The original documents are located in Box 31, "5/8/76 - Remarks at the Dedication of the Harry S. Truman Statue, Independence, Missouri" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT DEDICATION OF STATUE OF

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

MAY 8, 1976

Acknowledgements - Truman Status Dedication

Thank you, Governor Bond

Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel

Distinguished Members of Congress:

Senator Humphrey	Congressman Symington
Senator Symington	Congressman Randall
Senator Curtis	Congre ss man Bolling
Senator Eagleton	

Mayor King

Dr. Jonas (Chairman, Truman Statue Committee)

Distinguished Guests

Friends and admirers of Harry Truman

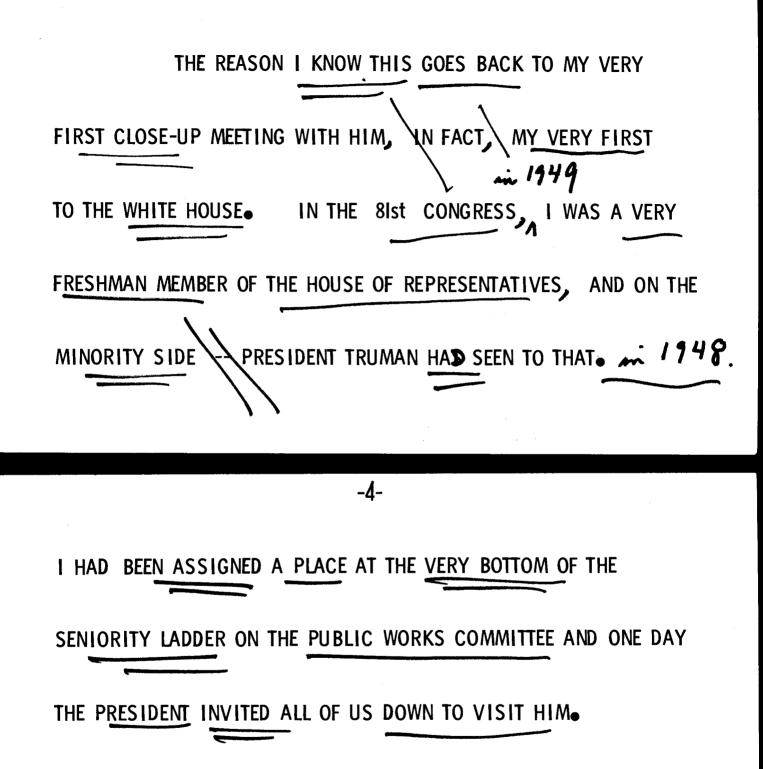
SURROUNDED AS I AM BY OLD FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN, IT WILL BE HARD AND PERHAPS FOOLHARDY TO TRY TO ADD ANYTHING TO THE AFFECT IONATE TRIBUTES ALREADY PAID HIM AS A PUBLIC SERVANT AND AS A MAN. BUT I HAVE A FEW MEMORIES OF MY OWN, SO I WILL TRY.

