

# Truman Asks Congress to Pass Compulsory Health Insurance

## Controversial Plan Provides Payroll, Pay Check Taxes

WASHINGTON, April 22—(AP)—President Truman asked congress today to help end "unnecessary human suffering" by approving a compulsory medical plan which, officials said, might cost \$6,000,000,000 a year.

Workers pay check and employers payrolls would be taxed 1 1/2 per cent apiece to finance the program.

Declaring that "good health is the foundation of a nation's strength," Mr. Truman appealed anew for adoption of the broad 10-year health program he previously had outlined to the lawmakers. This calls for a vast expansion through federal aid of the country's medical services and hospital facilities, plus increased numbers of doctors, dentists and nurses.

But the president laid major stress on the compulsory health insurance program in his 3,000-word message to congress. This proposal, first advanced in 1945, already has become a subject of controversy, not only on Capitol Hill but also among the medical profession itself, with opponents contending it will mean "socialized medicine."

Mr. Truman, however, pointed to the recent spread of voluntary medical insurance plans as "proof that our people understand the advantages of health insurance and desire its extension."

"Unfortunately," he added, "voluntary plans have proved inadequate to meet the need." He said that while some 50,000,000 Americans now have "some form of health insurance" only "three and one half million of our people have insurance which provides anything approaching adequate health protection."

Brushing aside opponents' charges that the federal insurance project would be too costly, Mr. Truman said "the truth is that we will save a great deal more than it costs." He asserted that Americans already are paying about 4 per cent of the total national income for medical expenses. Based on last year's income figure of \$224,400,000,000, that would be about \$9,000,000,000.

Not even the staunchest backers of the president's plan would predict its approval this session. The subject is packed with controversy and scores of other important legislative problems remain to be settled.

Land reforms are not new in Italy. Those who remember their ancient history will recall the Gracchi brothers, some of Cornelia (remember "Cornelia's jewels" from the Latin primer?) Born of the nobility these brothers took the side of the plebeians. Tiberius sought to take the lands, which had come into the ownership or control

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## Nanking Abandoned; Reds Reach City

### Boy's Dog Rescued from Pipe



LAKESIDE, Calif., April 22—Frank Hayward, 8, lifts his pet black and white wire haired terrier Spotty from the water main in which the dog was trapped 29 hours. Spotty was freed last night by the combined efforts of three public works crews. The dog became trapped after he chased a rabbit into the pipe. (AP Wirephoto to the Statesman.)

### Cost of Living Up Slightly

WASHINGTON, April 22—(AP)—Living costs have gone up a little after falling for five straight months.

The government reported today that its latest consumer price index rose 3/10 of one per cent from mid-February to mid-March. It had fallen steadily since the record high of August and September.

The index is prepared by the labor department's bureau of labor statistics as a measure of retail prices for goods and services bought by moderate-income families in large cities.

A one per cent boost in the housewife's food prices over the month accounted mainly for the index rise. Other advances were reported for rents and miscellaneous goods and services (medical care, household operations, transportation, recreation, tobacco, etc.).

More than seasonal advances for meats led the slight rise in foods. The food price change ranged from a rise of 2.6 per cent in Scranton, Pa., to a drop of 1.4 per cent in San Francisco. Food prices rose from February to March in 48 out of 56 cities surveyed.

The index for mid-March was 169.5 percent of the average for the 1935-39 pre-war period. At that level it is 1.6 per cent above year ago and 72 per cent over pre-war 1939. It is just about 3 per cent below the August-September peak.

### Cruiser Shows Battle Damage



SHANGHAI, April 22—The British cruiser London, docked at a wharf on the Whangpoo river at Shanghai today shortly before battle casualties were removed, shows plainly shell marks on hull and superstructure inflicted by Chinese communist shore batteries during running battle on the river. (AP Wirephoto via radio from Shanghai to the Statesman.)

### Chiang Returns To Scene

NANKING, Saturday, April 23 (AP)—This glittering capital of nationalist China was abandoned by its officials and its garrison today as communist troops smashed across the river and reached its gates.

Red troops, apparently cracking the nationalist defenses on a wide front, seized broad areas on both sides of the capital.

