

Downtown Crowds Stunned, Unable To Believe News Of FDR's Death

By SHERLEY UHL

IT WAS stunning news, electrifying news and it whipped and cracked like lightning through the jostling 5 o'clock downtown crowd.

Ten minutes after the first flash you could tell by the looks on faces who knew and who didn't know.

DEATH OF FDR SHOCKS ALLIES

People of Other Lands Knew Him as Friend.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS

Scripto-Howard Foreign Editor
WASHINGTON, April 13.—The impact of President Roosevelt's death on the governments and peoples of foreign lands will be scarcely less shocking than it was here at home. Abroad, he was known as no other American President ever was.

This is not only because he served more than three terms. It is because, long before World War II, he took his stand against Hitler and the Nazi-Fascist gang and called on America and the world to "quarantine" aggressor nations.

Throughout the Western Hemisphere, Roosevelt's name stands for the good neighbor policy. It is inextricably associated with the Atlantic Charter, today the beacon light of small nations everywhere. And his four freedoms have been translated into every tongue. They were familiar to little peoples clear around the globe.

In England, prior to the last elections, I found the British government and the people alike overwhelmingly for Roosevelt. They had nothing against Governor Dewey or the Republican party. They were for Roosevelt; they told me, because they felt they "knew him" and liked him.

Beloved by British

That was a typical bit of British understatement, however. For, to the British, Roosevelt was America. Somehow, to them he was pretty much the whole war effort.

Hadn't he aided Britain long before the shooting began at Pearl Harbor? Hadn't he sent American weapons to England after Dunkirk? Hadn't he traded 50 destroyers to Britain in exchange for some bases in the Atlantic?

To the British, Roosevelt was also lend-lease. He was the American army, the American navy and the American air force. They knew that, to him, this war was not an American war, a British war, a Soviet war or a Chinese war, but a vast global conflict in which only two armies are at grips: the allied army and the army of the enemies of mankind. And they knew that Roosevelt had but one aim and that was to utilize all allied men and ships and guns and tanks, planes, money, food and equipment wherever it would do the most good.

Roosevelt made America "the arsenal of democracy" — another phrase with which his name will go down in the histories of foreign countries.

Look to Truman

And what Roosevelt was to the British, he was to most other peoples of the world — except those of enemy countries. So his sudden passing will not only be a tremendous shock to them but to their capitals as well. They will all be wondering what, if any, material changes will be made in his policies.

None of the allies, of course, has any doubt that the United States will remain in the war to the very last. Or that it will continue to back the Dumbarton Oaks plan for international security after the war. One of President Truman's first acts, after being sworn in, was to confirm that the San Francisco conference would be held as scheduled, April 25.

But an American President, foreign capitals know, yields more power than any other one man on earth. And no two men are exactly alike. They cannot help being anxious, therefore, to know whether the new man in the White House will put on the brakes a little, or go farther and faster along the road traveled by his predecessor.

Difficult Task

Moreover, in the international field there are bound to be many things — some perhaps of grave importance — about which the late President knew but which no other American does, at least not in such detail.

The first of our presidents to make extensive journeys abroad in his official capacity, President Roosevelt met again and again with Prime Minister Churchill, Marshal Stalin, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, Gen. de Gaulle and other world figures. Together they discussed affairs of state and reached understandings even involving the future peace. Because of the war, much of this necessarily was carried on in the greatest secrecy. It will be difficult for President Truman to pick up and carry on.

BARUCH, ROSENMAN RETURNING TO U. S.

LONDON, April 13 (U. P.) — Bernard Baruch and Samuel Rosenman, personal emissaries of the late President Roosevelt, were understood today to have left for the United States.

Both had come to Europe on special missions in behalf of the President.

SPECIAL EDITION PRINTED
VATICAN CITY, April 13 (U. P.) — The Vatican organ Observatore Romano published a special edition today on the death of President Roosevelt. Long articles on Mr. Roosevelt's career, especially as it dealt with American-Vatican relations, were included.