-1-

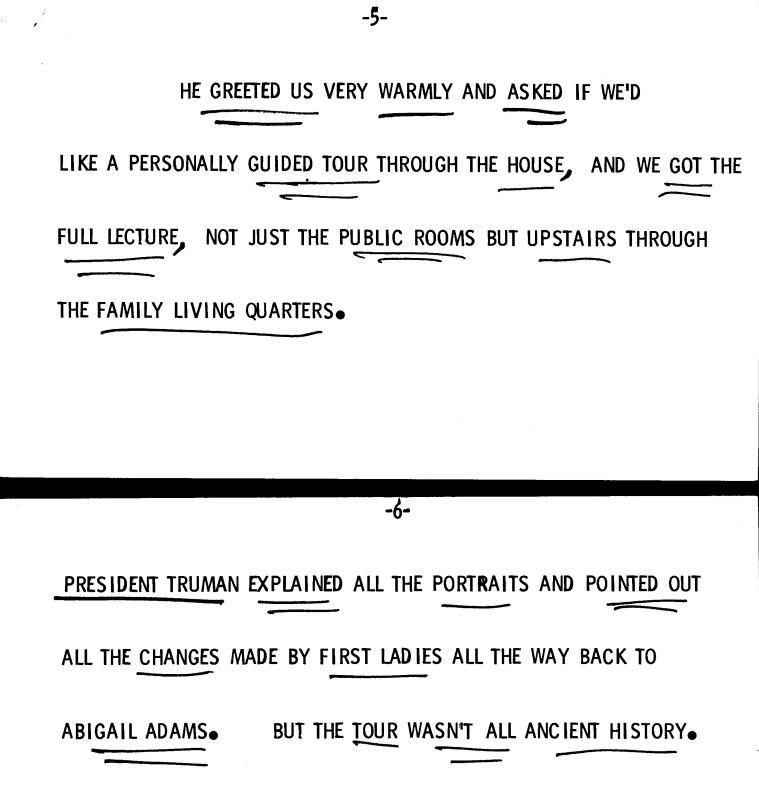
-2-

MR. TRUMAN WAS A GREAT STUDENT OF_HISTORY,

AND HE PARTICULARLY LIKED TO TALK ABOUT HIS PREDECESSORS AND THE QUALITIES EACH OF THEM BROUGHT TO THE PRESIDENCY. HE WAS REALLY EXPERT AT IT ALLOWING FOR A LITTLE TILT TOWARD JEFFERSON, JACKSON AND HIS DISTANT KINSMAN JOHN TYLER.

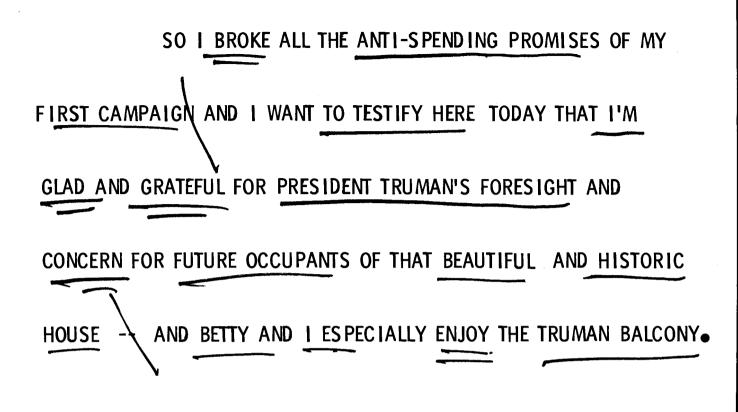


-3-



THE PRESIDENT ALSO SHOWED US THE HOLE IN THE FLOOR IN MARGARET'S SITTING ROOM WHERE HER SPINET PLANO ATTEMPTED TO OBEY THE LAW OF GRAVITY. HE STOOD US UNDER THE HUGE CRYSTAL CHANDELIER THAT ALMOST CRASHED DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EAST ROOM RECEPTION -8-HE POINTED TO THE SWAYBACK CEILING OF THE STATE DINING ROOM WHICH HE SAID WAS ONLY HELD UP BY FORCE OF HABIT. WE WERE ALL TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED, AND WE THANKED PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND TROOPED BACK UP TO CAPITOL HILL AND PROMPTLY VOTED HIM EVERY PENNY OF THE 5.4 MILLION DOLLARS HE WANTED TO COMPLETELY RENOVATE THE WHITE HOUSE.

-7-

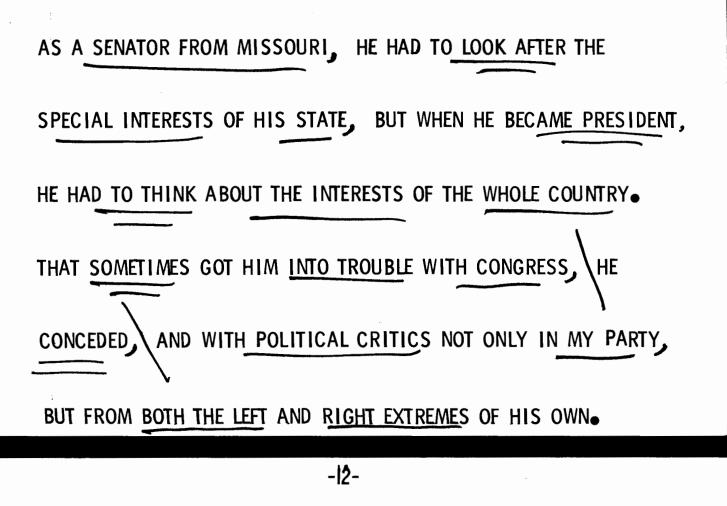


-10-

THERE'S A SERIOUS SIDE TO THIS STORY OF PRESIDENT

TRUMAN'S SKILL IN LOBBYING THE WHOLE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE. HE WAS PROUD OF HIS POWERS OF PERSUASION, AND HE OFTEN SAID THE PRESIDENT IS THE ONLY PERSON IN WASHINGTON WHOSE JOB

IS TO LOBBY ON BEHALF OF ALL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.



