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ICKES QUITS WITH BLAST AT TRUMAN

Argentina Preparing Reply To United States Charges

VARYING IMPRESSIONS OF THIS NEW COUNTRY—These children of American servicemen, who arrived with their British mothers aboard the Queen Mary, display a variety of expressions—sleepiness, distress, and curiosity—as they wait for their mothers to check out at the pier in New York. (Acme Photo.)

Blasted In State Dept. 'Blue Book'

Deals With Nazis Claimed

BUENOS AIRES — (AP) —The Argentine Military Government was reported today preparing a reply to the United States "blue book" which charged many of its members with breaking faith with hemisphere neighbors by dealing with the Nazis.

Informed sources said the Cabinet met with President Gen. Edelmiro Farrell at the Presidential residence. The informants said it could be presumed the extraordinary meeting was dictated by a consideration of the United States charge and the possible effect on Argentina's relations not only with Washington but with the other Governments of the continent and possibly with all the United Nations.

It was believed that the matter might be considered by the United Nations organization meeting in London.

"UNFORTUNATE MOMENT"

El Mundo, the only prominent morning newspaper to appear with editorial comment on the "Blue Book," said Argentina never before faced such an "unfortunate moment" for her world prestige.

The newspaper said the reading of the document "produces in our spirit an impression of confusion, stupor and shame," and added that "we are stigmatized for foreign opinion."

Possibility Of Break In Nation's Relations

By GRAHAM HOVEY

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The State Department's blast at key Argentine leaders as wartime pawns of Nazi Germany hastened a fresh crisis today in the already heavy-strained relations between the United States and Argentina.

Whether a formal break in diplomatic ties will result remained an open question.

NEW STEPS PREDICTED

Secretary of State Byrnes told reporters the United States intend to follow up its "blue book" attack on the military rulers of Buenos Aires with any single nation action against Argentina. But at least two members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee indicated they expect further diplomatic steps eventually.

Col. Juan Peron, Argentina's strong man and current Presidential candidate, refrained in a campaign speech last night from mentioning the "blue book" which included assertions that the Nazis had been allowed to set up in Argentina "a complete duplicate of the economic structure for war" which they had in Germany.

However, Peron did assail U. S. Assistant Secretary of State Spruille Braden for what he called "insolent intervention" in Argentina's affairs.

It is no secret at the State Department that the big hope behind the 131-page "blue book" is that it will exert an unfavorable effect on Peron's Presidential aspirations in the coming national elections on Feb. 24.

DOCUMENTS CAPTURED

The "blue book" was made up in large part of Nazi documents captured by the American Army in Germany. These documents, the State Department said, furnish "proof positive" of Argentine "complicity with the enemy."

Discussing the charge that the

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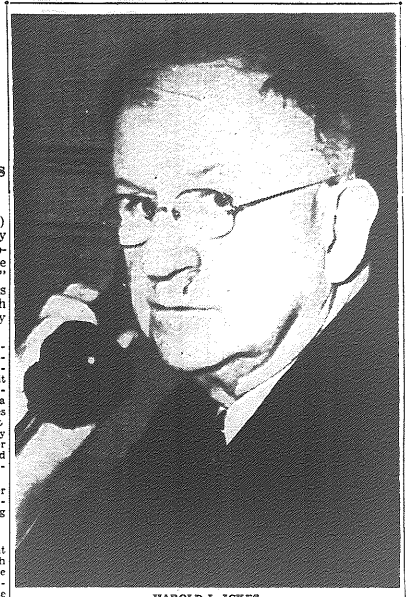

HAROLD L. ICKES

Interior Head Resents 'Slur' Upon Veracity

'Curmudgeon' Ends 13-Year Cabinet Service In Result Of Pauley Row

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes resigned today with an assertion that President Truman had challenged his veracity after telling him to be "as gentle as you can with Ed Pauley."

The old-line New Dealer and self-styled "curmudgeon" stepped out of the Cabinet after thirteen years' service as a direct result of the controversy over Mr. Truman's nomination of Edwin W. Pauley, California oil man, to be Undersecretary of the Navy.

Ickes has testified Pauley made him the "rawest" kind of proposition involving funds for the Democratic campaign and Mr. Truman has said Ickes could be mistaken.

In a blistering, 2,000-word letter, Ickes told Mr. Truman he had spoken the truth about Pauley before a Senate committee, had no apologies and asserted the President had no right to pass judgment on his veracity.

Shortly after the White House made the first announcement of the resignation, Ickes released the text of his letter and added details at a news conference in response to reporters' questions.

TRUMAN KNEW OF OPPOSITION

He said Mr. Truman knew in advance that he would oppose Pauley's nomination at the Naval Affairs Committee hearing but never once asked his reasons "although I gave him opportunities."

