

THE LIMA NEWS

L. S. GALVIN
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Biggest Shopping Spree

THERE has never been anything like it. This Christmas shopping season is so big that all previous splurges now seem like Dollar Day in Economy, Mo.

It began the day after Thanksgiving. Cleveland on that sunny Friday, for example, had the biggest day's business in her history.

It kept right on thru the coal strike, when the nation's industrial plant just about closed shop and most people were gravely worried about the economy of the nation and their own financial prospects.

In New York City the combination of the coal strike and railroad embargo failed to hinder the buying. Department stores sales the final week of the strike were up 30 per cent over the comparable week of 1945.

Now, with more people working than striking, we may reasonably expect, come Jan. 1, 1947, that the broken arches and busted pocketbooks if laid alternately end to end would reach from Kennebunkport to San Diego and over the hill to the poor-house.

What does it all mean, aside from the one sure fact that we are to witness the biggest—if not the best—Christmas yet?

Well, the experts who say we are certainly headed for a depression before long will testify that this record spending only hastens the day of reckoning. The others will say that the spending itself reaffirms the fact that almost everyone has money and will increase the chances for a long and prosperous life for the good times now prevailing.

WHAT IT MEANS

Taft Budget Cut Problem

By CLARKE BEACH
WASHINGTON (AP)—A large cut in the federal budget such as Senator Taft has proposed would not be a mere fiscal operation, annoying to government bureaucrats.

It would necessitate major changes in national policy regarding such vast programs as federal aids to agriculture, reclamation and development of public power. Congress itself would have to shoulder the responsibility.

The Ohio Republican leader advocates a federal budget between 25 and 30 billion—at least seven billion less than the budget which is reported President Truman will recommend for the coming fiscal year. Taft has not detailed how he would bring expenses down to his figure.

Purely administrative expenses of the government amount to only \$1.9 billion in the current fiscal year. This covers the payroll, office supplies, building rentals and upkeep, travel expenses, etc. A 20 per cent cut here would reduce the bill by only \$380 million.

Obviously enormous reductions must be made in other categories if seven billion is to be saved. The choice must be among those items, which comprise the Budget Bureau's breakdown of federal expenditures in the current year:

Table with 2 columns: Program Name, Amount. Includes Veterans' Program, Refunds on Taxes, Public Debt Interest, National Defense.

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Total \$41,000,000,000. Included in "national defense" is the cost of terminal leave pay for enlisted men, amounting to \$2,400,000,000.

The veterans' program, tax refunds and interest are considered by fiscal authorities as "uncontrollable" not subject to reduction. Nor could most of the expenditures under social security, such as unemployment relief and retirement allowances, be altered.

Budget pruning must be applied, therefore, to one or another of the programs administered by the various departments if substantial savings are to be made.

Since all of the departments' work is done by specific authorization of congress, it is congress which must decide which programs are to be eliminated.

A glance at the interior department budget shows that about half the total consists of construction projects such as extension of Bonneville power transmission lines and the billion-dollar reclamation program in California.

In the Agriculture department budget the chief items are agricultural research and the various crop adjustment activities, designed to aid the farmer to increase his income.

Congress could whittle on such activities as the forest service, which controls forest fires, maintains roads, etc.

In the Commerce department, congress would have to decide to curtail or eliminate such agencies as the Weather Bureau, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Bureau of Standards, the Census Bureau or the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

Some of the government's top administrators definitely oppose a blanket cut, reducing the budgets of all agencies on a flat percentage basis. This would have the effect of spreading their funds thin, they say, and reducing efficiency. They would prefer to see some of the agencies eliminated entirely.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14—(NEA)—When the new congress convenes and the time comes to protest the seating of Mississippi Senator-elect Theodore G. Bilbo, the senate will be in an unusual state of organization and will have to go thru an unusual parliamentary proceeding.

Each of the 36 senators elected last month will have to march up the aisle and be sworn in. Even the senators who were re-elected—like Bilbo—will have to be sworn in. From the moment the senate is called to order until they take the oath, these new and re-elected senators aren't senators.

They will be called to take the oath in alphabetical order. First man on the list is Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin of Connecticut. Second man is Bilbo.

At that particular moment, the only senators who can protest the seating of Bilbo and the only senators who can vote on the question will be the grand new Senator Baldwin and the 60 hold-over senators who did not have to run for re-election on the 5th of November.