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"WHEN A PRESIDENT DOESN'T HAVE A FIGHT OR TWO

WITH CONGRESS," HE WROTE IN HIS MEMOIRS, "YOU KNOW THERE

IS SOMETHING WRONG."

ALTHOUGH I WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE IN MANY OF THESE CONTESTS, I NOW KNOW HOW PRESIDENT TRUMAN FELT. I'M STILL TRYING BUT I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO BEAT HIS POSTWAR RECORD OF 250 VETOES.

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DIFFER THOUGH WE DID ON A LOT OF ISSUES,

I COMPLETELY AGREE WITH MR. TRUMAN'S STERN CONCEPT OF

PRESIDENTIAL DUTY.

" A PRESIDENT CANNOT ALWAYS BE POPULAR,"

HE WROTE AFTER COMING HOME TO INDEPENDENCE

"HE HAS TO BE ABLE TO SAY YES AND NO, AND MORE OFTEN NO, TO MOST OF THE PROPOSITIONS THAT ARE PUT UP TO HIM BY PARTISAN GROUPS AND SPECIAL INTERESTS WHO ARE ALWAYS PULLING AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR ONE THING OR ANOTHER.

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"I HAVE NEVER FELT THAT POPULARITY AND GLAMOUR

ARE FUNDAMENTALS ON WHICH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE

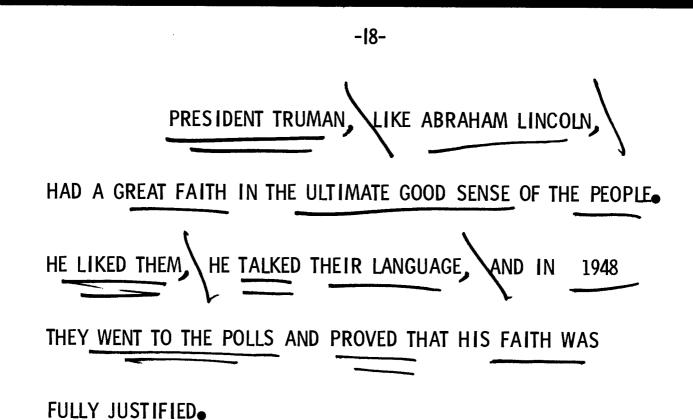
GOVERNMENT SHOULD OPERATE ... A MAN WHO IS INFLUENCED BY

THE POLLS OR IS AFRAID TO MAKE DECISIONS WHICH MAY MAKE HIM

UNPOPULAR IS NOT A MAN TO REPRESENT THE WELFARE OF THE

COUNTRY."

"I HAVE <u>ALWAYS BELIEVED</u> THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WANT TO DO WHAT <u>IS RIGHT</u> AND THAT IF THE PRESIDENT IS RIGHT AND CAN GET THROUGH TO THE PEOPLE HE CAN ALWAYS PERSUADE THEM."



I REMEMBER THAT CAMPAIGN VERY WELL, NOT BECAUSE GOVERNOR DEWEY WAS A NATIVE SON OF MICHIGAN, BUT BECAUSE IT WAS MY FIRST BID FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE.

-20-

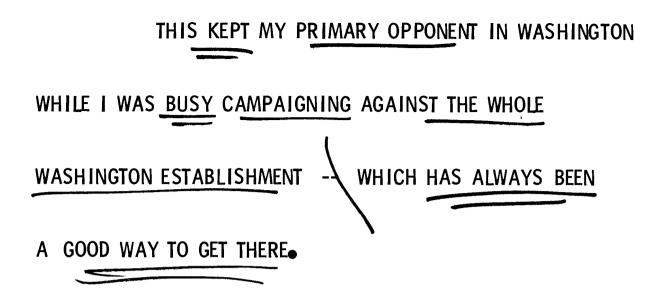
I HAD A TOUGH PRIMARY FIGHT, AND

PRESIDENT TRUMAN UNKNOWINGLY DID ME A FAVOR BY CALLING

RESTREAT TROMAN UNKNOW HIGET DTD ME A FAVOR BT CA

THE CONGRESS BACK IN MID-SUMMER FOR HIS FAMOUS

"TURNIP DAY" SESSION.



