SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS
of Main Street and the World

Truman's State of Union Speech Termed Friendly, Conciliatory

STATE OF THE UNION—Was it a wiser or politically minded President who delivered the state of the union message to the second session of the 82nd congress? Was his conciliatory and friendly mood dictated by the fact that 1952 is an election year, or was it an effort to consolidate the majority behind the defense program and the nation's foreign policy? These questions have been in the minds of every American since the President's speech.

For the first time in five years, President Truman, who is beginning to show the strain of his years as chief executive, did not go all-out for welfare-state legislation. He made it clear, however, that he was not abandoning any of the things he has advocated since 1946. Rather, he would have the country concentrate its full efforts to defense and keeping economically sound.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

In this respect he said the stabilization law was shot full of holes at the last session and "it will be one of the main tasks before congress to repair the damage and enact a strong anti-inflation law". As for defense, he warned that the situation in Korea remains dangerous and that "the Soviet Union is increasing its armed might." The world still walks in the shadow of another world war, he said.

But his approach to taxation, compulsory health insurance, civil rights, and other controversial issues was so amiable that it left many Republican critics speechless. In fact, Republicans, who obviously were all set for a field day of criticism, found little about which [illegible]onstrate.

[illegible] main criticism, when it was all over, was the charge that the [illegible] was just a rehash of past messages. Generally, Democrats [illegible] the message. But from the oppos[illegible]n came such statements as: [illegible]roken record . . ." "The President's speech could be charac[illegible]ws: spend more, waste more, socialize more, give more [illegible] more, talk more, and blame the other fellow for all the [illegible]d States and the world."

[illegible] stubborn fight of the Truman of old was so obviously [illegible] seemed almost apathetic to many home towners who [illegible]ress.

[illegible]ON—Production of civilian goods for the second quarter [illegible]n cut back sharply. Defense Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson [illegible]e government has ordered home building slashed by 23 [illegible] the months of April, May and June. Automobile output [illegible]by 7 per cent and other consumer goods using scarce mate[illegible]immed 10 per cent.

[illegible]e general picture for the second quarter:

[illegible]on—Home building, now at a rate of 850,000 a year, will [illegible] rate of 660,000. Only factories vitally needed for defense [illegible] be built, and little material will be available for office [illegible]es, and other commercial construction.

[illegible]e industry will get enough copper and aluminum to mak[illegible] and enough steel to make 900,000.

[illegible] Goods—Most consumer goods, including refrigera[illegible] stoves, washing machines, television sets, and radios, will be [illegible] about 10 per cent from the first quarter.

Railroad Equipment—Freight car production will be redu[illegible] 14 per cent below the 20,000-car output for the first quarter.

Roads—Only the most urgent road building will be per[illegible]

Ships—Allotments to the Maritime Administration will [illegible]

TAX EVADERS—The Treasury department has launched [illegible] that should receive wide approval of the average home to[illegible]. The Treasury will no longer let tax evaders escape criminal p[illegible]cution if they voluntarily confess their fraud and pay up.

The department also took steps to speed up its prosecution of [illegible] evaders, including: (1) Reducing the number of conferences with tax payers about their cases, although taxpayers still will be heard when necessary to develop actual facts; (2) The only persons who can represent taxpayers in these conferences must have duly certified powers of attorney to speak for the taxpayer.

The new policies are expected to reduce the lag in prosecution from an average of 292 days to about 100, it was estimated by the Treasury department.

PEACE TALKS—The Korean peace talks remain deadlocked over the question of whether or not the Communists be allowed to build airfields in North Korea during an armistice. The Reds insist that any ban on rehabilitation of combat airfields would infringe on North Korean sovereignty by interfering in internal affairs. On the other hand, the United Nations says it will not make a peace that gives the Commun[illegible] the right to build up military forces and installations for further agg[illegible]

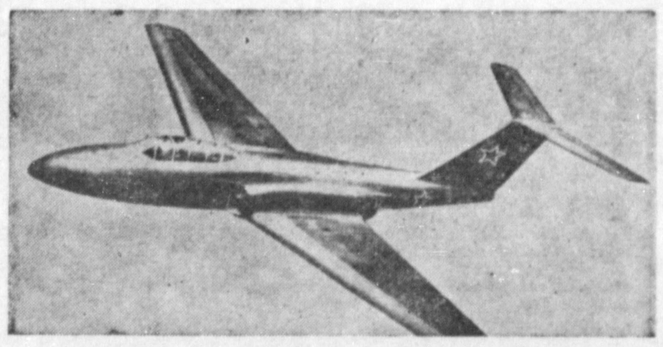
[illegible]me, Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of S[illegible] is hopeful for a workable truce in Korea, but there is [illegible]on't pay—appeasement.

