

News Conferences Net Few Leads

Truman's Press Confabs Lack Color of FDR's

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WASHINGTON. — President Truman held his 100th White House press and radio conference recently. He said he had enjoyed them all. The reporters, he said, had been fair; had reported the facts.

Thank you, Mr. President. "How have I been?" he might have asked us, but didn't.

On the way back from the White House that windy 100th day, some of us discussed the question. That 100th conference was the first since his Florida trip which began when the Sacred Cow winged its way from the national airport, some 30 minutes after Mr. Truman left the chamber of the house of representatives where he had delivered his historic message.



Baukhage

Meanwhile, the new declaration of American policy had wakened thousands and thousands of words, spoken and printed in every nation and in almost every newspaper in the world. Diplomats, generals, statesmen, people big and little, had quaked or exulted. So we naturally looked for something very hot to write about as a result of our first White House conference thereafter. We didn't get it.

We did hear former Ambassador to Poland Arthur Bliss Lane's blast against Communism; we found out that the President was a left-handed bowler (he had just been presented with a bowling alley); we were assured that he was concerned about rising prices; we listened to him express the hope that industry would see "the handwriting on the wall" and stop an upward spiral which would bring forth renewed wage

of type that almost always appeared after a Roosevelt news conference. We wondered why. Looking back over the hundred conferences with Mr. Truman, we agreed they had been pretty good. But of late, we agreed, it required a bit of digging to get the news. Roosevelt usually gave us something which, even if it wasn't news, had a strong human interest appeal. Even if it were only a striking simile like the one Roosevelt used in connection with lend-lease.

(You may remember, he said that if a neighbor's house was on fire, you naturally would lend him your hose if his weren't long enough, not only to help him save his home but also to keep your own from catching fire. And you wouldn't demand payment for its use. After the fire was out the neighbor would give back the hose or pay for it with whatever he had to offer in return.)

Even the anti-Roosevelt papers would have to report stories like that, whether they agreed with the idea behind them or not. And if Roosevelt hadn't any specific comment on the important news of the day, he frequently would make use of a parable or give us a homily, which showed us how he was thinking on the subject, something that managed to get his ideas over and furnish us with the background we needed to interpret the daily happenings.

We talked the 100th press conference over, lamenting that nothing had come out of it which would clarify the Greek-Turkish aid program. We regretted that President Truman hadn't injected a little more of himself into the meeting. It would have been to the advantage of the news folk, the program itself, the people who were trying to get support for it.

Of course, there was reason for Mr. Truman's reticence. He had been criticized early in his administration for answering some questions too glibly. He had suffered

from spontaneous replies. As a result he is now perhaps leaning a little too far backwards.

The White House press and radio conference is a great institution. It provides a medium for bringing the people and their government nearer together than any other medium which exists, except perhaps the rarer "fireside chat." Nothing like it exists anywhere else in the world. But it is not an easy thing to handle. The correspondents are there to get every scintilla of news which they think will interest their readers and listeners. The President is there to reveal only what he thinks is his duty to release in the public good. And he is also there to present his side of all questions so that his administration appears in the best light.

President Roosevelt was a past master at the art. He seldom refused to answer a question, for that just meant "no news." He preferred to feint and dodge in a manner that produced some kind of an answer which would suit his ends. President Truman has chosen to go into a clinch rather than feint or risk a wild haymaker.

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We also were handed a good laugh out of comment on the famous faux pas made by Gael Sullivan, deputy chairman of the national Democratic committee while the President was away. Sullivan almost disrupted "bi-partisan foreign policy" by writing to the Republican national committee chairman and asking for a joint statement supporting the Truman plan on Greek aid.

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NEW BLOOD FOR AILING FOAL . . . Blood transfusions are no novelty now, even in the animal world. This tiny colt, suffering from a joint infection, is being given a blood transfusion.

NEWS REVIEW

German Miners Strike; British Draft Extended

GERMANY:

Strikes for Food

Coal miners in Germany's Ruhr area are striking for larger food rations for themselves and their families. This region is in the British zone. More than 300,000 miners have been off the job at various times in demonstrations against what they consider inadequate food allowances. Most of the Ruhr's 170 mines have been idle at some time or other during the past two weeks. The Ruhr is the heart of industrial Germany, containing coal and iron mines, steel mills and other heavy industries.

British authorities have been appealing, for the most part futilely, to the miners to remain on the job. The situation has been getting worse for some time, largely as a result of British inability to obtain and transport large enough quantities of foodstuffs to maintain a minimum subsistence diet. Heavy workers feel the lack even more acutely, and trouble has been brewing all winter.