At a last week's Cabinet meeting, Ickes related, he informed Mr. Truman that he had been asked to testify. He asserted the President told him "You must tell the truth, of course."

Then Ickes quoted the President as saying: 'Be as gentle as you can with Ed Pauley."

"I said, 'I will,'" Ickes told reporters.

When a reporter asked whether he will work against Truman in 1948 if the latter is a Presidential candidate, Ickes replied flatly: "No."

He said he could conceive of certain conditions under which he could support him, adding a lot would depend on the character of Mr. Truman's opponent.

POSITION "UNTENABLE"

Ickes wrote in the letter that Mr. Truman had made his position as a Cabinet member "untenable" by siding with Pauley against him.

"I cannot stay on when you, in effect, have expressed lack of confidence in me," Ickes told the President.

Ickes asked to be relieved March 31. But Mr. Truman made the resignation effective Friday, Feb. 15. The President's letter of acceptance was not made public.

The President designated Oscar L. Chapman, a Coloradoan who has served thirteen years as an Assistant Secretary, to take over Ickes' duties pending the appointment of a permanent Secretary.

Ickes' letter of resignation said of his testimony in opposition to the nomination of Pauley:

"I cannot accept the theory that I should have told the Senate Naval Affairs Committee anything less than the truth. I have no apologies for having done so, although I did regret the unhappy personal

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Ickes' Letter To President

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The text of Harold Ickes' letter to President Truman announcing his resignation as Secretary of the Interior follows:

My Dear Mr. President:

I have concluded to resign as Secretary of the Interior and this letter is for that purpose. I understand that hearing on the proposed Anglo-American oil treaty, which I have nurtured and raised by bottle from the beginning, will begin on March 4. I would like to be here for those hearings. Moreover, it will be no easy task, shorthanded as I am in the Secretary's office, after such a long tenure, to put the affairs of the Department in order for my successor. For these reasons I propose that my resignation take effect at the close of business on March 31, but if you desire an earlier date I will be glad to comply with any wish that you may express.

LACK OF CONFIDENCE

In thus presenting my resignation without recourse, I am moved by compelling circumstances over which I have no control. I cannot stay on when you, in effect, have expressed a lack of confidence in me.

I shall go somewhat at length into my reasons for resigning as Secretary of the Interior because I owe a full explanation, not only to you, but to the country, in view of the evidence that the political goats in Washington are already swarming. Despite them, I cannot accept the theory that I should have told to the Naval Affairs Committee anything less than the truth. I have no apologies for having done so, although I did regret the unhappy personal position in which I have involuntarily found myself.

You will remember that on July 6, 1945, I took to you personally my written resignation to take effect the following Aug. 31. I told you that the twelve years of the great adventure that I had shared as a member of the Roosevelt Administration had been an inspiring experience, adding that they had required me to remain in continuous Government service much longer than any man would wish and had left me beyond desire for further official work. You insisted that you did not want me to resign and that your wish had been

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N. Y. Backed In UNO Vote

LONDON —(AP)— A United Nations Assembly Committee voted overwhelmingly today to establish temporary United Nations headquarters in New York City.

The committee rejected a proposal that the temporary site should be in San Francisco.

The action puts the site question up to the whole assembly.

The Westchester-Fairfield area of New York state and Connecticut had previously been recommended by the committee as permanent United Nations headquarters.

FRISCO REJECTED

Earlier, San Francisco was rejected by the committee as a temporary site 21 to 19. French and Chinese delegates voted for selection of the West Coast City, while British and Russian delegates were among those voting against it. The United States delegation abstained from voting.

The vote for New York as the temporary headquarters was 29 to 13.

Upon motion of Col. W. R. Hodgson, Australian delegate who had backed San Francisco, the vote was then made unanimous.

The committee called for a vote on a French motion to empower the Secretary-General to choose a temporary site, but the French withdrew the motion. The United Nations organization expects to occupy the temporary site for several years.

Dean Roscoe Pound Accepts China Job

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—(AP)—Dean Emeritus Roscoe Pound of the Harvard Law School said today he had tentatively accepted an appointment from the Chinese Ministry of Justice.

His duties, he said, would be to work as an adviser to the ministry and aid in the reorganization of the Chinese court system.

He had made acceptance dependent upon his being permitted to conclude classes at Harvard in June, Dean Pound said. He presumably would return to Harvard after a Summer in China.

Mrs. FDR In Germany

FRANKFURT, Germany—(AP) — Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt arrived by plane today and was greeted by Maj. Gen. Harold R. Bull, chief of staff of the U. S. Army in the European Theater. Mrs. Roosevelt is a delegate to the United Nations, now sitting in London.

WEATHER

Cloudy and mild this afternoon and tonight, with rain tonight. Thursday cloudy with rain. Clearing and colder Thursday afternoon.

