

Harry Truman Is 'Himself' Again

WASHINGTON, D.C. — For nearly an hour Thursday afternoon Harry Truman met the press (the combined forces of 350 members of the American Association of Newspaper Editors and the regular White House reporters) and he came off with a "decision on points" in the sparring match.

It was Harry Truman at his best, according to old-timers this was the uninhibited, genial Truman they used to know in the Senate, before he acquired presidential worries and crotchets.

(Despite his long flight over the flood-stricken areas in the Missouri and Mississippi valleys, the President looked fresher and fitter than many of the editors who had pounded into Washington in sleeping cars).

To be sure, the visiting editors were quite considerate. They did not prod him about corruption (having had quite an earful of that story from Delaware's Senator Williams and the ex-Stable Boy Newbold Morris).

They asked him about his "philosophy of retirement" and he said that as an ex-president he intended to make himself available for any public service he might be called upon to perform—in the pattern set by Herbert Hoover, whom he praised highly for the report on administrative reorganization.

They wanted to know if he intended to run for Senate in his home state of Missouri and he said it would not be "ethical" for him to compete for that office while still carrying the prestige of the presidency.

Likewise he stated that he would NOT attend the Democratic party's national convention lest he be accused of "throwing weight." He expressed his regret at Adlai Stevenson's refusal to be a candidate and said kind words about Averell Harriman (which some interpreted as a "blessing").

Very deftly, Mr. Truman avoided any statement of just what part he would play in selecting a candidate, but his tongue may have slipped a bit when he said that he was not going to "say here" what he would do. (A New York reporter nailed him on that).

The biggest "roar" greeted his response to the question of an editor from the Deep South who wanted to know if Mr. Truman thought that either Ke-fauver or Russell, the two Southerners now in the race, could be nominated and elected. The question was would the Northern Democrats "come along"? Mr. Truman said that any Southerner could be nominated and elected IF he would accept the platform of the Democratic party!

Truman got a big hand from the edi-

Not Out of the Woods

In all the gloom of the taxpayer's spring, he can find one bright spot. The state apparently has more money than it thought it was going to have. Chances are, an interim legislative tax committee learned this week, the 1953 legislature will go to work with a little surplus in the state's treasury.

While this is welcome news, after all the calamity howling that has come out of Salem since the last legislature met, there is nothing in it to suggest that Oregon is out of the fiscal woods yet by any means. The wiser course is to howl calamity some more, and to keep howling it.

It is sobering, for example, to note that some of the increased state revenue comes from higher state income taxes paid this year by the citizens of Oregon. That is a signpost that state government is going to cost more, that the men and women who work for the state

tors when he left the stage in the stuffy auditorium of the National Museum. Even the blackest of the Republicans present admitted that he had given "a superb performance," even though he did not give out much real information about Korea, United Nations, the crisis in the steel industry or anything else.

There was one "crack" which may or may not be significant. Some editor asked him if his seizure of the steel industry would set a pattern for seizing the press and communications media of the United States. Mr. Truman's reply was that the President must do what is for the good of the people in a time of crisis.

(The McCormick-operated Times-Herald has seized on this statement to mean that Truman would seize newspapers, if he thought it necessary. The Washington Post and the friendlier papers have interpreted the president's statement as merely a passing remark).

In his appearance Thursday, Truman was as nimble "as Franklin Roosevelt at his best," according to the old hands. He was jovial, carefree and displayed none of the vindictiveness and bitterness which has characterized some of his acts.

"What will history say of Harry Truman as president?"

It will probably describe him as a man who was remarkable for native intelligence, personal charm and many of the talents which are associated with statecraft, but hampered by a sort of moral astigmatism. At times he envisions noble ideals, a lofty patriotism, but much of the time he cannot see beyond the grubby, dirty surroundings which he calls politics.

(Time and again Thursday he referred to his love of politics and his belief that every citizen should be a working politician).

An editor from one of the Mississippi river towns offered this analogy:

"Truman reminds me of old Ike Parsons in our town who grew up on a shanty boat down by the river. An uncle out west died and left like a million, and a widder married him and they moved to a fine mansion on the hill, but Ike couldn't live without his shanty town friends. The widder divorced him for holding a catfish fry in the drawing room."

Truman's shantytown friends have been holding fish fries all over the place and carting off the furniture and silverware. Mr. Truman seems to be surprised that anybody should think that unusual in politics. Nevertheless, you can't say that Mr. Truman is without ethics or ideals. His code will not permit him to run against his old friend Senator Kemp. In some respects the rules for the political fish fry are very strict.

or who provide goods and services for the state are going to be paying higher state income taxes, too. And higher income taxes are a sign of higher incomes, and so we go.

California, with eight times the population of Oregon, spends 14 times as much money on its state government. All of this is not fluff. Some goes for legitimate goods and services which the state should provide. Oregon has a long way to go—in highway, education, higher education, state institutions, parks, welfare, and the many other functions of state government. These cost money, and it costs money to hire people to do the work. While we're thankful for any bright spots in the state's fiscal picture, we can't believe it's time to feel all our financial problems are solved. The 1953 legislature, and the legislatures to follow will still have problems aplenty.

