

Virtual Tour - Truman Library



Mark Adams, Education Director

HARRY S. TRUMAN
LIBRARY ★ MUSEUM

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- <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/education> - menu page
- [Three branches of government interactive teaching unit](#)
- [Lesson plans for teachers and parents to use at home](#)
- [Inquiry lessons created by teachers](#)
- [Truman videos from our YouTube channel](#)
- [Education programs and presentations on our YouTube channel](#)
- [Resources for student projects and research](#)
- [Digital document sets](#) (thousands of primary sources)
- [Truman photo database](#) (thousands of photos)
- National History Day –
<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/education/national-history-day>

- Exhibit Design - by Gallagher and Associates
- Clark Enersen - Architects
- Monadnock Multi-Media – Multimedia components
- 1220 Exhibit Fabrication
- Staff content team – Curator, Archivist and Education Director (with support staff)



AN ORDINARY MAN

HIS EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY

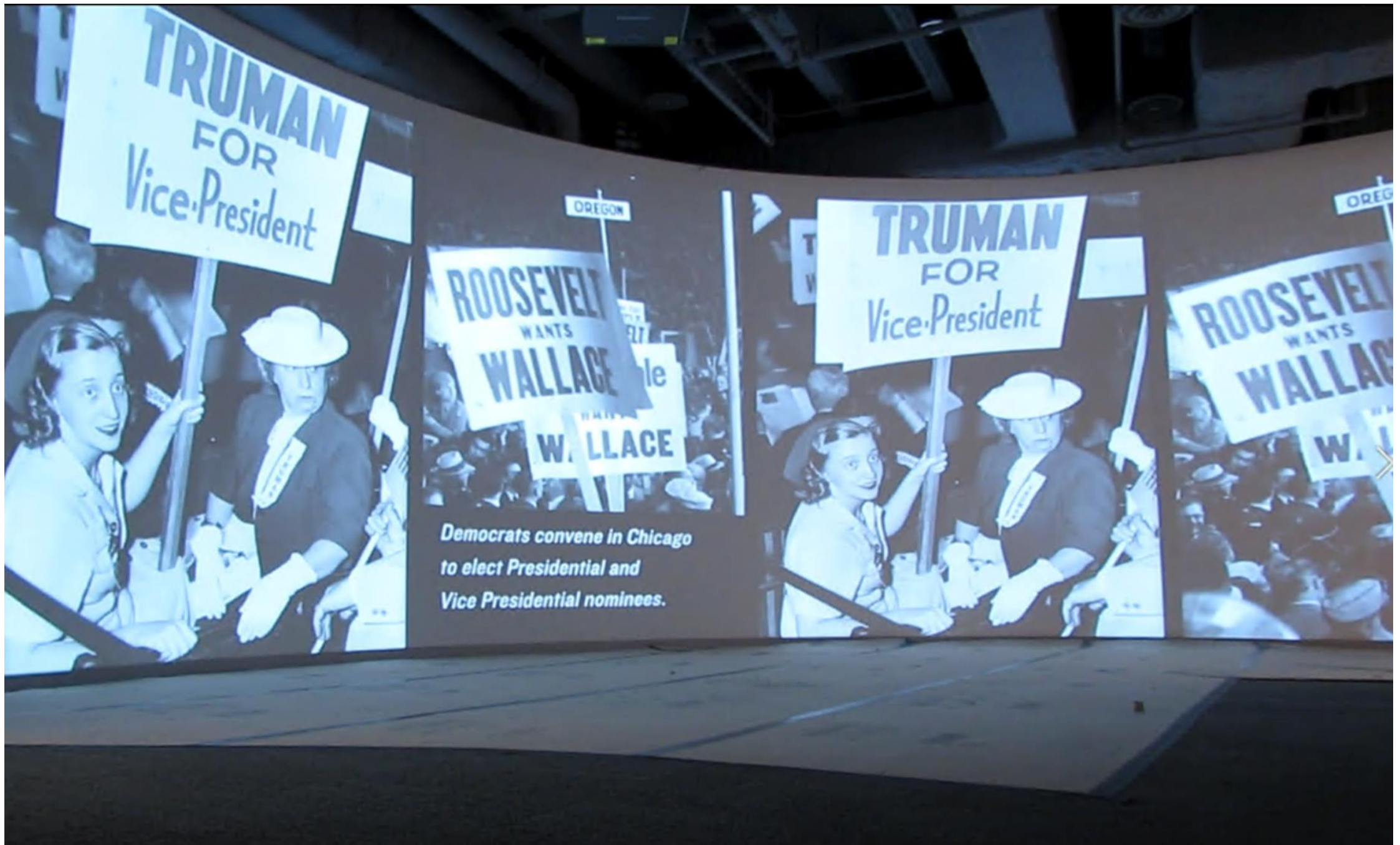
Harry Truman was a reluctant farmer and a commanding soldier. A struggling businessman and a controversial statesman. A devoted husband and an attentive father. He was an unlikely President, whose journey to the White House was circuitous and unplanned.

