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President's News Conference,  
24 January 1946

Harry S. Truman, 1946

Jan. 24 [21]

THE PRESIDENT. I don't think it's practical to seize the steel mills at the present time. I don't say that I won't do it eventually.

Q. Mr. President, how can the workers go back to work if the Corporation won't give them the increase?

THE PRESIDENT. They can't. That is what I am saying to you.

[6.] Q. Mr. President, in the case of the meat industry, we understand that the men are going back to work at the old wage?

THE PRESIDENT. The men, I am sure, will obey the law. The law requires them to go back to work at the old wage.

[7.] Q. If you seized the steel plants, they would have to go back—

THE PRESIDENT. That is correct.

Q. —after the seizure?

THE PRESIDENT. That is correct.

[8.] Q. Mr. President, now that Mayor La Guardia is a radio commentator, has he submitted his resignation as Chairman of the Canadian-American Defense Board?

THE PRESIDENT. I haven't received it as yet. I don't think I have. I have a drawer full of them. It may be among them. I haven't seen it.

Q. Mr. La Guardia is coming in today. Will that be discussed?

THE PRESIDENT. It will not. Mr. La Guardia is going as the Special Representative of the President of the United States to the inauguration of the President of Brazil. That is the subject he is going to talk to me about.

[9.] Q. Mr. President, Phil Murray yesterday sent a letter to Secretary Vinson, outlining very large rebates from taxes to corporations, including steel companies. Have you gone into that?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, I have.

Q. Is there any reply to it?

THE PRESIDENT. None whatever. I didn't

go into Mr. Murray's—I didn't know anything about Mr. Murray's letter, because I had that information on my own initiative, when I was trying to settle this thing. I know all about it, however, but I haven't seen Mr. Murray's letter. I know what the situation is.

Q. Anything to be done about it—any suggestions?

THE PRESIDENT. No. I have no suggestions to make.

Q. Legislation?

THE PRESIDENT. I made my suggestions to Mr. Fairless and Mr. Murray.

[10.] Q. Mr. President, would you care to make any observations on the new National Intelligence Authority?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes. I think it is a practical program, and that it will work for the best interests of the Government. It was a necessary arrangement, in order to have all the information available for all the people who need it in implementing foreign policy. It combines the intelligence services of the State, War, Navy, and the President, in a manner so that the information will be available to all four for the transaction of Government business.

[11.] Q. Mr. President, is Hap Arnold quitting, and when?

THE PRESIDENT. He was making this tour of South America prior to his retirement. He expected to retire as soon as he returned.

Q. That will be about February 15?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, somewhere between the 1st and the 10th of February. But I think he is coming home ahead of schedule, because he is—he hasn't been feeling very well.

[12.] Q. Is General Spaatz [*pronouncing it Spats*] going to take his place?

THE PRESIDENT. General Spaatz [*pronouncing it Spahts*]—

Q. Spaatz [*Spahts*] it is. [*Laughter*]

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THE PRESIDENT. —will take his place.

[13.] Q. Mr. President, going back to that Intelligence Authority for a minute, is that a revival of the OFF in general?

THE PRESIDENT. No, it is not. It isn't. It isn't.

Q. Mr. President, do you suppose, if we had such a setup back in 1940 or 1941, that there would not have been a Pearl Harbor?

THE PRESIDENT. I can't say that it was a—contributing greatly towards its not taking place. I can't say whether there would have been a Pearl Harbor or not. You can make any "if" meet any situation.

[14.] Q. May I revert to the steel strike?

THE PRESIDENT. Certainly—certainly.

Q. There is an organization known as nonbasic steel producers headed up by a man named Evans—he heads a steel shop in Detroit—probably everybody's got it—they run 700 secondary plants or nonbasic plants, and they have this CIO union contract. In none of them is there any dispute with the men on wages, but they are all out.

THE PRESIDENT. They ought to go back to work. They ought to go back to work. If there is no dispute, they ought to go back to work. We are trying to get everybody to work, so as to make this production work. Everybody that can, ought to go back. I have been preaching that ever since August 18.

Q. Mr. President, do you think, if the steel strike is settled, that the General Motors strike will fall in line?

THE PRESIDENT. I can't say whether it would or not, but that is—it is logical to conclude that that might happen.

Q. Mr. President, do you plan to recommend any further legislation to labor such as beyond the factfinding, if the strikes continue?

THE PRESIDENT. No. I made that recom-

mendation back December 3d, hoping to avert some of these things.

[15.] Q. Mr. President, if we could return to the trusteeship question again, isn't the veto of the big powers significant in connection with the trusteeship question?

THE PRESIDENT. I think it will be, yes.

[16.] Q. Mr. President, have Republicans suggested to you that there should be two Republicans on the Maritime Commission?

THE PRESIDENT. No, they haven't; but that probably will be the case. I just appointed two Republicans day before yesterday.

[17.] Q. Mr. President, from your experience in the Senate, have you any suggestions as to how the Senate can solve this problem of filibustering on the FEPC? [Laughter]

THE PRESIDENT. For your information, I have been through several filibusters, and that is a matter that the Senate itself must settle without outside interference, especially from the President. [More laughter]

Q. Mr. President, have you ever taken a position on cloture?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes. Well, all you have to do is to read the Record down there. I was always for cloture. No secret.

[18.] Q. Mr. President, is the Anglo credit message going up shortly?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes. Just as soon as we get it prepared, it will go up.

[19.] Q. Mr. President, the morning papers report the Government has \$1 billion worth of steel plants of its own which are now strike-bound. Why isn't the Government operating them?

THE PRESIDENT. They are integrations of other plants, and principally—except the one at Provo, Utah. That one is a complete plant by itself, and we have under consideration the idea of operating it.