Truman Gives His Blessing To Lobby Quiz

Action Is Taken At Suggestion Of Machinists Body

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30. (AP)—President Truman gave his blessing today to a proposed "thorough investigation" of lobbying in Congress.

He said it would "have a very salutary effect." He complimented the International Association of Machinists for suggesting it.

The union, an independent, charged in a resolution that "high powered lobbying activities" had confused the 80th Congress and that an assault is being prepared on Mr. Truman's legislative program in the 81st.

Mr. Truman himself has struck out repeatedly in statements against "special interest lobbies." During the election campaign, he referred to the 80th Congress as "the puppet of big business, the puppet of special lobbies—the real estate lobby, the power lobby, the grain speculators' lobby, and others."

"Congress delivered for the interests that had their lobbyists swarming all over the capital," he said in a campaign speech.

The Machinists executive council asked for an investigation by a joint committee of both Houses of Congress.

Its resolution said the people are entitled to the "full facts" about the "lobbying methods of the National Association of Manufacturers, the committee for constitutional government, the National Physicians Committee, the National Association of Electric Companies, the National Association of Home Builders, the National Association of Real Estate Boards, the Association of American Railroads, and other lobbies."

Acknowledging a copy of the resolution, Mr. Truman said:

"I think it is up to the Congress to determine the subjects which it will investigate. I feel sure that a thorough investigation of lobbying activities would have a very salutary effect, and I would be glad to see such an investigation undertaken."

Congress has undertaken to regulate lobbying—a long-standing practice whereby various interests plead their causes. It required under a 1946 law that:

(1) Persons, groups or organizations lobbying for or against legislation pay past register with Congress, and (2) that they must file quarterly reports of all money received and how and why spent.

The law is undergoing tests of its constitutionality in court. A civil suit filed by the National Association of Manufacturers last January questioning provisions of the law is pending in Federal District Court here.

Several indictments have been returned under the act. In indictments last June the following were accused of violating the act.

State Agricultural Commissioners James E. McDonald of Texas and Tom Linder of Georgia; Robert M. Harriss, New York commodity broker; Ralph W. Moore of Washington, the Farm Commissioners Council and the National Farm Committee.

The law also has been invoked against Roger C. Slaughter, former Missouri House member, accused of failing to register with Congress as a representative of grain interests. A grand jury said he was paid $13,000 for lobbying services. Slaughter said the charge was politically inspired.

Attorney General Tom Clark contends that the law requires that organizations as well as their officials must register when lobbying is involved.

Pioneertown Is Becoming Hollywood Of Westerns

By ALINE MOSBY

PIONEERTOWN, Calif., Nov. 30. (UP) — The wild west not being so wild any more, a western movie company is turning this desert village into a permanent cowtown.

This Hollywood version of the good old days started out to be a resort for western movie stars with millions. Even the stores of the tiny one-street town were built in old-fashioned western style to make outburner heroes feel right at home.

Then the picture company discovered the place, leased it, and made it one supercolossal movie set.

Pioneertown's great white father is Producer Philip Krasne, who moved his company here for keeps to make "Cisco Kid" thrillers. Now you can't tell where real life ends and reel life begins.

The entrance to the village has a sign, "Pioneertown Is This-A-Way." Next sign: "Horseless Carriages Ain't Aloud On Mane St." Even Producer Krasne discreetly parks his Cadillac off the dirt street.

Krasne & Co. get chow at the Golden Stallion, which serves such unwestern dishes as eastern oysters at prices that would shock Mike Romanoff. This eatery also has 50 cent slot machines and "Wild West" tunes like Dorothy Lamour's "One Hose" on the juke box.

Down the street are "Trigger Bill's Shooting Gallery," "Pioneertown Gazette," "Lisker Barn," etc. The "Red Dog Saloon" has swinging doors, supplemented by the ordinary variety, and a beat-up unplayable piano for atmosphere.

These places will be used as movie sets, and in between are propped real false-front sets imported from Hollywood. The towns 300 pre-Hollywood residents will get in the act, too. The barber who runs the "Klip 'N Kurl" place will play barber for "Cisco Kid." The town electrician will work the klieg lights; the Red Dog bartender will act movie bartender.

"I'll import just stars like Duncan Renaldo and Leo Carillo," explains Producer Krasne, who rules his wild west domain in cigar, bow-tie and finely-tailored frontier pants. "Most will settle down here, so I won't have to pay their expenses of commuting 125 miles from Hollywood."