But this everyday man changed the course of American history. And his decisions as the 33rd President of the United States have made an enduring impact on our world.

HARRY S. TRUMAN 
LIBRARY ★ MUSEUM













FORWARD OBSERVER

"Enemy Fortification in the open, now."



"The Enemy is in the open, at a medium range.
Use a reduced powder charge."



"You've just never seen
such a radiant, happy
look on a man's face."

- ETHEL NOLAND,
HARRY TRUMAN'S COUSIN



A VERY BIG DAY

After nine years of courtship, Captain Truman and Bess Wallace finally married, surrounded by family and friends. The ceremony was held on June 28, 1916, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Independence. On the same day, the signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. Although Mr. and Mrs. Truman's union would stand the test of time, the same could not be said of the poorly formed treaty.



TREATY OF VERSAILLES

The Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles in France. It ended World War I and imposed heavy penalties on Germany, including territorial losses and reparations. The treaty is often criticized for its harsh terms, which some believe contributed to the rise of Adolf Hitler and the outbreak of World War II.

DEAR HARRY

My dear Harry,
I received your letter of the 21st and
was so glad to hear from you. I hope
you are well and happy. I am well and
happy. I hope you are well and happy.
I hope you are well and happy.

"My Dear Wife"

I received your letter of the 21st and
was so glad to hear from you. I hope
you are well and happy. I am well and
happy. I hope you are well and happy.
I hope you are well and happy.

"Dear Mr. Truman,
I hope you are well and happy. I am
well and happy. I hope you are well and
happy. I hope you are well and happy."

