Herald and News

Editorial Page

Truman's Foggy Memory

Former President Harry Truman has gone on another fibbing spree. HST said he thought "the American people have gotten off very easy" in regard to the 2.8 billion dollars the Kennedy Administration wants to spend on welfare measures.

"People complain too much about taxes."

Then, with a straight face, Truman stated: "I think every effort should be made so that government income matches government outgo. I managed to do it for six years until Congress voted those big appropriations for the Korean War."

The truth is that Truman failed to balance the budget in three of the five fiscal years prior to the Korean War (he was not responsible for six as he thought). In his first fiscal year, 1946, he came up with a $20.6 deficit. His 1949 and 1950 budgets showed deficits of $1.8 billion and $3.1 billion, respectively.

Of the two pre-Korean budgets which showed a surplus ($753 million in 1947 and $8.5 billion in 1948), both were a result of efforts by the 80th Congress—which Truman called the "do nothing" Congress because it balked at the President's big spending proposals.

Last week columnist Lyle Wilson said of the Missouri Democrat's fiscal policies: "The rotting of the US dollar proceeded every year save one—1949—while President Truman was in office. The Senate Finance Committee calculated the dollar's value in 1945, when HST became President, at 77.2 cents. That was the 1945 value of purchasing power in relation to the dollar of 1939. In 1953, the year HST left the White House, the value of purchasing power of the dollar had slumped to 51.9 cents."

That First Month In Office

President Kennedy's first month in office was a great deal more crowded than former President Eisenhower's back in 1953.

A day by day review of the two periods produces a list of Kennedy actions more than three times as long as Ike's.

Partisan politicians naturally disagree as to the reason for Kennedy's much brisker pace.

Democrats say he simply is acting as he must, to meet developing crises abroad and a recession at home. Republicans argue he is consciously stirring an emergency mood so he can ram his favored legislation through Congress and later take credit for curing trouble.

Both sides agree that the two men have sharply differing views of the office, with the incumbent committed to a driving use of presidential power and Eisenhower preferring a more cautious approach.

In the first month, both men delivered State of the Union messages, but Kennedy sent Congress half a dozen others on such topics as the general economy, our international economic problems, the nation's health, specific antirecession proposals, a program to boost farm income and ease surpluses of corn and feed grains.

Ike in that period held one press conference, almost as the month was up. The President has held four.

Eisenhower became quickly engrossed in trying to end the Korean War, but decisive action was still months off. Kennedy was plunged into crises in Laos, the Congo, the United Nations. He conferred steadily with key U.S. diplomats from the trouble spots, with foreign affairs advisers, and visiting diplomats.

Ike's principal legislative move was to draft an 11-point program of "must" bills. Most of the bills he listed were sent to Capitol Hill in later weeks.

In the matter of executive orders, the former president ordered all controls off wages and prices, directed the U.S. 7th fleet to stop guarding Red China against Formosa, named a commission to plan a unified cold war strategy.

The initial Kennedy month saw bills going to Congress to aid depressed areas, ease general unemployment strains, hike farm income, provide medical care for the aged, add 59 new federal judges, boost the federal minimum wage floor.

The new President's executive orders, aimed largely at arresting a home front downturn and a gold outflow to nations abroad, poured out in volume.

Kennedy acted to increase help to the needy and put more money into the lagging economy. To the latter end he took several steps to stimulate housing and general construction, cut loose immediately funds for highway building that otherwise might not be spent for months. He took a hand in two strikes.

Historians will say both the men and their times were different. And they will have to decide which man's "first month" did most for the United States in the troubled postwar era.

JIM BISHOP: REPORTER . . .

Becoming A Grandfather No New Experience Here

MIAMI, Fla.—The phone rang. I snapped the night light on. It was 3:20 a.m. I got out of bed. My father was sleeping, as he has for years, on a chair. His legs were on an end table. A sheet covered him to the chin. The white hair, the face in repose, made him look like a dead cardinal. I fumbled for the phone. "Hello?" A young man's voice said: "Dad? Gayle had her baby ahead of time. It's a girl."

"Yes," I said sleepily. "Her baby." Then I came to. "Her baby! Gayle had her baby?" Frank Gerace told it again. I was wide awake. The questions flew like runaway missiles: How is she? How is the baby? How much does she weigh? Why didn't you tell me she was in labor? When did it happen? What do you mean you didn't want to bother me? Where is she now? What does the doctor say? Is there anything I can do?

