

Presidential Travel Is Major Project

Chief Executive Zealously Guarded by Secret Service

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WASHINGTON. — When President Truman finally announced that he was going to Brazil, he was immediately asked if he contemplated any trips across continental United States. He answered in the negative.

A reporter piped up: "This year or next year?"
"THIS year," the President replied.

That gave the White House press and radio conference a short interlude of laughter. For the reason that whenever a president is forced to drop his role of chief executive to assume the functions of candidate, it is funny. Frequently it isn't funny for the candidate, especially when he has been used to the respect spontaneously and (except in election years) almost universally, tendered his office.

A presidential trip may be, in many cases, fun for the President, but it isn't much fun for a lot of other people.

Not that all Presidents have had easy traveling.

It was an ordeal for the early heads of the nation just to get home in the stagecoach and tavern days. President Garfield was shot in a railroad station; McKinley was killed by a half-mad anarchist on a trip to the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo; Harding died in San Francisco on his way back from a swing-around that had taken him to Vancouver, Canada; Wilson suffered a stroke in his Pullman; Theodore Roosevelt was wounded while he addressed a meeting on a visit to Milwaukee.



Baukhage

Furthermore, it has been recently revealed by the head of the secret service, Mike Reilly, in his book "Reilly of the White House," that Franklin Roosevelt, nearly cracked up in Malta, and might have been assassinated in a park in Miami had he not leaped out of his car to take a telegram (Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago was killed and four other persons wounded).

Stayed Within Nation's Borders

Up to Franklin Roosevelt's time, Taft was the most traveled of presidents, and in 1901 worried all the constitutionalists (unfamiliar with the Constitution) by visiting the Canal Zone. However, he was scrupulously careful to stay on board the American warship which touched only American soil. It had been considered an unwritten law since George Washington's time (he had refused to enter Rhode Island until it was admitted to the Union) that a president in office couldn't leave the country. When Woodrow Wilson went to Paris and Vice President Thomas Marshall had to preside at cabinet meetings, the vice president made it clear he was officiating only at the request of



Signal Corps Photo

President Truman receives teletype message aboard the presidential radio car. Standing by the President are 1st Lt. Clinton G. Conover (left), maintenance officer of the army security agency, and 1st Lt. Harvard E. Dudley, cryptographic officer, White House signal detachment.

Wilson and that he didn't consider Wilson's leaving the country vacated the presidency.

Travel has become a presidential must, and Mr. Truman's trip to South America is just routine.

But it is complicated routine for a whole army of people.

What these people do is little known to the public, especially the secret service. One out of every 10 of our presidents has been assassinated up to the time congress turned the job of protecting the chief executive over to the secret service. Since then no president has been assassinated.

Theirs (the secret service) is a heart-breaking job, and never have the details been so thoroughly revealed (to the discomfiture of some of his former colleagues) as by Mike Reilly in the book I mentioned.

Of course in wartime the job was vastly more complicated, and the army and navy worked closely with the secret service. A special air

raid alert system was designed, Reilly says "to protect FDR anywhere in the United States."

When a spotter or watcher, either civilian or military, spotted an airplane he or she was unable to identify "any place from Greenland to the Straits of Magellan," the information was radioed immediately to the army air force headquarters at Mitchell Field, N. Y.

The information was immediately evaluated and conveyed by radio and land line to the secret service communication system where men were standing a 24 hour watch. This system tied together Mitchell Field, Bolling Field, the homes, offices and automobiles of various secret service agents, field offices throughout the country, all secret service mobile units, the President's train, Shangri-La, and the President's room at Hyde Park.

President Kept Informed Constantly

But keeping the President alive is only one activity. Keeping him in touch with his job is another.

Once when a bullying congress demanded of President Grant which if any of his duties he performed in Washington, he replied that his business and where he did it was his own affair. Now a president's out-of-town business is a lot of people's affairs.

In wartime this signal corps detail had the mission of speeding the President's top-secret communications "from the highest level conference tables to installations in the field."

"Today," as Major McNally puts it, "wherever the President travels, the White House signal detachment continues its task of weaving deftly an intricate communications net, which enables the commander-in-chief (and, he might have added, a traveling candidate) to keep himself constantly informed and in touch with the nation."

