

## Truman Makes It Clear He's In Drivers Seat On United States Foreign Policy Decisions

By PETER LISAGOR, Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—For better or worse, President Truman has served notice to friend and foe alike that America's foreign policy is his policy.

He'll take the credit for it—or the raps.

This is the unmistakable upshot of his fireside chat last Friday which followed the successive deviations of Secretary of Navy Matthews and Gen. MacArthur.

As a result of Mr. Matthews' "preventive-war" talk and Gen. MacArthur's "defend - Formosa" theme, it wasn't clear in recent days whether foreign policy was being made at the Pentagon or the State Department.

The decision to inform the people that it's made—or least approved—at the White House, according to historical source, was the President's.

It is known that some Presi-

ty on his own, if necessary—in of Mr. Byrnes' penchant for speaking as though he were the foreign policy architect.

## Wallace Firing Cited

The most notable case of the President acting decisively, although not too swiftly, was when he fired Henry Wallace from his cabinet in 1946 after Mr. Wallace had made a speech in which he urged less than a "get tough" policy toward the Soviet Union.

Just nine months after he had taken office in 1946, he felt compelled to say that the State Department carried out the President's policies, not vice versa.

James F. Byrnes was then Secretary of State and a slight chill had developed between the two men, it is understood, because

## Determined To Speak

But Mr. Truman overruled them and determinedly said he was going to make the speech.

It was not the first time, of course, that the President ex-

hibited the quality to act decisive-

In recent months, for example, in which policy toward China, Formosa, Korea, preventive war and American aims, were outlined, Mr. Acheson was "always handy," as one source put it.

## 'No Shirker'

But it was made clear that the President had no intention of knocking down the military and assert that the relationship between the Defense Department was that of great mutual respect.

The President is said to have been anxious to go easy on Mr. Matthews, who had shown great penitence and offered to resign, but he wanted to emphasize that preventive war was "the weapon of dictators, not of free democratic countries."

He was equally adamant in

making clear that the purpose in Formosa "is peace, not conquest," and American aims, were outlined.

He was careful to avoid under-

scoring any Defense-State ten-

sions that is an inevitable out-

growth of diplomatic and military

considerations in the world.

For this reason, it is strongly

suspected that Mr. Truman gives

considerable weight to Mr. Acheson's views and it is true the State

Department position was largely

reflected in the President's speech.

While the speech may not have

represented a sudden change in the President's attitude, it was a reassertion of the fact that his voice is the foreign policy voice, let the chips fall where they may.

It wasn't the President's pur-

pose, but it is hardly likely that

he succeeded in getting off the

hook either Mr. Acheson or De-

fense Secretary Johnson the top

priority targets in the forthcom-

ing political campaign.

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About  
AndBy GA  
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series for the  
Times)Q—What's the  
I can serve in  
If I enlist?

A—Three years

Q—What's the  
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do they get?

A—The pres-  
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Q—I have ap-  
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A—You will be

Q—What's the  
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