

The Herald and News

FRANK JENKINS

Editor

BILL JENKINS

Managing Editor

FLOYD WYNNE

City Editor

MAURICE MILLER

Circulation Mgr

Ph. TU 4-4752

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After Christmas

BY HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — The day after Christmas most grownups are as good as they can be.

They haven't the strength to be anything else.

Worn out with the wassail bowl, the struggle to put up the Christmas tree, the annual turkey bout, they appease the aching head with aspirin and the rebellious stomach with bicarbonate of soda.

Half the children's new toys were broken the night before, and the other half — including, thank heaven, the drum — will be broken by this nightfall.

But millions of Americans stretched out on the living room couch and half-listening to a wife humming in the kitchen as she sets about preparing turkey hash know a strange contentment.

This is the season when man likes to review the dying year, Joe Blow, the typical American, lying there on his living room couch, might put it this way — if he talked out loud:

"When you get right down to it, 1958 has been pretty great."

"I started the year running scared, but it hasn't been half bad. Not bad at all."

"The guy down the street lost his job, but he got another one three months later, and seems to be doing all right now. Everybody else in the neighborhood is working, too — whether he wants to or not."

"The boss has been pretty good to me. I thought last July he'd skip the year-end bonus this time, but he made it again — although he did say he didn't know how much longer he could stay in business. But he's been saying that ever since I was an office boy."

"The wife says things keep getting higher and higher, and a dollar won't buy what it used to. But looking back, I guess it never did. I guess inflation is a big danger, but I don't see what a guy my size can do about it — except join everybody else in viewing the problem with alarm."

"I thought sure this year one of those double-dome scientists would come up with a cure for baldness and the common cold, but no — all they think about is lobbing bigger and bigger baseballs into space."

"But, anyway, as long as they are busy doing that they don't have time to throw bombs back and forth. We still seem to have a new international crisis every day, and I guess it would be a real surprise to wake up some morning and find we only had yesterday's crisis to worry over."

"So what? We still got peace, and any year they don't blow the bugle — well, it's a good year."

Low Price Homes

By JAMES MARLOW

Associated Press News Analyst WASHINGTON (AP) — In an anti-recession move earlier this year, Congress voted one billion dollars to buy mortgages on homes costing \$13,500 or less. The idea was to encourage building of lower priced homes.

Those funds have run out. Efforts will be made in the new session to get more money for this purpose. The Eisenhower administration—which fought the legislation last spring—is likely to do so again.

The money went to the Federal National Mortgage Assn., called Fanny May, from its initials. This agency buys the mortgages and, in turn, sells such mortgages to private investors.

It deals in mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration.

The idea of the program was not only to encourage builders—buying mortgages from them would give them more cash to use—but to encourage building particularly in the low-priced home field.

The billion dollar fund was rammed through last April over President Eisenhower's protests.

Already Fanny May has committed the full billion. When Congress returns next month efforts will be made to get another billion for Fanny May to buy mortgages in the low-priced field.

But this week there were indications the Eisenhower administration may try to block this as part of its economy drive.

It was this week that Eisenhower announced his proposed budget for next fiscal year would be 77 billion dollars, or about three billion less than is being spent this bookkeeping year, ending next June 30.

Such a budget reduction would require cutting some government programs, possibly eliminating others.

In a statement explaining the President's 77 billion goal, the White House said: "Reductions in total spending will be achieved in part by reason of the ending of

temporary programs in agriculture, unemployment insurance, and housing."

Heading off another billion for Fanny May to use seems a likely economy target for the administration.

Budget Comment

By SAM DAWSON

AP Business News Analyst NEW YORK (AP) — President Eisenhower's proposal of a balanced budget next year cheers businessmen. But the cheers are mixed with doubts as to its attainment.

The President's 77-billion-dollar budget is based on two hopes:

1. That Congress won't spend more than he asks and will raise postal rates and the gasoline tax as he wants.

2. That the business recovery will proceed faster so tax collections on individual incomes and corporate earnings will furnish the 77 billion dollars he needs to avoid the deficit.