This work of weaving this "communications net" is an exciting story too long to recount here, but let me quote Major McNally briefly to show how continuous communication was maintained when President Roosevelt made one of his frequent trips to Hyde Park.

"A 50-watt frequency modulation station was modified and installed on the secret service car attached to the presidential train. Army vehicles, radio equipped, were spotted at strategically plotted points along the route between Washington and Poughkeepsie, so that the train was in constant touch with the White House all the way. Another FM radio link was installed in the old stable on the President's estate at Hyde Park. By means of a direct telephone line to Washington and frequency modulation radio, the White House was kept informed of the President's whereabouts at all times."

The speed with which messages could be dispatched and answers received was astounding. When Winston Churchill was making his second visit to Hyde Park, he and the President who were keen competitors as well as close collaborators decided to make a speed test on the communications facilities. Each sent identical messages to Australia over the respective British and United States facilities. The President had an answer in less than two hours; the Prime Minister got his the next day.

CAUTION TO THE WINDS

Sharp Rise in Buying Noted

Swinging sharply away from its previous cautious attitude of economy-minded discrimination, the U. S. buying public has launched itself on a relatively liberal purchasing spree.

Virtually all fields of trade have reported a clear-cut trend away from passive waiting for lower prices, and purchases are increasing all over the country.

The change has given rise to a certain amount of alarm over the possibilities of a new inflation spiral which may develop as a result of indiscriminate buying. It has become the subject of much discussion among business leaders, bankers and economists, some of whom express concern that the movement

might acquire runaway proportions. "We are watching developments from day to day," said a government economist, "hoping that it will taper off before it becomes a violent spiral that can end only in a serious reversal."

It is generally agreed that the movement began with the renewed wave of price increases that followed the boost in coal prices and mine wages. It has gained momentum ever since.

Consumers apparently have given up hope that any material reduction in prices will occur within the reasonable future and are going ahead to purchase merchandise which they long have needed. Many merchants who curtailed their in-

ventories a year ago are placing orders to replenish their stocks.

As a result of the widespread buying trend, previous opinions that industry and business were in for at least slight setbacks in the last half of this year are being revised. Current forecasts are optimistic concerning high levels of business activity during the third and fourth quarters.

Belief now is that prices generally will move upward, or at least hold their present heights, until well into next year. Cash remains abundant, and the influx of large amounts of money from veterans' terminal leave bonds and state bonuses will be added contributing factors to the inflationary trend.



SET FOR NEW SPEED RECORD . . . After two years of preparations, John R. Cobb of England was prepared for an attempt to drive his Ralston Mobil Special to a new land speed record. Cobb's car is powered with two airplane engines.

NEWS REVIEW

Hint American Aid Plan; Truman Acts for DP's

THE AMERICAS:

Aid Promised

"We must reject an encroachment upon the fundamental rights of the state. I am confident that we all agree that the state exists for man, not man for the state—and that we abhor any limitation upon the freedom of expression of men throughout the world."

Thus, in his first address before the inter-American conference at Petropolis, Brazil, U. S. Secretary of State George Marshall issued a reaffirmation of democratic principles in the western hemisphere and then bulwarked his expression of idealism with specific assurances of U. S. economic aid to Latin America.

He told the delegates that the U. S. government "will continue to take up economic questions with its sister republics and seek a sound basis for practical cooperation."



Marshall at Rio

"... the state exists for man . . ."

That was interpreted as meaning that the U. S. is willing to help solve Latin America's economic problems through a series of bi-lateral pacts. There was also a hint that the big northern neighbor is counting on sending down its capital.

DP SHUFFLE:

Truman Acts

President Harry Truman, in a renewed effort to alleviate the "tragic plight" of Europe's displaced persons, ordered a three-way shift in the top command of the U. S. immigration and naturalization service.

In addition, it was disclosed that administration officials in Washington have resumed their review of the problem of displaced persons.

Most important personnel shift involved the transfer of Ugo Carusi from his post as commissioner of immigration to a position in the state department where he will survey all "critical" problems relating to displaced persons, particularly their resettlement.

