

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS
of Main Street and the WorldTruman Says He Knows 1952 Plans;
Research Group Urges Higher Taxes

CONFIDENT HARRY—Harry S. Truman, appearing "fat and snappy", as the home town folks would put it, was back in Washington after his three-week vacation in Florida for a round of activities which included greeting President Vincent Auriol of France, and a speech before Latin-American foreign ministers, meeting in Washington to discuss topics concerning western hemisphere peace and security.

But it wasn't confident Harry's speech making and social whirl that made the biggest headlines in the nation's press. It was his statement that he knew whether or not he would seek re-election in 1952 that threw Main Street voters into a surge of speculation. Mr. Truman told them blandly that he had made up his mind and he would tell "all in due time."



Confident Harry
He'll tell all in due time.

The statement also caused considerable speculation among professional politicians throughout the country, with the majority believing he won't run again. Remembering that Truman is no amateur politician himself, average Main Street voters were about equally divided in their speculation.

One government official, however, backed his belief with a public statement. Michael J. Galvin, undersecretary of labor, said Truman will run and will be re-elected by 56 per cent of the popular vote.

CONSUMER SPENDING—If the Committee for Economic Development, a businessmen's private research group, had its way the people of the home towns of the nation would face a \$10 billion tax increase next year.

The group recently proposed increasing federal taxes by that amount, including a federal sales tax. The program was frankly tailored to restraining consumer spending—by the sales tax and higher excise taxes, a surtax on individual incomes, tight restrictions on bank credits, and encouragement of private savings.

According to the C.E.D. the small town income group must pay because "it is these incomes that provide the largest part of consumption expenditures."

TWO YEARS OF DRIVE—Charles E. Wilson, top man of the administration's mobilization effort, in his first report said with two more years of drive and unity, the U. S. should be strong enough to give "reasonable safety against aggression" and a high-level civilian economy at the same time.

For the average American in the home towns of the nation, Wilson listed these necessary efforts: (1) Virtually every qualified young man, upon reaching a certain age, will have to serve in the armed forces; (2) everyone will have to pay more taxes; (3) people will have to wait for some of the things they want to buy—new housing and automobiles; (4) there will be dislocations in the economy and some production cut-backs and unemployment; (5) the technological and social progress of the nation will be slowed down.

Upon one point he was insistent: Inflation must be stopped and the economy controlled. In this category is farming, on which the Main Street of America directly or indirectly depends. He said careful attention must be given to changing the farm-price provisions of the Defense Production Act "in such a way as to accomplish a greater degree of stability in food prices and at the same time treat farmers equitably in relation to the other elements of the economy."

As for present price controls, he said: "There is no doubt that, if price controls had not been put on, prices would have risen much farther and faster since January than they actually have."

BRANNAN'S PLAN—The people of the great midwest farm belt where pondering the abrupt shake-up in the department of agriculture by Secretary Brannan. The speculation began when Brannan suddenly announced the replacement of Ralph S. Trigg and Frank K. Woolley in the powerful production and marketing administration.

The people of America's bread basket were wondering if the shake-up may mark the start of another campaign to sell the nation on the Brannan plan. The average midwest farmer has not been enthusiastic about the secretary's proposed program.

NEW SYSTEM—On April 30 grocery items comprising more than 60 per cent of the \$32 billion spent annually for food in this country will go under rigid margin controls at wholesale and retail levels.

Michael V. DiSalle, director of price stabilization, who announced the new controls, reported the immediate "impact of these regulations will be to reduce prices," but he warned the Main Street housewife not to expect big reductions.

Among the major foods covered in the new regulations are butter, packaged cheese, baby foods, cocoa, breakfast cereals, coffee and tea, flour, flour mixes, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables, jams and jellies, lard, mayonnaise and salad dressings, shortenings, canned meats and canned fish.

Items not covered are fresh milk and cream, fresh meats, bread, fresh fruits and vegetables, sugar, ice cream, soft drinks and candy, along with many less important foods and "specialty" items.



"Chortling" Smith

Sam J. Smith looked aloft and chortled with happiness as a downpour of rain drenched his land in San Antonio's Belgian garden district. Rain which began on Easter Sunday and continued through Monday was a blessing to the parched land and plagued farmers and ranches of the area.

viewed by many observers as another move on the government's part to bring organized labor back into the mobilization program. The way is now open for Wilson to name a representative of labor to a post of equal importance with that of the general to act as liaison between the mobilization director's office and organized labor.