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BUT THE REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY PRIMARY OPPONENT

AND ME WAS THAT HE WAS A SINCERE ISOLATIONIST AND A LEADING OPPONENT OF THE MARSHALL PLAN AND PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S OTHER EFFORTS TO REBUILD WARTORN EUROPE AND MAINTAIN THE UNITED STATES' ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN THE WORLD. LIKE MOST OF US JUST HOME FROM WORLD WAR II, I WENT ALONG WITH PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND THE UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM MY HOMETOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS, ARTHUR VANDENBERG, IN SUPPORTING A STRONG BI-PARTISAN POSTURE IN DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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AND I WENT ON SUPPORTING PRESIDENT TRUMAN

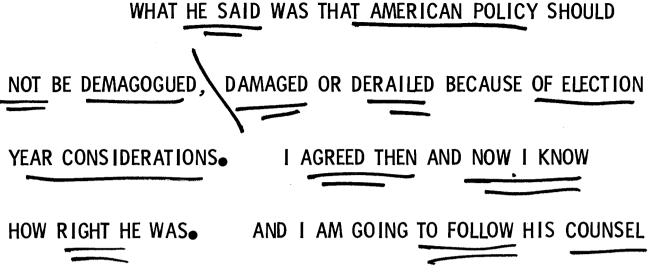
AS A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS ON THE GREAT ISSUES AFFECTING PEACE AND NATIONAL SECURITY WHICH IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF OUR HISTORY OUGHT NEVER TO BE EXPLOITED OR DISTORTED FOR PURELY PERSONAL OR PARTISAN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE. PRESIDENT TRUMAN NOTED IN HIS MEMOIRS THAT 1948 WAS THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME FOR HIM TO HAVE TO WAGE A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, BECAUSE HE WAS TRYING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE RUSSIANS AND TRYING TO GET SOME KIND OF CEASE-FIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

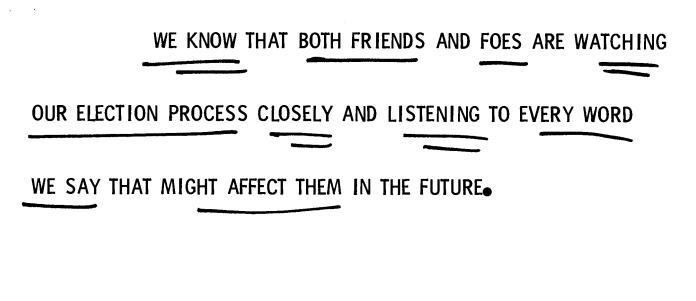
-26-THERE SHOULD BE NO BREAK IN THE BI-PARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AT ANY TIME. HE SAID PARTICULARLY DURING A NATIONAL ELECTION

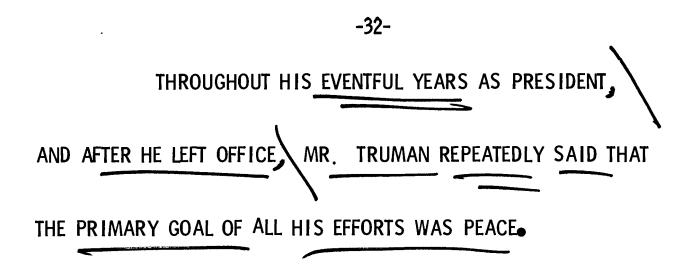
"WE ARE DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO FOGETTING TODAY," HE WROTE LATER, 'THAT IT IS THE PRESIDENT'S DUTY TO LEAD THE NATION IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS IS A RESPONSIBILITY THAT CANNOT BE DELEGATED AND MUST NOT BE AVOIDED." -28-MR. TRUMAN WAS MUCH TOO SEASONED A CAMPAIGNER AND MUCH TOO REALISTIC ABOUT THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM TO SUPPOSE OR EVEN SHOULD THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD BE A FORBIDDEN SUBJECT IN POLITICAL DEBATE THAT IS NOT WHAT HE SAID.

