June 1, 1982

Memo for the files -- HST hand-written notes

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's Security Cage.
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 (3 smallish pages) of President Truman's last speech to the nation on election eve, November 1, 1948. Here is the story behind it.

The locale is the penthouse suite of the old Kuehlebach 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, 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.

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
Thank Sen. Barkley for his introduction. Thank on behalf of all the people of the great counties for his magnificent leadership in their interest and welfare. Senator Barkley will go down in history as one of our greatest Americans.

During the past two months, I've been up and down country from Boston to San Diego, from State to State, from Capitol to Capitol, in county seats in cross road villages, in meadows and country towns — telling...
the what the Democratic Party stands for in government. The people showed great interest; they came out by millions. 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 explained what the Democratic Party platform adopted at Philadelphia in June means, and that I will stand to carry it out if you will give me a Democratic
Congress to help.

Thank the people of the United States for their candor, and courtesy, to me for the interest the affairs of this great nation and the world. It 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.
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.
Those 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, 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 are in that same position 30 years ago, we failed to meet our obligation—World War II was the result. This time, we must arise up to our opportunity, to establish...
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.