It was incredible that my little pet onion had become a mother. She eloped at 16, and she was always a gay tomboy who could climb a fence, drive a speedboat, shoot a basket, swim in a heavy sea, make fun of her father, be a child or be an old lady, at her whim. When Elinor died, three and a half years ago, it was Gayle's gaiety that swept the gloom from the house.

Now she was an old married woman of 17. I went back to bed thinking. Virginia Lee has four: the twin girls, Robin and Pamela, 2½; Jim, 1½; Kevin, 6 months. Now there was a fifth one, a little girl born to a little girl. I got out of bed and nudged my father.

He opened one eye. "Hah?" he said. I said, "Gayle has had a little girl." He closed the one eye. "Is that so?" he said dreamily. There was a silence. Without opening the eyes, he said: "That makes my tenth great-grandchild." More silence. "My family sure comes up with the goods."

In the morning, I phoned Ginny. She wanted to fly right down to Miami. "Daddy," she said, "Gayle is only a baby herself. She needs me to explain things to her." Virginia Lee is an old crone of 23. I said, "Your own Indians need you more than Gayle needs you."

I went to the hospital. The nurses had all the bassinets lined up behind glass. Relatives were saying "Ooh" and "Ahhh" and the infants looked red and wrinkled and their tiny arms and legs jerked spasmodically and the little mouths contorted with tears. This is the way life begins. This is the way it ends.

Some women were saying: "Who is that one in the back? Over there on the left." It was an infant whose skin was pale pink, a baby with cheeks so fat that they hung like eggdrops. Its eyes squinted open and the tiny fingers kept moving, one by one, in slow motion. "What a pretty baby!"

The masked nurse looked at the card at the foot of the bassinet. She held it up for the women to see. "Gerace" it said. Two buttons went off the front of my jacket and bounced on the marble floor. Gayle's baby. Frank's baby. Of course. Who else?

Gayle looked good. She was in a robe and Frank was helping her to walk around the room. A flood of memories came back on a windy tide. It was yesterday—maybe the day before — that Gayle used to come bouncing in from school yelling "Hey daddyo! What's new among the squares?"

It couldn't have been more than yesterday—maybe last week. She loved her mother to distraction, but she couldn't show it. She went to the store after school, did all the shopping, got glasses of water for her Nanny, never forgetting the three cubes of ice, and used to gripe because her mother liked to bathe her in the kitchen sink.

When she was eleven, she sat white with suds moaning: "I'm going to be the only kid ever married out of the kitchen sink." Her mother said: "Oh keep quiet. You may be the only girl ever married out of the seventh grade if you don't study harder."

Most of all, the child adored her mother. When Elinor died, Gayle said practically nothing. When her mother's name was mentioned, the child left the room. Ginny and I thought that Gayle was callous. The truth, as we found out later from a doctor, was that she was in a shocking depression which lasted until she fell in love with Frank Gerace.

I put my arms around her and I said: "How do you feel, ox?" She grinned. "I'm fine. Did you see the baby?" I nodded. "She's beautiful, honey, and I'm not saying it to please you. Now you have your own live doll. Have you decided on a name yet?"

"Yes," she said and the smile died. "We're going to name her Elinor. . . ."

Political Kiss of Death

Other Editors' Opinions

Tax Dilemma

THE OREGONIAN

The House Taxation Committee at Salem, seeking to replace the local tax on inventories with a tax on business net receipts, is wrestling with the same problems which have frustrated legislators for at least 20 years in this effort to end inequities and create a better climate for business.

House Bill 1010 would substitute a 1½ per cent state tax on net business earnings for the personal property levy on inventories. A formula in the bill for return of this money to the taxing districts, admittedly not given the consideration due it, would distribute the approximately $14,500,000 revenues this way: 85 per cent to go to the State Basic School Fund for payment to local school districts under the BSF formula; 15 per cent to cities, on the basis of population, to be used to offset real property taxes.

That distribution formula would reduce the City of Portland's revenue, comparing the present inventory tax with the business tax, by almost $1 million (6.6 per cent). The effect on the total property tax levy within the City of Portland (including School District No. 1) would be a reduction of about $3.5 million (7.2 per cent).

