

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS Truman Pushes Unification of Armed Forces; U.S. Moves for Active Participation in UNO

Revised by Western Newspaper Union. Editor's Note: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of its newspaper.



Composed of war widows and children and men needed to care for their families in Japan, first batch of Nipponese repatriates are shown aboard small steamer leaving Shanghai. In all, some 300,000 Japanese, including troops, will be evacuated from the greater Shanghai area.

SERVICE MERGER: On Way

With President Truman throwing his full weight behind a merger of the fighting services, early congressional action on unification of the army, navy and air forces was foreseen.

Meanwhile, rougher sailing loomed on the chief executive's proposal for compulsory military training for youths 18 to 20 years of age to build up an experienced reserve adequate to meet future emergencies.

In casting his lot for the merger of the armed forces after strenuous naval objections to unification, Mr. Truman called for a single department of national defense under a civilian head, with assistants for the various branches, and a military chief of staff, with commanders from the three services. The military leaders would join with the President in an advisory council.

Maximum efficiency would result from unification, the President declared, because close co-ordination would acquaint each branch of the armed forces with the capabilities and limitations of the others, and economy would be achieved by eliminating a duplication of effort and supply.

FARM BUREAU: Discuss Parity

Despite imperfections in the present parity formula, American farmers were urged to retain the system by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson addressing the annual convention of the Farm Bureau in Chicago, Ill.

Referring specifically to the government program for price support at 90 per cent of 1910-14 base, Anderson said varying conditions for different crops might lead to promote maximum production. Even with milk at 109 per cent of parity at the 1910-14 base, output is below requirements, he said, while eggs at 90 per cent might lead to plentiful production.

Declaring that the parity formula should be based upon the 10 years preceding the present program rather than on the 1910-14 level, Edward A. O'Neal, farm bureau president, called for all agricultural groups to unite on an over-all plan rather than insist on separate plans for each commodity.

Pointing up the need for additional rural health and education facilities, Senator Hill (Dem., Ala.) said that with millions of farm dollars ending up as profits in industrial districts after consumer purchases, only federal taxation and expenditures for social service could assure the return of some of the money back to agricultural areas for public purposes.

UNO: U. S. In

With house passage of enabling legislation, congress joined in making the U. S. a full-fledged member of the United Nations organization, conceived out of the willer of war to preserve future peace by cooperative action and prevent the destruction of modern conflict.

TELEVISION: Charge Restriction

Accusing Sophony, Ltd., of Great Britain, and Television Enterprises, Inc. and General Precision Equipment Corporation of America of retarding development of television in the U. S. through a cartel agreement dividing markets between Europe and the western hemisphere, the government filed anti-trust charges in New York City.

In stating that the companies had agreed to stay out of competing areas, the government declared that the American firms had obtained exclusive rights to an advanced television set controlled by Sophony, but had done nothing to either develop and exploit the apparatus here or promote its sale and use.

Employing an independent light along the principle of the motion picture projector, the British product is capable of transmitting images 20 by 24 inches on home sets, 3 by 4 feet on school and club sets and 12 by 15 feet on theater screens, the government said. In contrast, American sets are limited to reproductions of 4 by 6 inches and 6 by 8 inches.

JAPAN: Tells Secret

In guarded memoirs left after his suicide to prevent arrest as a war criminal, former Jap Premier Prince Konoye left some glimpses of the behind-the-scenes maneuvering that marked his country's diplomacy before the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

One of the top disclosures was Konoye's report on the evolution of a peace plan covering the Far East after unofficial negotiations in which former Postmaster General Walker and Bishop Walsh of the Catholic Maryknoll missionaries figured with government knowledge. Sabotaged by Ultra-Nationalist Japanese officials, the plan called for Jap withdrawal from China, restriction of immigration thereto, and co-operation in the restoration of the open-door trade policy. In return, the U. S. was to recognize Manchuria.

In another revelation, Konoye reported Russia's tentative agreement to join the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis in 1940 under inclusion of Iran and India in her sphere of influence. No concrete alliance developed, however, because of the failure of the Nazis and Reds to work out details, and the whole plan collapsed with Germany's drive to the East in 1941.

LABOR: Talk Turkey

With early maneuverings for position jolted by President Truman's request for fact-finding anti-strike machinery to speed settlement of labor disputes, the CIO United Automobile Workers and major producers entered into discussions of principal issues, with Ford continuing to steal the show.

With the UAW's Ford division having provided the first real break in the deadlock with agreement to penalize wildcat strikers hindering output, the company took one step closer toward agreement by proposing a 15-cent an hour wage increase. Despite Ford's alteration of the union's security plan and the UAW's rejection of the company's wage offer, the two propositions provided a meeting ground for a settlement somewhere between.