DISAPPOINTING FARM REPORT

1951 Crop Plantings Called Inadequate

A recent report by the agriculture department indicated that farmers were not planning to plant enough crops in 1951 to maintain present levels of food supplies. The report raised the question whether the country is not taking too much for granted about our food production and the possibility of future food shortages, particularly of meat. On the whole farm prices are

good enough to encourage larger crops. Government crop reporters who made the department survey came up with two explanations for reduced plantings: (1) A farm labor shortage and (2) a reluctance to plow up land which, at government urging, had been returned to grass.

The outlook carries the threat of rigid rationing by next year.



Moral Indictment

IN ONE OF the most savage indictments of the moral standards of the American people on record, Sen. William Fulbright, of Arkansas, proposes to set up a commission of eminent citizens to re-evaluate our moral standards and strengthen the "faith of all decent men in our democratic society."

Among other things, Senator Fulbright said: "Too many people in our nation do not believe anything with conviction. They question the precepts of God or of man indiscriminately. The values of life which were clear to the Pilgrims and the founding fathers have become dim and fuzzy in outline. False propaganda and the 'big lie' of demagogues have created doubts in the minds of men. Professional political hucksters imported from afar, without local responsibility or restraint, corrupt free elections and poison democracy at its source."

Senator Fulbright's speech on the senate floor, in which he said that "government and its activities are in a very real sense, a mirror of our national life", grew out of his committee probe of the reconstruction finance corporation and the Kefauver committee's sensational television side show of the nationwide crime syndicate and its connection with politics in the larger cities of the nation.

If what Senator Fulbright says is true then it is time for you folks in the home towns of the country to examine your consciences. Also, if what he says is true, what has happened to religion and the influences of the churches in our country? Did the crime expose outrage your sensibilities or did you shrug it off as a good show? Were you outraged at the fact that some government employees received favors in the reconstruction finance corporation, or did you pass it off as something that is incidental to politics?

Perhaps it has taken a side-show such as was staged by the Kefauver committee to awaken the people to the fact that criminals wielded influence in high places, and if the people did not know that before, then this highly publicized television show was worthwhile. But this reporter has pointed out time and time again that if there is any lack of faith in our federal government it has been engendered by "the big lie of demagogues which have created doubts in the minds of men" and by the chipping away of our cherished civil liberties in these staged committee hearings while the members have one eye on how much publicity they are getting and the other on whether it is making votes for them at the ballot box.

The "Big Lie" Smear

McCarthyism, a perfect exemplification of the "Big Lie", has run rampant through several committee probes smearing the names of innocent men, along with the guilty by association. These are the things which breed disrespect for government.

There is not a man in Washington who knows the facts, who will not agree that the congress of the United States is lily white, with all its imperfections, as compared to any state legislature in the land. There is not a man here who will not agree that the entire government of the United States is a Sunday school class, as compared with any given state government.

Challenge to America

The challenge to the moral stamina of the American people in the home towns of the country is not whether some basketball players accepted bribes, or whether a half-dozen government employees accepted mink coats or deep freezes, or hotel rooms in return for favors, or whether Costello is still out of jail where he should be, reprehensible as these facts are. The challenge is whether we shall keep our hard earned freedoms and civil liberties in the face of the mortal threat of Soviet Communist aggression. This is the one menace this congress and all the people should be united in opposing. Never before have the American people faced a menace of this magnitude—the Kremlin blueprint for a Communist world. Of what relative importance is the Kefauver committee as compared to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the 21 sister American Republics here in Washington?

Character Assassination

Probe after probe has been under way in this and receding congresses in which witness after witness, the innocent and the guilty, have been paraded before television and the radio without benefit of the inalienable rights guaranteed under the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. Names have been assassinated while justice and the due process of law have been shunted aside by the very men who make the laws of the land.



No Bed of Roses

HERE ARE a few facts not brought out during the crime committee probe of the glamor girl of the underworld, Virginia Hill:

Miss Hill first broke into prominence among the gangsters when she lived in the Chicago boarding-house where Chicago's Joe Epstein, then a student of accountancy, also lived. Virginia, a restaurant waitress at that time, frequently brought coffee and cakes to the hungry Epstein. Later, when Epstein got out of school, he became an accountant for the underworld, also began helping Miss Hill.

She became a runner for the underworld, carrying money between racketeers in different cities. This was a precarious job. But Virginia was smart enough to keep an intimate diary locked in a vault with a record of the various financial transactions, and instructions that the files were to be made public if anything happened to her.

Mobsters on the lam trusted their money to her—a doubly dangerous assignment; for not only was it illegal, but it put Miss Hill's life in jeopardy inside the underworld.

