

WSM
May 15, 1949

Good morning friends.

Now that the 81st Congress has been in session four and a half months it might be well to take stock - take stock of ^{what} some people expected it to do and what it has done and what it has not done as well as some of the reasons therefor.

In the campaign last fall, President ~~Harry~~ Truman ~~ran against the 80th Congress and won~~ what many regard as a miraculous victory. Overcoming first a reluctant nominating convention of his own party, ^{candidate and the} He then proceeded to defeat the Republican 80th Congress, the traditionally indispensable extreme southern wing of his own party as well as the left wing fringe following of Henry Wallace. ~~So~~ It was a famous victory. Therefore, it was with some reason that the President as well as many other people thought Mr. Truman and the Congress had a clear mandate from the people and that ~~as a representative of the~~ ~~people elected by the people on a party ~~camp~~ platform the President~~ and the Congress would proceed to rapid effectuation of ~~his~~ the program.

Congress convened, President Truman was inaugurated and presented his program but after ^{4 1/2} ~~three~~ months had ~~passed not much else had~~ happened except that the President had threatened Congress with another ~~whistle stop barnstorming of the country and had taken a vacation.~~

Mandate ?

~~True,~~ ^The President is a representative of the people but the President is only one of the people's representatives. There are in this great country of ours various regional and economic interest. Forty eight different states with their individual representation in the Senate, 435 Congressional districts with their direct representatives in the House of Representatives. In addition there were other factors - a party in power split by internal division - the unclear nature of the so-called mandate and also many local and personal political situations. There there is the historical conflict between the President and the Congress. Historically Congress has complained that the President ~~encroaches~~ encroaches upon its powers and just as historically Presidents have complained that Congress does not do what the people want.

^{For} It is clear now that the 81st Congress does not consider itself bound by President Truman's interpretation of the so-called mandate.

Unless the present Congress greatly increases its tempo the session will end or the year will end with a great many of the important programs on its agenda unfinished or not even considered.

This is not to say that Congress has not been busy. Indeed, considerable progress has been made.

I have with me this morning two of my closest friends and I think two of the most agile minds and dependable characters in Congress, ~~Representatives~~ Representatives Mike Monroney of Oklahoma ~~and~~ and Brook Hays of Arkansas. I am going to ask them to express their opinions of the subject which I have just introduced.