**The ‘Fair Deal’: A Legislative Scorecard**

After his election, Truman proposed an ambitious list of domestic reforms. His proposals came to be known as the “Fair Deal.” Conservatives in Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, blocked most of these proposals. When Congress hindered him, Truman was sometimes able to act independently through executive orders and administrative action.

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| Increase Social Security benefits and expand eligibility | ⚪ |  |
| Increase in the minimum wage | ⚪ |  |
| National Science Foundation for scientific research | ⚪ |  |
| Slum clearance, urban redevelopment, and low-income housing | ⚪ |  |
| Government-sponsored national health insurance program |  | ⚪ |
| Cabinet level department for health, education, and social security |  | ⚪ |
| Federal aid to states for primary and secondary education |  | ⚪ |
| Repeal of Taft-Hartley labor relations Act |  | ⚪ |
| Increase unemployment insurance and expand it to cover small business and Federal workers. |  | ⚪ |
| Higher income taxes on the wealthy and corporate, estate and gift taxes to balance the budget |  | ⚪ |
| Increase government farm price support payments |  | ⚪ |
| Civil rights legislation (including anti-poll tax, anti-lynching, and voting rights laws and fair employment commission) \* |  | ⚪ |
| New public power and electrification projects \*\* | ⚪ |  | ⚪ |  |
| Stronger anti-trust laws \*\*\* | ⚪ |  | ⚪ |  |

\*Though Congress blocked this legislation. Truman’s Justice Department attacked segregation in the courts and the President continued to support executive orders he had issued in 1948 to desegregate the military and federal civil service.

\*\*Congress funded some public power projects, but Truman’s more ambitious plans for new river valley authorities like Roosevelt’s Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) were ignored.

\*\*\*The anti-trust laws were strengthened, but not as much as Truman wished.