Meanwhile, the Sinclair-United Oil Workers (CIO) pact providing for an 18 per cent wage raise and union insurance against wildcat striking loomed as the model contract for all of industry. In arriving at a settlement, H. F. Sinclair declared that the two parties agreed that voluntary solution of disputes was preferable to government intervention, such as proposed by Mr. Truman.

SHIP SINKING: Convict Skipper

Accused on a charge of inefficiency in the sinking of the cruiser Indianapolis in the Pacific last July with a loss of 880 lives, Capt. Charles B. McVay was found guilty of negligence in the operation of the ship, with sentence subject to review of the secretary of the navy.

Clearance on the charge of inefficiency for not issuing timely orders to leave the vessel after it was struck by a torpedo followed McVay's testimony that he had at first believed the ship could be saved but then called for its abandonment when convinced of the real extent of damage. Shortly after, the Indianapolis capsized, taking a heavy toll of life.

In being convicted on the negligence charge, McVay was accused of failing to order a zig-zag course during the trip from Guam to Leyte and thus divert the aiming of a U-boat. In defense, McVay contended that poor visibility and lack of moon that night governed his decision not to take on a diversionary course.

LUFTWAFFE RECORDS:

A 250-ton documentary record of the German air force which will tell the American people more about the Luftwaffe than the Germans themselves know, has been housed at Wright Field, Ohio.

In disclosing possession of the records, the army presumed possession of a detailed report on German research would save the government a great deal of time and money by eliminating duplication of experimentation in those fields in which the Germans had surpassed us.

Washington Digest President Maintains New Deal Policies

Year-End Check Shows Some Change of Faces but Not of Any Principles; FDR Intimates Remain in High Posts.

By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Sufficient time has elapsed since President Truman went into the White House to warrant a year-end inventory of his reconstituted federal setup, and the result adds up to many changes in personalities, but little switch of fundamental policies.

In its numerical aspect, the changes wrought by the President suggest more of a shakeup than actually has taken place, for there still are many intimates of FDR in high positions, some of them promoted by Mr. Truman.

James F. Byrnes, secretary of state and top man in the Truman cabinet, was lifted out of the relative obscurity of a "career senator" from the southland by Mr. Roosevelt. He came within reach of his present eminence under the guidance of the late President, who appointed him to the United States Supreme court, made him war mobilization and economic stabilizer, and took him to international conferences which built him to the point where he was a "natural" for the state postwar when Edward R. Stettin, Jr. was moved out by political party considerations. Byrnes was schooled in the Roosevelt ways and he continues along those paths.

Henry Morgenthau probably would have remained as secretary of treasury had the President who appointed him lived on. But while he was more a personal friend, he was less a political associate of Mr. Roosevelt than was Fred Vinson, the present secretary. And again, it was FDR who brought Vinson to the forefront—made him a federal judge, then look him into the White House to share Byrnes' multiple functions and burdens. He had little more than passing acquaintance with Truman, and his present post was a promotion for a "Roosevelt man."

Robert E. Hannagan, postmaster general, was slated for that office before Mr. Roosevelt passed away. It is political custom to award that plum to the winning party's national committee chairman, whether the Democrats or the Republicans win.

Robert Patterson, secretary of war, came in during the Roosevelt administration as assistant to Henry L. Stimson, creating a team of Republicans in the top spots of the department. He was advanced by President Truman when Mr. Stimson retired, although there were strong representations made to the White House on behalf of other candidates, practically all of them Democrats.

Original Roosevelt cabinet member, named by Truman, are James V. Forrestal in navy, Henry A. Wallace in commerce, and Harold L. Ickes in interior.

Anderson Took Off 'Heat' on Food

Clinton P. Anderson, the secretary of agriculture, won White House eteree during Roosevelt days by taking the heat of the administration with a food investigation. Labor Secretary Lewis B. Schwellenbach has been described as "more New Deal than Roosevelt."

Continuing, it was President Roosevelt who brought Tom C. Clark, the present attorney general, into government service, placing him in line for the advancement which Mr. Truman gave him. Paul V. McNutt, who left recently to become chief commissioner in the Philippine islands, was originally a Roosevelt appointee.

Even in the intimate surroundings of the White House will be found several "hold-overs," notably scholarly William D. Hassett, a presidential secretary whose typewriter has turned out many of the lyrical speeches delivered by the late President, and whose skills can be detected by Washington newsmen in Mr. Truman's more formal addresses.

J. A. Krug remained at the head of the War Production board until it went out of existence, although the new President was often critical of WPB when he was presiding over the senate committee which bore his name.