Best reports here said the latest crossing came from Pakow, across the Yangtze from Nanking. Red veterans were said to have landed near Nanking's railway station, just outside the city's walls.

Looting began in Nanking, from which all high government officials presumably had fled along with the garrison. The city was a no-man's-land with both soldiers and police withdrawn.

Mobs broke into shops and carried all manner of merchandise to their homes and the countryside. Dirty and disorganized troops, believed withdrawn from Pakow, streamed through the city.

Among those fleeing the capital were a number of foreigners. They went on in disorderly retreat from Nanking. They fled south along four main highways.

An estimated 100,000 nationalist troops reportedly clogged the roads in disorderly retreat from Nanking. They fled south along four main highways.

Chiang Active Again  
In the hour of nationalist China's extremity, "retired" President Chiang Kai-Shek joined in Hangchow yesterday with Acting President Li Tsung-shan in declaring that they were resolved to "fight to the end."

Hangchow, the meeting place for nationalist leaders, is 150 miles southeast of Nanking. Li's home in Nanking was among those looted by Chinese mobs. He was said to have left Nanking early today for an unknown destination, but this could not be confirmed.

The flight of government soldiers led to belief that their commanders temporarily had lost control. Military quarters said the 26th army, which was ordered to move into Nanking last night to defend the capital, never arrived.

Gates Open, Unguarded  
The city gates are open and unguarded. Desertion of nationalist troops was reported at many points. The deserting troops simply sat down and waited for the communists.

(The Associated Press office in Shanghai reported that the telephone line to Nanking, over which Topping was reporting his news, went out shortly after this dispatch cleared.)

It was possible, the Shanghai office said, that the line had been cut. Topping's last word was that the reds had not yet entered.)

British Ship Hit Again  
The British embassy, still in Nanking, announced that communist artillery again during the day had hit the crippled British ship Amethyst, in the river 60 miles east of Nanking. It had no word on whether fresh casualties resulted.

The Amethyst's captain, Lt. Cmdr. B. M. Skinner, was among the 44 dead from two days of shelling that damaged four British warships. His body and one other were taken to Shanghai by train Friday, along with the remaining Amethyst wounded.

Coastal Communities to Vote on Consolidation  
DELAKE, April 22—(AP)—The voters of DeLake, Cutler City, Taft, and Nelscott will decide tomorrow whether they want to combine their communities into a single city.

The proposed new city would be called "North Lincoln," and would extend about four miles along the coast highway (U.S. 101).

THE WEATHER  
Salem Max. 60 Min. 46 Precip. 0  
Portland 62 48 trace  
San Francisco 61 48 46  
Chicago 70 51 30  
New York 52 32 22  
Willamette river 4 feet.

SEWELL AVERY TO STAY  
CHICAGO, April 22—(AP)—The people who own Montgomery Ward and company today told Sewell Avery to go on running it. Stockholders at their annual meeting brushed a side complaints over Avery's leadership and gave him a whopping vote of confidence as chairman of the board of directors.

SALEM PRECIPITATION (Sept. 1 to April 23)  
This Year Last Year Average  
\$7.77 41.35 25.28

### Groups Protest Possible Pope, Princess Talk

LONDON, April 22—(AP)—A protest against any meeting of Princess Margaret and Pope Pius XII was lodged by two Protestant organizations today.

They asked King George VI, temporal head of the Church of England, to see that his 18-year-old daughter does not have an audience with the Roman Catholic Pontiff on a tour of Italy she plans to start next week.

The "long, historic struggle against Papal influence in the reigning house" of England was cited.

Letters were sent to the king by the Protestant Truth society, an information agency representing most Protestant churches in Britain, and by the National Union of Protestants in northern Ireland.

They were based upon dispatches from Italy to the British press saying Margaret might call on the Pope at some time during the month she plans to spend in Italy. There was no confirmation of such a plan in either London or Rome.

Unofficial Vatican sources, however, said such a meeting could be as simple as the Princess chose. She need not kiss the Pope's ring, bow or kneel. Protocol does not require it. Most Protestant women received by the Pope take his hand and curtsy slightly.

Fertilizer Plant To Close Doors  
Salem's fertilizer plant will close operations Friday with the exception of a maintenance crew. Arch Metzger, manager of the Columbia Metals-operated factory, announced yesterday.

