



APRIL 15, 1945

Truman's Senate Record —It's Good —Is the Tipoff

International, And Domestic Voting Was Liberal

By WILBUR H. BALDINGER

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Apr. 14.—The question of how Franklin D. Roosevelt's substitute is going to think and to act in the White House could be partly answered today by President Harry S. Truman's voting record in the Senate. And his record, tested by long awareness of world crisis and by concern for causes of liberalism at home, has been good.

Down the line, since he voted in the Senate in 1935 for U. S. participation in the World Court, his positions on foreign relations and international policy have been consistently on the side of FDR and for the fight against fascism.

Domestically Sound, Too

In the domestic department of Truman's voting file the record has been nearly as consistent. He supported the Wagner Labor Relations Act early in his Senate service, and there have been few minus marks against him since.

Truman voted for extension of reciprocal tariff power, for ending the arms embargo in 1939, for the draft act, for lend-lease, for repeal of the Neutrality Act. He supported the arms embargo against Spain in its civil war in 1937, but so did FDR.

He cast a vote for the Smith-Connally bill when it first came up, but he supported FDR when the Senate overrode the White House veto of that notorious piece of anti-labor legislation. He did not, however, support the White House veto of the tax bill which gave "relief not for the needy but for the greedy. Otherwise he was virtually always on the right side (or the left side, according to the editorial commenators) of Senate roll calls on Democratic measures.

Truman's Senate Record

Good Votes

1943

FOR—Pay-as-you-go tax measures, continuing loan powers of the Federal Security Administration, and wage increases for rail workers.

AGAINST—Killing the national resources planning board and national youth administration.

1942

FOR—The Price Control Act, renegotiation of war contracts and cloture on the Anti-Poll Tax Bill, which would have ended a Southern filibuster against the measure.

1941

FOR—Extension of the selective service system and the ship seizure bill, strengthening U. S. preparations for war.

1940

FOR—Farm parity payments.

AGAINST—Proposals requiring Senate ratification of administration trade pacts.

1939

FOR—The Hatch Act limiting political campaign contributions, and increased appropriations for aircraft and the Navy.

1938

FOR—Cloture on Anti-Poll Tax Bill debate, Works Progress Administration appropriations and naval expansion.

1937

FOR—The Wagner-Steagall low-cost housing bill, Fair Labor Standard Act, and reciprocal trade agreements.

1936

FOR—The Soil Conservation Act, Florida ship canal, and Passamaquoddy dam project.

AGAINST—Returning unemployment relief operations to state controls.

1935

FOR—Social security legislation, the Tennessee Valley Authority, "death sentence" for utility holding companies, Farmers Loan Corp., and the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

PM