[illegible]President Truman's long awaited plan to clean up graft [illegible] under way, although it drew considerable fire from Re[illegible]

The President dropped his plan for a special commission and handed the job to Attorney General McGrath. Republicans immediately began their criticism. The general charge was that "a whitewash is coming".

The President did not indicate how extensive the clean-up measures will go. A number of administration leaders are known to want action which would remove the corruption in government issue as far as possible from the approaching presidential election campaign.

Truman first asked Federal Judge Thomas F. Murphy of New York to head a cleanup commission. Murphy withdrew before his appointment could be announced officially. What caused him to change his mind has not been made public.



One of Russia's newest twin jet planes is depicted in this drawing, released by Aviation Age. The trade and technical magazine said it was either a twin jet fighter, night fighter, or ground attack aircraft, recently developed by the Red air force. Its exact designation is not known.

THE NATION'S SCHOOLS

Rearming Brakes U.S. School Gains

The nation's schools are again facing a serious crisis, brought on by four major factors: increased enrollments, inflationary costs, lack of building materials and an acute teacher shortage.

Educators, however, contend that the nation's economy is strong enough to support the defense program and the schools. And they insist that schools are the first line of our defense.

A recent survey revealed that 3,500,000 elementary and high school children—one out of eight pupils in the public schools—are suffering an impaired education because of inadequate facilities.

An estimated 400,000 boys and girls are not getting a full school day—some are attending school on triple-session schedules.

THE WASHINGTON Merry-Go-Round
BY...DREW PEARSON

U.S. Isolation

MOST disturbing development in the U.S.A. to members of the Churchill party has been the growth of isolationism in certain sections. British observers who see the United States during periodic visits may have an advantage in diagnosing popular changes between those visits. At any rate they compare public sentiment today to that just before Pearl Harbor when the United States also was torn between isolation and international participation.

This, incidentally, appears to be borne out by the Washington Merry-Go-Round poll of Republican candidates. At the start of this poll, Taft chalked up his greatest strength in the traditionally isolationist midwest; Eisenhower his greatest strength in New England, the South and the Pacific Coast.

The poll, which is still continuing, also continues to show Taft strong in these areas. In fact, the voting runs almost constant in regard to Taft strength in the midwest, Eisenhower strength in other areas.

RFC Chairman

Harry McDonald, to be the first Republican head of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in 19 years of Democratic rule, can be counted on to carry on the forthright policies of Stuart Symington.

As head of the securities and exchange commission, McDonald vigorously advised GOP members of the RFC not to O.K. the controversial Texmass loan, warned them that his SEC had not given Texmass a clean bill of health.

McDonald, who believes the public is entitled to know all the facts about big financial deals, used to run a Detroit dairy, was supreme potentate of the Michigan Shrine, got to know Truman because they are fellow shriners, and took a mild shine to [illegible] when she visited [illegible] is a bache[illegible]

[illegible] more [illegible] conventiona[illegible] atomic shells [illegible]nies over-night [illegible]

[illegible] of the re[illegible] that ani[illegible] shelters [illegible]ry and [illegible] fighter [illegible] observ[illegible]nes or be[illegible] could with[illegible]rald. Thus, in [illegible], atomic artillery [illegible] no more effective against [illegible] than heavy artillery now in use.

This means that the atomic bomb could not stop the Chinese Communists in Korea. By holing up in caves or lying low behind rocks and ridges, they could take terrific atomic punishment.

Shell for shell, however, atomic artillery would pack 100 times the wallop of TNT, would sweep clean any military targets sticking above ground.

The new A-bombs also would be most effective in retarding a Russian invasion of western Europe by bombing troop concentrations and transportation centers along the invasion route. Both B-29s and fighter-bombers are already being diverted from the Air Force's tactical and strategic commands for a special atomic air arm called retardation command.

Atomic raiding along the invasion route would be most effective against air bases. One atomic bomb could wipe out an air base, flatten parked planes, and level operations buildings.

Note—Our most powerful atomic bombs will probably be used to blast factories and military bases. It has been computed that one such bomb packs more explosive power than all the ordinary bombs so far dropped in a year and a half of Korean fighting.

Washington Pipeline

Stanton Griffis is retiring as ambassador to Spain chiefly because of ulcers. Also he has written a book which Cass Canfield of Harper's is crazy about. It's the Griffis Memoirs, beginning with the days when he sold snake oil at country fairs . . . Colonel Benjamin Thurston, who says he helped organize Eisenhower's headquarters in Paris, has been making speeches in Maine critical of NATO waste.

