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Truman Seen Facing First Congress Test

Bill for Tariff Cuts and Bretton Woods Issue Threaten 'Honeymoon'

President Clinging To Roosevelt Policy

But Republicans in House Favor Trade Barriers and Clash Is Expected

By Jack Steele

WASHINGTON, April 28.—President Truman's widely hailed attempt to establish more cordial co-operation between the White House and the Congress appeared this week to be heading for its first major trials on two closely related issues.

The first was signaled by the emergence of strong Republican opposition in Congress to the legislation, originally sponsored by President Roosevelt, designed to achieve a 50 per cent cut in tariffs in connection with extension of the reciprocal trade agreements.

The second was indicated by the apparent inclination in both the Senate and House to delay action on the Bretton Woods world monetary agreement, passage of which Mr. Roosevelt had desired before the United Nations Conference on International Organization concluded.

Battle With Congress Seen

Mr. Truman, at his first press conference last week and in subsequent conversations with Democratic Congressional leaders, in-

sisted that he wanted the reciprocal trade pacts extended, with the provision permitting further tariff cuts left intact. He also intimated that he would hold to the Roosevelt schedule for the Bretton Woods pact.

If the President sticks to his guns on both issues, it appeared today, his Administration is likely to run into a battle with Congress that will test the "honeymoon" that has existed since the death of Mr. Roosevelt.

Republican leaders in the House, where the reciprocal trade measure will come to its first test, predicted flatly today that the legislation will not get through the House unless the proposed tariff cuts are modified.

The original reciprocal trade agreements authorized the President to cut Smoot-Hawley tariffs by 50 per cent in negotiating trade pacts with individual nations. The legislation proposal to extend the agreements for three years would authorize another 50 per cent reduction, making possible a total cut of 75 per cent from the tariff levels of 1930.

Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee directed this week bitter attacks at Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Commerce, and disputed other Administration spokesmen who backed the proposed additional tariff cuts.

Fight May Continue

Party leaders said today that these attacks would be continued on the House floor if the Democratic majority of the committee approves the measure as it stands. They also forecast that enough Democrats might join them to force through amendments to wipe out or lessen the tariff cuts.

The committee hearings are expected to continue for at least two and possibly three weeks. At this rate, it may be a month before the House acts and sends the legislation to the Senate.

This would leave the Senate only a few days to act before the legislation authorizing the present agreements expires on June 12. Opponents of the tariff reduction said today they were not concerned over this possibility, pointing out that present agreements are largely non-operative because of the war, and that new ones are not likely to be negotiated until the war is over.

Charges were made during the week that opponents of the tariff cut were filibustering to delay action on the trade pacts until after the San Francisco conference. They intimated on the other hand that the Administration was pushing for immediate action only to take advantage of public sentiment aroused during the conference for lowering of trade barriers.

It all added up to a prospect of a fight—and a possible headache for Mr. Truman who, incidentally, thus far has passed over House Republican leaders in summoning members of Congress to the White House to build up better relations.

Congressional action on the Bretton Woods agreement was stalled this week when the House Banking and Currency Committee dropped its hearings on this legislation to consider instead proposals for handling strategic metals in the post-war period.

While there was no indication that opposition would develop to the Bretton Woods plan similar to that aimed at the proposed tariff cuts, Congress seemed disposed to put off action on the international monetary agreements until the San Francisco conference made some progress in setting up a world peace organization.

Congressional delay on the Bretton Woods plan was a blow to administration strategy, which had visualized approval of the monetary pacts as a note of encouragement to the San Francisco conferees that the United States is going the whole way in post-war international co-operation.