Democratic Hold Balance
Of the members of the Senate War Investigating Committee who have been hot on Bilbo's trail, Senator Mead of New York won't be able to protest, because he wasn't a candidate for re-election. Senators Brewster of Maine and Kilgore of West Virginia won't be able to protest or vote, because they will not yet have been sworn in. Senator Ferguson of Michigan will be able to protest, because he is a holdover.

A quorum of the senate at this time will be not a majority of the full 96-member senate, but a majority of the 60 hold-over senators plus Senator Baldwin. The other 35 senators—34 and Bilbo—will be standing by.

Incidentally, the reason 36 senators were elected in November instead of the usual one-third of the senate, or 32 members, is that four had to be elected to fill the unexpired terms of senators who had died or resigned. But these four were elected on the political complexion of the 60 hold-overs, indicating an extremely close contest, if the vote to deny Bilbo his seat follows party lines.

George thought a moment, then smiled. "Because they're true. It's only my official opinion that's changed. My private opinion remains the same."

It does the ladies no good, by the way, to spank George via the U. S. mails for his views. Sanders, now busy starting with Lucille Ball in "Personal Column," said jocularly: "I never read my fan mail."

Had the British-rear star of the "Saint" and "Falcon" series decided that women were all right, after all?

A long pause. The long-faced actor, playing his role to the hilt but with evident sincerity, stared into his coffee.

"I have now reversed my opinion completely as a result of my present predicament," he said. But there's a catch to that, as you will shortly see.

I asked George how he got started hating women. He took a long, moody drag on his cigarette.

"In 'The Moon and Sixpence' I had a line—'Women are strange little beasts. You can beat them till you arm aches, but still they love you.'"

"In 'Dorian Gray' I said, 'Women inspire men to great deeds and then always prevent them from carrying them out.' In 'The Private Affairs of Bel Ami' I was at my saddest—I hit Angela Lansbury on the jaw."

"I had so many parts of that kind, they must have adulterated me."

Presently he was talking interviewers that "every woman has a price—she might as well wear the tag on her lapel." Time devoted to women's clubs "would be far better employed in a gymnasium."

"But now your opinion of women has changed?" I asked. "Yes."

"Are you sorry you said those uncomplimentary things?" "No."

"Then why did you say them?"

follows party lines. Thirty-two are Democrats and 28 are Republicans. Counting Senator Baldwin, the Republicans will number 29. A shift of two Democratic votes could unseat Bilbo, 31 to 30, since a simple majority decides the issue.

The political dopesters must then look over the list of 32 Democratic hold-overs to see if any might be inclined to vote against Bilbo, who would vote to let him take his seat.

Sixteen of the senators are conservative Southern Democrats who could be expected to vote to let Bilbo take the oath. Eight are what might be called Northern and Western conservative Democrats. How they would vote is anybody's guess.

Odds Against Bilbo
But the remaining eight are what used to be known as New Deal Senators, and they might be against Bilbo. Three are Southerners—Fulbright of Arkansas, Hill of Georgia and Pepper of Florida. The other five in the group are Murray of Montana, Downey of California, Lucas of Illinois, Taylor of Idaho and Wagner of New York. From this group, it looks on paper as if the anti-Bilbo forces could get enough votes to keep "The Man" out.

Of course, some Republicans might figure it would be smart politics to let Bilbo take his seat so as to embarrass the Democrats. That's a rather long shot, however, so the 29 Republicans may be counted on to vote solidly against Bilbo.

If the combined Republican and Democratic forces don't stop Bilbo at this particular parliamentary moment when senators step up to be sworn in, the chances of depriving him of his seat in the senate after later full-dress investigation will be much slimmer.

For after all the senators are sworn in, a two-thirds vote is required to oust a man from his seat. The full senate of 96 members will be divided 51 Republicans to 45 Democrats. Since it would take 67 votes to unseat Bilbo by a two-thirds majority, the Republicans would have to pick up at least 11 Democratic votes to turn the trick. And that might be tough.

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CAPITAL LETTER

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON (AP)—H. Newlin Megill, acting clerk of the house of representatives, is entertaining a "lively expectation" that he will keep his job after January despite the spoils system which allows a new congress to pick its own boys.

Megill, a youngish-looking man with wavy, sandy hair and curling lashes, says the fact that he is a Republican is not the reason for his confidence. He says he has no competition for the job.

