

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S TRAVELS

An Address

By HAROLD E. STASSEN



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Mrs. Preston Davie, distinguished guests, my fellow citizens:

I commend the Republican Women of New York for their early and thorough preparations for their part in the crucial Congressional elections of 1950. You can—you must—play a very important part in those elections.

The 1950 elections may well turn out to be the most significant Congressional elections ever held. If our Republican Party makes major gains, it will signalize a rebuilding; a rebuilding which this time, I am confident, will not stop short of complete national Republican victory.

But we must neither under-estimate the difficulty of this Congressional campaign nor its importance. President Truman has already indicated that he will take an all-out personal part in the Congressional elections. This should not be taken lightly.

President Truman is the cleverest politician ever to occupy the White House. And he is also the worst President ever to occupy the White House.

He is a post-graduate of the most effective political school in America—the Pendergast School of Kansas City, Missouri.

From that school he knows the methods of attacks on opposition, of claims for all improvement, of dodging blame for things that go wrong, and of marshaling votes through organization.

PUBLIC PAYS FOR POLITICS

He will demonstrate his political aptitude next week on the trip that he is taking across the country. With a car load of his political supporters, he will travel across the nation in a special train, with his trip paid for out of the taxes of the people. He will go out to the Grand Coulee Dam; the plans for which were prepared under President Hoover; the construction of which was carried on by President Roosevelt; the payment for which was voted overwhelmingly by both Republicans and Democrats; and standing at the edge of that Dam he will strike a pose and act as if he built it with his own little Missouri hands!

He will act as if he came to the State of Washington for a ceremony to start the generating of power at the Dam, whereas in fact, he is going there to try to generate more political power behind his Democratic Senator of that State who is in trouble because of playing on the sands of Hollywood instead of working at his seat in the Capitol.

Going to and coming from the Dam, he will just happen to stop in the Congressional and Senatorial Districts where he hopes to salvage a troubled Democrat incumbent or weaken a present Republican Congressman or Senator. With the great advantage of naturally having the front page of every newspaper in America, and ample quantities of radio and television time, he will do a very, very clever and effective job of campaigning.

It is strange but it is true that the methods of the foreign economic socialists and of the domestic political bosses are very similar. Both make extravagant, extreme, and rosy promises. Both collect heavy taxes from the people. Both give less than they promise. Both keep a lot of the people's money for themselves in the government.

CORRUPTION, COMMUNISM, CRONIES

The tragedy for America is that the same school which made Mr. Truman such a clever politician also made him such a bad President. This is true because it is a school whose graduates are lacking in a sense of idealism and who minimize the importance of honesty and integrity. This lack of a sense of the importance of idealism is what has made our post-war foreign policy so negative and weak, and has caused us to lose so much ground in the cold war with the Soviet Union. The idealism of this nation represents the most dynamic force in the world. But that idealism has not been translated into an affirmative, hard-hitting, inspiring foreign policy under President Truman's administration. Thus it is, that with a policy of holding the line, of waiting for the dust to settle, of containment, the United State is in part responsible for the tremendous advance in the cruel and dictatorial domination by the rulers of Russia. In the brief space of five years this Kremlin clique has established dictatorships over six hundred millions of peoples in Poland, in Rumania, in Czechoslovakia, in Bulgaria, in Eastern Germany, in Hungary and in China.

The administration's lack of appreciation of the importance of honesty and integrity is shown in the President's flagrant association in the White House with men like Ed Pauley, who made a million dollars in speculating as an

insider upon the food of the nation; and John Maragon, who accepted funds from a perfume company while officially representing and being paid by the United States government in Greece. These are but small examples of a situation that exists and which tends to undermine the morality of the nation and contribute toward the record high total of gambling and of illicit funds in America today.

One of the greatest difficulties which our Republican Party faces is the fact that the people of the country are reluctant to believe that the corruption and the communism are as bad under President Truman's administration as they really are.

THE FIVE-YEAR RECORD

Furthermore, if we analyze the record of the Truman administration, we find that in those situations in which he had his own way our country is in a bad way. He had his own way at Potsdam without any Republican participation and without any Congressional participation. The result has been very, very bad for the position of our country in Berlin, in Austria and in the entire Balkans. It has been a part of the cause of losing the cold war.

He had his own way in Asiatic policy without any participation in the forming of the policy by the Republicans and without any participation by Congress. The result has been very, very bad and our country has also lost much ground there in the cold war.

He wanted to keep control over all the housing materials in this country after the war. He wanted to keep control over all new building. But Congress over-ruled him and freed the builders, retaining only the loaning programs which had support by both parties. The result has been that the

private builders and the building craftsmen of the country, aided by the suppliers and lumbermen, are now turning out a record total of houses, and we are on the way to real improvement in the housing supply in this country. **It was the action of Congress in over-ruling President Truman that led to this progress. If President Truman had his way, the whole building industry would still be in a snarl. There would still be the necessity of knowing somebody who knew somebody who could call Harry Vaughan to get a permit approved for building material.**

He tried to have the government go into the steel business. Congress over-ruled him and left the steel industry in private ownership, and it is today producing more steel than ever before and is rapidly catching up with all the requirements for the country, with enough left over to help rearm Western Europe.