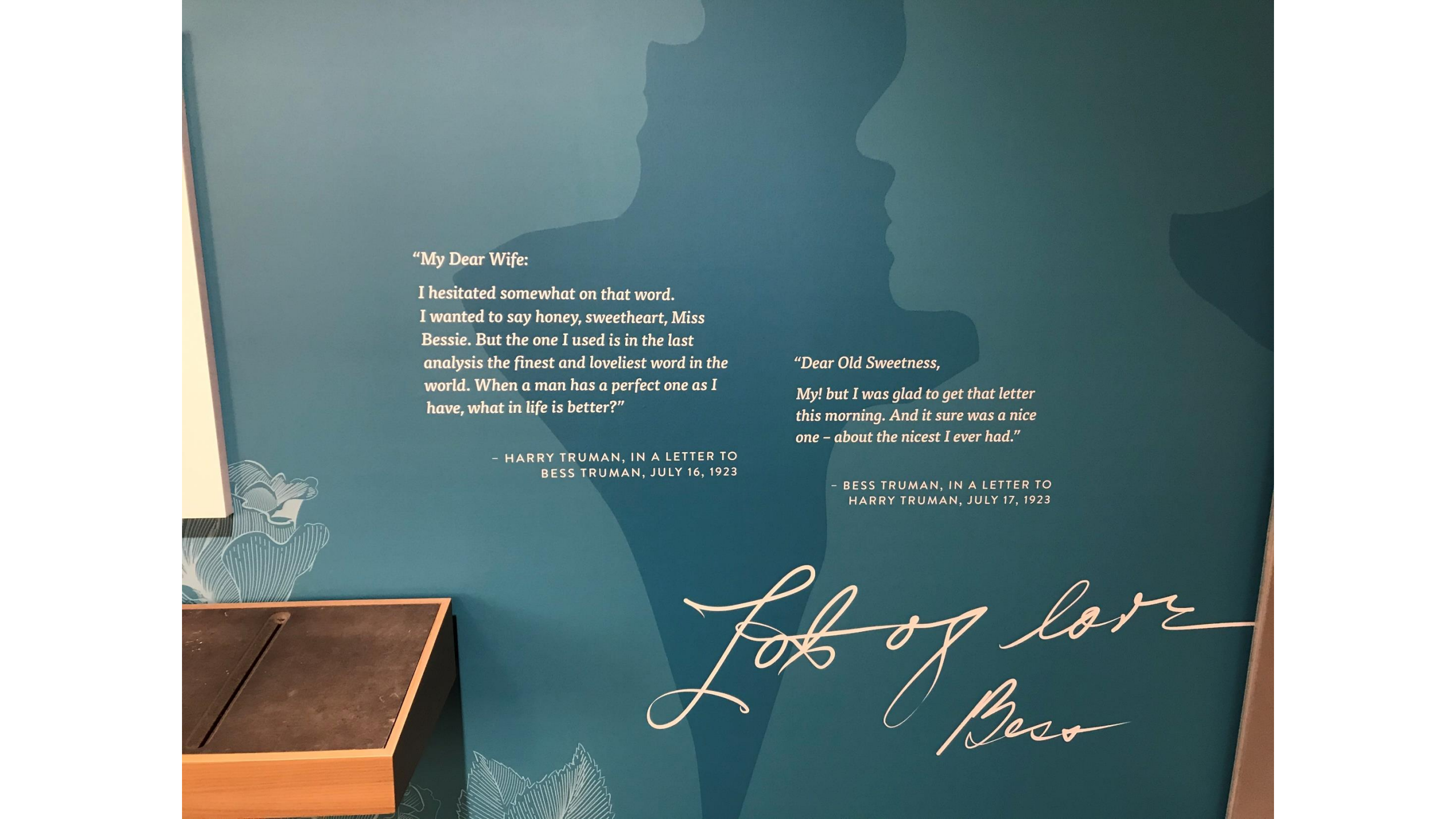
HARRY TRUMAN TO BESS TRUMAN, MAY 14, 1919

BESS TRUMAN TO HARRY TRUMAN, MAY 14, 1919

Love
Bess

Dear Harry





"My Dear Wife:

I hesitated somewhat on that word.
I wanted to say honey, sweetheart, Miss
Bessie. But the one I used is in the last
analysis the finest and loveliest word in the
world. When a man has a perfect one as I
have, what in life is better?"

- HARRY TRUMAN, IN A LETTER TO
BESS TRUMAN, JULY 16, 1923

"Dear Old Sweetness,

My! but I was glad to get that letter
this morning. And it sure was a nice
one - about the nicest I ever had."

- BESS TRUMAN, IN A LETTER TO
HARRY TRUMAN, JULY 17, 1923

*Lots of love
Bess*



A NEW OPPORTUNITY

The Pendergast political dynasty began in the early 1900s when Jim Pendergast, a saloonkeeper and politician, won the Kansas City mayoralty. He and his brothers, Mike, John, and Tom, controlled the city's politics for decades. They were known for their generosity and their ability to get things done, but also for their corruption and their control over the city's economy. The Pendergast family's power was based on their control of the city's politics and their ability to get things done. They were known for their generosity and their ability to get things done, but also for their corruption and their control over the city's economy.