Lease on the war-built plant ends for the company June 30. Bids for its sale are being negotiated. Sixty-five men are employed at the plant at present, but the staff will be cut to 10 or 15 necessary to maintain the plant and dispose of 800 to 1,000 tons of fertilizer on hand.

COST OF FOOD INCREASES  
PORTLAND, April 22—(AP)—The average cost of food here increased 1 per cent from February to March, the bureau of labor statistics reported today. Rising meat prices were responsible.

WAREHOUSE SITE BOUGHT  
MILWAUKIE, April 22—(AP)—The International Harvester company bought today a site on the northern edge of Milwaukie for a projected \$750,000 warehouse.

ROSEBURG OKES BUDGET  
ROSEBURG, April 22—(AP)—A record high city budget, \$25,819 beyond the legal limitation, was approved in a special election in Roseburg yesterday.

SALEM SADDLE CLUB DONS FULL REGALIA TO PRACTICE FOR HORSE SHOW  
Salem Saddle club (shown above) will be an important part of the events at the state fairgrounds May 7 and 8, when the Willamette

### A-Knowledge to Wreak Changes In Life—Lilienthal

SEATTLE, April 22—(AP)—Atomic Chief David E. Lilienthal said tonight the task of making and improving atomic weapons is proceeding "rather well in terms of progress."

"But the real function" of the atomic energy commission, he said in an address prepared for a University of Washington audience, "is much broader than that. It is this: to foster knowledge."

"This new knowledge will, he said, affect the whole complex of life, agriculture, nutrition, education, international relations, industry, peace and war. That much seems clear."

"What we are dealing with is not another weapon but with fundamental forces at the foundation of all life and all matter."

William Retzer, Dallas Civic Leader, Dies  
DALLAS, April 22—William C. Retzer, 60, prominent Dallas jeweler and civic leader, died unexpectedly at his home here Friday afternoon of a heart attack. Retzer operated a jewelry store here for 28 years.

Born at Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 29, 1888, Retzer came west with his parent at the age of two years. He grew up in Walla Walla, Wash., and was married to Rith Nelson there. He moved to Salem in 1918 where he resided until moving to Dallas in 1922 to enter business.

Retzer was past master of Jennings Lodge AF & AM, Past chancellor - commander of Marmion lodge Knights of Pythias, a member of Friendship lodge of IOOF, Naomi chapter of Order of Eastern Star and Pythian sisters Dalore Temple.

He was a member of the Dallas chamber of commerce and a city councilman for many years. He was chairman of the special committee in charge of planning construction of the Dallas city hall built in 1936.

Announcement of funeral services awaits the arrival of a son, Mr. Karl Retzer, stationed at Palo Alto, Calif. Surviving besides the widow and son are sisters, Mrs. Eugen Pederson, Everett, Wash., and Mrs. William Fitz-Henry, The Dalles; brothers, George Retzer, North Hollywood, Calif., and Henry Retzer, Los Angeles.

### Treasurer Obtains Bond

PORTLAND, April 22—(AP)—The new county treasurer got his bond today.

J. T. Summerville, 73-year-old democrat who was appointed to the post after Ray Dooley failed to obtain the required \$100,000 surety bond, was bonded today by the Metropolitan Casualty Insurance company of New York.

Multnomah county was still without a third commissioner, however. Presumably a republican will be chosen to succeed Alan Brown, who has resigned.

Bones Uncovered In Vanport Rubble

PORTLAND, April 22—(AP)—A farmer uncovered a few bones today in the rubbish of Vanport, the housing project destroyed in last year's flood.

Officials said they may be the remains of one of the seven persons still listed as missing from Vanport. Teeth melted from a dental plate in a rubbish fire also were found. A pathologist will examine the finds tomorrow.

RIVER TUNNEL URGED  
VANCOUVER, Wash., April 22 (AP)—A tunnel under the Columbia river between Vancouver and Portland is the latest proposal here. The proposal was made after Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock of Oregon had suggested a second bridge across the river.

Animal Crackers  
By WARREN GOODRICH



"Oh, boy! Here comes the hors d'oeuvres!"