(By R.B.F.)

An Indiana girl knocked a man down with her umbrella after he flirted with her. Business of falling before and after.

A magazine story tells of numerous things that can be made out of old cravats. How about a gravy boat?

It doesn't pay to blow up when a tire does. The opinions of those with you are much harder to change.

Lots of girls already have bought their 1952 bathing suits. Be patient, men, and they'll have their pictures taken.

In the old days of carriages there were as many careless drivers, but not as many accidents. Horse sense!

It's not against the law to think your neighbor's children are awful—just an awful waste of time.

Marquis Childs

Sawyer Faces Steel Impasse

WASHINGTON — If it were not such an altogether grim business, there would be something almost comic in the fact that the steel controversy with all its bitterness has been dumped in the lap of Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer.



CHILDS

He is conservative in his outlook, the only millionaire member of President Truman's cabinet. But now it is Sawyer who must try to find a way out of the impasse resulting from seizure of the government of the steel industry. This is not merely a matter of arriving at an adjustment of wages and prices that the secretary himself might consider fair to both sides.

The new boss of the steel industry could undoubtedly find a compromise, giving the steel union most of what it asks wage-and-benefit-wise, minus the union shop. In such a compromise he would be inclined to grant the companies more price relief than the administration has hitherto conceded. But to impose such a settlement would be, in effect, compulsory arbitration. That would be a dangerous precedent and one that Sawyer certainly hopes to avoid.

But an even more ticklish question is involved. That is whether any such settlement can be successfully "sold" by government to the two parties.

Theoretically, labor cannot strike against the federal government, which is now in technical possession of the steel mills. But Sawyer is not entirely sure of what a settlement for less than the award of the wage stabilization board might produce. That award has been firmly fixed in the union's view with the official decree of an arm of the government. Phillip Murray, head of the CIO and the Steelworkers, makes no secret of the fact that he intends to reserve freedom of action under all circumstances.

A STRIKE WOULD, of course, have serious consequences in public opinion. But labor might express its protest through something short of an open strike. Railroad unions have in the past used the device of members reporting sick in wholesale lots.

As for the companies, if they do not like the Sawyer compromise, they can continue the fight in the courts. That is a lengthy process, winding its way eventually to the Supreme Court. Conceivably, Sawyer could be held personally responsible for damages during the period of government operation.

Price Stabilizer Ellis Arnall has publicly opposed granting the companies any price increase other than the minimum allowed under the Caperhart Amendment. With this went an intimation that he would resign if any other course were followed. But that would be a comparatively minor casualty in a war that has already devastated so many fronts.

These are some of the eggs on which Sawyer must walk with gentleness, and yet firmness. One of his concerns is that labor, considering him a prejudiced arbitrator, will reject any compromise he comes up with. He has consistently taken, as most secretaries of commerce have done in the past, the business viewpoint. And he disapproves of much of the Fair Deal program.

THE SECRETARY'S researchers have come up with some documentation to show that he has been friendly to labor. Speaking before the American Iron and Steel Institute in 1949, he praised the leaders of organized labor for being in the "vanguard of our battle with communism." In that same speech he said:

"... I would certainly not sit by and see our economy disintegrate because the government believed it was helpless and could do nothing to save its people from disaster. . . . If over any reasonable period of time our industrial machine is grinding to a halt because of a stubborn and unreasonable refusal of steel men to produce what the economy demands, I would be willing to advocate and support drastic measures to prevent that unfortunate result.

The urgency of self-interest may brush aside the obstacles at this moment looming so large. The steel companies are making generous profits. As Sen. Wayne Morse (R., Ore.) pointed out on the Senate floor, in 1951 the total profit after taxes was \$598,000,000. Conceivably, the union would accept a wage increase sufficient to bring steelworkers up with the wage procession. But many hot words have been spoken and firm stands taken. In a political year there are those who will want to keep the issue in the political arena.

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So They Say—

I would like Dr. (George) Docherty (who defended Evangelist Billy Graham) as a mature biblical scholar . . . to support from the Scripture Dr. Graham's assertion that heaven is a 1800-mile cube containing trees that produce a different kind of fruit each month.—Rev. A. Powell Davies, pastor, All Soul's Unitarian Church, Washington.

The Shepherd

LABOR "Fulfill your works, your daily tasks." Ex. 5:13 I thank You, Lord, for giving me . . . A trying task that just must be . . . Done on this day. I'm on the spot . . . To get it done and like as not . . . I'll work tonight and do my best . . . And rack my brain, try every test . . . To get results, but it will breed . . . The self-control and strength I need . . . To build assurance as I go . . . That idle folk will never know.

JULIEN C. HYER

It Must Be Very Disconcerting



In The Editor's Mail Bag

RAISING JUNIOR!