The federal budget is always eagerly awaited by business because it indicates what may happen along several lines:

1. Whether taxes will go up or down, and what taxes are involved.

2. How much the government proposes to spend, and just what industries will have a chance to get part of that money, and how much.

3. And whether another federal deficit is in the making to add still further to the inflationary pressures that in the past have eroded the purchasing power of the dollar.

Many businessmen, like many congressmen, doubt that the new Congress will be in the mood to cut back government spending.

And some industries hope that the cuts won't be made in spending for their products.

A higher postal rate will cost everyone money. A higher gasoline tax will affect most businesses as well as individuals — and won't please the oil industry. Many businessmen doubt if Congress will vote either.

To increase revenues as the President's budget estimates would mean a rise in personal income totals next year of about 7 billion dollars and a gain in corporate earnings of from 12 to 14 billion dollars.

The present pace of the recovery would have to be stepped up if these goals are met, according to many economists.

But none quarrels with the ideal of the balanced budget.

Although handled as expertly as possible, the financing of this year's 12-billion federal deficit can't help but lay the foundation for further monetary inflation, the economists hold.

This won't show up in the cost of living as quickly as that other factor, the wage-price spiral, but it will be felt in time.

If the President's goal is met, if the budget is balanced at a lower figure than first expected, that would mean:

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Letter From Harry?

By LYLE C. WILSON

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Opera star Helen Traubel should be getting a letter any time now from Harry S. Truman. It could be quite a document, but scarcely in the pattern of the holograph communiqué the former president dashed off to Paul Hume, music critic of the Washington Post and Times Herald.

Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel, the former president's daughter, was a professional singer before her marriage. Hume caught Miss Truman's act here on Dec. 5, 1950 and reported in his critique that

she was flat a good deal of the time and had no professional finish.

The president did not like that and fired off to Hume the same day a letter which was reported, as follows:

"I have just read your lousy review. . . I have never met you, but if I do you'll need a new nose and plenty of beefsteak and perhaps a supporter below. Westbrook Pegler, a guttersnipe, is a gentleman compared to you."

Peg's comment on that was: "Let us pray." For Peg, that was like turning the other cheek and mighty considerate, to boot, because Peg is a very handy man with words. He would butcher Truman in an exchange of public communications and, moreover, Peg would keep it clean. Peg could and did kick the late Harold L. Ickes in a duel of words, which should be enough to warn all amateur word slingers out of Pegler's way.

What critic Hume said of Miss Margaret's voice was not a patch on the report of Miss Traubel who was her voice teacher but quit in despair. Miss Traubel has written a book, "St. Louis Woman," wherein she relates that when she began tutoring Miss Margaret in 1948 her voice was "inexperienced and really rather bad."

Against Miss Traubel's advice, her pupil undertook a public singing career five or maybe 10 years short of being prepared for it. Miss Traubel heard her young charge sing in Carnegie Hall and in her book reports rather harshly that "it was so bad from the first note, that for the first time in my life I spent all evening behind the curtains of my box. . . The funny thing is that Margaret really has a nice voice—nothing great but good enough. She never knew what a real amateur she was."

Well, friends, that should get Miss Traubel a letter, even with stamps at four cents a copy. Your correspondent is not in Peg's class and does not fancy himself as being able to cope with HST by mail or otherwise.

So be it recorded that your correspondent knows little of music and heard Margaret sing only once, at a White House correspondents' dinner. I thought she sang pretty good and I know it was a gracious gesture, typical of the all American girl that she was, for Margaret to come to our dinner and sing as a surprise to her father, who was our guest.

Margaret Truman was as nice a person as ever lived in the White House and our town liked her a lot. We all admired the closeness of the Truman clan, too, their love and respect for each other. They are real nice folks.

There are ghastly moments in the social whirl when a relatively minor member of the White House staff arrives at a party to find the hostess a bit short on material for lionization.

