

Jimison's Epitaph

For Tom Jimison's epitaph, we go to the last lines of his masterpiece, "Out of the Night of Morganton":

"For these days will continue to be gray,
The mornings will get up on muffled wings,
And the hours will shuffle by on leaden feet
The pale stars appear in the evening sky,
And men and men and men
Were born for a better fate will continue."

To breathe and sigh,
And live and die,
And pass to God—and then—
For all men die.

"But at Morganton hill don't make no difference they are patients."
That "hit" to make a difference, not only at Morganton, but at all other North Carolina mental institutions, is the tribute which the people of this state may pay to Tom Jimison. For his own part he claimed no such tribute. To the contrary, he passed off any attempt to praise him for what he had done, remarking facetiously how fortunate it was that "the Lord occasionally had us for weaker vessels like himself. But he knew that to him, as to few men, had been given at last a mission which he could not fail, and we who knew him knew that he had poured his whole soul into the work. We remembered a sentence along toward the end of his masterful, moving articles:

"My own stay at Morganton was not unhappy save as it was made so by the drab lives of those around me."
Indeed, Tom Jimison's stay in the world was not unhappy. They was in him a blithe spirit and an appetite for life which would not be downed, and he brought these things to the varied careers on which he embarked. The curious and astute one who had a thorough knowledge of the plain people from the hills where he came, and in use of the Carolina mountain vernacular, interspersed as it was with classic learning from the poet and the philosopher, was no peer.
He might well have become one of the great men of letters of our time, we suppose. For he poured out with the greatest ease copy of great, forcefulness and dramatic oratory. To the last, he was about the business of buckling down to write the story of his life, a document which would surely be of compelling interest. But, though we are prepared to learn that he never got around to that, he has superbly done articles on Morganton, having moved the people of a state into vigorous action to better the pitiful lives of our hospital patients, will long stand as a monument to his memory.

Byrnes At The Bar

In London today James Francis Byrnes of Spartanburg, S. C., enters upon a acid test of his mettle in meeting with foreign ministers of Russia, Britain, France and China to work out the details of peace to be imposed upon Germany, Italy and Japan. He will play a vital role in implementing the decisions made in Potsdam, Yalta and Moscow. And work to be done may be more important to the character of the peace-time world than that of the Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin conferences.

Mr. Byrnes follows an illustrious line of American statesmen in London. When Woodrow Wilson sailed for Paris in December, 1918, he said confidently that he was going in order to "lay his mind alongside" the minds of the statesmen of Europe. The result was not unsuccessful if one thinks of the sort of peace those European statesmen wanted. The outcome was hardly successful if one thinks of the sort of peace Wilson wanted.

In similarly laying his mind alongside the minds of European statesmen of our day, Secretary of State Byrnes will ever be remembering the great traditions upheld by our truly great Secretaries of State of the past. Some of these have been among the outstanding figures of their day, and six went on to become President—Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Van Buren, Buchanan.

There were also John Marshall, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, like Byrnes, from South Carolina; Daniel Webster, and in a later day John Hay, Charles

Statesmen At Work

(Certain factious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record)

DEEP RANDOLPH (W. Va.) Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I include in following letter I have today forwarded to the President and which suggests a possible policy in connection with the taxing of atomic energy developments.

Hon. Harry S. Truman, Sept. 5, 1945

President of the United States, Dept. of Commerce, Room 124, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President: I am glad to be able to express my views on the atomic bomb. I have today forwarded to the President and which suggests a possible policy in connection with the taxing of atomic energy developments.

Which to direct your attention to the following proposal which I placed today, by letter from before Chairman Donahue of the House Ways and Means Committee.

There is merit, I believe, in the adoption of the policy that any Federal taxes levied on industries arising from new scientific inventions should be directed to the payment of the national debt.

Consideration of such a tax policy at this time is important, since the develop-

Down The Middle

In our first assessment of President Truman's 21-point message to Congress we called it generally middle-of-the-road. There are, it appears, a good many who see it differently. Republicans, for instance, regard the message as clear evidence that Mr. Truman is bent on reviving the old, free-wheeling New Deal that disappeared when the war began. "The President has taken up where Mr. Roosevelt left off," said Representative Haddock of Indiana, chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee. Representative Allen, another Republican (Ill.), gloomily declared, "The President is going to the left, pretty far."

From the Republican point of view we suppose Mr. Truman's message might seem a little pinkish. Certainly he evidenced no desire to place his feet in Herbert Hoover's last tracks. After all, Mr. Truman is a Democrat, and Missouri politician who emerged as a national figure under the aegis of the late Franklin Roosevelt. And, although practically everybody seems to have forgotten it, he shared a Democratic and New Deal platform with Mr. Roosevelt, only a year ago. It shouldn't be surprising to find him now embracing the Rooseveltian thesis that private enterprise, as he knew it before 1932, will never again flourish in its old untroubled glory. He was by virtue of his succession, had to accept a huge and powerful federal government, and an accompanying astronomical budget, as a fact of political life.