Source: [The Pendergast Political Dynasty](#)

THE PENDERGAST MACHINE

Beginning in the early 1900s, the Pendergast political dynasty controlled Kansas City politics. The city's hardworking, heavy-drinking Democratic base loved saloonkeeper "Alderman Jim" Pendergast. He and brothers Mike, John, and Tom secured public works projects and fought for higher wages. They reached out to black Americans and immigrants and battled Prohibitionists and anti-Catholic groups. When Jim died, Tom took over. Many saw Tom as a "Robin Hood" figure who secured jobs, food, and clothes for the poor, but his generosity came with a catch: all favors required votes.



THE PENDING MACHINE

Beginning in 1910, the first large-scale effort to build a road network in Missouri was undertaken. The effort was led by the Missouri Road Commission, which was created by the state legislature. The commission's goal was to build a network of roads that would connect the state's major cities and towns. The commission's first project was the construction of the Lincoln Highway, which was completed in 1913. The highway was a major success, and it paved the way for the construction of other roads in the state. The commission's work was a landmark in the history of road building in Missouri.

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"6000 POLITICS"



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MAY

JUNE

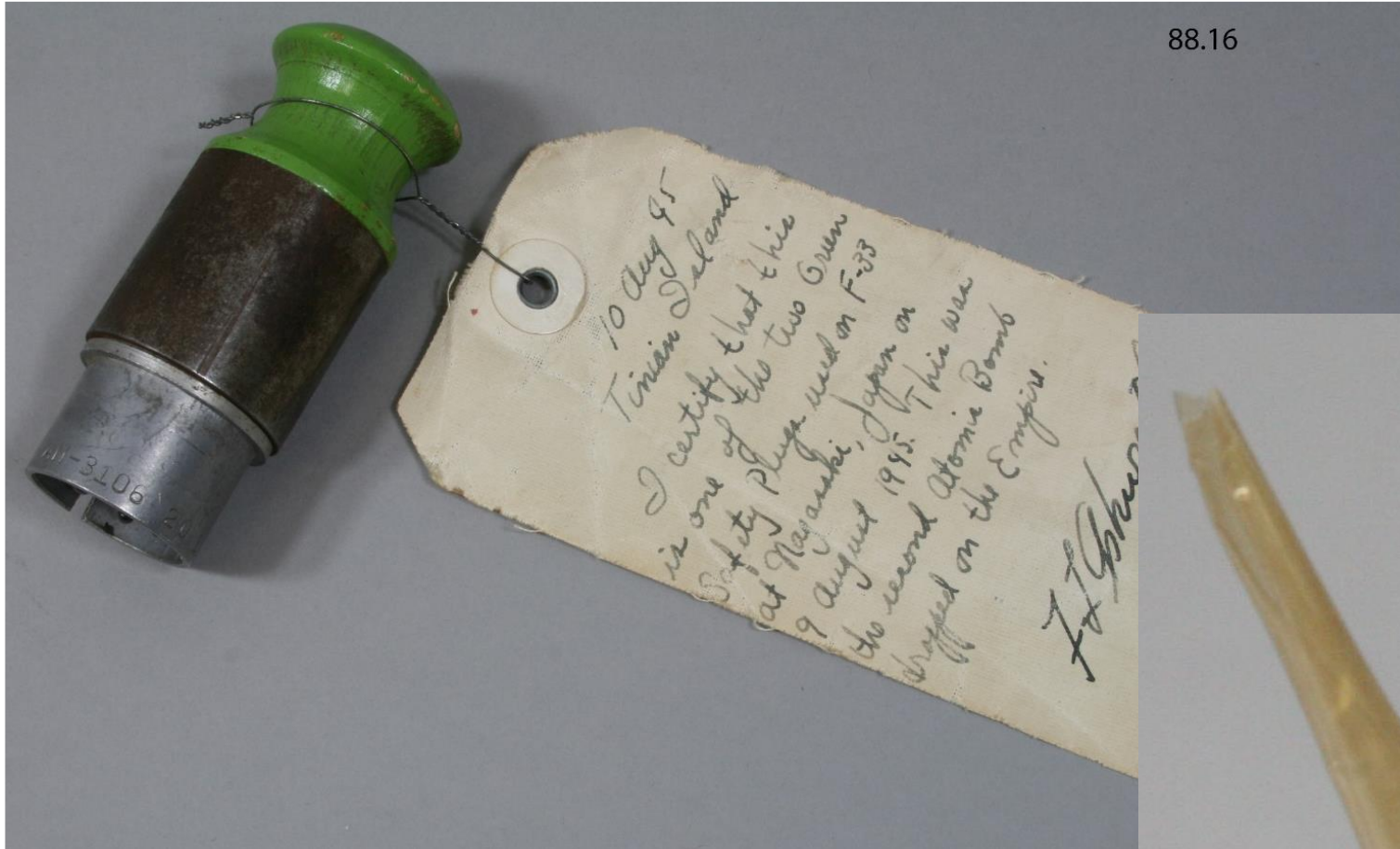
JULY

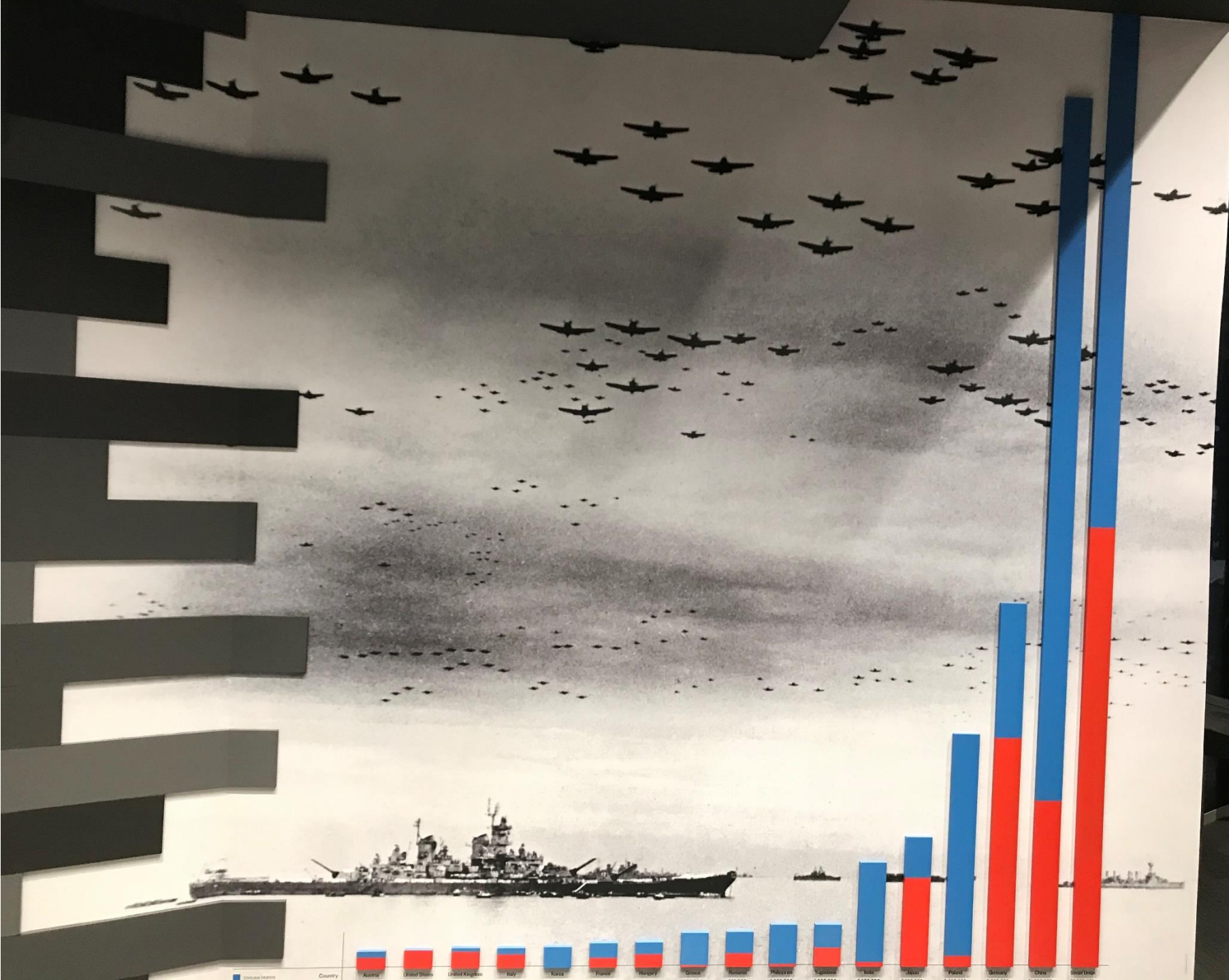
AUGUST

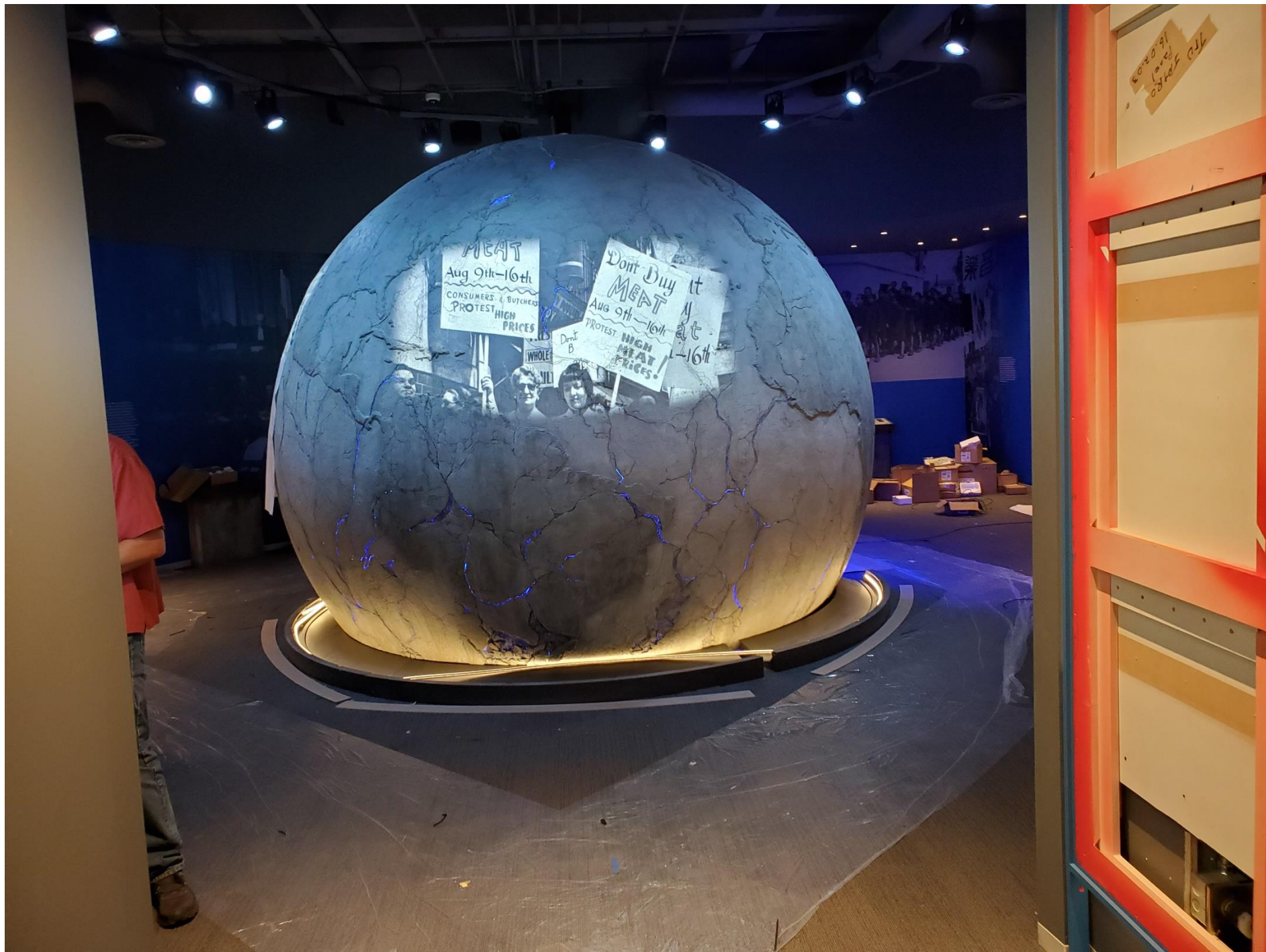
LEAD UP TO
THE BOMB

HITLER COMMIT'S SUICIDE
APRIL 30
LIBERATION OF DACHAU DEATH CAMP
APRIL 29
MUSSOLOINI EXECUTED
APRIL 28
U.S./SOVIET FORCES MEET AT ELBE
APRIL 25

88.16















"We stay in Berlin, period."

HARRY TRUMAN, IN A LETTER
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET,
JUNE 20, 1945

At the Potsdam Conference, the Allies divided Germany into four temporary occupation zones: American, British, French, and Soviet. Although Berlin lay within the Soviet zone, it was split up -- the Soviets took the eastern side, the other Allies took the west.

