



**ENTOMBED FOR 18 HOURS**—Norma Vina Ford, 51-year-old Pendleton, Ore., rancher (on stretcher), trapped in well he was digging for 18 hours, is pictured after mechanical diggers had widened the mouth of the well to 50 feet across. Ford's 19-year-old son, Leon, working on the surface when walls started collapsing, held back earth for seven hours until rescue workers sunk a 24-inch iron pipe (lower left) around the trapped man prior to the start of the digging operation.

# Demos, GOP's At Issue Over Tax Scandals; HST Mum But Action Expected

**By B. L. LIVINGSTONE**  
WASHINGTON, (AP)—Democrat predictions that Pres. Truman is angrily ready to clean house in the government tax scandals, and that they won't be a big issue in 1952, drew sharp replies from Republicans today.  
"It's just wishful thinking on his part," said Senator Ferguson (R-Mich) of the White House statements by Democratic chairman Frank E. McKinney. "It's an issue and it's going to stay an issue."  
Senator Nixon (R-Calif) commented: "So McKinney thinks the graft and political influence oozing from under so many doorways won't be an issue—I guess I've heard everything now. It's going to take a lot of Democratic ingenuity to convince the American people of that."  
Ferguson and Nixon talked to reporters after McKinney had emerged from a half-hour conference Tuesday with Mr. Truman and reported:  
1. "The president is very aware of the situation and he is highly concerned. And he is angry over being sold down the river by some disloyal employees of the government. I'm inclined to think there will be action soon."  
2. "As the situation has been handled by Democrats, cleaned up by Democrats and Democrats have acted to remove the guilty as fast as they have been discovered, I am of the opinion that this will not be an issue of the 1952 campaign."  
Meanwhile, the house ways and means subcommittee that has been pushing the study of irregularities in the government's tax collection offices—and the handling of tax fraud cases—called another session.  
The lead-off witness was Bert K. Naster, a Florida businessman now given a chance to tell publicly his side of a sensational story related by Abraham Teitelbaum that Naster and another man tried to shake him down for \$500,000 in an attempted tax fix.  
Teitelbaum, a Chicago attorney who once helped spring gangster Al Capone from prison, has testified that he was told he could escape serious tax troubles with the government if he would fork over \$500,000. He said it was represented to him that the offer was backed by suggestions that a "clique" in Washington officialdom was in on the deal.  
Senator Nixon, in his reply to McKinney's statements, disputed the thought that Democrats can take credit for cleaning up a government mess. "It has been the press and congressional committees—in which Republicans carried a lot of the work burden—which have brought about these disclosures," he said.  
Senator Ferguson proposed that President Truman give FBI director J. Edgar Hoover a free hand to investigate official wrongdoing, suggesting that in six months "he could do an awful lot to clean out these departments."  
Ferguson added he saw no need to appoint a special prosecutor—one of the steps Pres. Truman reportedly has under consideration.  
"If we are at the stage where we have to have a special prosecutor, then we ought to have a new attorney general," he said.  
Attorney General McGrath refused to comment on growing rumors that his resignation was impending.  
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### Irish Lose First Round Over Will

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paul J. Donovan's effort to block execution of Mrs. George Bernard Shaw's will ran into a stone wall in court Tuesday.  
The will set aside \$63,200 to "smooth the rough edges off the Irish," and delegated the task to the national provincial bank of England.  
Donovan, 71, protested that the Irish did not need such help. The court, however, said there was nothing it could do, that the bank is outside its jurisdiction. Donovan said he'd find some way to carry on the fight.

### Gambler Didn't Like Relatives

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Long Beach housewife says she gambled away \$15,000 at the roulette and dice tables of Las Vegas, Nev., "for those jerk relatives to light over."  
The woman, Mrs. Thelma Snyder, 40, is accused of converting to her own use most of the \$16,500 from the estate of her aunt, Mrs. Mattie Hurley.  
The administrator of the estate claims Mrs. Snyder forged the signature of her aunt on three certificates of stock in a public utility, and in suing for recovery.  
"I gambled it all away," Mrs. Snyder testified yesterday. "That is, all but about \$1400 which I gave to my sister to pay for my aunt's funeral."

### West Germans Want Independence

BONN, Germany, (AP)—American high commissioner John J. McCloy reported to Washington that West Germans—spurred by socialist criticism—are "in a mood of impatient rebellion" against the occupation powers.  
But most Germans, McCloy said in his quarterly report to the state department, "have made the choice in their own hearts, to identify their lot with that of the west."  
"The difficulties which have arisen in Germany's relations with the occupation authorities do not spring from basic antagonism but are the normal outcome of a contracted foreign occupation of a country which is rapidly recovering a sense of independent statehood," his report said, adding:

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### Californians Due For Tax Checkup

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Charles F. Masarik Jr., acting collector of internal revenue for Northern California, said Tuesday a checkup has disclosed that payments are overdue on about \$9,000,000 in withholding taxes collected by employers in the district.  
But, he said, wage-earners involved are protected.  
"If it has already been taken from their wages, they are given credit for it," he said.  
The mass delinquencies of employers was uncovered by auditing teams under H. H. Sikecather, treasury agent who has been studying records in the San Francisco collector's office. Some of the accounts date back two years.

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### Wedding Reports Held Pure Rumor

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor's studio says a report that she and British actor Michael Wilding plan to be married in Mexico before Christmas is "fantastic."  
Actually, both are married.  
Hotelman A. C. Blumenthal said in Mexico City yesterday that Miss Taylor disclosed wedding plans in a telephone call reserving an apartment in his hotel.

Miss Taylor and Wilding are on a fishing trip in northern California with actor Stewart Granger and his wife, Jean Simmons. The studio said the four plan to go to Acapulco later this month for more fishing.  
Miss Taylor's divorce from hotel heir Nick Hilton becomes final Jan. 30. Wilding's wife, Kay Young, sued for divorce Nov. 15 in London.

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