Almost every move made by Mr. Truman in organizing his official family had underlying it a record of Roosevelt association. There has been only one notable discernible

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BARBS... by Baukhage

The British tried paying a head bounty for every rat killed in rat-ridden Hong Kong. They gave it to... the enterprising Chinese started rat breeding farms to make more money.

The Japanese women's federation suggests that every Japanese woman give up her kimono to raise funds for food imports. Strip for warmth!

RESEARCH CREATES MANY JOBS

Scientific research, upon which America's industrial strength is based in great part, has since 1880 created 15 major industries and given jobs to 15,000,000 workers. Private industry is expected to double its prewar outlay for research, looking forward toward greater productivity, more jobs, and better goods at less cost, which reached a total expenditure of \$234,000,000 in 1940. Prices of industrial raw materi-



The Home Town Reporter in WASHINGTON By Walter Sheard WNU Correspondent

Future of Farm Loan Agencies in Doubt

FARM leaders here, governmental and private, are split wide open over the question of whether or not farm credit agencies should be combined under one head within the department of agriculture, or separated from the department and operated as an independent agency.

On the one hand, there is the Farm Bureau federation, the National Council of Farm Co-operatives and the National Grange who are backing the bill introduced by Con. John W. Flannagan Jr., (D., Va.) which would separate the farm credit agencies from the department of agriculture and place them under the jurisdiction of a bi-partisan board of 6 named by the President, of which the secretary of agriculture would be an ex-officio member.

On the other hand, the progressive National Farmers union, the secretary of agriculture and a group of farm-minded congressmen are seeking to retain the farm credit agencies within the department of agriculture under direct control of the secretary, but with the appointment of an advisory board and an assistant secretary of agriculture, who would be the executive administrator of the agencies.

And aside from these two schools of thought, there is another group headed by Rep. Harold Cooley, (D., N. C.) and Reid F. Murray, (R., Wis.) who are seeking to set up an entirely new corporation to be known as the Farmers' Home corporation, which would operate upon a plan similar to the Federal Housing administration insofar as farm loans are concerned and which would assume many of the functions of the existing farm loan agencies, within the D. of A.

Struggle for Control

Thus, there is a three-way fight for control of the multi-billion-dollar farm lending agencies, which since their inception in May, 1933, have made various types of farm loans through June 30, 1945, totaling \$16,868,539,301 under the head of the Farm Credit administration, and an additional billion dollars under the Farm Security administration.

The various lending agencies, which have been established under the Farm Credit administration governmentship, include the Federal Land banks, the Production Credit corporation, the Federal Intermediate Credit banks, the Federal Farm Mortgage corporation, the 13 Banks for Co-operatives, Emergency Crop and Feed loans and the Regional Agricultural Credit corporation, all of which, as of June 30, 1945 had loans outstanding amounting to \$2,246,628,252.

The National Council of Farm Co-operatives and the Farm Bureau federation believe the Farm Credit agencies should be set up on an independent basis much the same as the Federal Reserve system, and should co-ordinate the different fields of farm credit loans to eliminate gaps and duplications, operating within the framework of the national governmental policy, under the jurisdiction of a bi-partisan board of six to seven members.

Combine FSA With FCA

Sec. of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson believes the Farm Security administration should be combined with the FCA, but by retaining all agencies within the department of agriculture. He believes that farm loans are inter-related with all the other functions of the department, and that persons who have a voice in making credit available to farmers should have a voice in the formulation of other farm programs to make a maximum contribution to the welfare of the farmer.

"Because of the prevailing view that agencies of the federal government should be grouped under cabinet officers responsible directly to the president," Mr. Anderson said, "I believe that for the long run, the question is not whether the farm credit and the farm security programs should be set up within an independent agency of the federal government. To me, the question rather seems to be whether it is more appropriate for these agencies to be in the Department of agriculture, or in some other executive department of government. Since these are farmers' programs, it seems obvious to me that they belong in that department which is engaged primarily with the problems of the farmers."

This writer believes that since Mr. Flannagan is chairman of the house agricultural committee and his measure has been reported out for passage, it is likely it will stand a good chance to pass the house in spite of the opposition of the agricultural secretary. Whether it will get by the senate, however, is another question. The Farmers union believes the Flannagan bill will definitely kill the FSA and they are standing alongside the secretary in the fight to keep the credit agencies within the department of agriculture.



LT. COL. GEORGE SPENCER ROBERTS

MRS. FAITH JEFFERSON JONES, DEAN OF WOMEN AT HAMPTON UNIVERSITY, BEGAN HER CAREER AS AN APPRENTICE CASE WORKER WITH THE UNITED CHARITIES OF CHICAGO AND LATER BECAME DISTRICT SUPERVISOR. SHE HOLDS A MASTERS DEGREE IN SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION FROM U OF CHICAGO.

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