Said employee, being only human, sometimes succumbs to the heady experience of being asked his opinion on everything from the President's golf to Quemoy, Matsu and Senator Humphrey.

Just when he has taken on the stature of an administration giant, the lowly staff member pales through his martini glass as he spies the arrival of a truly legitimate big shot of the presidential staff.

Few social experiences are more bitter as the hostess cries shrilly to the imposing new arrival that Mr. Soandso from the White House was thrilling everybody with his delightful story about what the President said in the locker room at Burning Tree.

Otherwise promising careers have been blighted by much less.

Social Whirl

By MERRIMAN SMITH

UPI White House Reporter WASHINGTON (UPI) — Backstairs at the White House:

With the winter social season properly opened by President and Mrs. Eisenhower this month, the canape and candlelight fervor spread throughout the better upholstered sections of the city.

Next to politics and saloons, the biggest business in the nation's capital is party-giving. It is more than a social instrument; the party and the dinner have become part of government.

Washington hostesses can dream, but they really have no hope whatever of attracting President Eisenhower as a social guest at one of their affairs. He goes to an occasional banquet or to the embassy of a visiting head of state, but nothing more.

This is a social supply-and-demand situation peculiar to this town. Since a president, in effect, must be a social recluse, members of his staff become prime bait for capital society. Some

White House staff members find the burden of party-going too much and are as difficult to snare as the chief executive, himself.

Among the more indefatigable party-goers of the present White House staff is Robert Gray, secretary to the cabinet, and Homer Gruenther, one of the President's key congressional liaison men. It is good business for officials in Gruenther's position to get around a lot, particularly with members of the House and Senate.

Gray, a debonair bachelor, is in demand not only because of his White House status, but because he is a highly eligible "extra man" in a town where such social commodities are frequently in short supply.

Bob Gray is quite non-partisan in his approach to local society. One of his admirers is Mrs. Perle Mesta, an elder hostess of prominence who frequently inclines towards Democrats in her choice of guests and friends. It must be said for Mrs. Mesta, however, that some of her best friends are Republicans.

When Mrs. Mesta left recently for a pleasure jaunt to South America, Gray gave a farewell party for her at the airport that made society section headlines. He also shows up occasionally on the better guest lists as the escort of Virginia Warren, pretty blonde daughter of Chief Justice and Mrs. Earl Warren.

Mrs. Eisenhower's secretary, Mary Jane McCallfree, also goes out quite a bit in Washington. As head of the White House social office, naturally she is flooded with invitations. She accepts, box. . . The funny thing is that Margaret really has a nice voice—nothing great but good enough. She never knew what a real amateur she was."

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Quotes

United Press International VATICAN CITY — Pope John XXIII, to adult patients during a Christmas Day visit to a hospital: "We have a Bible, let's apply it."

DENVER—Marvin K. Maus, in buying a real fire engine for his three grandchildren: "The grandchildren always asked me for a fire engine."

MOSCOW—Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, in telling the Supreme Soviet Russia was ready to sign an agreement with the West to end nuclear tests: "The total number of explosions for every year should be agreed on and limited in advance."

CHICAGO—The National Safety Council, on the holiday highway casualties: "Highway deaths are increasing at an alarming rate."

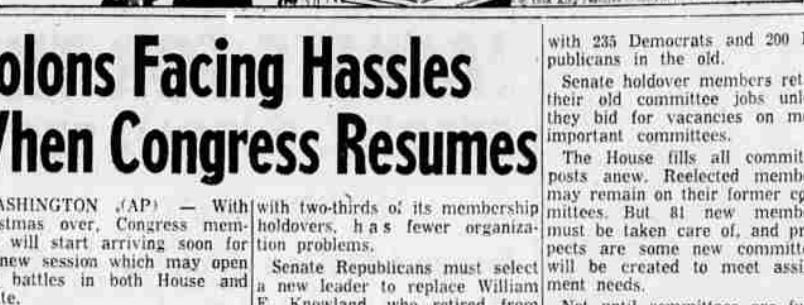
NEW YORK — Eleanor Roosevelt, replying in her McCall's Magazine column, "If You Ask Me," to novelist Fannie Hurst's assertion that she practiced yoga in the White House:

"I am afraid that Miss Hurst has exaggerated slightly. I did, and still do, exercise every morning, but I did not know they were called yoga exercises. Certainly not for a long time have I attempted to stand on my head, though there was a time in my life when I could accomplish the feat!"

