

Hoover Urges System Change

Washington, March 8 (AP)—Former President Herbert Hoover today urged "a vast and energetic reform" in the government's bookkeeping system.

Hoover headed President Truman's bi-partisan commission on reorganization of government departments. He was called to testify (10 a.m., EST) before the senate executives expenditures committee on a bill to overhaul accounting procedures and establish a new office of accountant general in the treasury department.

"There is a host of evidence that the (present) accounting system is inefficient and wasteful, fails to establish proper responsibility of officials and is unable to present the full picture to congress," Hoover said in a prepared statement.

He said there was no difference of opinion within the commission or among administration officials that reform is needed. He added, however, that there are differences as to the method of remedy.

The general accounting office, headed by the comptroller general, now serves as the congressional watchdog on government spending. The pending bill

would curtail its activities and cut its staff.

A general accounting officer yesterday accused the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report of "abysmal ignorance" about the government's accounting system.

Reds in Italy Urge Land Grabs for Jobless

Rome, March 8 (AP)—Hundreds of communist agitators urged landless peasants and unemployed farmhands to stage new grabs of private land throughout Italy today.

"Take the land—it is yours by natural right," the communists urged.

But in Cantanzaro in the Calabria region, where more than 88,000 acres of uncultivated land had been seized during the past week, the squatters and landowners reached an agreement which apparently headed off fresh trouble.

The agreement provided for the employment of at least one laborer for each seven acres of farming land and one farmhand for each 20 acres of woodland for at least 24 days a year. It also required landowners to pay wages for work the farmhands claimed they already had done.



'To Rescue'—Rolland Truman (above) of Long Beach, Calif., an attorney and third cousin of President Truman, is going to run for congress. He says "Cousin Harry has been kidnapped by leftwingers . . . when elected I shall utilize all my efforts to rescue the president from his abductors." Truman is a democrat, but will seek nomination by both major parties. The White House said the president is doubtful of the relationship. (AP Wirephoto)

Russians Seizing Swedish Fish Ships

Stockholm, Sweden, March 8 (AP)—Sweden accused Russia today of seizing Swedish fishing ships in the Baltic far beyond warranted limits of territorial waters, and said Stockholm took an "extremely serious view" of the incidents.

Swedish Foreign Minister Oesten Unden made the statement amid mounting demands by Swedish fishermen for naval escorts

to prevent such seizures. The captains of the Swedish trawlers Marion and Larex told reporters today they had been boarded by a Soviet minesweeper some 30 nautical miles outside Russian-held territory. They said they had been forced at pistol point to take their ships to a Russian harbor and been questioned day and night for two weeks concerning the possibility of their having been spying.

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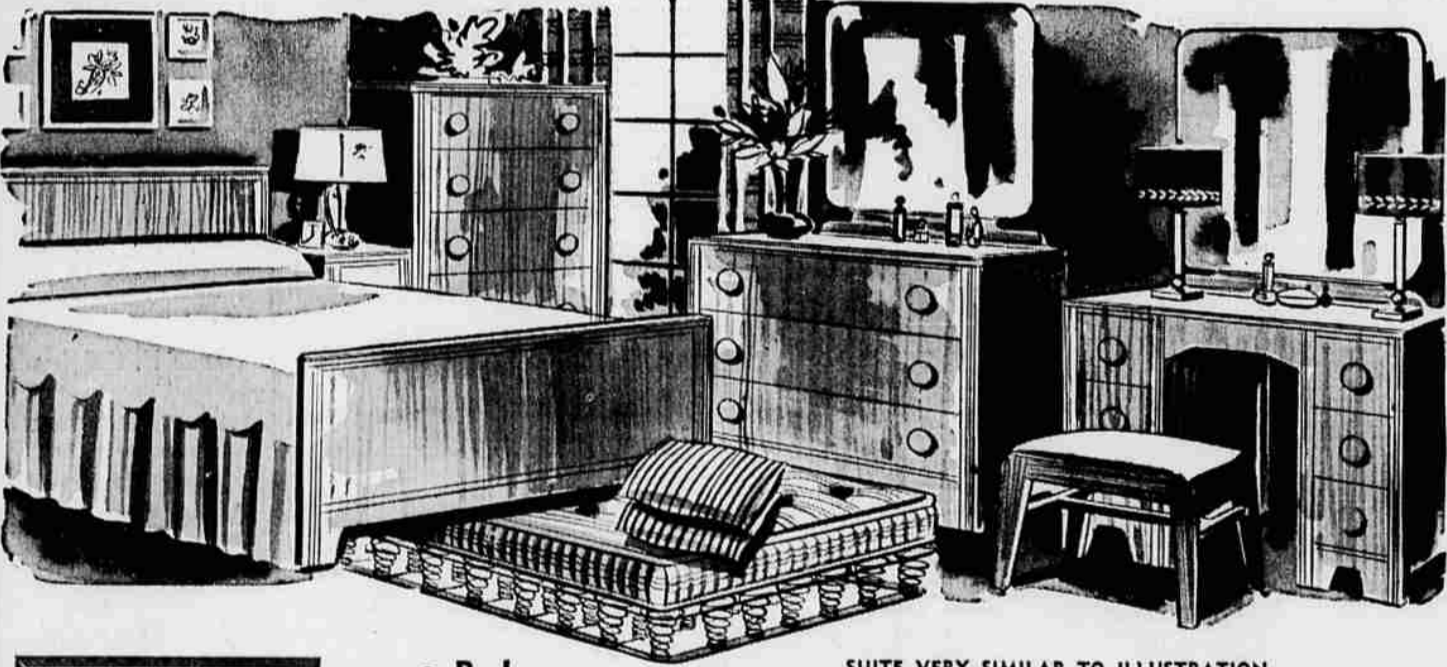


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