

August 18, 1946  
WSM

Good Morning, Friends:

The big question in Washington <sup>this morning</sup> ~~today~~ on the domestic front is what will the decontrol board do. For months and months Congress tried to make <sup>up</sup> its own mind about what to do with price control only <sup>finally</sup> to get at logger-heads with the President upon the ~~same~~ question. The President vetoed the bill which Congress sent to him and asked that Congress try again. Again Congress encountered great difficulty in deciding what to do. Finally, in desperation, ~~to reach~~ <sup>was reached</sup> a face-saving compromise which provided that ceiling <sup>as farm com</sup> should be automatically reapplied on August 20 unless a de-control board <sup>decided</sup> ~~acted~~ in the meantime <sup>That</sup> ~~ceilings~~ <sup>should not be re-applied and acted to</sup> forestall the application of ceiling prices. So, with this situation prevailing it could be expect<sup>ed</sup>, as August 20 approaches, <sup>that</sup> opposing interests would be prevailing upon the de-control board to take action satisfactory to those particular interests. For instance, <sup>of coal groups, Rep</sup> representatives of labor organizations have been asking the Board to allow rigid price ceilings to go into effect. They point out that price rises have more than nullified all of their gains <sup>in</sup> ~~and~~ wages and <sup>they</sup> threatened that unless price control <sup>on food</sup> ~~is~~ applied and made effective, another wave of strikes for <sup>higher</sup> ~~more~~ wages will ensue.

On the other hand, representatives of farm organizations



have appeared before the de-control board saying that meat and grain and dairy products should be left free of ceiling prices. They <sup>have said</sup> ~~are~~ that only now is the farmer receiving fair prices for his commodities and ~~they said~~ further that reapplication of ceilings will mean a return of the black markets. So, as August 20 approaches the big question is what will the de-control board do.

Congressional Investigating Committees usually get busy while Congress is out of session. The reason for this is that while Congress is in session the competition for headlines is too great. One of the prime purposes of most Congressional Investigating Committees is publicity for the Chairman of the Committee. For instance, I have noticed several stories out of Washington during the week that the Committee investigating disposal of government surplus goods, of which <sup>Rep</sup> ~~Dr.~~ Roger C.

Slaughter is Chairman, has become right active. Now one <sup>reason</sup> ~~purpose~~ why this Committee was created <sup>with the solid backing of all anti-Treasury sentiment in Congress</sup> was that Mr. Slaughter had introduced the resolution <sup>and</sup> Under the precedent, he would become Chairman of the Committee if it were created. <sup>and thereby be helped in his campaign.</sup>

I remember that it was said on the Floor and in the cloak rooms at the time/the passage of the resolution authorizing the investigation and creating the committee that unless the Committee were set up, Representative Slaughter would be



defeated in his bid for renomination to Congress in his home Missouri District. Well, the Committee was created but Mr. Slaughter did not get his Committee to work early enough ~~to be~~ to be of any help to him in his bid for renomination, ~~because~~ He met defeat at the hands of his constituency.

However, now that Congress is out of session and now that Mr. Slaughter's bid for reelection has been denied, we may look for considerable activity on the part of Mr. Slaughter and his Committee and the chances are very good that most of the investigation and the findings will be critical of the Administration. After all, one cannot erase the human equation. Representative Slaughter was opposed by President Truman and has been at logger-heads with ~~his~~ *Mr. Dean* leadership in Congress for many months. Now that he is going out of public life, it would be contrary to custom for the lamb to lie down with the lion.



WASHINGTON--THE BIGGEST ITEMS IN PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S ECONOMY DRIVE HAVE YET TO BECOME REALITIES. THEY ARE THE PROPOSED CUTS OF MORE THAN ONE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS IN ARMY AND NAVY FUNDS. THE ARMED FORCES STILL ARE CONSIDERING MR. TRUMAN'S REQUEST THAT THEY TRIM THEIR BUDGETS.

THE NAVY EXPECTS TO REVEAL NEXT WEEK WHETHER IT CAN REDUCE ITS EXPENDITURES BY SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS, AS THE PRESIDENT DESIRES. THE ARMY ALREADY HAS AGREED TO A MORATORIUM ON ITS CIVILIAN WORK PROJECTS, WHICH WILL SAVE THE TAXPAYERS 124-MILLION DOLLARS. BUT THE WAR DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET MADE UP ITS MIND ON THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR A SLASH OF ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN EXPENDITURES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

EARLY THIS MONTH MR. TRUMAN PREDICTED THAT THE DEFICIT FOR 1947 COULD BE REDUCED TO LESS THAN TWO BILLION DOLLARS. HE ASKED EIGHT FEDERAL AGENCIES TO REDUCE THEIR SPENDING IN LINE WITH THAT GOAL, AND MOST OF THEM HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY CAN DO IT.



(TRUMAN)

*is today*  
PRESIDENT TRUMAN ~~ENT~~ OUT TO SEA TONIGHT AFTER VOYAGING THROUGH  
*for a*  
INLAND WATERS DURING THE FIRST 24 HOURS OF HIS PROLONGED VACATION.  
*His ship the*  
THE WILLIAMSBURG SLIPPED FROM DELAWARE BAY INTO THE ATLANTIC ~~EARLY~~ *last*  
*night*  
TONIGHT AND HEADED FOR THE BLOCK-ISLAND-NARRAGANSETT BAY AREA. *the de. l. t. t.*  
*the press needs to know a good rest*  
ACCORDING TO PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY CHARLES ROSS, THE TRIP HAS DONE  
*He is the kind of whale sailed full out that will*  
MR. TRUMAN A LOT OF GOOD ALREADY -- AND HE'S ENJOYING EVERY MINUTE OF  
IT, ~~EVEN IF HE DID OVERSLEEP THIS MORNING. THE PRESIDENT WASN'T~~  
~~UP ON DECK TODAY UNTIL THE UNUSUALLY LATE HOUR -- FOR HIM -- OF~~  
~~SEVEN A.M. MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF WERE STILL SLEEPING -- BUT MR.~~  
~~TRUMAN HAD MOST OF THEM UP FOR BREAKFAST BY EIGHT O'CLOCK.~~

LATER IN THE DAY, MR. TRUMAN THUMBED THROUGH A COUPLE OF  
BIOGRAPHIES -- ONE ABOUT GROVER CLEVELAND, AND ANOTHER ABOUT  
ANDREW JACKSON. AND THE RULE OF THE TRIP STILL HOLDS -- NO  
CEREMONIES, NO SPEECHES, NO PERSONAL APPEARANCES.

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