

### As Washington Sees It . . . THE NATIONAL SCENE

Special to The Chronicle.

Washington, Dec. 15—With heavy budgetary expenditures coming up before the next congress for national defense, which includes the Marshall plan and other foreign aid, the word has gone out to government agencies from President Truman's executive department to slash expenditures to the bone. As a matter of fact, for the 1950 fiscal year which starts next July 1, the order has been that governmental agencies must cut to absorb the pay increases for personnel which was granted by the 80th congress.

It will be remembered that most federal agencies received a \$330 annual pay increase for federal workers with a flat \$450 annual boost being given the post office department at the hands of the 80th congress.

The postoffice department, however, is one department which is expected to be given additional funds to meet its pay raises. This department runs in the red anyway and although the department annually asks congress to give it sufficient revenues to put it on a paying basis, the congress, looking to the folks back home who might kick about additional postage costs in either first, second or third class mails, merely forks over deficits each year in the form of subsidies to the department.

Senator William E. Jenner (R., Ind.) has gathered a lot of evidence in election investigations which he likely will never use. Senator Jenner is chairman of a sub-committee of the senate privileges and elections committee and has been investigating senatorial elections in West Virginia, Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma and other states. The GOP plan was that if Democrats won in these states, the Republican majority in the senate would question their election and hold up the swearing-in process. However, the Democratic

senatorial candidates won not only in these states but in enough other states to give the Democrats a majority in the senate so now the possibility of any long drawn-out election contest against these Democrats is virtually eliminated and party reorganization of the senate will likely take place on a cut-and-dried basis, but with the Democrats in command.

There is every likelihood that the next congress early on its agenda will take up extension of the reciprocal trade agreements act on a three-year basis as was done prior to the action of the 80th congress. The last congress made an extension of only one year and hemmed the power of the President to such an extent that his action was dependent only upon congressional approval. Most trade organizations and lobbying or pressure groups favor the extension of the reciprocal trade act as originally proposed but strangely enough while large business organizations are for the extension, some of the smaller business trade groups are against, or split on their stand toward extension.

Another revision of existing law likely to be taken up early in the session will be that of the displaced persons act. This act was the only law of the 80th congress which Governor Thomas E. Dewey, the GOP presidential candidate asked to be revised at the hands of the Republican majority. Mainly through the opposition of Senator Chapman Revercomb (R., West Va.), however, no revision was forthcoming and Senator Revercomb was defeated for reelection. Some Democratic leaders claim the act as now constituted discriminates against Catholics and Jews and other European nationals who fled before the Russians to concentration camps.

There is considerable discussion in Washington this week over possible congressional action toward revision of the charter of the United Nations in some respects. While congressional action cannot actually revise the charter, a congressional resolution placed before the United Nations body to be voted upon by that organization might have standing with members and delegates. The American Legion and the Amvets have adopted resolutions urging a modified use of the veto power, used so consistently by Russia, and an arms production limitation, and the Legion is demanding adoption of the United States formula for atom control and the creation of a world police force under the Security Council.

The American Federation of Labor adopted a resolution asking the UN social and economic council to introduce a measure making it a crime against international law for any government to have a fifth column in a country with which it is at peace.



By PATRICIA SINCLAIR

AVIS stood inside the spacious hall of the Carron home with her small overnight bag at her feet and greeted the slim girl approaching her. "Merry Christmas, Barbara! Oh-h, it's snowing beautifully outside!" She looked down at the snow on the toes of her small white boots. "I hate to track it in," she said.

"Don't worry about that. I'm so happy you came," Barbara smiled and helped Avis remove her snow-covered garments.

"Oh, I wouldn't have missed coming for all the world," Avis said, and meant it, now that she was actually there. Her dark eyes swept the attractive, decorated home, and the inviting fire that roared



Avis laughed, and her eyes glowed as they lifted to meet Steve's.

about huge logs in an immense fireplace in the room beyond.

"I hope you'll enjoy yourself, Avis," Barbara said. "My guests have not all arrived. Would you like to go up to your room first and—"

"Take the shine from my nose! Yes, thanks so much." Avis responded eagerly, knowing that she needed a few repairing touches after the long trip out to the Carron home by bus.

As she ascended the stairs she thought, how right Barbara had been when she'd told her the other day, after inviting her to her home for the week-end and a Christmas party, "You can't stay in your apartment alone on Christmas. You can't become a recluse just because some fellow preferred another girl to you. You should start all over again."

Barbara was like that. At times Avis couldn't help envying Barbara's carefree, unstable attitude toward men. Barbara would never know the sting of loneliness, the bitter yearning for someone who had become the purpose of life itself.