Besides he has been on "the hill" for 26 years, most of the time in the clerk's office, and he knows the ropes. He worked for William Tyler Page, author of "The American Creed" and clerk until 1931. South T. Trimble, Jr., who succeeded Page, and died on Nov. 23, was his next boss.

It is Megill's job to prepare the roll of the representatives-elect of congress, based on certificates of election from their governors and secretaries of state. His desk, in a musty office off statutory hall in the Capitol-bldg, was piled chindieep with these when I went to see him.

After congress convenes in January Megill will prepare the official roll of membership and have it published. He will also preside over the house of representatives until the new speaker is elected and takes the oath of office.

It is also Megill's job to inform new members of congress their privileges, to disburse salaries and expenses of all house employees and to make all contracts for the house and its services.

He puts out from \$700,000 to \$800,000 a month and from \$9,000,000 to \$10,000,000 a year for salaries and other expenses.

Megill is busy these days taking orders for optimum supplies of 2,000 letter heads and envelopes from the representatives-elect. The members must first supply him with three samples of their signature.

The samples must not be longer than three inches, in black ink on plain white paper. They are for the purpose of producing an electrolyte for printing their franked envelopes.

Offices are being assigned to members in the old and new house office buildings. Older members get the preference, by their Republican or Democrat. Megill says a lot of members prefer the dignity of the old house building to the modern styling of the new.

Megill says he is absorbed in the processes involved in his job. "It's the kind of a job that keeps you right on your toes," he says.

HOUSING POINT SYSTEM
NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.—(INS)—Emergency housing for 100,000 alien veterans in New Brunswick, N. J., on a point system based on the Army's discharge formula, the National Association of Housing Officials reports. Points will be given on a graduated scale of 10 different classifications of hardship.

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Cleveland Orchestra Offers Popular Tchaikovsky Works

"One of Tchaikovsky's most popular works, the overture-fantasia, 'Romeo and Juliet,' a magnificent tonal narration of one of the greatest love stories of all time, will be the feature work to be heard on the Cleveland Symphony orchestra broadcast at 7 p. m. Saturday over MBS.

"Sherlock Holmes," played by Tom Conway, successes involved with a dowager duchess who is a kleptomaniac, during the broadcast at 9:30 p. m. over ABC. The Baker Street sleuth, in trying to unravel a series of mysterious episodes surrounding the duchess, is outwitted by her several times, before he solves the puzzle.

Judy Canova becomes a thorn in the side of the Rose Bowl judges when she enters her picture in the contest to select this year's Rose Bowl queen on the "Judy Canova" show at 10 p. m. over NBS.

One of the judges calls at Judy's home and says he has just received some late results in the voting. This develops into what may seem either overwhelming glory or defeat for Judy.

Harriet Van Orin, radio editor for the New York World-Telegram will join the panel of glamorous career girls, while comedian Maury Amsterdam takes up the cudgels for the male point of view

on "Leave It To The Girls" at 9:30 p. m. over MBS. Screen stars Myrna Loy and Don Ameche will reenact for radio their recent film success, "So Goes My Love," when they appear on "This Is Hollywood" at 10:15 p. m. over CBS. It's the story of a carefree young Brooklyn inventor who backs in the '90s and the girl he marries, who helps him gain fame and fortune.

SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
Ernest S. Peters, residing in Buffalo, New York, Box 702, is hereby notified that Maxine L. Peters has filed her petition against him for divorce, custody of minor child, property settlement, alimony and support, in Case No. 37293 of the Common Pleas Court of Allen County, Ohio, charging that said defendant with gross neglect of duty and extreme cruelty, and said defendant will take notice that said case will be for hearing on or after January 14th, 1947.

LEGAL NOTICE
In the Court of Common Pleas of Allen County, Ohio.
Richard W. Fisher, a minor, by Charles W. Fisher, his father and next friend, vs. Bonnie B. Fisher, Defendant.
George E. Bowers, father of Bonnie Jean Fisher, a minor, do hereby certify that the above address is 1154 Campbell Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, will take notice that said case will be for hearing on or after January 14th, 1947.

LEGAL NOTICE
In the Court of Common Pleas of Allen County, Ohio, the same being Case No. 12781, in which the plaintiff, George E. Bowers, do hereby certify that the above address is 1154 Campbell Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, will take notice that said case will be for hearing on or after January 14th, 1947.

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