new alliance as a bulwark for the free world and a shield against aggression. He denied Russian charges that the treaty is directed against the Soviet Union.



PRESIDENT TRUMAN
... "An Historic Milestone" ...

"But our efforts to establish this force have been blocked by one of the major powers," the President said. "We shall do as much as we can. Every bit that we do will add to the strength of the fabric of peace throughout the world."

Military Aid Program

One of the major issues to be discussed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is American military aid to European members. The State Department says the arms project is essential if the treaty is to have any effect.

It has been estimated that the arms outlay may run between one and one half billion dollars. Many experts believe, however, that actual military supplies will be limited to whatever American joint chiefs of staff declare to be surplus.

Pledge U.N. Support

At the opening session of the United Nations forum at Flushing Meadow, Secretary of State Dean Acheson pledged that the United

States and other North Atlantic pact signers were solidly behind the U.N.

The Assembly president, Herbert V. Ewart, Australian foreign minister, lectured the five great powers on the need for cooperation among them. He said present world difficulties were not caused by the U.N. but by big power disagreement.

Russians Are Grim

The Russian delegation, headed by Andrei A. Gromyko, the Soviet Union's new deputy foreign minister, did not applaud. One Russian said later that it was "the same old speech."

In his Boston address, Winston Churchill charged that only America's possession of the atom bomb had kept Russia from outright aggression. If the A-bomb were not solely in U.S. hands, declared Britain's wartime leader, all western Europe would now be within the Communist sphere and London would be reeling under Soviet bombardment.

Dates

- Monday, April 11**
National Sunday School Week starts.
- Tuesday, April 12**
Anniversary (fourth), death of Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- Wednesday, April 13**
Eclipse of the moon.
- Thursday, April 14**
Pan-American Day.
Maundy (Holy) Thursday.
Passover (first day).
- Friday, April 15**
Good Friday.
- Sunday, April 17**
Easter.
Paraguayan elections.

In Short...

Signed: By Israel and Trans-Jordan, a one-year armistice, virtually ending the Palestine war.

Saved: By Americans during 1948, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission, \$4,900,000,000 in "liquid savings"—bank accounts, government bonds and insurance.

Estimated: By Sen. Millard Tydings (D-Md), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, that the cold war is costing the United States at least 10 billion dollars a year.

Shipped: By Britain, jet airplane engines to Russia until late in 1947 when further requests were turned down.

GOVERNMENT: For Efficiency

Let the People Speak

Hundreds of prominent U. S. private citizens have banded together to fight for sweeping changes in the organization and operation of the federal government.

The committee is headed by Dr. Robert L. Johnson, president of Temple University. Johnson said he accepted the chairmanship at the personal request of former President Herbert Hoover, whose commission has submitted to Congress recommendations for changes in federal government.

Twin Goals

The committee has a two-fold goal: To cut federal spending seven to ten million dollars a day.

To streamline government organization to the needs of a nation today, not a half century ago.

The committee, said Dr. Johnson, is essentially educational—not a super lobby.

"We do not want," he said, "the recommendations of the Hoover commission to gather dust on the desks of Congress. The people want these changes and this committee has been formed to present the picture to all the people."

Nonpartisan Group

Dr. Johnson said the committee of citizens is nonpartisan and includes about 600 top level industrial, labor, political, educational and journalistic leaders. It may be expanded to 5,000.

"Almost everyone in the federal

government wants to reorganize it," said Dr. Johnson, "but they want to make the changes in someone else's department."

He said there had been and would continue to be efforts to sabotage the Hoover commission ideas.

Last week in Washington, both House and Senate started grinding legislative axes.

The House passed a bill granting the President broad powers to re-organize the Executive Department. But the House also inserted a provision by which the houses jointly could veto any Presidential proposal they didn't like.

The Senate version is a little tougher. The Senate Executive Expenditures Committee wrote a bill in which either branch of Congress could turn thumbs down on a Presidential reorganization move.

Statistics

Love & Marriage

American marriages have slumped during the past two years, the government reports, and divorces as well. The Public Health Service estimates there were 415,000 divorces last year, compared with some 474,000 in 1947, and 610,000 in the peak year of 1946.