To compensate for these losses, the tax on real property and personal property other than inventories would have to be increased by those amounts. Obviously, home owners who pay no personal property taxes would have to pay more on land and buildings. So would business. Some, as hotels, which have little or no inventory but much personal property of another kind (bedroom sets, televisions, etc.), also would pay the new 1½ per cent on net earnings.

Now Rep. Victor Atiyeh of Washington County, member of the House Taxation Committee, has proposed amendments to replace the personal property tax in its entirety (not just the tax on inventories) with a 3 per cent state tax on net earnings. This would apply to farms, as well as businesses.

Rep. Atiyeh's formula for redistribution of the tax revenues from business provides for a gradual transition until fixed in 1966 at 15 per cent to counties, 15 per cent to cities, 70 per cent to school districts. The amount involved by eliminating the tax on all personal property, based on 1960 returns, is $28 million, or almost double the revenues from inventories alone. And if business improved, as a result of this change or for other reasons, the "take" would increase. The 3 per cent tax is a replacement estimate.

The Atiyeh amendments meet the discrimination problem more boldly than the original H.B. 1010. These would come closer to putting all business and the professions (in which services, clients and patients may be considered in the same category as inventories) on an equitable footing.

But the Atiyeh plan may not completely meet the problems of cities and other taxing districts which see their property tax assessment base undergoing erosion because of exemptions. Nor does it quite answer the questions of real property owners who foresee a shift of the personal property tax base, to some extent at least, to real property. The question here involves bond issues and special levies, as well, which would have to be paid solely by real property.

Perhaps the Atiyeh formula can be justified on the theory of fair replacement making the higher real property levies unnecessary and by spreading the base through encouragement of new businesses and manufacturing. The goal of ending the personal property tax is two-fold: To end discrimination among businesses and to stimulate business activity and jobs. Almost everyone agrees that the tax is a dead weight on business expansion in many lines and contributes to unemployment in winter months when merchants are more interested in reducing inventories and postponing restocking than in meeting customers' demands. Between the two proposals we think Rep. Atiyeh's has most to recommend it. And we hope the Taxation Committee is wise enough to solve this dilemma.

YOUR POCKETBOOK

Changing Jobs, Home Can Affect Incomes

By FAYE HENLE

We're a fast moving people. This year one American in five will change his residence; 33 million of us will move to another home.

Labor mobility follows the pattern. It's estimated that 8.5 million people a year leave one employer to work for another. New York's Chase Manhattan Bank, in its bulletin "Business In Brief," points out that almost 50 per cent of these job switches involve a change to a different industry and a different occupation. Another 20 per cent shift to a different industry but perform the same type of job while 8 per cent move into a different type of job in the same industry.

Work histories of more than three million persons covering a decade showed that two-thirds changed jobs at least once in that period and that more than a quarter changed jobs three times or more.

Young people do more job switching than older folk. Those in the 25-34 age group are twice as likely to change jobs and residences than either younger or older people.

What have these shifts meant geographically to the family income dollar?

A partial answer is offered in "Money Matters" issued by the Institute of Life Insurance. It reports:

The wealth of rural nonfarm families is on the increase while that of urban and farm families is on the decline. In 1950, the urban family had 71.5 cents of the family income dollar. Ten years later it had but 65.3 cents.

The rural nonfarm family had 19.2 cents of the family income dollar in 1950, 28.1 cents of it 10 years later. The farm family had 9.4 cents of the family income dollar in 1950, only 6.6 cents of it 10 years later.

The number of families living in urban areas increased by 1.8 million between 1950 and 1959. In the same period, the rural nonfarm family increased by 4.3 million, while the number of families on farms declined by 893,000.

As you move from area to area, as you change jobs, keep careful watch over your personal affairs. Make certain that:

—You leave a forwarding address with the local post office.

—You change your address on all insurance policies. Check to see how soon any new group or health insurance policies become effective.

—Don't forget that small savings account that you or junior might have opened years ago. Take it with you.

—Make certain the Social Security Administration knows of your new job or residence. This may be a good time to check whether you are receiving full credit on your earnings. Mail your request to the Social Security Administration, Baltimore 35, Md., giving account number, birth date and address.