Those who knew, and believed, appeared dazed, bewildered: They went through motions mechanically.

The final reaction after disbelief and bewilderment, was one of quiet, serious thought.

It was as though they were now peering at the world through a different, distorted pair of glasses.

Things weren't the same as they had been minutes before.

Hundreds of persons filed out of theaters after hearing the announcement over loud speaker systems. After the initial shock in the dark theaters, the bright street routine of traffic and bustling crowds seemed bizarre.

And at 5:20 p. m., slanting rain began to fall through sunshine.

Buyers swarmed around them.

adding to the impression of unreality.

By 5:30 p. m., the traffic patrolman at the intersection was swamped by troubled inquiries. Then came The Times' extras. Newsboys charged down the streets in all directions, lugging armloads of papers.

Buyers swarmed around them.

Wherever newsboys halted they were pinned to the spot until they were completely sold out. If they attempted to proceed, a moving queue proceeded with them. Their arms were usually emptied in less than a minute and they raced back for more.

Some newsies hopped on streetcars and busses, riding for a few

blocks, selling out, then repeating the procedure.

"This edition is worth saving. It's like a page torn from history," said one purchaser.

Faces of the readers were strained and pinched as they read down into the story.

At Union station, travelers, learning of the President's death,

shabbily dressed old newsie, his sleeves frayed, cap greasy, dropped into a tavern for a glass of beer. While sipping, he kept muttering automatically: "Roosevelt is dead, Roosevelt is dead." His rheumy, blurred eyes were blank. Nobody said a word.

Outside it was 6:30 and the crowds had drained off the streets.

It was calm and quiet again.

Truman Takes Oath as President in White House Ceremony



Harry S. Truman is sworn in as President of the United States by Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone of the U. S. supreme court in the presence of members of the cabinet and congress at the White House. Mrs. Truman stands in the center of the group.

MOTHER OF NEW PRESIDENT IS 92

'More Sorry for People Than Ourselves,' First Lady Says at News of F. D. R.'s Death

By MARTHA STAYER

Scripto-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, April 13.—Somewhere between the kind and unkind pictures painted of her by friends and enemies, is the real Eleanor Roosevelt—who now will retire to private life after 12 years in the White House.

Malvina Thompson, secretary, said the President's death struck Mrs. Roosevelt like a bolt from the blue. Her press conference yesterday was perhaps the last that ever will be held by a President's wife since Mrs. Roosevelt originated the idea and no other First Lady may be so active in public affairs.

She was gay and had a bookful of engagements for the next few days. Then came the shock.

"We are praying," she said, "that God will guide him and give him wisdom in the great responsibilities that he faces."

'Good Works' Affair

Significant of the real Eleanor Roosevelt was the engagement from which she was called when the White House phoned for her to hurry home.

She was attending a thrift club meeting—a "good works" affair like hundreds of similar events she aided. From the thrift club Mrs. Roosevelt returned to the White House, and up on the little elevator to her private sitting room.

Steve Early, White House secretary, and Vice Adm. Ross T. McIntire, the President's physician, broke the news.

"Sorry for People"

"I'm more sorry for the people of the country than I am for ourselves," said Mrs. Roosevelt.

Vice President Truman, who had been summoned to the White House, asked: "What can I do?"

"Tell us what we can do," Mrs. Roosevelt replied. "Is there any way we can help you?"

Also to Mrs. Roosevelt went the unhappy task of telling her four sons in the armed services. Secretary Early said she told them, "He did his job to the end, as he would want you to do. Bless you all our love. Mother."

In Perfect Health

What Mrs. Roosevelt will do now is anybody's guess.

She has boundless energy, perfect health. The contract for her syndicated column was recently renewed for another five years.

Eleanor Roosevelt wrote an interesting volume of personal memoirs, ending with 1924—she un-

doubtedly could name her price if she brought it up to date.