-27-

HOW RIGHT HE WAS. AND I AM GOING TO FOLLOW HIS COUNSEL AND HIS EXAMPLE. -30-NOBODY EXPECTS CONSENSUS OR CONFORMITY IN A DEMOCRACY BUT IT IS NOT TOO MUCH TO EXPECT OF A MATURE 200-YEAR OLD NATION THAT ITS FREE POLITICAL DEBATES BE CONDUCTED **RESPONSIBLY AND RATIONALLY IN THE SENSITIVE AREAS OF** NATIONAL SECURITY AND OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.







HE HAD LEARNED ABOUT WAR FIRST-HAND

AS CAPTAIN OF BATTERY "D" IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF HE MADE SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT

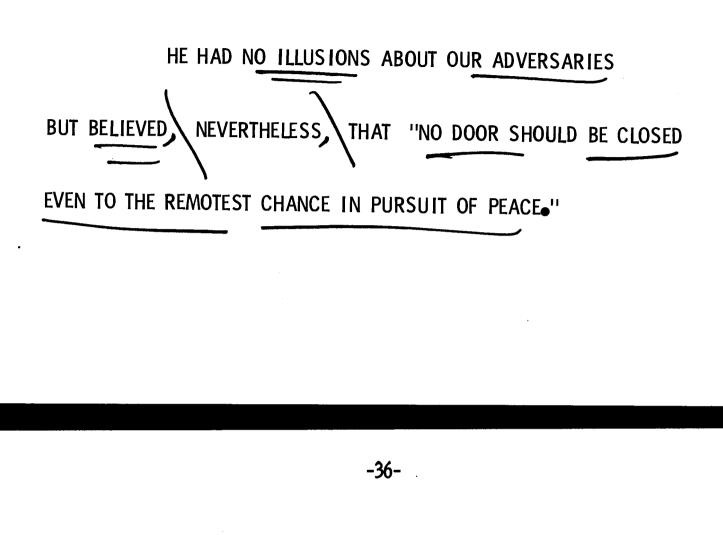
DECISIONS OF WORLD WAR II AND KOREA.

-34-

HE WAS ACUTELY AWARE THAT WORLD PEACE CAN ONLY

BE SECURED THROUGH AMERICAN STRENGTH AND THE CLOSEST TIES

WITH OUR ALLIES.

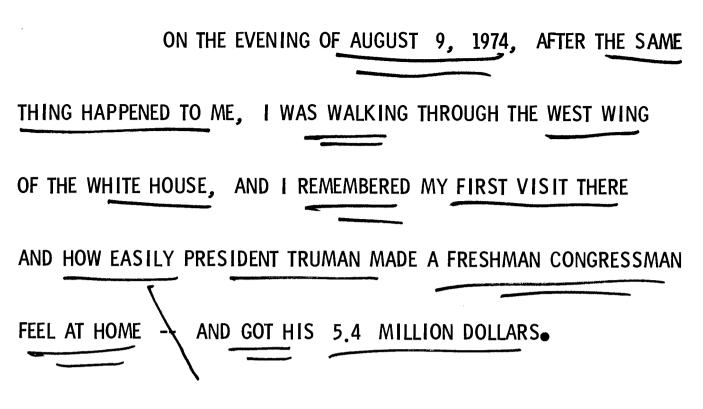


I WAS JUST BACK FROM CARRIER DUTY IN THE PACIFIC

ON APRIL 12, 1945, THE DAY VICE PRESIDENT TRUMAN WAS

SUDDENLY CALLED UPON TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY OF THE

UNITED STATES.



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ONE OF MY LONGTIME ASSOCIATES REMINDED ME

THAT ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS A NEW PRESIDENT USUALLY DOES IS CHOOSE WHICH THREE PORTRAITS OF PAST PRESIDENTS SHOULD

HANG IN THE CABINET ROOM.

"WE'LL LEAVE PRESIDENT EISENHOWER RIGHT WHERE HE IS," I SAID. AND OF COURSE I WANT TO HAVE ABRAHAM LINCOLN." 'TO BALANCE IT OFF," HE SUGGESTED, "HOW ABOUT ANDY JACKSON?" -40-"NO, HARRY TRUMAN," I SAID. "ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE?" HE ASKED. "THAT'S MY DECISION," I SAID. "HE KNEW WHERE THE BUCK STOPS AND HE WAS NEVER AFRAID OF THE HEAT IN THE KITCHEN." END OF TEXT

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