Baja California Seeking Admission As Mexican State

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The northern part of Mexico's Baja (Lower) California has enjoyed a decade of phenomenal population growth and is now seeking promotion to statehood.

Mexico at present has 28 states and three territories. The latter are Baja California, South District; and Quintana Roo, on the Yucatan peninsula. Northern Baja California, whose capital is Mexicali in the rich Imperial Valley, would become the 11th state in area and the 27th in the population if admitted.

Under the Mexican constitution, elevation of a territory to statehood must be approved by the Congress. A bill to admit the northern part of the narrow, arid and mountainous peninsula that extends south from U.S. California has been sent to the national legislature by President Miguel Aleman.

The northern territory of the peninsula has an area a little larger than West Virginia. Its population in 1950 was 225,000, nearly triple that shown by the 1940 census, far outstripping gains made by any other area of Mexico.

The closest comparable increase was that of the Distrito Federal around Mexico City, the seat of government similar to the U.S. District of Columbia. Here the decade's population growth was about 67 per cent.

The proposed new state extends southward from the U.S. border to the 28th parallel, which cuts Baja California's 810-mile length approximately in half. It contains the border cities of Tijuana and Mexicali, as well as the resort center of Ensenada on the Pacific coast.

Much of the agriculture of Baja California is limited to irrigated regions in the North District, not only in the Imperial Valley, but also in the area of San Quintin Bay on the Pacific Coast, some 190 miles by road from the border.

Wife Helps Husband Trap To Augment Family Income

HALL'S LANDING, Ont.—One enterprising family is managing to defeat the high cost of living by trapping and hunting.

City life became too "expensive" five years ago for the family of Mrs. George McCluskey, so the family moved to Hall's Landing, 20 miles north of Peterborough, where Mrs. McCluskey augments the family income by helping her husband trap and hunt various kinds of [illegible]imals.

[illegible]n a selling trip to Peterbor[illegible] she brought 11 racoon [illegible] her first results, and all [illegible]d within three nights.

[illegible]ing the pelts, she learned, [illegible]gher than acquiring them. [illegible]r some difficulties, she man[illegible] to dispose of her first catch [illegible]11—a buck a pelt.

Heart Ceases to Beat 25 Minutes—Man Recovers

CHICAGO — The complete recovery of a man whose heart stopped beating for 25 minutes during an operation was reported in the December journal of the American Medical Association.

The patient, 63, was undergoing chest surgery when his color became very dark and his heart stopped beating, according to Dr. Max G. Carter, of the Boston City Hospital, Boston. Life was maintained by massaging the heart, injecting heart stimulants and applying artificial respiration.

Adequate flow of blood to the brain and heart was maintained, according to the report, by manual closing of the aorta beyond the point of exit of the left subclavian artery while the massaging was performed. The closing of his part of the main artery leaving the heart stopped the flow of blood to the lower portion of the body and forced it to the upper section and brain. In heart stoppage cases, the flow of blood to the brain is of utmost importance in order to prevent damage to the brain should the patient recover otherwise.

"The maintenance of massage at an adequate rate of around 50 to 60 contractions per minute was so fatiguing that the surgeon and the first assistant alternated for periods of five minutes each," the report said.

The patient recovered completely and was discharged 11 days after the operation, Dr. Carter stated. Subsequent examinations have shown him to be as mentally sound and alert as at the time of the operation.

Marine Mustaches In Korea Get Careful Attentions

WITH THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION IN KOREA — Marines in Korea sport the most luxurious mustaches this side of an early American melodrama. The apparent favorite is a bushy job with long, twisted points . . . the longer the better.

At first, the points presented a problem: What to use for a wax.

Early experiments found collodion, [illegible] sticks and axle grease [illegible] respects.

[illegible] problem [illegible] no more, and lucky Leathern[illegible]cks can twirl their prizes with th[illegible] best of old villians.

The final [illegible]wer—GI saddle soap.

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HERE is a nicely styled house dress for the slightly larger figure that's so neat and attractive. Easy to sew, too, and trimmed with colorful ric rac.

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It has a quieting effect on uterine contractions that often cause menstrual pain!

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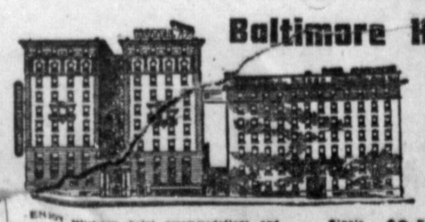

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