HOLLYWOOD—An NBC executive, who does not wish his name used, telling why he warned Eddie Fisher, unsuccessfully, not to invite Liz Taylor backstage on the Eddie Fisher show: "Her appearance in the studio would seem to be flaunting things that are not too wholesome. This is something that the public does not approve."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



THANK AND A TIP OF THE HATLO HAT TO JUNE MASSEY, 1944 EL SERENO, PASADENA, CALIF.

Solons Facing Hassles When Congress Resumes

WASHINGTON (AP) — With Christmas over, Congress members will start arriving soon for the new session which may open with battles in both House and Senate.

The 86th Congress convenes Jan. 7 with much bigger Democratic majorities than the 85th Congress of 1957-58.

Normally a new Congress gets off to a slow start but this time things look different.

In the Senate, a lengthy fight is shaping up over a move by Northern Democrats and Republicans to curb filibusters. Southern Democrats in the past have used unlimited debate to block civil rights legislation.

Senate Republicans also are embroiled in a family quarrel. A group which views the present GOP command there are behind the times is pushing a rival slate for top leadership posts.

In the House a bloc of self-styled liberals wants to limit the power of the Rules Committee to bottle up legislation. Under present House rules, that committee can keep most bills from the floor almost indefinitely.

Unless a compromise is reached ahead of time, this fight will be settled on opening day.

Another controversy confronting the House involves the disputed election of Dr. Dale Alford, a Little Rock segregation leader, to replace Rep. Brooks Hays (D-Ark.), an avowed moderate on the segregation issue.

A special House committee recently conducted a preliminary probe of charges that irregularities figured in Alford's victory as a write-in candidate. The committee recommended Alford not be seated pending a fuller inquiry by a regular House committee.

Unless the case becomes an out-and-out civil rights issue, Alford probably will be permitted to take his seat on Jan. 7.

These controversies aside, it probably will be at least a month before any legislation of consequence reaches the floor of either branch.

The House must completely organize from scratch. The Senate,

with 235 Democrats and 200 Republicans in the old.

Senate holdover members retain their old committee jobs unless they bid for vacancies on more important committees.

The House fills all committee posts anew. Re-elected members may remain on their former committees. But 41 new members must be taken care of, and prospects are some new committees will be created to meet assignment needs.

Not until committees are functioning can the House or Senate really start work.

Early in January, President Eisenhower will deliver in person his State of the Union message telling Congress what he would like in the way of legislation. No date has been set for that message.

In mid-January Eisenhower will send Congress his annual budget for the fiscal year starting next July 1.

The new Congress will have 61 Democratic senators and 34 Republican senators, compared with 49 Democrats and 47 Republicans in the 85th. In the House, the new lineup will be 283 Democrats to 153 Republicans. This compared

Fake Fireplace Causes Accident

CLIFFSIDE PARK, N.J. (AP) — Mr. and Mrs. Edward Perry thought it would be nice to spend Christmas around a roaring fireplace in the living room of their new home.

Perry lit the wood, smoke filled the room, the Christmas tree wilted and the flames burned a big hole in the wall.

Perry told firemen he hadn't been informed the fireplace was only an ornament.

NEW MANAGER PORTLAND (AP) — Leslie Sherman, one of the firm's directors, has been named manager of Meier and Frank Co.'s new Lloyd Center store here.



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SHORT RIBS

By Frank O'Neal