He's making a home himself, he added, out of a building marked "Neil's Ice Cream Parlor."

In Hollywood he'd pay an extra $40 a day when his company was on location. Here he hires local citizens for the standard $15.50. Pioneertown doesn't have smog or airplanes to louse up scenes, either. And Krasne built a sound stage for indoor shots.

"I'll make this the Hollywood of the western," he says. "Genuine wild west town."

Anti-Reds Win In Northern Italian Voting

ROME, Nov. 30. (AP)—Anti-Communist parties scored a smashing victory Sunday over the Communists in an election in two northern Italian Provinces.

It was the biggest single election in the country since the nation-wide balloting of last April in which the Christian Democrats and Allied parties swamped the Communists.

The election was for the 46-seat regional council in the provinces of Trent and Alto Adige. The new constitution grants the two provinces local autonomy. They had been Austrian until after the First World War.

A majority of the residents of Alto Adige, whose capital is Bolzano, speak German. There are many German-speaking Italians in Trent, whose capital is Trento.

Premier Alcide de Gasperi's Christian Democrats won 17 seats. The Volkspartei, made up of German-speaking south Tyroleans, won 13. A dissident Catholic group called the Party of the People of Trent received four, the anti-Communist Socialists three. The Communists got two seats and their Socialist allies three. Four anti-Communist small parties got the remaining four.

Human Rights Plan Nearing Completion

PARIS, Nov. 30. (UP)—After two years of ideological debate, some of it bitter, on human rights ranging from politics to divorce, the United Nations is nearing completion of work on a declaration seeking to spell out the rights of man.

The UN's social committee has adopted all articles of the declaration on which the human rights commission began work in 1946. After several suggested additional articles and a preamble have been approved, probably next week, the committee will vote on the declaration as a whole. It will then go to the general assembly for approval.

It has been hard going for two years. The declaration covers human rights in politics, religion, work, leisure, information and marriage. It has had to reconcile the conflicting views of the Russians, Americans, Catholics, Protestants, Mohammedans and Hindus.

Even now no one is entirely satisfied.

Underground Church In Russia Reported By A Jesuit Priest

DUESSELDORF, Germany, Nov. 30. (AP) — A Jesuit priest told today of a secret trip through Russia under church orders, and said he discovered an underground church there with millions of followers.

The Rev. Kurz Szekalla, who said in an interview he recently had visited Moscow in disguise, was vouched for by the office of Josef Cardinal Frings, archbishop of Cologne. A spokesman at the office said the priest, now living in a Cologne monastery, was acting under orders of Jesuit superiors.

Father Szekalla said that during his travels through Russia he discovered that Christians of all faiths, opposed to what he called "the Moscow-controlled Orthodox church," have formed a "cave church."

They are active in the western part of the Soviet union, particularly in the Baltic states and along the Don and Dnepr rivers, the priest said. He added that these Christians are "closely cooperating with the Ukrainian resistance movement."

Father Szekalla said the underground church has millions of followers, but he believes the time is not ripe for revealing all the details of the Christian movement. Its leaders, he said, are being vigorously persecuted by Soviet authorities.

However, he said church authorities in Cologne thought it was fitting for him to address church meetings in western Germany to spread the news.

Father Szekalla said a similar breakaway Orthodox church, free of Moscow's official Orthodox church, has been formed by Slavic people in the displaced persons camps of western Germany. Its leader, he said, is Orthodox Bishop Anastasius of Munich, Bavaria.

Church officials in Cologne said Father Szekalla was born in the Ukraine but is now a German national. They said his visit to Russia to contact Christians there was made under church orders.

Belmont Man Given Sentence Of Life

GASTONIA, Nov. 30. (AP)—Walter Sigmon, Belmont textile worker, pleaded guilty today to accessory before the fact of murder and drew a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment.

Judge George Patton was told that Sigmon shot and killed his wife Oct. 30 while she was doing the family ironing at their home.

Police Warn Motorists On Auto Thefts

City police have issued a warning to motorists to take their keys with them whenever they leave a parked car. This, it is pointed out, is the only way in which the number of automobile thefts here can be reduced.

Asheville has a rather high rate of motor vehicle thefts, ranging from 18 to 20 per week many weeks of the year. Although officers of the City Police Department usually recover stolen vehicles in short order, much of their time is consumed by this one phase of police work.

It also costs the city a great deal of money each year to send officers after vehicles stolen here and recovered in other sections of the state, it was pointed out.

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