

When we went into the President's office for our staff meeting this morning there was a sculptor, Stanley Martineau, there working on two small, clay busts of the President. They were remarkably good, one a particularly fine likeness.

The President had a fairly full list of appointments during the day and was scheduled to go to Constitution Hall tonight to attend a concert by Sigmund Romberg.

Mary and I drove to Providence Hospital where she went to see Mable Ostrander, who has been there for a couple of weeks as a result of injuries in an automobile accident and also a nasal operation. Afterward we drove to Hall's Restaurant, Seventh street near the waterfront, for dinner. So after, to stop at the office and thence home.

May 12th, Wednesday.

Reaction ~~hmm~~ as reported in the newspapers this morning, to the Bedell Smith-Molotov exchange, was varied and it brought about some discussion at our morning staff meeting. There was some comment on the manner in which the State Department handled the release of the exchange after it gave the communications out following the Russian broadcast, disclosing what had been done. The President pointed out that the Department made the letters public without any background or explanation and even without the opening paragraph of the instructions to Ambassador Smith in Moscow, showing that he acted at the direction of the President and the Secretary of State. While the President was thus given no credit, as Ross remarked the Department will come running back to the President in the end.

The Palestine situation also came in for some discussion after Bill Hassett told of a talk he had last night with David Cushman Coyle who told him of a plan Kermit Roosevelt proposed for dealing with the problem. Roosevelt proposed steps to halt trade to Palestine which, as Clifford pointed out, would in effect mean the imposition of sanctions.

Clifford had a memorandum on the situation and commented that the State Department's position on Palestine was incredible. He said they had now gone completely back to the idea of partition after having put over the trusteeship proposal that practically scuttled the American position for partition. He had talked with Rusk of the Department and he said he asked him what had been accomplished by all of it. In effect, of course, nothing has been accomplished -- except, as the President agreed, to embarrass the President.

Clifford said the State Department has been considering the idea of something along the line of sanctions ~~hmm~~ and this would have to be taken up in the Security Council of the United Nations. Someone said this would be subject to the veto but, as Clifford said, that could apply only to the individual nation. If the United Nations turned down sanctions the United States and Britain still could impose sanctions and if Britain declined to, the United States still could

and this would be almost as effective as most of the supplies come from the United States anyhow. Such sanctions still would not shut off the flow of arms to Palestine as the President commented that arms now are being shipped in from Czechoslovakia and Russia anyhow, by airplane. Clifford said the purpose of sanctions would not be to shut off arms but rather other supplies and the President commented that would shut off also oil royalties to Arabia.

The President had several appointments, as usual during the day and in the late afternoon a session with Secretary Marshall, Undersecretary Lovett and others of the staff, largely on Palestine.

In the afternoon I went to Silver Spring, at the invitation of Aubrey Thomas, to visit the Applied Physics Laboratory where a great deal of secret work is being done, chiefly at this time, on guided missiles, rockets. The laboratory is supported by the Navy ordnance department, with Johns Hopkins University and various industrial concerns about the country who are contributing both in research and manufacturing. I went through the place with Thomas and officials of the laboratory who showed me what is being done in the development of the rockets.

I was there practically all afternoon and it was about 5 p.m. when I left for home. In the meantime Mary had come to the White House at 4 p.m. and accompanied Mrs. Truman and Reatha Odum to Dr. Wallace Graham's home, at Walter Reed hospital, to a tea given by Mrs. Graham. Afterward Mary came home and was there when I arrived. We had dinner at home and were home in the evening except for a drive to the White House to get the papers.

May 14th, Friday.

General Vaughan, who has been in Missouri, was back this morning. At our staff conference he asked the President what Governor Tuck said to the President when the two met at the time the President visited Williamsburg, Va., to receive a degree at Mary William & Mary College. He asked if, as he said was reported in the Kansas City Star, Tuck said: "How are you Mr. Pendergast?"

The President scoffed at it and said of course, he did not; Tuck greeted him like a long-lost brother and said, "How are you, Mr. President?"

Clifford said Lillienthal, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, wanted to bring all of the members of the commission in on May 17th to give the President a report on the Eniwetok atom bomb tests, recently made. The President agreed but said to make the appointment for more than 15 minutes as he wanted to talk to the commission. He said he wanted to tell them either to back him up in his fight for the terms for which he has nominated them or to get out.

Clifford also spoke of a conference he had held on the question of racial segregation in the National Guard. He thought a pretty fair agreement

on a program had been worked out, comprising some three points. The first was that with the National Guard the state's could enact and should enact their own legislation. Another point related to land grant colleges for negroes.

The President held a press and radio conference which was not marked by much news. The reporters based their stories chiefly on an answer to a question as to whether the President's hopes for peace had been improved through the Molotov-Smith exchanges, over the view he expressed some time ago when he said his confidence had been somewhat shaken. He said today that his hopes had not been strengthened.

This was a religious day on the President's appointment schedule. At 11:00 o'clock more than 300 priests, members of the Alumni Association of the North American College in Rome were received. They went through to the Rose Garden where the President spoke very briefly to them. At 11:15 he received three Presbyterian clergymen representing the church who came in to present their stand on foreign policy and at noon he received a delegation from the American Council of Christian Churches which has been meeting in Atlanta.

At 3:30 p.m., the President held a conference with the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army, Chief of Staff Bradley, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Denfield, chief of naval operations; secretary of the air force and General Hoyt S. Vandenberg and Director Webb of the Budget Bureau. This was to go over a recommendation which was sent up to the Speaker of the House immediately afterward for revisions in the budget for the armed services.