But there were only 1,815,000 marriages in 1948, compared with 1,991,878 the previous year and more than 2,000,000 in 1946.

Quotes

Charles F. Kettering, General Motors research director and national cancer drive chairman: "We know that among us alive today are six million Americans marked for cancer death—but who need not die—who can be saved with present (medical) techniques."

Jiri Hronek, Czech delegate to the recent "World Peace" conference in New York: "I wouldn't live in this country even if invited. Czechoslovakia has a better and more genuine democracy."

Canada

Look to the North

The armed forces of Canada and the United States are exchanging officers to work on mutual defense problems.

Signatures of the two nations last week on the North Atlantic pact, joining them with 10 other countries in a defensive alliance against aggression, actually is a reaffirmation of a mutual nine-year-old defense treaty Canada and the U. S. set up a Joint Defense Board in 1940.

The Canadian-U. S. agreement, like the new North Atlantic pact, mentions no names of possible aggressor nations. Attention is focused, however, on the north and its polar wastes and the North Atlantic and the North Pacific.

Exchange Is Small

The National Military Establishment in Washington says that the number of officers exchanged between the two countries varies from time to time but the group is comparatively small.

These officers, most of whom work at military headquarters in Washington or Ottawa, apparently are in addition to technical groups. These, comprising both officers and enlisted men, work in the field on such projects as testing equipment, setting up weather and radar stations on the northern rim of the continent.

Canada's ground forces are small, probably about 25,000, but uniquely fitted to defend the vast frontier. Instead of attempting to stretch her force in a thin line across the far north, Canada seeks to man strong points and patrol areas of less strategic importance.

The United States and Canada are looking toward development of a radar network across the north to warn of approach of enemy aircraft. The weather stations already in operation provide a start.

Libel

Victory for Victor

A French court has ruled that Victor Kravchenko, expatriate Russian author of "I Chose Freedom," was libeled in the pro-Communist newspaper *Les Lettres Francaises*.

The court ordered Claude Morgan, editor and publisher, to pay costs of the eight weeks' trial, estimated at \$18,000, fined him \$300, and awarded Kravchenko \$150 damages.

It also ordered Morgan to print the court decision on his front page.

The fine is significant because the court thus ruled he also had committed an offense against the state.

The defense said it would appeal the decision. The court ruled Kravchenko was the true author of the books and upheld his story that life in Russia is pretty grim. Articles in the French newspaper had declared Kravchenko not intelligent enough to write the book himself and that, anyway, it was not a true picture of life in Russia.

WHITE HOUSE: A Restoration

Hollow Shell

A Congressional committee—20 strong—scrutinized the vacant and decrepit White House last week from top to bottom.

Interior walls of the 133-year-old mansion of the Presidents had been stripped to show the damage and wear of decades. The great rooms, without their graceful furniture and tapestries, were gaunt and bare. The sag of century-old beams was revealed by cracked plaster. All variation from plumb was plainly marked.

Even more revealing were slipshod repairs. Main support timbers had been pierced repeatedly for pipe and wire conduits when plumbing and electricity were installed.

Engineers showed Congressmen how the grand staircase is insecurely sup-

Business Is Good

BUSINESS and industry ended the first quarter of 1949 with a few postwar adjustment scars, but otherwise in fine fettle.

Demand for goods and services showed improvement after a small but persistent decline. Prices of commodities and industrial materials appear in an area of stabilization after several months of downward adjustments.

Unemployment has reversed its trend after reaching the highest peak in several years. An increase in government spending for armament more than offsets a drop in private spending.

A new Marshall plan appears certain to replace the old one. This type of spending has been a powerful prop in keeping the national economy in high gear during the past year.

Job Rights & Service

The Labor Department corrects in a report an erroneous impression that men entering the armed service have to be drafted to have any rights to their old jobs.

Men who enlist or reservists who go back on active duty still retain certain re-employment rights under the Selective Service Act, the federal agency says.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has prepared an "Occupational Outlook Handbook" which surveys national employment opportunities in 454 pages. It says, for instance, that it may be pretty hard during the next few years to get a job as an airplane pilot, an airline hostess, a newspaper reporter, a detective, or a diesel mechanic.

