

TRUMAN ASIDES ADD TO SPEECH

Reads Message to Press
And Family First.

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

United Press Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, May 8.—President Truman made history this rainy morning in his oval office, reading his V-E day proclamation not only to an extra-early press conference but to his cabinet, congressional leaders and his family.

Then he read it to the nation from the broadcasting room in the executive office basement.

To the assembled reporters, administration leaders, Mrs. Truman and her daughter, the President's remarks probably sounded even better than they did to the radio audience.

He interpolated some extra and exuberant observations as he went along.

Flags of Freedom Fly'

Rain was falling in a downpour, but the apple-green office was brightly lighted, not only by electricity, but by the presidential smile. Mr. Truman stood in his double-breasted black suit, shirt with hard collar, and sober blue tie. He remarked that he didn't want his words released until after 9 a. m., and said he thought he'd better read his proclamation.

He said not to worry. It would take only seven minutes.

"The flags of freedom fly all over Europe," he began.

Then he smiled and added that something else was being celebrated, too—his birthday, his 61st.

Mrs. Truman, clad in a black suit and a turquoise blouse, smiled at her husband and he went on reading. Then he said he had another little release, a small document which would give the Japs some idea of what they can expect from now on.

Turning on Japs

The allies, Mr. Truman said, are turning loose upon them the greatest war machine in the history of the world.

As he talked, he was forced to blink. The photographers stood on chairs around the rear of the room and recorded the historic moment on celluloid. Their photo-flash lamps made a series of flashes, like a street car trolley on an icy wire.

The President looked up from his manuscript, said he'd been ready for this announcement since a week ago Saturday, and announced soberly that America has enormous problems before her. He used the Hollywood—terrific—and he spoke it soberly.

He said we could make the world a happy place in which to live, or we could ruin it, depending on whether we worked with our allies in peace as we have in war. Then he took up his script again.

Prayers Next Sunday

"The victory won in the West," he said, "must now be won in the East."

He thought a moment and said he hoped that this thought could be emphasized time after time.

Back to his speech, he read the phrase: "The dictators once thought us soft and weak."

And he wondered, he said with a smile, what the Germans think about us now.

Next Sunday, he said, would be dedicated to prayer; particularly appropriate, too, he added, because it is Mother's day.

Mr. Truman said that he'd sent congratulatory cables to Winston Churchill, Marshal Stalin and Gen. Eisenhower and De Gaulle. He started to read them, but settled for the one to Eisenhower, when Secretary Jonathan Daniels interrupted to say he'd better get to his microphone downstairs. The clock said 8:57 a. m.

FREE MAIL FOR MRS. F. D. R.
WASHINGTON, May 8 (U. P.)—President Truman has signed a bill giving Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt lifetime franking privileges.

Hersey and Mauldin Among Winners of Pulitzer Prizes

NEW YORK, May 8 (U. P.)—John Hersey's "A Bell for Adano," received the Pulitzer prize of \$500 yesterday as the most distinguished novel published during 1944.

May Chase's comedy drama, "Harvey," the story of an alcoholic and his invisible six-foot rabbit, received the \$500 award for the original American play representing in marked fashion "the educational value and power of the stage, preferring dealing with American life."

The Detroit, Mich., Free Press won the Pulitzer award for the most disinterested and meritorious public service rendered by an American newspaper during the year for its investigation of legislative graft and corruption at Lansing, Mich.

The distinguished editorial writing award, limited to the editorial page, went to George W. Porter, chief editorial writer of the Providence, R. I., Journal-Bulletin.

Select Best Cartoon

Sgt. Bill Mauldin, United Features Syndicate, Inc., cartoonist, won the cartoonist award. Mauldin was singled out "for distinguished service as a cartoonist as exemplified by the cartoon entitled, 'Fresh-spirited American troops flushed with victory, are bringing in thousands of hungry, ragged, battle-worn prisoners.' The cartoon was from Mauldin's series 'Up Front With Mauldin.'

James B. Reston of the New York Times won the \$500 award "for a distinguished example of telegraphic reporting on national affairs published in daily newspapers in the United States."

The \$500 award for distinguished telegraphic reporting on international affairs went to Mark S. Watson, military correspondent of the Baltimore Sun. Watson was honored for "distinguished reporting during the year 1944 from Wash-

Friends, Relatives Happy at News of Gen. 'Beedle' Smith

Governor Gates today extended Indiana's appreciation for superb service to the nation to Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, the Indianapolis general who signed the German surrender for the allies.

"In this hour of sober triumph all Indiana extends grateful appreciation for your superb service to the nation," Governor Gates cabled. "Your historic record accords honor and distinction worthy of Indiana's greatest wartime tradition."