SPRINGFIELD (To the Editor): Youthful parents, or even newlyweds can purchase a book on child training and psychology which will tell that when your young son tackles one of your wooden bed legs with a saw to shorten it, or perchance it might be a table leg, or a chair leg, whatever you do don't interrupt him, or even frown, or you may ruin a wonderful wood-working genius. Its the same advice when you find him wrecking your sewing machine, your typewriter, or even the piano. A great embryonic master mind may be in the making right there before your eyes.

One should tiptoe out of the room noiselessly and let him work his imaginative ingenuity to its completeness just as the parents of a young aspiring pugilist did when they found their son punching his grandmother's face, her jaws were bleeding, her false teeth were broken, her eyes were black and blue, two ribs were broken but there wasn't a thing in the book on that subject. So finally they decided that it would be safest to seek to change his train of thought and his impulses by gently suggesting that he go and enjoy an ice cream cone at a nearby stand. In this way there was no mental shock which

might have wrecked the future career of a great pugilist.

Some people say that one can still purchase such books. Some say there are some P.T.A. leaders who wrangle such thoughts around in their minds and pass them out. God help your young parents; we older never tried it that way. This should be a wonderful world to live in, when your children are grown, if you parents survive the ordeal, but the devil must smile and the angels must weep as they watch your effort. Grandpa and Grandma knew that a stick at the bottom of any young sprout would make it grow straight and normal. It still is the best remedy, if it is applied at the right time and in the right place.

W. W. WHEELER

TRUMAN CIRCUS

DEADWOOD (To the Editor)—Hurry, hurry, hurry folks, step right this way and see the greatest show on earth. What you see out here in front is only a sample of what's inside. Take a look at this little lady here on my left, no this is not the usual bearded lady, this lady is covered with the fur of a platinum mink. No madam this lady wasn't born that way, this mink coat of hers is the result of a successful graft, but step right up folks and hurry. Now right over here ladies and gentle-

men is the Dean of all tattooed men. Notice folks that his color scheme is red. He's been red since 1932. No madam this man is not tattooed on his back, only in front, because he won't turn his back on anyone. Notice here the picture of a setting sun, marked "Yalta," whatever that means. Here on his many chest is the picture of Formosa. Anyone who wants to examine this picture closely may do so for he will not defend Formosa. Over here on this side is the picture, all in red, of an auction sale. That represents the sell out of China. Hurry, hurry folks, and right over here we have the greatest attraction of them all, known as the Mad Hatter. This man can throw rocks at music critics and left hooks at anyone who disagrees with him. Don't get too close folks for the Mad Hatter's a little mad right now, just recovering from a Boyle on his Caudle appendage you know, yes sir this man is the only man on earth that can turn all kinds of handspans and somersaults but he hasn't a leg to stand on. Hurry, hurry folks step right up, pay your money or use your influence and see the Truman circus. There's never been anything like it and you haven't seen anything yet.

Yours,

DAVE HOOVER (Barker)

Editor's Mailbag

MR. DUDECK

EUGENE — (To the Editor) If you are not too biased I would print this. The employment act seems to have a snag; well, perhaps the official remembers Pearl Harbor and others soon forget. Remember the Jap who got a education here at the U. O. sneaked back to Japan, became Premier and instigated the massacre at Pearl Harbor in which 3000 lives were lost!

Perhaps the governor is to blame for trying to enforce stupid law. But he had better the same with our liquor laws save human lives. The fault with the State Legislature. I think that we need one more law that everyone to have his examined before being given seat in that body. And it should include the Governor also. A years back when the legislature passed the sectarian free text bill the (then) governor made substance this speech—"Now you have passed a very bad law that should never have been ought to be vetoed but I will it pass this time but be sure never do it again!" Judge yourself, was the governor, legislature or both weak in the belly?

The present "fair employment act" is fair in name only; about "fair" as a law compelling a man to kiss every woman that wants to be kissed. The postal department has a ruling that no "back" or otherwise deformed person should be employed as a carrier because of being a credit to the service even though he passed civil service examination.

If the tax official who fired Jap because he felt him to be dis-service to the office he had tried to do so in the public interest. It's another case of lowering the "letter" or "spirit" of the law. The "spirit and intent" of the law is bad enough already makes a slave of the employer labor. But the cold letter of law is far worse since it allows a day farce in the government office who will approve immigration laws and assist these smugglers to bring in aliens.

I often think of Theodore Roosevelt warning, "The best to command international respect and good will is to have a virile nationalism." Today seem to have lost our national spirit and become a nation of international sycophants trying buy friendship of other nations and allowing the enemy to our gates within the "horse" to betray us to our enemies. I think the "press groups" are the pests of the house and should be held to a shut up or get out much like a general back seat drivers giving orders to a bus driver. I am that the man who introduced fair employment act was a preacher or professor of some perhaps living in a dream world. Dreams and realities will not unless directed by intelligence.

DORVIN DUDDEK

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