—Make certain you get W-2 forms for federal income taxes from your former employer.

Literary Lesson

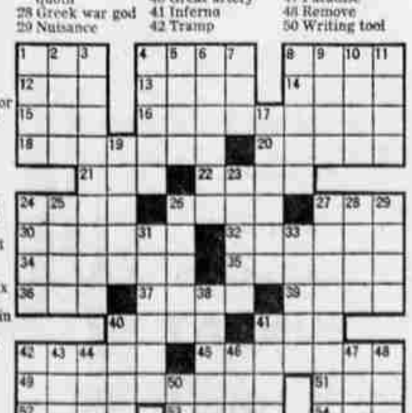
ACROSS

1 American writer
4 Novelist, Zona ——
8 Keats, for instance
12 Augment
13 Regrets
14 Spanish jar
15 Hawaiian food
16 Asiatic Turk
18 Writers are one kind
20 Kind of lights
21 Hypothetical forces
22 Ages
24 Simple
26 Boast
27 Short sleep
30 Drug
32 Stern
34 Card distributor
35 Demonstrates
36 Lamprey
37 Seines
39 Try
40 Poker stake
41 Pronoun
42 Viet-Nam city
45 Provided with new weapons
49 Be extravagant
51 Poem
52 Finest
53 Feminine suffix
54 Relative (ab.)
55 Greek mountain
56 Beginners
57 Compass point

DOWN

1 Parent
2 Scent
3 Newspaper opinion
4 Whitman's "Leaves of ——"
5 Patrick Dennis' Mame
6 Renter
7 Suffix
8 North Europeans
9 Medley
10 Enthusiasm
11 Browns
17 Wild ass
19 Utopian
23 Grates
24 Style
25 Fencing sword
26 French cap
27 What the raven quoth
28 Greek war god
29 Nuisance
31 Lawn game
33 Elector
38 Cylindrical
40 Great artery
41 Inferno
42 Tramp
43 Prayers
44 Cape
46 Within (prefix)
47 Paradise
48 Remove
50 Writing tool

Answer to Previous Puzzle



EDSON IN WASHINGTON

Mexican Relations With U.S. Strained

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Glowing accounts of United States-Mexican friendship brought back to Washington by congressional delegates to the first Inter-Parliamentary Conference of the two countries in Guadalajara do not jibe with other reports and signs that good neighborly relations are growing worse.

This hands - across - the - border meeting of legislators had the blessing of Mexico's President Adolfo Lopez Mateos, an old friend of Vice President Lyndon Johnson.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana was chairman of the U.S. delegation of 11 senators and 11 representatives — and their wives. They were flown down in two Military Air Transport Service planes. The Mexicans turned on the fiesta hospitality and charm as only they can do. And they won over the Americanos del Norte completemente.

The State Department boys were kept out of it. The congressmen brought back a large silver tray for President Kennedy. On the surface, everything turned up roses and muy simpatico.

Under the surface, the story is different. A latent but mounting anti-U.S. feeling is reported.

United States citizens who have been living in Mexico, retired or working, have been feeling the pressure. They have been subjected to more official red tape restrictions and annoyances.

Some of the noisier tourists haven't helped the lot of the more permanent foreign residents. But the general atmosphere is that even the "good" Americans aren't as welcome as they used to be and a lot of them have returned to the States.

The tourist business itself still thrives. Mexico nets a million dollars a day — the gross is over ten times that — and this is a principal source of foreign exchange.

Inauguration of Eastern Air Lines jet service and an exchange service with Mexican Airlines brings Mexico City within four hours of New York. So this business is still booming as well as auto traffic from the Texas and California borders.

The Mexicans know that their economic future is tied to the United States in this way and others, but they resent it. Mexico likes to show that it is a sovereign state. Mexicans frequently refuse to support U.S. foreign policy moves, just to show that they are independent and not apron-strung.

A showdown on this may come early in March when a "Latin - American Conference for National Sovereignty, Economic Emancipation and Peace" is convened in Mexico City for four days.

The program emphasis is on liberation of Latin America from colonial dependence on the United States. The Cuban situation is one of the principal topics to be discussed.