Temperature at 2:30 today 63
High and low last 24 hours 55, 44
Sunset today 6:01
Sunrise tomorrow 7:10

Wage-Price Formula

Policy Reported 'Just About Set'

By WILLIAM NEEDHAM

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A high Government official predicted today President Truman's new wage-price policy aimed at restoring industrial peace will ease price controls without clamping a rigid lid on wages.

The formula, subject of day and night White House conferences, reportedly is "just about set." But the official, who could not be quoted by name, expressed some uncertainty as to the reaction it will receive from labor and industry—particularly labor—unless further revisions are made.

AUTHORITY WANTED

Part of the pressure for a quick decision on the long pending issue apparently stems from a purported refusal by Stabilization Administrator John C. Collet to approve higher steel prices in the absence of the authority the new wage-price policy would give him.

A top-ranking Federal executive, regarded as a key figure in the national economic picture, said Collet would approve the steel price boost as soon as Mr. Truman issues the formal backing.

The stabilization chief argued with other White House aides, this official said, that the legality of the increase could be questioned unless it were preceded by a formula which could be applied to industry generally.

The official added that the Administration is certain the steel hike, reportedly around $5 a ton, will permit the industry to boost wages and send some 750,000 striking CIO steel workers back to their jobs at 18 1-2 cents more an hour.

The decision against a flat percentage ceiling on wages was made yesterday, it was learned, thus removing one of the prime obstacles to settlement of the wage-price policy debate.

As an alternative to a firm limit, one of the conferees disclosed, Mr. Truman's economic advisers were considering a return to machinery comparable to that of the old War Labor Board and available now in the National Wage Stabilization Board. W. Willard Wirtz, WSB chairman, was called into the wage-price parleys yesterday.

Both the AFL and the CIO have registered opposition to any fixed wage limit and also have indicated opposition to a return to War Labor Board practices. On this basis, it was held possible that some further modification of present thinking might be written into the policy.

The Stabilization Board does not have the WLB's one-time authority to order wage increases into effect. It does, however, pass on pay reductions and any wage increase involving price increases.

Robert Best Under Arrest

VIENNA—(AP)—Robert Best, former American newspaper correspondent in Vienna who was indicted for treason on charges of broadcasting Nazi propaganda, has been arrested by British security police at Villach, Austria, an Intelligence officer said today.

The officer added that Best was to be turned over to American authorities. Best was being held incommunicado.

Intelligence officers in Vienna said the State Department would determine just what would be done in his case, but it was assumed he would be returned to the United States to answer charges against him as in the case of Ezra Pound, the expatriate poet who was arrested in Italy.

WAS INTERNED

Best had spent years in Vienna as a correspondent. When Germany declared war on the United States he was interned along with American diplomats and other correspondents at Bad Nauheim, Germany.

When the rest of the internees were being repatriated, however, Best chose to remain in Germany. He is charged specifically with making short-wave broadcasts beamed to America for the Nazi Propaganda Ministry while the United States was at war with Germany.

Best was a native of Sumter, S. C., and a graduate of Wofford College.

Dangerous Catch Made By U. S. Minesweeper

SHANGHAI — (AP) — The crew of a U. S. Seventh Fleet minesweeper off Hainan Island had to pick up a mine the hard way.

A Japanese mine swept up by the vessel foiled in a chain and was suspended dangerously close to the ship's hull—where a jar might have detonated it.

While the crew watched tensely, experts clambered over the side, disentangled the dangerous catch and let it drop into the sea. The spunky craft continued about its business—looking for more mines.

Big City Strikes

New York Returns To Nearly Normal

Millions in New York, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh breathed easier today as the strike picture brightened in the three metropolitan areas. The New York City Government's stringent "shutdown" edict of yesterday was rescinded and strikes that had tied up the Quaker City and Pittsburgh ended. The situation in the three cities today:

Situation Eases As New York Gets Fuel

NEW YORK — (AP) — New York City, which for eighteen hours yesterday was as quiet as a country hamlet, roared back to its normal spirited pace today following revocation of a fuel-saving edict that imposed the most drastic business shutdown in the city's history.

Just as suddenly as it had come, the order clamping a lid on all but essential activities was lifted last night by Mayor William O'Dwyer who said the fuel crisis had abated and that the city now was assured of a sufficient flow to meet essential requirements.

The cause of it all—a ten-day strike of 3,500 tugboat workers in New York harbor — remained unsettled, however, and a rationing program invoked last week still was in effect. Schools, too, remained closed.

Otherwise, the city quickly swung back to normalcy. Thousands of commuters again jammed subways, busses and trains to get to offices from which most of them were barred yesterday. Transit lines, whose operations had been curtailed 20 per cent, were operating full blast in time for the morning rush.

