

A VICTORY SMILE AND SALUTE GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT



Mr. Truman acknowledging plaudits of a crowd outside his hotel in Kansas City. He had just received Governor Dewey's message of congratulations. Associated Press Wirephoto

## Truman Humble in Pledging Service to American People

By ANTHONY LEVIERO

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INDEPENDENCE, Mo., Nov. 3—President Truman accepted this day of supreme triumph in a spirit of humility and with a simple pledge to serve the American people for prosperity and

peace. The fire-breathing campaigner, who "passed a miracle" unsurpassed in American political history, today was more like the man who appeared so overawed when he assumed the succession to the late Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Correspondents who have been recording his words in many weeks of hard campaigning gave him an opportunity to have an "I-told-you-so" fling at Thomas E. Dewey and the poll-takers. He had said that today they would be the reddest-faced people in the United States. Mr. Truman did not take the opportunity.

To the American people he rededicated himself to four years of the Presidency with these words:

"I feel very deeply the responsibility which has fallen to my lot as the result of the election. I shall continue to serve the American people to the best of my ability. All my efforts will be devoted to the cause of peace in the world and the prosperity and happiness of our people here at home."

In fewer words, but as feelingly expressed, was his message to Mr. Dewey, who until yesterday was the almost universally acknowledged winner.

"I thank you sincerely for your congratulations and good wishes. Your fine sportsmanship is deeply appreciated. We jointly owe con-

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# PRESIDENT HUMBLE, RENEWING PLEDGES

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gratulations to the American people, who have once again shown the world the vitality of our free institutions."

Mr. Truman made his first public appearance since the election before a crowd massed in the town square here tonight for a "homecoming" welcome. He renewed his promise to carry out the Democratic platform.

"I'm going to do the very best I can to carry out the Democratic platform as I promised all over the country," he told the crowd, which was made up mostly of his townspeople. "We have a Democratic Congress now and I feel very sure we can make progress in the next four years."

It was a shrill, warm welcome that the President received. All day his neighbors lined the sidewalks in front of his home. He was welcomed to the portico of the Jackson County Courthouse for his impromptu speech by Mayor Roger C. Sermon. There was music by the high school band.

Mr. Truman said "the victory was not my victory but a victory of the Democratic party for the people."

"This celebration is not for me but for the whole country and for the whole world," Mr. Truman continued, "because you gave me a great responsibility."

Mr. Truman planned to spend tonight at home. Tomorrow at 8 A. M. he will board his special train for Washington. He is to arrive there Friday morning. On Sunday he will go to Key West for a two-week rest.

## Called "Freest" President

With the Wallace third-party movement virtually crushed, the electoral votes of the States' Righters unneeded, the Republicans, dismayed and a Democratic Congress assured, aides were saying that Mr. Truman was "about the freest man that ever sat in the White House."

This statement, however, was chiefly intended to explain that Mr. Truman could be free of pork-barrel and patronage entanglements with the party leaders who before the convention attempted to pass Mr. Truman by in favor of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and others. These leaders included Jacob Arvey of Chicago, James Roosevelt of California, Mayor James M. Curley of Boston and Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York. The failure to capture New Jersey was not greatly mourned for former Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City was once one of the most vociferous anti-Truman men.

A debt is recognized by the President to these leaders for their Johnny-come-lately support, but his advisers make clear that the commitments are not hard and fast.

## A Commitment to Labor

There was full realization, however, that the President had made large commitments to particular

groups and segments of the people. The debt to labor probably was at the head of the list. An intimate friend, who saw Mr. Truman early this morning, quoted the Chief Executive as saying, "Labor did it."

These three words from the President summarized the intensive campaign made in the last few weeks by the great unions of the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the railway brotherhoods. Wherever Mr. Truman went, and particularly in his last major appearance in Chicago, it was apparent that the unions had gone all out in recruiting voters. Some observers believed that they put forward an effort greater than those of the regular Democratic machine organizations.

Roy Roberts, publisher of the Kansas City Star, discussed the magnitude of labor's role in his signed story today, and summed up Mr. Truman's victory with these words:

"The victory yesterday was not unlike in many ways the similar victory in Great Britain that threw Churchill out of power unexpectedly."

## Joy and Tears at News

These considerations received only passing thought, however, in the rooms of the temporary White House in the Hotel Muehlebach this morning.

The glow and exuberance of victory, tempered by Mr. Truman's quiet demeanor, dominated the place. Early in the morning politicians and friends began to line up at the penthouse suite, and many thousands of congratulatory telegrams, which began even before the vote-counting, flowed in.

About 10:15 A. M. Mr. Dewey's telegram arrived, conceding the election and ending the last vestige of tension. Mr. Truman picked up the telephone and called his home here. He told his wife, "Missy," and "Margie," his daughter, who had made the hard cam-

paign with him. They received the news with joy and tears.

Unusual in the jam of well-wishers and local officeholders was the fact that not one of Mr. Truman's Cabinet members was present to share the moment of victory.

Those on hand were about 99 per cent Missourians. Not the least among them was Frank Spina, the old barber of Battery D, 129th Field Artillery, who came in to shave his old skipper. There was Msgr. Curtis L. Tiernan, with a big donkey pin on his coat, who had been chaplain of the 129th.

And Eddie Jackson, also of Battery D, and who called the Monsignor "Rabbi," went nowhere near his haberdashery. He said he spent the night praying and making wishes for the President, who was once his partner.

## Goes to Spa for Rest

About 11:05 A. M. the President left his suite, accompanied only by his physician, Brig. Gen. Wallace H. Graham, for a spa at Excelsior Springs, thirty-two miles from Kansas City, to rest. As he passed through a throng in the corridor a reporter tried for a quick insight into his mood.

"Will you explain how that Truman poll works?" he asked.

"I'd rather not say anything now," replied Mr. Truman. His voice was tremulous with emotion where once he had denounced the poll-takers unmercifully. "When you win you can't say anything. I'm just happy. Charlie will tell you about it."

This was a reference to Charles G. Ross, Mr. Truman's secretary, who soon handed out the President's statement and the text of the telegram to Mr. Dewey.

People swarmed out of their rooms and cheered as Mr. Truman reached the elevator. In the street about 1,500 persons gave him a shrill welcome.

General Graham said that the President was in better physical condition now than when he began his campaign on Labor Day.

"He's used to hard work and a good fight," said the general as he followed his chief.

When victory was certain this morning, President Truman called Senator Alben Barkley, his running mate, at his home in Paducah, Ky. He thanked Mr. Barkley for the campaign he had made

and for the generous sentiments he had expressed in introducing Mr. Truman to a radio audience on election eve.

Among those who telephoned congratulations to Mr. Truman was Sam Rayburn, the minority leader of the Eightieth Congress.

Mr. Truman went to the Muehlebach suite from the Spa, where he had spent the night, mystifying reporters who had tried to find him last night. Mr. Ross said the President had gone to bed early, awoke at 11:30 P. M., listened to some election returns and had gone back to bed. He woke around 4:30 A. M. and stayed up to hear the 5 A. M. news broadcasts. The turn of the election by that time was apparent.

"I'd better get back to town," Mr. Truman said.

"The first time I knew the President had returned was at 6:45 o'clock this morning," said Mr. Ross. "Matt Connelly [also a Presidential secretary], shook me awake and said the President wanted to see me. I looked up and there was the boss at my bedside, grinning. We all started talking at once."

The President was first seen by correspondents when he emerged from his room with the Dewey telegram in his hand.

"Another four years of hard work ahead," he said, smiling.