

Truman Calls On Nation To Gird For Battle Against 'Chosen Few', Skips Rift

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (AP)—President Truman headed into the 1948 campaign today with a call for the common people to rally around a battle against "the privileged few."

"This is a year of challenge," Mr. Truman told democratic party members last night. "I propose that we meet that challenge head on."

In a 30-minute Jefferson-Jackson Day speech the president never did refer directly to the challenge he faces from angry southerners in his own party.

Nor did he mention directly the threat to democratic presidential chances offered by Henry A. Wallace's third party.

But he spoke highly of Thomas Jefferson's attacks against "laws

that restricted citizenship." And he said the democratic party still believes in protecting the rights of "all the groups and individuals in our nation."

Empty Seats

Before him as he spoke were a dozen empty seats—paid for and left pointedly empty by southerners protesting his civil rights program.

Mr. Truman lumped opponents of his legislative program together as the forces of "reactionary conservatism."

He described those who stand against his proposals for improving social security, justice, production, education and housing as "defeatists," "backward-looking" and "men of small vision and faint hearts."

He said the democrats offer a "parcel of progressive liberalism" and "progressive liberals will rally to the democratic party."

"They know," he said, "that the democratic party is their best fighting force for the triumphant achievement of worthy goals."

But while the president was making his confident speech the southern revolt within his own party got hotter still.

Austrian Ability To Pay Talked

LONDON, Feb. 20 (AP)—The three western powers insisted separately today that Big Four demands in Austria be kept within the country's ability to pay.

The United States, Great Britain and France made their positions plain at a meeting of deputy foreign ministers. They were seeking, with Russia, a peace formula for the landlocked republic freed from Hitler's Germany.

The deputies sat for two hours trying to sound out each other.

American observers said Russia offered no statement on the western powers' plan to guard Austrian economy against "excessive demands" Russia has listed payment of \$200,000,000, a big share of Austria's oil and virtual control of shipping on the Danube as her price of settlement.

The meeting started calmly in contrast to the acrimony which marked the end of the foreign ministers council here last December.

A British observer said there appeared to be "grounds for some confidence" that an agreement would be reached. An American observer said it was too early for such a guess.

The Soviet Union asks Austrian oil and shipping she says used to belong to the Germans, who took over Austria in 1938.

High diplomatic informants say they hope she will bargain on her demands. They say if she doesn't the conference will break up soon.

The United States and Great Britain, these sources say, have agreed not to give Russia enough to leave her in control of the Austrian economy. France has made compromise suggestions.

The deputies' last meeting was broken off December 17, two days after the close of the last Big Four foreign ministers' meeting here.

Wallgren Hits Republicans

DENVER, Feb. 20 (AP)—Accusing the republican national leadership with consistent indifference to the welfare of labor, the underprivileged and the West, Gov. Mon C. Wallgren of Washington said last night that "a western vote for a republican is a wasted vote."

The democratic governor and former senator was the speaker at Colorado's principal Jefferson-Jackson centennial dinner.

"The basic difference between the democratic and republican parties carries a lesson that we in the West learn better with each passing day. Westerners find that no matter how many republicans they send back to office, these republicans cannot control or guide the policies of their party."

"The republican majority does not understand the importance of the West in the nation's economy. The republican majority does not support Western development."



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Tax Surplus Row Grows

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 20 (AP)—The controversy over Oregon's \$35,000,000 income tax surplus still was not settled finally today.

State Treasurer Leslie Scott said a court decision would be necessary before he would touch the fund.

He told the Multnomah County Young Republican club last night that the decision was needed as a legal basis for writing warrants against the money.

His statement followed the opinion by Attorney General George Neuner that the surplus could be transferred to the state's general

fund, which has a deficit of approximately \$7,000,000.

Scott said this deficit was a "bookkeeping deficit... a new example of the old shell game."

He charged that the deficit was maintained in an attempt to get voters to pass a sales tax last fall. The tax was defeated.

"Meantime the income tax, estimated to produce \$25,000,000 actually produced \$34,000,000. This fiscal year we can expect \$40,000,000 or more, next year maybe \$45,000,000," Scott said, asserting that no new taxes were needed by the state.

Scott also told the meeting he did not want to run for governor, but might "depending upon who are in the field."

He said, "maybe those will enter who will make it unnecessary for me to enter."

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Timber Owners To Get Free Advice

OREGON CITY, Feb. 20 (AP)—Oregon's farmers are going to learn more about making money from the trees on their land.

Lynn F. Cronmiller, assistant state forester, said here the forestry department would expand this spring its program of giving farmers and other owners of small timber tracts the benefit of professional advice.

The staff will be increased from two to four, and another office will be opened—this one at Eugene to serve Lane and parts of Linn and Benton counties. The program, conducted by the state, is financed by federal funds.

Color Line Fight

Southern congressmen from at least three states called a conference today to organize against the anti-lynch, anti-poll tax and no-color-line proposals.

Senator McGrath of Rhode Island, democratic national chairman, told a reporter he will see governors of five southern states on the matter Monday. He listed the chief executives of South Carolina, Texas, Arkansas, Virginia and Maryland.

Whatever they have to report, McGrath said, will be passed along to Mr. Truman. He promised nothing further.

The president talked twice last night—first impromptu to one section of the Jefferson-Jackson dinner at the Statler hotel and then in a prepared address to the section at the Mayflower.

In his prepared radio address he sized up this year's political battle as a fight between a democratic party of "progressive liberalism" against a "reactionary conservative" opposition which he said is behind the wealthy and "favored few."

He didn't even mention the republican party by name.

The empty table in front of the president as he spoke had been reserved for the party of Senator Olin Johnston (D-S. C.). Johnston has criticized Mr. Truman's civil rights proposals.

Negro democrats who attended were concentrated largely at three tables in the sprawling banquet rooms.

Miss Margaret Truman, daughter of the president, had planned to add a fillip to the evening by singing the national anthem. But Senator Barkley (D-Ky.) announced she had a sore throat.

The republicans didn't think much of Mr. Truman's speeches, including his reference to the "floggie bird."

This seems to be a chick from the "dodo bird" the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt once talked about.

Like his predecessor, Mr. Truman intimated that this bird represents republican views. He said it flies backward because it isn't interested in seeing where it is going but only where it has been.

"The president wouldn't have the heart to look back on where the new deal has been," Senator Capehart (R-Ind.) commented.

Senator Bricker (R-Ohio) said, "The only thing liberal about the new deal is its liberality with other people's money."

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