Busy Times Square was alive with pedestrian and vehicular traffic as early as 8:30 A. M. (EST).

Business leaders gloomily took account of their losses. It was estimated the shutdown cost the garment industry $5,000,000, department stores $3,000,000 and the entertainment industry $1,000,000.

The ten-day old tugboat strike situation, however, was at a standstill after a committee of tugboat operators declined to meet with union representatives at a city hall parley.

The only hope of settlement of the walkout was an indication by O'Dwyer that the committee might meet with union officials late today if they obtained permission from the full membership of the Tug Owners' Association.

Union men have agreed to submit the wage-hour dispute to arbitration but the owners as yet have not reached agreement on procedure for arbitration of the issues that led to the walkout.

The revocation of the shutdown order was effective at 6 P. M. (EST) last night. O'Dwyer, in announcing the return to normalcy said "the emergency has been somewhat relieved."

Health Commissioner Ernest L. Stebbins told the city that he was rescinding the order because 2,000,000 gallons of fuel oil were brought into the city during the day and that he had been assured of the services today of several additional tugs by the office of Defense Transportation.

Philadelphia Transit Sysem In Operation

PHILADELPHIA —(AP)— The 3,000,000 daily riders of bus, trolley, subway and elevated lines used normal transportation facilities today as a strike that throttled transit service in the nation's third largest city ended exactly 48 hours after it began.

Settlement came minutes before last midnight when striking CIO-Transport Workers Union members voted unanimously at a mass meeting to accept an agreement drawn up by union representatives and spokesmen for the Philadelphia Transportation Co.

Less than an hour later — at 12:47 A. M. today — the first trolley to move since 12:01 A. M. Monday moved out of the carbarn. By 1 o'clock at least 50 busses, trolleys, subway and elevated trains were in operation.

The agreement, extending the present contract to Feb. 10, 1947, provided:

(1) A general wage increase of 12-cents-an-hour effective Feb. 11. (The union had sought 25 cents).

(2) A "preferential" union shop—Every man in the union now must remain in the union, and all men employed from and after April

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Parting Words

'I Ain't Got None,' Says Ickes Of Plans

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Harold L. Ickes' last news conference as Interior Secretary did nothing to detract from his long-time reputation for fast repartee.

Accompanied by Mrs. Ickes, the 71-year-old Cabinet member walked into the Interior Department auditorium after a crowd of some 300 had forced transfer of the "special press conference" from his conference room to the larger quarters.

He read excerpts from his letter of resignation to President Truman, then submitted to questioning. Some of the results:

Asked whether there was "any possibility" of his accepting another job under President Truman, Ickes replied:

"As great a possibility as being offered one."

After his attention was called to Edwin W. Pauley as "Hannegan", Ickes commented:

"I often get them confused."

(Pauley's nomination to be Undersecretary of the Navy is opposed by Ickes. Robert E. Hannegan is chairman of the Democratic National Committee.)

Ickes said he had no "personal differences" with Mr. Truman before he became President.

But, he added, "I didn't vote for him at Chicago."

Asked who he voted for, Ickes said:

"Wallace."

Asked about his future plans, Ickes said: "I ain't got none."

"Are you going to be a columnist?" he was asked.

"I've been propositioned," was the reply.

the fact that he had once referred to Edwin W. Pauley as "Hannegan", Ickes commented:

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Expert At Repartee

Ickes Famed For The Aptly-Chosen Phrase

By JACKSON S. ELLIOTT

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Harold Leclair Ickes goes out of office leaving behind him a record of tenure and performance. He carried with him, however, a 14-carat chip on his shoulder.

Those who are friends of the admittedly irascible Ickes—he tagged himself "the Old Curmudgeon"—say it isn't such a bad chip. He uses it as much to defend his friends as to blast or ridicule his enemies.

He says himself he has plenty of foes.

"I've known for a long time," he observed years ago, "that I'm not loved with the fervor to which I'm entitled. If a man worked hard at it, he couldn't get a bigger list of enemies than I."

The criticism he spread around, garnished with verbal vinegar and ofttimes conducive to a hearty "bellylaugh," made Ickes a five-star show. Many of those who note the number of his enemies overlook the fact that he made most of them by supporting his friends. And there is a testimonial for the 71-year-old former dean of the Cabinet right in the Interior Department. It takes a lot of digging to find an employee who won't stick up for him.

"He stuck up for us," they say.

Ickes loves to kick a disagreement around. His retorts sting; an Ickes' nickname is likely to rankle. He called Governor Thomas E. Dewey a "chocolate soldier" when he ran for President. The late Wendell Willkie, was to Ickes a "simple barefoot, Wall Street lawyer."

He said Hugh Johnson, NRA Administrator, had "mental saddle sores" and Huey Long of Louisiana "halfbrain of the intellect."