Annual Survey

On the other hand, the book says, the outlook is much brighter for prospective bricklayers, doctors, auto mechanics, librarians, stenographers and foundry workers.

The book which will be revised annually, surveys 288 general occupations. It is for use by veterans' advisory and guidance officers and has been adopted for official use in all other government agencies which give counseling service.

Bombs

Wartime Saboteurs?

A Berlin bomb expert has revealed that hundreds of bombs dropped by American planes on the German capital during the war failed to explode, apparently because they had been sabotaged in U.S. war plants.

The engineer is Werner Stephan, 32, now a civilian bomb demolition expert. He estimates it will take at least 50 years to dig up all the unexploded bombs beneath the ruined buildings.

Stephan says he personally has found 125 American duds that showed evidence of sabotage.

When the dud bombs first were found, at the height of the Allied bombing attacks in 1944, Stephan said he made a special report to the Reich security police. He said he was told Germany had plenty of friends overseas.

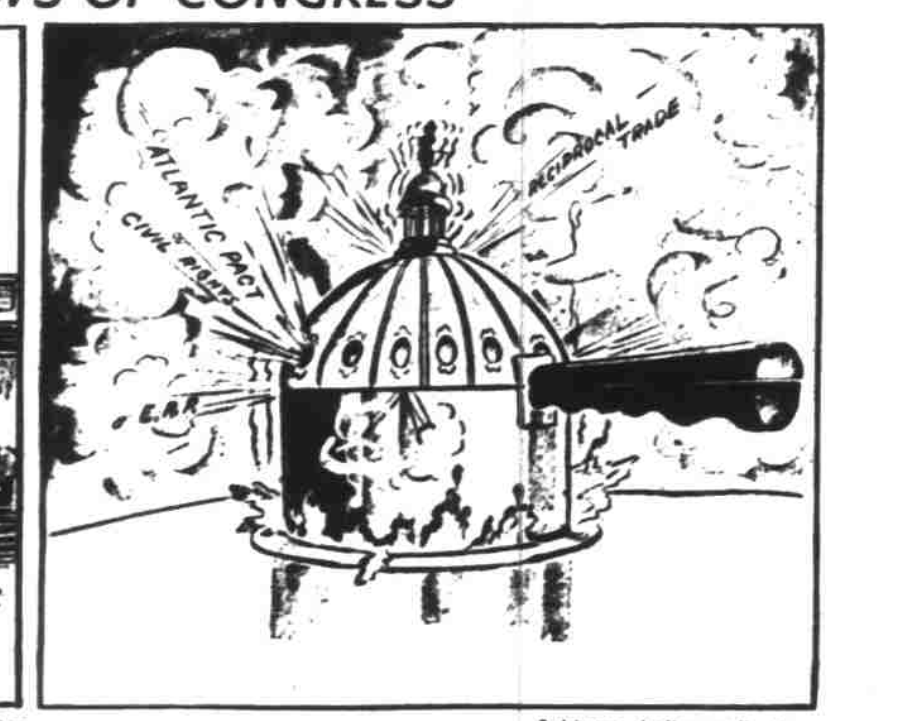
Stephan claims two types of bombs were sabotaged. One carried an M103 fuse and the other an M124 fuse.

"The M103s lacked a central jaw-like part, obviously left out deliberately," said Stephan. "In its place was a meaningless wire that apparently got past the inspectors, but it was impossible for these bombs ever to go off."

Maj. Gen. W. E. Hall, chief of American intelligence in Germany, said he knew "nothing about it" but the Air Corps certainly was interested.

Air Force headquarters at Wiesbaden said one of its experts had exploded between 6,000 and 7,000 duds at Wright Field, Ohio. Defective fuses were found in all of them, headquarters said, but sabotage was not involved.

TWO VIEWS OF CONGRESS



"WHEN'S THAT PLUMBER COMING?"
Carmack, Christian Science Monitor

PRESSURE COOKER
Robinson, Indianapolis News