This is expected to result in added stress being placed on a directive Mr. Truman issued in December, 1945, calling for coordinated action by federal officials to admit as many displaced persons as possible within quota limitations.

Watson B. Miller, federal security administrator, succeeds Carusi as commissioner of immigration, and Oscar Ross Ewing, New York lawyer, replaces Miller.

President Truman's action was taken in the face of congress' refusal to act on his proposal to relax immigration quotas.

Headliners

IN DALLAS . . . Mrs. Warren J. Woodard, 24, housewife, got up in arms about legs.

She organized the "Little Below the Knee club" for women who oppose the long skirt now in style. The girls organized a parade and ankle through Dallas streets to give emphasis to their protest.

IN LAS VEGAS

Senator McCarthy (Rep., Wis.) put the bite on congress for its "do nothing" attitude toward veterans. Congress, said he, "did foully by our disabled veterans, their widows and dependents."

IN BALMORAL SCOTLAND . . .

Princess Margaret Rose of England, just turned 17, received as a birthday present her first military title—colonel-in-chief of the Highland light infantry.

CRYSTAL BALL:

Next President

General Douglas MacArthur will be the next president of the United States.

That, at least, is the occult prediction of a 75-year-old Japanese fortune teller, Kakudo Tomioka, who eulogized: "MacArthur has a glorious future in store for him."

Tomioka, who is said to have a record of several accurate predictions, placed the general on a plane with Mohandas Ghandi in the field of social welfare.

"There presently are two living men who have succeeded in realizing a peaceful revolution," he said. "They are MacArthur and Ghandi. But, then, Ghandi's mission is over. And MacArthur has his most glorious task to accomplish for the world in the future."

It was not immediately known whether MacArthur would use Tomioka's recommendation as a plank in his platform if he runs in 1948.

SURPLUS:

Budget Review

President Truman's budget business made big news again when the chief executive (1) forecast a record treasury surplus next June of nearly five billion dollars, and (2) hurt Republican feelings by telling the nation that congress trimmed the 1947 budget estimates by only 1.5 billion dollars.

His mid-year budget review estimated tax receipts this year at \$41,667,000,000, which is 2.1 billion dollars more than any previous forecast.

Mr. Truman made his announcement coincidentally with a bureau of labor report which indicated that the U. S., far from being in for a business depression, can look forward to a period of prosperity continuing "indefinitely."



New Product Keeps Potato Sproutless

Problem of Storage Now Aided by New Methods

The sprouting, shriveling and sogginess of potatoes when kept at room temperatures now can be prevented with use of barsprout. The treated potatoes remain firm, practically farm-fresh, and not only cook but also taste better. The product is equally effective on certain other root crops such as beets, carrots, turnips and rutabagas.

The active ingredient is methyl ester of naphthaleneacetic acid. When applied to the potatoes as a dust, it vaporizes and literally "gets into their eyes," keeping them from sprouting. Feeding tests



Potatoes at right treated with barsprout, left, untreated potatoes; both held under the same conditions.

have shown that the chemical imparts no harmful effect. Tests have been conducted for the past five years at leading agricultural experiment stations.

By this treatment the potatoes may be kept at ordinary room temperatures without sprouting and without formation of reducing sugar. Ordinarily potatoes are held below 45 degrees and shrink 5 per cent in weight, developing reducing sugars which affect color and taste.

KNOW YOUR BREED

Percheron

The Percheron horse originated in La Perche, a province near Normandy, France, and was imported into this country in 1839. Readily gaining in popularity in America, it is still the most widely used draft breed in the country.

The Percheron is an unusually active horse, but never-the-less is



an easy keeper. He is clean-legged, black or dapple-grey and of marked tractability and intelligence.

Michigan Designs New Bug and Weed Killer

To meet the need for a light-weight sprayer to apply 2,4-D to lawns, pastures, cornfields and garden patches, this relatively inexpensive and easily operated apparatus



Sprayer mounted on cultivator as designed by Michigan State college.

ratus has been constructed at Michigan State college.