Curtailment of coal output has serious consequences, not only for Germany, but for 13 European countries now receiving 10 per cent of the German coal production. Electric power reductions soon will become necessary in these nations, it is feared. In an effort to ease the situation, British authorities are rushing all available food from other parts of their zone.

BRITAIN:

Peacetime Draft

Recognizing the threat to peace that the Russian foreign policy presents to Britain, as well as to all the world, the parliament passed a peacetime conscription bill, distasteful as this is to the Labor government. A curious alignment combined to force passage of the bill as Conservatives joined with Laborites to vote the act through. There was embarrassment on both sides, for many of the Labor party members had voted against conscription at the beginning of the war. The Conservatives, led by Winston Churchill, reluctantly favored a bill sponsored by the party they ardently dislike. Liberals and certain pacifist Laborites voted "no" on bill. The national service bill extends the present conscription laws for five years beyond January 1, 1949. It provides for 18 months of active service for all men 18 to 26, and five and a half years of part-time service.

COAL MINES:

Closed as Dangerous

Five hundred and eighteen government-operated soft coal mines have been closed down as unsafe by Secretary of the Interior Krug. They will remain closed for an indefinite period, until inspections indicate that they are "reasonably safe." Representatives of miners' unions also will pass on the safety element in each mine.

About 40,000 miners are employed in the 518 dangerous mines. The greatest risk, Secretary Krug said, is from explosive gas and dust. The

other 2,013 mines under federal control have reopened. It is estimated that coal output has been reduced about one-sixth by the closing order.

John L. Lewis, who was testifying before a house labor subcommittee when Secretary Krug issued the order, commented,

"I point out that Secretary Krug is doing now what he should have done ever since the safety code became effective. He's started to enforce his own code after 111 deaths."

ICELAND:

Ash Ruins Farms

Ashes from the furiously erupting Mount Hekla are ruining pastures in a large area around the cone, which is situated in southern Iceland. The volcanic dust is three inches thick, and constantly getting deeper. It is feared that 17 farms, 20 to 30 miles from the volcano, will be ruined.

Three main volcanic craters are active. Streams of lava two miles wide and 48 feet high are flowing from the mountain. Boulders hurled into the air explode like artillery shells. Farmers are slaughtering their livestock and moving out of the ash-covered area.

RADAR:

Tests are being made at the Washington, D. C. and Chicago airports to determine how practical the ground approach control method is for commercial aviation. This method, found successful by the army and navy air corps, employs radar to guide planes to a safe landing.

Experiments will be conducted also at New York and eventually at other leading airports. The test period will continue, according to Civil Aeronautics administration officials, until it is determined to what extent radar could be used to supplement or substitute for instrument landings.



BOTTLE BABIES . . . Miss Avis Gunderson feeds three baby California black bears, which were found in the redwood forests near Willis, Calif., and given to San Francisco zoo.



IT MAY interest you to know what various ball players, scouts and managers think about the next two pennant races. Taking a general consensus, here is the vote in both leagues.

In the National league, the Dodgers are sure to be an improved team, with more experience and greater consistency in pitching. Youth rides faster from midsummer on. But the Cardinals are also much stronger than they looked to be a year ago—especially with George Munger and Johnny Beazley back to help out Pollet, Breechen, Dickson and others.

M. Cooper

The Cardinals look to be the class of both leagues. They have a young hustling star catcher—a great pitching staff—the best infield in baseball, with Musial, Schoendienst, Marion and Kuroski, and one of the best outfielders. They have class and spirit. They are not getting any younger and there are still a few "ifs" connected with Terry Moore's knee, the arms of Kuroski and Slaughter, Marion's back and Johnny Beazley. But so far, these highly important cogs seem to be grinding smoothly.

The serious experts I've talked to pick Billy Southworth's Braves as the serious threat.

"If Mort Cooper picks up where he left off last year," one scout told me, "the Braves can challenge the Cardinals and Dodgers. Cooper is a great pitcher—not merely a good one. Southworth is two deep. Elliot will help a lot. The Braves can be a tough club to handle any time."

The Cardinals are the pick. "By all odds, the best all-around team in baseball," one veteran told me. "Only savage ill luck can let them down. They are all class. The Dodgers will hustle, but they won't out-hustle this Cardinal team—not on the ball field, where they win and lose games."