The underworld, which lives by a code of its own, knew every time Virginia had a large chunk of cash. The mobsters also knew that if they robbed her, she couldn't report it to the cops. At least half a dozen times, therefore, Virginia was beaten black and blue, and her apartment ransacked in attempts by the underworld to steal loot from itself.

Some televisioners thought Virginia Hill's life was a bed of roses. But it wasn't.

Railroad Strike Impasse

Only one issue has been holding up settlement of the long, bitter railroad strike—namely, the role of Presidential Assistant John Steelman as mediator. The railroads want the likable ex-Alabama college professor to arbitrate future differences, but the railroad brotherhoods want someone else.

One reason that labor won't accept Steelman is a secret memo that was intercepted from S. H. Pulliam to B. B. Bryant, who are handling the strike negotiations for the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. This secret memo declares: "The rules will be Steelman's interpretations which are pretty much the same as the railroads'."

Forrestal's Diary

The defense department has recently been urged to release the private diary of the late Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, and to that end an edited version was sent to the joint chiefs of staff for approval. However, they dropped it like a hot potato.

Some of the hot spots that caused the joint chiefs of staff to keep the diary suppressed are:

Forrestal told how he came close to firing then Secretary of the Air Force Symington in the spring of 1948 for an unauthorized, pro-air force speech on the west coast.

Forrestal also complained of his troubles getting the three services to agree on war strategy and a defense budget. Twice he appealed to General Marshall to support increases in the military budget. The first time, Marshall was secretary of state and favored priorities for foreign aid instead. The second time Marshall urged that the extra money be spent for universal military training.

Forrestal also wrote bitterly of his distrust of the French and British. The diary has now gone back to the custody of the President's naval aide, Rear Adm. Robert L. Denison.

Wherry Is Willing

Genial Senator Wherry of Nebraska secretly tried to launch a Wherry-for-President boom the other day. But it has boomeranged.

Wherry arranged to send a form letter to GOP national committeemen recommending himself "as the party's presidential candidate." The letter went out under the signature of Republican state chairman David Martin of Kearney, Nebraska—supposedly without Wherry's knowledge, but actually upon Wherry's orders.

The letter also included a copy of a speech, plugging Wherry, which was delivered at the Nebraska GOP convention by delegate George Tunison. What the letter neglected to mention, however, is that Tunison is Wherry's campaign manager.

Slow Arms Shipments

Britain's new foreign minister, Herbert Morrison, has complained to the American embassy that U. S. arms are slow in arriving.

Morrison told Ambassador Walter Gifford, former head of American Telephone and Telegraph, that shipments are so far behind it is jeopardizing British plans.

Morrison also apologized that his first official contact since taking over as foreign minister had to do with a complaint.



ALLIES DROP ON COMMUNISTS . . . Paratroopers of the 187th regimental combat team (airborne) fill the air as they float toward the Communist-dominated fields during a recent airborne attack north of Seoul near Munsan, Korea. After establishing an allied perimeter at Munsan, the American jumpmen, were joined by a tank-led column which drove northward from existing United Nations lines to the south. As a result of the dropping of the paratroopers in the Munsan area, United States and other U.N. forces were able to begin a new big threat to the Communist flank in that area.



CASKETS OF MARINES KILLED IN KOREA . . . Four of the 57 caskets which arrived in San Francisco recently containing remains of servicemen who fell in battle and were buried in Korea are shown after they were unloaded from the transport General Randall, which brought them home. Standing by the caskets are members of the all-service guard of honor. This marks the first time in history that war dead have been returned to the United States from a foreign theater of war while the fighting continues. Latest reports list about 60,000 American casualties of the Korean war.



FRANCE OFFERS HAND TO U.S. . . . The friendship of the French nation for the United States is symbolized by the extended hand of President Vincent Auriol of France as he and his wife arrive in New York on the Ile de France as guests of the United States government. Behind Mme. Auriol is French ambassador Henri Bonnet. Civic officials and other dignitaries were on hand to welcome the distinguished guests.



PLAYTIME . . . Senator Estes Kefauver, chairman of the senate crime investigation committee, lets his hair down and bounces up and down on a pogo stick for the amusement of his daughter, Linda, 9 (not shown).



REPLACEMENTS FOR EUROPE . . . Boarding an army transport in Brooklyn are some of the first shipment of European replacements. All of the new G.I.'s were trained in army camps throughout the U. S. and processed through Camp Kilmer before assignment to an European area. General Dwight D. Eisenhower has been promised four full divisions for his European army and 95 per cent of that manpower will be assigned through Camp Kilmer, in New Jersey.



OLD CURMUDGEON . . . Harold Ickes, former secretary of the Interior, leaves White House after conference with President Truman. Ickes denied reports that he will be named head of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.