The spray boom is made of one-eighth inch pipe, connected to the tank by a length of rubber hose. An automobile gasoline filter removes particles of dirt which might clog the nozzles.

Hot-Weather Care of Poultry Is Essential

Hot weather always brings problems of poultry management, but good practices will solve most of them successfully. Feed your flocks freely to keep up high egg production and to keep pullets growing rapidly. Have plenty of fresh water available for them at all times. Provide plenty of shade. Make use of good pastures, where possible, to help keep feed costs down.



TWENTY years ago, Babe Ruth turned in his 60th home run in a single season.

Here is a mark that thousands of ball players have been swinging at ever since, but only three have seriously challenged. These were Hank Greenberg of the Tigers, Jimmy Foxx of the Athletics, with 58 each, and Hack Wilson of the Cubs with 56.

What the three don't know is that they were halted by the jinx plastered on their robust frames by several million kids, to whom that number SIXTY has been a shining star in baseball's sky because the Babe put it there. Just when it began to look as if both Greenberg and Foxx were certain to beat it, star dust, thrown mysteriously by all these kids, got in their batting eyes and they were forced to halt abruptly.

Now Big John Mize of the Giants is the latest Ruth challenger for a record season. Big John of the moon face and the mighty swing will be facing the same jinx. Many thousands of kids would like to see the mauling Mize reach 59. But not 60. Especially not 61.

"This mysterious kids jinx won't begin to affect Jolting John until he passes the 50, or perhaps the 55 point. Then he will feel mysterious forces at work that will turn the baseball into the size of a golf ball. He will find star dust in his batting eye, just as Greenberg and Foxx did. Big John won't quite understand what has happened, but some ten million kids will.

Untouchable Record

Those 60 Babe Ruth home runs, delivered twenty years ago as part of a total cargo of 714—which is beyond anybody's reach unless they use rubber balls and move the fences in back of the infield—is now a classic number in American sport. It belongs to the greatest power hitter of all time, who was only halted by the 100 to 170 bases on balls handed him each year.

The Babe picked out his stance from Joe Jackson. This position is known in golf as the closed stance which, in Babe's left-handed batting posture, meant that his right foot was well in advance of his left. However, Babe's stance was not as pronounced as Shoeless Joe's was, and his feet were planted closer together to give his tremendous body a better chance to work with his hands and arms.

Added to his power was almost perfect coordination between mind and muscle, including amazing reflexes. If Ruth had started out as an outfielder in 1914 or 1915, where he was a winning pitcher, his home-run mark today would have been around 1,000.

Mize and the Modern Ball

No one can question the fact that the ball Babe swung at was far livelier than the pellet Home Run Baker, Ty Cobb, Joe Jackson, Tris Speaker and other hitters had to face before the first war. On the other hand, taking nothing from Johnny Mize, the 1947 National League ball looks to be the liveliest ammunition yet thrown at swinging bats.

In certain places the fences have also been moved in to decrease the home-run range.

But this isn't Johnny Mize's fault. He is swinging at the ball that is O.K.'d by the National League. He has always been a great power hitter.

The war came along just when Big John was at his prime, and after his injury last season, few thought he would ever be the same old wallop.

Lots of Power Hitters

It isn't so much that Mize is now up in the home run 30s. It is more that so many others are close on his trail. As I recall the far off details, Home Run Baker, another stout swinger, led both leagues around 1911 with either 9 or 11 home runs.

I can't recall a ball club that had such power hitters as Mize, Marshall, Cooper and Thomson at this stage of the race—not even Ruth, Gehrig and Meusel. The Giant are now after the old Yankee mark and are quite likely to break it.

Today any power hitter who hasn't collected 20 home runs, in the National League especially, is on the puny side. Ted Williams, rated the hardest modern hitter, is close to the Giant trio. Ted has a good chance to lead the American League, but only an epidemic of home runs down the stretch can put him in front of Mize.

Club owners have decided that the home run is something the crowd wants, and apparently the 1947 attendance is backing up their judgment. Any number of teams will pass the million mark this season, including Pittsburgh, which has been just above the cellar line. The baseball fan is a rabid animal, and if he thought too many home runs were being hit, he would lose little time in staying away.



Babe Ruth