The Dodgers are packed with "ifs"—Branca, Barney, Head, first base, third base and Pete Reiser. The only Cardinal "if" is a few removed, and replaced, bones.

The consensus in the American league circuit leans strongly to the Red Sox.

I know the Tigers think they will beat out the Yankees. They don't think they can beat out the Red Sox—but they figure there's a chance with better pitching, which they might get. And better pitching can pick up a lot.

The collapse of Yankee hitting last year, plus the type of spring training they have employed, won't be any big help. Both the Red Sox and Tigers will leave Florida much better conditioned teams. The injury to Joe DiMaggio has been a hard blow. Joe is the Yankee spearhead. There will have to be a terrific upward lift on the part of the Yankees to beat out either Red Sox or Tigers—possibly to head off the Indians. At this moment, the Yankees are not in any too high favor as pennant people. Russo could make a big difference.

Yankee pitching can be O.K., as it was last year, but there must be a big change in Yankee hitting, Yankee spirit, and Yankee hustle. This refers to the Yankees of 1946, not the squad getting ready for 1947. But the 1947 Yankee squad must know by now how many games it lost last year through this wrecking fault. A few transfusions of Cardinal blood could help more than a trifle. You can bank on Bucky Harris, Chuck Dressen and Red Corriden to handle more than their share of the plot, but they are not out on the field winning games.

A Yankee revival could make a big difference, but this means practically the entire team must play better ball outside of Spud Chandler, who is still their best pitcher after some nine years of major league service.

The vote we have picked up gives Joe Gordon a good year, possibly a big year, with Cleveland pitching always dangerous. The Cleveland outfield, however, is below par. The Tiger infield isn't any too hot, although Kell is close to being the best third baseman in the league.

The main job, of course, is suppressing the Red Sox, with Ted Williams, Tex Hughson, Bobby Doerr, Dom DiMaggio and Johnny Pesky. The vote, at this moment, is Cardinals vs. Red Sox. The next vote is Dodgers vs. Red Sox. The third vote is Cardinals vs. Tigers.

But after all, there is a hot summer on ahead, plus the grind of the stretch.

Cleveland Has Hurlers

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How to Take Care Of the New Baby

BRINGING UP BABY



After-Bath Care

MANY new mothers wonder whether to put oil or powder on baby's skin after a bath. Which you use isn't so important. What kind you use is vital, however.

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ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. What are the four cities referred to in the railroad nickname "The Big Four"?
2. When Caesar crossed the Rubicon, which man did he declare war upon?
3. What is a digamist?
4. The favorite daughter of Mohammed was called what?
5. Which city is rated the windiest city in the United States?
6. How many traveling carnivals are there in the United States?
7. How many Englishmen have occupied the papal throne?
8. There's one street car or auto bus for every how many persons in the United States?

The Answers

1. Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis.
2. Pompey.
3. If you have married for a second time after divorce or divorce of your spouse, you are a digamist.
4. Fatima.
5. Buffalo, N. Y.
6. About 300.
7. One (Adrian IV, 1100-1159).
8. Every 1,500 persons.

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GENEROUS GIFTS

American Money Flows Abroad

WASHINGTON.—As evidence of the huge amounts of American money being poured into foreign countries, the commerce department estimates that residents of the United States sent \$298,900,000 to friends and relatives in other countries during 1946. In addition, gift parcels valued at \$125,500,000 were sent abroad last year.

The actual money sent was \$10,500,000 more than in 1945 and \$100,000,000 more than in 1944, the department said.

Nearly half of the 1946 money, or \$143,800,000, went to Europe, while

\$88,500,000 went to people in Canada, Mexico and Latin America; \$1,900,000 to Africa; \$60,000,000 to Asia, and \$4,700,000 to Australia and other Pacific ocean islands.

Among individual countries, Mexico got the largest sum, \$44,000,000. Much of this represented money earned in this country by Mexican workers—largely engaged in farm work—and sent home to their families.

Other large sums went out as follows:

Italy, \$26,000,000; China, \$20,000,000; Hongkong, \$24,600,000; Great

Britain and Northern Ireland, \$17,400,000; Bermuda and other British dependencies in the Caribbean, \$12,200,000; Canada, \$11,700,000.

Persons in Greece, for which congress now is considering loan aid, got \$11,000,000 from people in this country. The sum of \$10,800,000 went to Switzerland, \$10,700,000 to Sweden, \$10,300,000 to Spain and \$4,300,000 to Palestine.

United States residents sent \$800,000 to Russia and the same amount to Egypt, the smallest sums recorded for any place listed in the report.