At the beginning of the fourth term, she was asked what she felt she had accomplished in 12 years. She said she didn't have any feeling of accomplishment.

However, she suggested that during the fourth term years she would be gratified if her press conferences highlighted subjects not only of interest to women but that would make women think in terms of issues.

She herself has highlighted many issues, sometimes making them more controversial.

Most controversial of all issues she has helped or hindered is

the issue of opportunity for education, justice, decent living

conditions, jobs with necessary qualifications, for Negroes.

On this she has been misquoted, misunderstood, but she has stuck by her guns.

Education, international relations, disabled servicemen, veterans, labor unionism, low-rent homes for families of low incomes, extension of social security, peace—are among her personal, burning questions.

Mrs. Roosevelt has been called one of the country's best politicians. She campaigned only once while in the White House—in a New York congressional election; but she kept a close eye on the women's division, Democratic national committee.

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It was only in recent weeks that the White House permitted publication of the fact that he had been in Hyde Park—and this was permitted only after the trip was over and he was back in the White House.

The theory behind the war-time super-protection obviously was that some enemy agent might try to "get him." But to the credit of the secret service, aided often by the armed services, not an attempt on the President's life was made during the period since Pearl Harbor.

Even in normal times, many special precautions are taken to safeguard the life of the chief executive. But after Pearl Harbor, the precautions were doubled and Mr. Roosevelt's every moment was a secret like the maneuvering of an American battleship in enemy waters.

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As many as 150,000 troops were used to protect the President's railroad route during one trip — his western war plant inspection trip in 1942.

The only attempt to assassinate Mr. Roosevelt occurred in Miami. After he had been elected President for the first time but before he had taken office in 1933. Shots intended for him fatally wounded Mayor Anton J. Cermak of Chicago. The assassin, Giuseppe Zangara, was executed.

Automatic Alarms

At Hyde Park a permanent installation of military police guards his home even when he was not there. The grounds of the Hyde Park estate also were heavily wired with floodlights and automatic alarms so sensitive that the movement of some forest animal would set them off.

In Warm Springs, the "little White House" was under constant guard by marines who also patrolled the front gate of the sprawling foundation and prevented any one without a special pass from entering the grounds.

The President was in Hyde Park many weeks—ends—particularly during the hot, humid Washington summers. During the war these

trips were as secret as an invasion.

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POPE EXPRESSES SORROW

ROME, April 13 (U. P.)—Pope Pius XII cabled his personal condolences to Mrs. Roosevelt and President Truman, early today immediately after he learned of Mr. Roosevelt's death.

IN INDIANAPOLIS—EVENTS—VITALS

EVENTS TODAY

Marion County Democratic committee, Jefferson day dinner, Claypool hotel, 6 p. m.

Maine Musicals, concert, L. S. Ayres & Co. auditorium, 8:30 p. m.

Prisoner of War society, meeting, Indiana War Memorial, west room, 1:30 p. m.

American Friends Fellowship council, First Friends church, dinner, 6:15 p. m.

Opera, Indiana School for the Blind, Auditorium, 8 p. m.

Indiana Society, American Chemical society, meeting, Warren hotel, 7:30 p. m.

Indianapolis Church Club of Business men, meeting, Irvington Methodist church, 8 p. m.

Indianapolis Council of Churchwomen, meeting, Central Christian church, 8 p. m.

Methodist revival meeting, Roberts Park Methodist church, 10 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Indiana Federation of Music clubs, convention, Indianapolis Athletic club, noon.

Phi Delta Theta luncheon, Columbus club, noon.

Indiana School Secretaries association, convention, Lincoln hotel.

American Friends Fellowship council, meetings, First Friends church, 9:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Methodist Revival meeting, Roberts Park Methodist church, 10 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Morgan P. Taylor, U. S. army, Betty Jane Robinson, 229 Lexington, 26th and 23rd, 2:30 p. m.

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