He wanted to bring agriculture under the grip of his administration but Congress at least partly over-ruled him and the farmers have produced an abundant supply of food so that food prices are now coming down to the consumer and we are able to supply needs throughout the world.

THREE STEPS FOR REPUBLICANS

We Republicans can meet the 1950 situation brought about by the political cleverness of the President and by his use and misuse of the great power of his office, only in this threefold way.

First, by fighting back vigorously and hitting hard in the exposure of the conditions of his administration.

Second, by bringing forward definite, sound, constructive measures to meet the problems of our country at home and abroad.

Third, by organizing and working and voting with a thoroughness and a drive such as we have never shown before.

Of these three, I count as the most important the bringing forward of constructive solutions. We must think through and study carefully; and then with ingenuity and with forthrightness present definite, sound, and constructive measures for the improved health of the people, for an agricultural program, for more and more jobs at good wages, for streamlining the government, for saving money and keeping down taxes, for winning the cold war with Russia, and for advancing the cause of freedom of men throughout the world.

Let me discuss in detail tonight just one of these issues. You all know of the Truman-Ewing proposal to have the government take over the health system of America; to put all doctors and hospitals under the thumb of a five-man board appointed by the President; to bring politics into the relationships between patients and doctors, and patients and hospitals; and in general to copy the British and German systems of socializing medicine.

We know President Truman's proposal is bad. The majority of the people know it is bad. The British experience is proving that what looks in theory like a grand scheme turns out to be a sad mistake which leads to more medical care of a lower quality for more people at a higher cost with more deaths and increased illness throughout the nation.

MEET THE HEALTH PROBLEM

But it is not enough to recognize the evil of President Truman's proposal. There are very real problems in health in America. Serious illness or accident to a member of a family in the working or middle income group is an economic

catastrophe. There are not enough doctors today and not enough opportunities for young men to study medicine. Many of our hospitals are in financial difficulty. Many areas of the country are entirely without a doctor or a decent hospital. We have the best health record of all the major nations in the world, but it is not good enough for America.

These problems must be met without making the mistake of President Truman's socialized and political medical program. They should be met with the cooperation of the medical profession. They should be met by working with the doctors and the nurses and the hospital administrators. I believe our Republican Party might work out, with the professions involved, a program to meet the problems in a modern effective way without making the mistakes of the British or Truman programs. Something like this might be done.

We could use the example of the very successful Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which Senator Vandenberg initiated, and which has secured the bank deposits of America without having the government take over the banks. We could establish a Federal Health Reinsurance Corporation to underwrite the various Blue Cross and other local voluntary insurance systems developed by farm cooperatives, unions and local groups, so that these groups could offer comprehensive complete coverage for the people at moderate cost. This Federal Health Reinsurance Corporation would thereby have a relationship only with the local insurance associations and would not bring the government in between the patient and the doctor or the patient and the hospital.

Contracts such as that recently entered into by Bethlehem Steel should then be encouraged through which the em-

ployees and the employer join in paying the health insurance premium and under which splendid protection is given to the workers and their families. Careful expansion for insurance coverage for those who are self-employed or are not on social security could also be worked out through these voluntary local associations. **In this method, within a brief space of time, with the expenditure of a fraction of the amount of money, we could have in operation a system giving better quality of medical care at lower cost with better results than any of the socialized schemes that have been advanced.**

EXPAND MEDICAL FACILITIES

Steps should further be taken to assist in establishing doctors in those poor or remote areas of the country that cannot now support a doctor in private practice. These are the same territories that need the public health services of vaccination, immunization, examination of school children, inspections for health and sanitation. Therefore a moderate, careful program of paying a small part time salary to a young doctor to go into those territories to practice privately, but to give a part of his time to public health activities, would lead to an advance of health in these areas.

The further extension of the Hill-Burton Act, which is a sound bipartisan measure, to assist in the construction of local hospitals and local health centers should also be carried forward. Likewise some moderate assistance in the expanding of medical education should be given. Medical education is very expensive to administer. Our experience at the University of Pennsylvania, where we are operating the oldest medical school in this country, shows that it costs about \$2,700 per student per year to give a good medical education.

Since the tuition is just \$700, there is a large difference to make up from other sources. That is the principal reason that medical education is so difficult to attain. Some steps should be taken to expand these opportunities, particularly in the South where the present chances to study medicine are entirely too limited.

PUBLIC SERVANTS OR PUPPETS

This expansion likewise should be done without any discrimination as to race or color or creed. By measures such as these; and by increasing private support through philanthropy; through keeping inviolate the local control and the high independent professional standing; and by pushing on with health research; we can keep America in the very forefront in the health of the people of the world, steadily improving in every respect. From steps such as this, we Republicans should work out an American health program that will be sound for the people and will be recognized as such and will be supported by them. In a similar way we should develop programs on the other major problems.

Angry and petulant about Congress' refusal to obey his orders, the President is now taking to the stump to try to get a puppet Congress. He knows how to pull the political strings. **But I believe that the American people want men and women who stand on their own feet in Congress, and they will refuse to send President Truman's personal puppets to Congress.**

They will turn to the new able young Republican candidates for Congress.

A Republican Party, ready to serve the people of this country and fighting hard against the weakness and deficits of the present administration, will become a victorious Republican Party in November, 1952.



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