Avis hadn't told Barbara, nor anyone, everything about her acquaintance with Steve Ross. She hadn't even told Barbara his name. There was no point in going into detail and revealing: "I crossed three states just to get away from the sight of him constantly with the new blonde who came to town."

Avis could hear Barbara's response to such a revelation, "No battle was ever won by an army of cowards!"

But Avis wasn't built that way. She had pride, and from observation she'd learned that one-sided marriages never panned out.

As she ran a comb through her short dark hair she thought of Steve. It had been two months since she left the little town of Allen Glen. He and Ann were married now of course. They'd spend their first Christmas together.

Her eyes flared, but she quickly brushed aside the threat of tears and hurried from the room to join Barbara and her guests below. She was glad she'd come. She wouldn't have a chance to think of Steve.

Avis started down the stairs but stopped midway when she saw Steve Ross smiling up at her from the hall below.

He said, "I'm not a ghost, Avis! Merry Christmas, and—well, aren't you glad to see me?" He looked uncertain.

Avis moved down the stairs. "But I didn't know you knew Barbara—" Steve reached for her hands. "Our dads were acquaintances away back," he said "Was it quite fair for you to skip town, Avis, and not say a word about where you were going?"

"I—I didn't think you'd miss me," Avis stammered.

"Miss you?" He pressed her hands. "Avis, what's that old saying about absence makes the heart grow fonder? Anyway, I've had a terrible time tracking you down, until I thought of Barbara."

"Barbara never said a word," Avis said, still amazed.

Steve chuckled "She's a regular cupid. She told me to come tonight and explain more fully about the run-away girl I was trying to find. Then after I got here she told me to wait in the hall, there'd be a Christmas gift appear on the stairs I suspected then, of course."

Avis laughed, and her eyes glowed as they lifted to meet Steve's "Christmas gift indeed!" she said.



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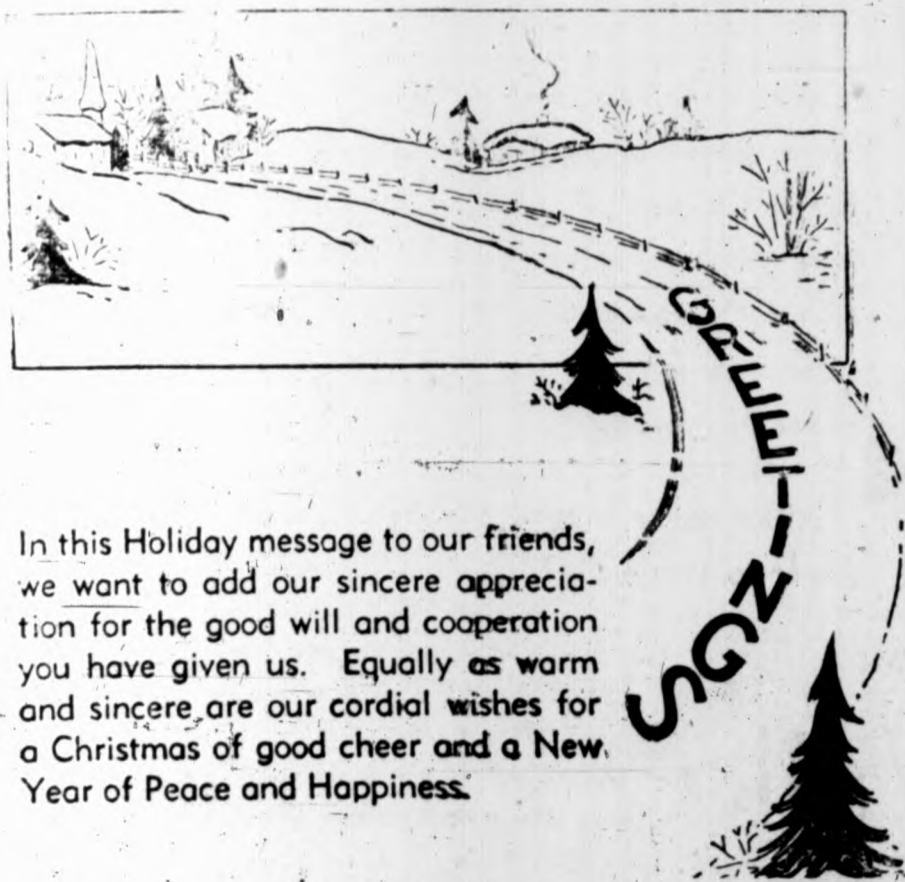
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