June 1, 1982

Reply to: Supervisory 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 at 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.

[Handwritten note: PSF 8/13 Trip #8]
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, 19th-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 you both for all the people of the great counties for his inspiring leadership in their interest and welfare. Senator Barkley will go down in history as one of our greatest leaders.

During the past two months, he has been up and down country from Boston to San Diego, from North to South - in State Capitol, in county seats in cross roads villages and country towns - telling
WM. M. BOYLE, JR.

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 explained
what the Democratic Party's
platform adopted at Philadelpa-
phia in June means and that I
would try to carry it out if you
would give me a Democratic
Congress to help.

Thank the people of the United States for their confidence and courtesy, to use for their interest 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. Harris and Margaret.

We are free to vote tomorrow
as citizens of this great Republic.

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, but for a vote which affects your security, your welfare and your happiness.
This great country of ours 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 today. 

This time we cannot lose up to our obligation—World War II was the exception.
a permanent peace for the
greatest age in history.
We have two great goals
one to build a secure life
for ourselves and our family
here at home and the other
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.