Later I walked to the Press Club and there met Mary and had dinner there with her. We walked back to the White House and drove home from there.

May 14th, Friday.

There was little at our staff meeting this morning and the President had no appointments for the forenoon except the regular cabinet meeting at 10 o'clock. At noon he received Monnett B. Davis, the new ambassador to Panama and at 12:15 he had an off-the-record appointment with Ernie Cuneo, attorney for Walter Wichell. What the purpose of this was, was not disclosed but Senator Howard McGrath, Democratic chairman, came with him.

We did have a minor flurry during the day, however, as a result of a story which appeared in the New York Times this morning and possibly in other papers. The President was scheduled to present awards this afternoon to Honor Medal Winners of the Schoolboy Patrol. This is an enterprise of the American Automobile Association which brought winners from various parts of the country. Among the children from New York who were scheduled to come were four negroes. They found, in New York, when arrangements were being made, that the negroes would not be admitted to some hotels or to eat with white children in some restaurants and as a result they cancelled the trip.

We expected something of a flareback as a result although the

White House had nothing to do with the selection of the winners or the make-up of the list of those coming to the White House. However, it passed off without much embarrassment. One of the boys who received medals from the President was a negro, which helped.

The outstanding event here was the announcement about 6:15 tonight by Charlie Ross of recognition by the President of the new Jewish state of Israel, set up in Palestine by the Jews. The British mandate in Palestine expired tonight and the Jews proclaimed the new state to be effective at 6:01 p.m.

The sudden and unexpected recognition by the United States was brought about through planning that has been under way several days. Clark Clifford took a considerable part in it. It was carried out very secretly, however. Late in the day a statement was completed and before 6 o'clock Ross and I were in his office and Clifford brought in the statement. It had been agreed to by Secretary of State Marshall and Undersecretary Lovett. The U.S. delegation at the United Nations had not been informed and we waited while Lovett at State Department reached Warren Austin, head of the delegation in New York, and ~~himself~~ told him. This was around 6 p.m. or a few minutes thereafter.

About 6:12 newspapermen on duty here at the White House were called in to Ross's office and he read them the "Statement by the President" which follows:

"This government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the Provisional government thereof.

"The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new State of Israel."

Ross followed this by a statement on his own which was "The desire of the United States to obtain a truce in Palestine will in no way be lessened by the proclamation of a Jewish state. We hope that the new Jewish state will join with the Security Council Truce Commission in redoubled efforts to bring about an end to the fighting which has been throughout the United Nations consideration of Palestine a principal objective of this government."

Actually the only request for recognition was in the form of a letter that came in this afternoon from Elishu Epstein, Washington representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. He acted without having received authority from the Jewish organization in Palestine, we understand, but there is no question about that coming.

Afterward Ross and I were discussing the whole situation, particularly State Department handling of the Palestine issue and he expressed the belief, with which I agree, that the Department has been influenced by certain of the people in it who are Anglophiles, following the British line without consideration for U.S. interests. As I told him, they seem to operate completely in a vacuum so far as the United States and its domestic affairs and politics are concerned. One who has exercised - but probably does so no longer -- particularly strong influence, especially in the switch from partition to trusteeship, is Loy Henderson.

The President tonight spoke at a dinner of the Young Democrats at the Mayflower Hotel. This speech followed the plan of the last two or three under which the President used no manuscript. A draft of an address had been made and had been gone over with him by some of the staff and he had worked on it also and had some notes. His talk, however, appeared as an extemporaneous address and he made a good impression. It was carried by only one radio network, Mutual, and Mary and I listened to it at home. I thought the President did well although he did not stick accurately to all that had been planned.

He made his strongest hit when he told his audience that there would be a Democrat in the White House the next four years "and you're looking at him."

In the final paragraph of his speech, however, he made a reference to the need now for an Isaiah and a Martin Luther and the reference to Luther was not, perhaps, too fortunate, especially in its effect upon Catholics.

May 15th, Saturday.

Bill Hassett, who is a Catholic, brought up the President's reference to Martin Luther in his speech last night, at the opening of our staff meeting this morning. My wife had said last night when she heard it that she wished he had not made it and Bill took a similar slant. The President told Bill that Luther actually had done more for the Catholic church than any other person through his part in the Reformation. He told Bill he had a book he'd let him read on Luther and Bill laughingly replied that he had a book on Luther.

I told the President about hearing Governor Thomas E. Dewey on the "Meet the Press" radio program last night and that Dewey said he inaugurated the present bi-partisan foreign policy of the United States.

"The fact is," the President said, "that was started by Franklin Roosevelt when he appointed Knox (Frank Knox of Manchester, N.H.) and Stimson (Henry L. Stimson) to his cabinet." Roosevelt named Knox, a Republican, as secretary of the navy and Stimson, a Republican, as secretary of war. Knox served until his death and Stimson until his retirement after President Truman came in.

The President went on to recall that Dewey had been planning a speech (in 1944 campaign, as I recall) which would have done great harm and that he was induced not to make it. This was become known at the time. The President commented that it was well often to know the history behind some of these things.

There was some talk about the Palestine action of last night and of what further can be said in view of the questions raised as to probable action on the arms embargo now in effect, diplomatic representation, etc.

The President had no appointments on his list for today and he went to the House for the afternoon. We were kept at the office for some time by a veto we gave out on a bill which the Congress passed providing for investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the loyalty and character of his nominations to the Atomic Energy Commission. The President held that the bill was wholly unnecessary and unwise and an unwarranted encroachment by the legislative branch of the executive authority. He also questioned its constitutionality.