

Handwritten notes on President's speech with attached explanatory notes, November 1, 1948. President's Secretary's Files, Truman Papers.



General  
Services  
Administration

Harry S. Truman Library  
National Archives and  
Records Service

Independence,  
Missouri 64050

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Date : June 1, 1982

Reply to  
Attn of : Superviosry Archivist (CWO)

Subject: Memo for the files -- HST hand-written notes

To :

These hand-written notes were done by President Truman for a speech on the radio from Independence, MO, on election eve, November 1, 1948.

These notes were rescued from the trash can in the Presidential suite of the Hotel Muehlebach, Kansas City, MO, by Jack Romagna, the Official White House reporter. He saw them and took them as a souvenir.

He recently donated them to the Library, along with other materials.

The original of these documents is in the Library Security Cage.

*Speech File*  
PST- Box 13 Trip #8

Excerpt from letter from Jack Romagna, White House Official Reporter, 1941-62,  
to Director, Harry S. Truman Library, March 7, 1982

Ah, serendipity! Little did you realize when you wrote to me that you were going to stumble onto something else!

I have in my possession the handwritten notes (8 smallish pages) of President Truman's last speech to the nation on election eve, November 1, 1948. Here is the story behind it.

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The locale is the Penthouse suite of the old Muehlebach Hotel, where the President dictated to me from his handwritten notes. I typed the speech and ran off the finished copies on the mimeograph machine and then gave the original notes and some stenciled copies either directly to the President or to Matt Connelly, I forget which.

Now the penthouse suite was not a particularly good place to use as an office. The only desk in that over-sized living room was small, 18th century French style and kidney shaped, at which the President worked when he was there.

Later that evening I returned to the living room, which was full of people, noise, talk and confusion, and I happened to glance at the desk and the trash basket beside it, and there, in the trash basket, apparently thrown away, were the President's handwritten notes.

I picked them up, took them to my room, <sup>and</sup> placed them in an envelope which I put in my briefcase for safekeeping.

Many years later, after I had retired -- I cannot explain how or why I forgot, but I did -- in looking over some of my papers I found this envelope and, looking inside, there were the handwritten notes.

My theory is that the notes were left lying on the desk, and in the noise and confusion of the evening the desk got pushed around a bit because it was so small and kidney-shaped, and the notes just fell or slid into the trash basket.

*yes*  
If you would like to have them, just let me know. Should I mail them or have someone from National Archives come and pick them up? Can we trust the mail?

If I can aid you any further in any way, please let me know.

Sincerely,

*Jack Romagna*

WM. M. BOYLE, JR.

Thank Sen. Barkley for introduction. Thank <sup>him</sup> on behalf of all the people of this great country, for his unflinching leadership in their interest and welfare. Senator Barkley will go down in history as one of our greatest Democrats.

During the past two months I've been going up and down country from ~~Maine~~ to Boston to San Diego, from Seattle to Miami - in State Capitals, in county seats in cross roads villages ~~in~~ and country towns - telling

the what the Democratic  
Party stands for in government.

The people showed great inter-  
est - they came out by mil-  
lions. They wanted to know  
what the issues are in this  
campaign and I told them  
what was in my heart and  
in my mind. I've explained  
what the Democratic Party Plat-  
form adopted at Philadelphia  
in June means and that I  
intend to carry it out if you  
will give me a Democratic

Congress to help.

I thank the people of the United States for their cordiality and courtesy to me for their interest in the affairs of this great nation and the world. I trust the people because when they know the facts they do the right thing. I have tried to tell them the facts and explain the issues. Now it is up to you the people of this great nation to decide the kind of government you want

WM. M. BOYLE, JR.

Whether you want government  
for all the people or govern-  
ment for the privileged few.

Tonight I am at home here  
in Independence, Missouri  
with Mrs. Truman and Margaret.  
We are here to vote tomorrow  
as citizens of this great Republic.

I hope all who are entitled  
to vote will exercise that  
privilege. When you vote you  
are in control of your govern-  
ment. \*When you vote to -



Tomorrow you will be deciding between the principles of the Democratic Party - the party of the people and the principles of the Republican Party - the party of privilege.

Your decision will affect you and your families for years to come.

Your vote tomorrow is not just a vote for one man or the other - it is a vote which affects your security, your welfare and your happiness.

This great country of yours  
is in the position of world  
leadership for peace.

I believe just as firmly as  
it is possible for a man to  
believe that Almighty God  
has appointed the United States  
of America to that leadership  
! We were in that same position  
30 years ago - we failed to meet  
our obligation - World War II  
was the result.

This time we must rise  
up to our opportunity to establish

a permanent peace for the  
greatest age in history.

We have two great goals  
one to build a secure life  
for ourselves and our families  
here at home and the other  
<sup>to build</sup> a lasting peace for the world.

And now, my fellow citizens,  
I confide to you the future  
welfare of our country.

I have told you the truth as  
God gives me the wisdom to see  
~~the~~ truth

Go to the polls tomorrow  
and vote your convictions -  
your hopes - and your faith  
in the future. If you do that,  
under God, we can lead the  
world to freedom and security.