The American press has scored on the 21 points, almost as if by variance with our contention that the message was middling. The AP, for instance, definitely Rooseveltian, six points original with Mr. Truman, and the other two without social significance.

There are, however, some who agree with us. Senator George of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and certainly no admirer of Mr. Roosevelt's budgetary mayhem, said Mr. Truman called for a "realistic approach to reconstruction, a no-nonsense program such as a recalcitrant Democrat as Representative Cox of Georgia said the message showed "recognition of the authority of public opinion and a disinclination to waste money on unneeded projects of the Executive by the Constitution." And we read tacit agreement into the failure of the conservative press to umbrer the heavy editorial artillery it would now be employing had the same message come from Hoover.

This calm acceptance of Mr. Truman's message by gentlemen of the ilk of Messrs. George and Cox is, we think, an indication that they read into it an implication that the President doesn't really expect to get all his asking for. Public his preference, who stands ready to go to the mat with Congress at the drop of an amendment, Mr. Truman recognizes the old political custom of progress through compromise. Perhaps the most significant single passage of the lengthy message is this:

"I have recommended that the Securities Training and Investor Act be continued but if the Congress determines to the contrary, I urgently recommend that the act be reauthorized, which specifically deal with the right of employment."

Thus, one of the most controversial points in his entire program, the President's preference for deferring to Congress his bet on whether he places them. Clearly Mr. Truman intends to exert maximal pressure on Congress, and this in itself is a new departure after the vigorous exercise of executive authority we have experienced during the past twelve years.

Understanding the mood of Congress perhaps better than any president in our history, Mr. Truman certainly realizes that the program he has proposed will be practically altered before it emerges from Congress as law. It will, in fact, become middle-of-the-road, and this is apparently perfectly acceptable to Harry S. Truman.

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WASHINGTON
LIVE-WIRE Republican Senator Ralph Brewster of Maine telephoned his own Assistant Secretary of Labor Carl Moran, also from Maine, by Democrat.

Portland is among the nine districts of the country," Senator Brewster reminded Moran. "An Iowa Senator has said he has been dismissed from his job wholesale. Meanwhile, farmers up in Aroostook county are cutting potatoes, bringing in their potatoes. What can you do about it?"

"I'm sorry," he paying for farm labor in Aroostook county," asked the Assistant Secretary of Labor, "but four cents?"

"No," replied the Senator from Maine, "it's a guaranteed wage of \$12 a day."

Assistant Secretary Moran said he would do his best to switch some workers up to the potato farms. However, he might well have replied that the potato farm industry was in a parlous state and that it actually had almost nothing to do with labor.

For the fact is that, under Miss Perkins, the Labor Department was stripped of most of its labor duties. The War Labor Board is separate and independent, and, under the War Relocation Authority, the U. S. Employment Service is the most important of all, the U. S. Employment Service is under the War Relocation Authority. Thus, Assistant Secretary of Labor Moran had to turn to an outside agency, the U. S. Employment Service, in trying to discharge shipyard workers to help harvest the Aroostook potato crop.

This, in turn, has brought out another difficulty affecting not merely Maine but the entire nation. Most war workers driving \$1 to \$2 an hour plus overtime and bonuses, don't want to go back to the farm and farm wages. The labor shortage on the farms, even after V-J Day, is as acute as ever. Farm wages are higher than ever, though still a long way from shipyard and aviation factory pay. So, somehow or other, other farm wages must go up, or war workers must go back to less money on the farm. In the former case, the farmers will have to get more for their crops, which, of course, means a higher cost of living in the city.

Ambassadors Wives
Last week the column reported that Mrs. Ed Pauley, wife of the U. S. permanent ambassador to Moscow and former treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, was listed to receive \$23 a day expenses while accompanying her husband to Russia. Since then, I have received further information that Mrs. Pauley, although listed by the State Department as an official member of the party, declined to accept the \$23 per day. In all fairness, this fact should be set straight, and I am delighted to do so herewith.

However, I still believe it is a highly debatable point, when a million or so GI's are not permitted to have their wives come aboard, that American high-ups should take their wives with them to overseas areas. After all, the average American soldier now occupying Germany of Japan has not seen his wife for more than a year. But the U. S. ambassador, making a social trip to Moscow or London, is away from his family for only a few weeks.



Nature's Poorest Handiwork

WASHINGTON
THE legislative program that President Truman has put before Congress will keep the lawmakers busy from now until Christmas. That is, it will if they set down to work on it.

In his message, the President tells what is becoming for him standard procedure, that every bill he sends to Congress should be read by the President's staff before it is sent to the President's desk.

The result is to put the burden of responsibility on Capitol Hill. And, as the President's message makes plain, it is an overwhelming burden. What Congress does or does not do may make the difference between boom and bust.