Gen. Lazaro Cardenas, Mexican president from 1934 to 1940 and founder of the dominant Partido Revolucionario Institutional (PRI), will preside over the conference. He is still regarded as one of Mexico's most influential leaders. He has been highly critical of Lopez Mateos and his administration for having too moderate a program.

Lopez Mateos has not commented on the coming Latin - American peace conference. But his administration has given the United States plenty of cause for concern by refusing to purge known Communists from the Mexican foreign office.

The Cuban Embassy in Mexico City has been allowed to become a headquarters for Communist operations in Central and Latin America in direct liaison with the Russian Embassy. Mexico's own two Communist parties are, however, small and weak.

On the other hand, Lopez Mateos has been under growing rightist pressure from Catholics, large land owners and the aristocratic families. But they lack strong leadership.

The Lopez Mateos administration has tried to satisfy both rightist and leftist pressures. The president has declared his administration is "extreme leftist within the Mexican Constitution." Electric power and motion picture distribution industries were nationalized last year. But small mine owners and small businessmen have been assured that private enterprise would not be interfered with in some spheres.

Members of the Mexican congress have not been so neutral or objective. Many of them have expressed complete solidarity with the Cuban people under the Castro revolution. Some have indicated they will take part in the peace conference.

This is an entirely different bill of goods from that bought by the American congressional delegation which came back reporting that relations with Mexico couldn't be better.

THE DOCTOR SAYS . . .

Knowing Polio ABCs Helps Guard Family

By HAROLD T. HYMAN, M.D.
Written for NEA

Infantile paralysis is a much misunderstood infectious disease.

—Its infectivity is not limited to infants who enjoy, as a matter of fact, an almost complete natural immunity for about the first year of life.

—It rarely causes paralysis. At least 95 per cent of infections consist entirely of what are called "inapparent infections." That is to say, they pass as summer colds, "summer diarrheas," ptomaine poisonings or mild grippe attacks.

—The infection is not airborne, hence it cannot be prevented by shutting schools, playgrounds, theaters and public meeting places in times of epidemic.

It is stool-borne, excreted with bowel movements of those suffering inapparent infections as well as paralyzed patients and convalescents.

Since sufferers from inapparent infection outnumber the paralyzed by perhaps 20 to 1, they constitute the principal reservoir of infection. And the menace, created by them, can best be eliminated by the simple device of scrubbing hands after a visit to the toilet and again before handling food.

—On those infrequent occasions when paralysis does occur, it rarely involves the breathing mechanism despite publicity given the "iron lung." Probably no more than one in a thousand of the afflicted requires the help of artificial means for respiration.

—Of the paralyzed, the preponderant majority make a sufficiently complete recovery so that they suffer little functional disability during the remainder of their lives. Rehabilitation therapy goes a long way toward reducing these handicaps to an absolute minimum. But the great miracles are accomplished by the healing processes of nature.

Here are some of the lessons to be learned from these truths:

—Irrespective of age, take your Salk shots this spring so that you are fully protected by the summer months when polio rates reach their peak.

—If you are pregnant or you have a child who has had tonsils removed ask for booster shots since respiratory involvement is highest in the pregnant and those who have had tonsils out.

—If you or your children come down with any summer fever, especially if there is polio in your vicinity, call your doctor and specifically ask if the infection could be an inapparent polio. For, if it is, the sick person, with or without paralysis, may be a menace to others.

—If you have the misfortune to have a paralytic patient in your household, ask your doctor to make immediate contact with the nearest regional office of the National Foundation. Your voluntary contribution to the March of Dimes entitles you to use facilities that will insure the best opportunity for complete recovery.

For a copy of Dr. Hyman's leaflet "How to Choose Your Family Doctor," send 10 cents to Dr. Hyman, care Herald and News, Box 489, Dept. B, Radio City Station, New York 19, N.Y.

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Friday, March 3, the 62nd day of the year with 303 more in 1961.

The moon is approaching its last quarter.

The morning stars are Jupiter and Saturn.

The evening stars are Venus and Mars.

On this day in history:

In 1837, Congress increased the membership of the U.S. Supreme Court from seven to nine justices.

In 1845, Florida became the 27th state.

In 1847, Alexander Graham Bell, chief inventor of the telephone, was born.

In 1849, an act of Congress created the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In 1871, Congress authorized the Civil Service Commission.