

PM

APRIL 15, 1945

Busiest Day of Whole Life

WASHINGTON, Apr. 14.—President Harry S. Truman entered upon the heavy duties of his new office by conferring with Army and Navy leaders and proclaiming today a day of national mourning for Franklin D. Roosevelt.

His final act of the day was to reiterate through Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., that under his Administration there will be "no change of purpose or break of continuity" in the foreign policy of the late President.

It was understood, however, that the new President will not attend the United Nations Conference at San Francisco, as Roosevelt had intended to do, but will deliver his address of greeting over the radio.

After one of the most crowded days of his life, the former Missouri Senator, announced that he would address a joint session of Congress at 1 p.m. (EWT), Monday. He is expected to broadcast a message to the men and women of the armed services Tuesday night.

Truman arrived at the White House executive offices on his first full day in office to begin his duties as 32d President. Secretary Stettinius was the first caller, and was followed by the military leaders, who remained 55 minutes.

Late in the afternoon, Stettinius returned for another conference.

Although, out of respect to his predecessor, Truman resolved to keep in the background until Monday and to make no public statements or appearances, the pressing business of his office required him to see many people and to issue the formal proclamation announcing the death of his predecessor. It was his first official act.

The President lunched in the Capitol with a group of Senators and Representatives, and then returned to the White House to see former Justice James F. Byrnes, former Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

After a conference, Byrnes, long one of Truman's warm and intimate friends, said he had been asked to advise Mr. Truman and had agreed to do so.

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Asked if he would return to an official position, Byrnes replied emphatically in the negative.

Harry L. Hopkins, who was probably closer to President Roosevelt than any other man, flew into Washington from the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minn. Truman is expected to ask Hopkins' help on international questions when Hopkins is well enough to return permanently to the Capital. Stettinius likewise is expected to spend much time on foreign affairs with the President.

When the President left the luncheon, he was greeted by a large group of newspapermen.

"Boys, if you ever pray, pray for me now," he said. "You boys of the press have been good to me," he added.

When a reporter addressed him as "Mr. President," he smiled, and said: "I wish you'd never had to call me that."

Another Presidential caller in the afternoon was Duke Shoop, Kansas City *Star* Washington correspondent. There were reports Shoop would become White House press secretary.

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