President Roosevelt was accused of browbeating Congress. He was pictured as a dictator trying to jam laws through an unwilling House and Senate. One of the ironclad committees of the New Deal era had the Attorney General dictating laws to his secretary.

In the first phase of the New Deal, the Roosevelt technique was not so much one of coercion as of bribery. The Congressional and Cabinet secretaries sent to the Hill by lobbyists for important measures. Public works, judiciously doled out, helped in the softening up process.

Truman seems to bend over backward in an effort to avoid dictating on Congressional floor. In case this sometimes looks almost too guileless.

Take, for example, the section of his message dealing with the works and national resources. The President says:

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When the Pauley reparations mission arrived in Western Europe, the party was split up, because of limited accommodations in Moscow. One group, including some of the best experts on reparations, were told to remain in Frankfurt, Germany. Another group went to London from Moscow. But Mrs. Pauley, despite limited accommodations, went on to Moscow. Later, she was the only American wife present. Mrs. Truman and Mrs. Byrnes, wife of the Secretary of State, remained in London. And finally, had some of the Big Three. Mrs. Pauley sat in the gallery, a privileged witness to the historic ceremony. Many U. S. and British experts who spent weeks preparing for this big gala climax and who had burned midnight oil whipping the agreement into shape, were barred from seeing the commission that would divide up the spoils of war.

Note—On Aug. 4, this column reported that the Office of War Information had given Mrs. H. A. McClure, wife of Representative McClure, a privilege job as receptionist in OWI's Paris office, thus permitting her to be near her husband in Germany. Immediately after publication of this disclosure, the OWI received an order from the White House that Mrs. McClure come back to the United States.

Pale Chinese Communist
Chinese Communist Leader Tung Ch'i-wu recently visited in Washington and was entertained at the home of Mrs. James Schuman at a gathering including Undersecretary of the Interior Abel Fortas, former Assistant Secretary of the Budget, Wayne Cox, Governor Rex Tugwell of Puerto Rico, and Nelson Poynter of the St. Petersburg, Fla. Times.

Most interesting at the evening was the fact that Communist Leader Tung revealed that the chief objectives of his party were (1) lower interest rates, and (2) lower land rents. That was about as Communist as the Chinese Communist Party cared to go.

"Why that's reactionary," kidded Abel Fortas.

Capitol Chaff
The shortening of the Congressional recess, which was to last until Oct. 8, has forced several Congressmen to look for temporary lodgings in Washington. They had leaves but had to be in the city for the recess period. Some, like Los Angeles' Chet Hoffield, were forewarned enough to make advance arrangements to have a bed in a bedroom available in the event they had to come to Washington.

Congressman Karl Mundt of South Dakota, one of the most vigorous Red-baiters of the mid-Dixie Committee, must be having his hands full. He's traveling in Russia. Speaker Sam Rayburn has his left arm in a cast. He broke same when he was thrown from a horse while rounding up cattle on his Texas ranch.

Beautiful Chief Justice Tom C. Clark is thinking of running for governor of Connecticut, and her opponent might be OPA Chief Chester Bowles. Robert Hurley, ex-governor of Connecticut, has already resigned from the Surplus Property Board. The headhachers here (to much for him) Congressional reaction to the appointment of Dean Acheson as Undersecretary of State has been extremely favorable.

House Republican Leader Tom Martin reports a study of legislative history reveals that the United States Congress has never repeated social legislation.



The Truman Manner

By Marquis Childs
WASHINGTON
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"So you say I'm cocky because I'm making too much money—well, there's nothing to stop you from taking out a hack license yourself and making what I do!"

Stabilize?

By Dorothy Thompson
NEW YORK
The long press conference I granted labor reporters by William H. Davis, Director of Economic Stabilization, is the report by Bernard M. Baruch, Director of Economic Stabilization, and the President's long message to Congress, finally, a supply, then have not yet had time to study thoroughly.

Mr. Davis is a supply, then have not yet had time to study thoroughly. He is a supply, then have not yet had time to study thoroughly. He is a supply, then have not yet had time to study thoroughly.

The Davis and Baruch reports concern two phases of the same matter. Mr. Davis is concerned with the outlook for the American economy in general. Mr. Baruch is specifically concerned with the problems of veterans. But as he himself points out, veterans and their dependents are not a fourth of the American population.

Though they have special problems, the outlook for the veteran is inextricable from the outlook for the American people. If there is work for all able-bodied persons who want to work, there will be work for the veterans, except for those disabled.

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People's Platform Watch The Military

By Lewis Auer Smith
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Quote, Unquote

THERE will be no freeze on War Bonds, rewording. The United States Treasury regards it as a bond as contractual agreement and the United States has always been a treaty obligor, but this Fred M. Vinson, Secretary of the Treasury.