"Through you all Indiana pays homage . . . to the great leader Gen. Eisenhower."

Eisenhower's Key Man

And in Indianapolis many others proudly read of the general signing the surrender in the little red schoolhouse in Reims.

When the news of the end of the war in Europe was announced, George V. Bedell, 1424 Marlowe ave., the general's uncles; Manual high school and many friends and former neighbors listened most attentively.

Chief of staff to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Gen. Smith has been the key man in the mobilization of vast numbers of men and material that brought victory in Europe.

He has participated in invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy and France and his uniform is decorated with four rows of medals, including the distinguished service medal with a cluster, the legion of merit, the legion of honor, and the croix de guerre with a palm.

"The lad was quite a scrapper in his youth," his one uncle said, recalling Walter's youth at 1723 Ashland ave., where his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. William L. Smith, lived.

Writes His Teacher

"I'm just tickled to death to think that he has done what he has," Mrs. Nettie Rigler, 28 S. Oxford st., the general's childhood nurse, said.

Mrs. Rigler took care of the general when he was 3 years old and keeps a scrap book of all of his achievements. She recalls that he was "smart as a tack when a baby."

Especially proud of the general, too, is Miss Arda Knox, 803 E. 34th st., his mathematics teacher at Manual high school.

Just last January Miss Knox received a letter from the general, the first she had heard from him since she saw his head bent over his algebra book in the classroom.

E. H. Kemper McComb, Manual principal, also recalled the general's high school days, describing him as a "solid and substantial" student.

Rises Hard Way

Having joined the National Guard when he left high school in 1913, Gen. Smith came up through the army the hard way. He was not a West Pointer but began as a second lieutenant at Ft. Harrison in 1917. When world war II started, he was a colonel.

When he was promoted to brigadier general, "Beedle" Smith was appointed secretary of the chief of staff board for Gen. Eisenhower.

Stoneman Was Right on Victory

A prophecy by The Times' veteran correspondent, William H. Stoneman, was borne out finally and completely with today's Big Three announcement of the total capitulation of Germany.

On March 28 Mr. Stoneman wrote from London:

"Germany's 'capitulation' is likely to be a piecemeal, disorganized affair in which one military command and one town after another will surrender or be wiped out."

"This may preclude any such Armistice day as the allies celebrated in 1918. It may also involve a lot of tedious, bloody battles in such difficult areas as Holland, Norway, Bavaria, Bohemia and northern Italy."

4 LOCAL PASTORS ARE REAPPOINTED

Reappointment of the pastors of four Evangelical churches in Indianapolis was announced at the 93d annual session of the Indiana Conference of the Evangelical church, which closed Sunday at Ft. Wayne.

The four local pastors reappointed for 1945-46 are the Rev. E. F. Roesti, Broadway; the Rev. C. L. Haney, Beville Avenue; the Rev. H. H. Hazenfield, First, and the Rev. Robert J. Roederer, Second.

The Rev. F. O. Wacknitz, former pastor of the Second church, was appointed to the church at Culver, and the Rev. F. G. Kuepler, former pastor of the Beville Avenue church, was appointed to the office—more than the late President Roosevelt would hold over a period of five or six months.

The Rev. M. O. Herman was re-appointed as superintendent of the Indianapolis district.

Truman Celebrates Doubly: V-E Day Comes on Birthday

WASHINGTON, May 8 (U. P.)—Starting with a press conference at 8:30 o'clock this morning.

Thirty minutes later he made one of the most historic broadcasts ever made by a President—announcing the official end of the war with Germany.

The way the President spent his birthday was typical of his entire life—hard work, early to bed, early to rise. Since he took the oath of office on the night of April 12, he has held more than 200 conferences in his office—more than the late President Roosevelt would hold over a period of five or six months.

Mr. Truman thrives on work. He is one of the fastest walkers in Washington and in the weeks he has been to and from the Blair house he has maintained a steady, fast clip over the Pennsylvania ave. car tracks.

President Roosevelt was 63 old when he died last month, and despite his 61 years, Mr. Truman seems much younger. To people who suggest that he reduce the pace of his daily schedule, he says they should stick around until he really settles down to work.

So this was actually the President's first full day in the White House. And it was a really full day.

ASK SEMI-YEARLY AUTOMOBILE TESTS

Inspection of brakes, lights and other automobile driving mechanisms every six months was recommended today by the Indiana Automotive Maintenance Association.

The group of independent garage owners and managers has asked Governor Gates for his support of proposed legislation requiring this inspection. A fee of 50 cents for passenger cars and \$1 for trucks was suggested by the association.

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