On June 24, 1945, the Soviets cut rail, road, and water access to West Berlin. The "Berlin Blockade" was the Soviet response to a plan by Winston Churchill and the Western Allies to join Western sectors into one federal entity and to establish a separate zone. The Soviets controlled Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria. Now they sought all of Berlin.

With more than two million West Berliners facing starvation, Truman had to act. Some advised leaving the Soviets to starve out the city.

Within a few days, the Soviets had cut off all access to the Western sectors. The city was surrounded by Soviet troops and tanks. The Western Allies refused to leave. The city was surrounded by Soviet troops and tanks. The Western Allies refused to leave.





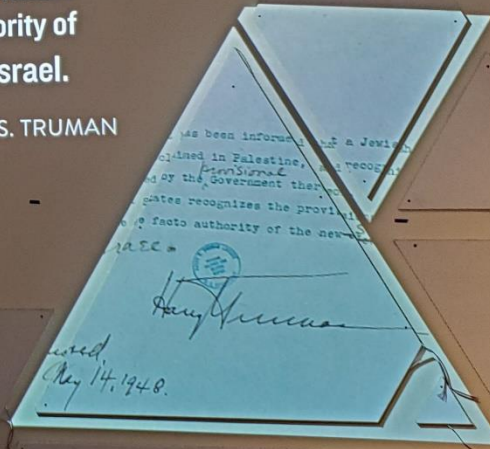
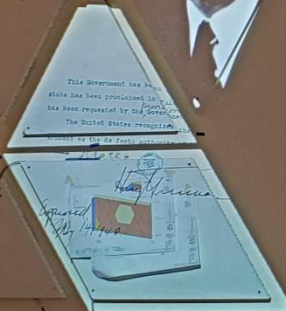


May 14, 1948
6:11 pm



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

- PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN
PRESS RELEASE
MAY 14, 1948



DISPLACED PERSONS

By the end of World War II, more than 250,000 Jews had been forced from their homes. Earl G. Harrison of the Intergovernmental Commission on Refugees briefed Truman on Allied-run "displaced persons" camps in August 1945. Harrison's report described horrific conditions. Many Jews did not feel safe in Europe, and their options were limited – anti-Semitism and politics restricted Jewish immigration to the U.S. and Great Britain. Truman appealed to the British, hoping they would lift immigration restrictions in Palestine, where some Jews hoped to move. Prime Minister Attlee refused, suggesting instead that America lift its own immigration quotas.

"As matters now stand, we appear to be treating the Jews as the Nazis treated them, except that we do not exterminate them."

— EARL G. HARRISON,
HARRISON REPORT,
AUGUST 1945

"Today – not tomorrow – we must do all that is humanly possible to provide a haven and place of safety for all those who can be grappled from the hands of the Nazi butchers. Free lands must be opened to them."

— SENATOR TRUMAN,
IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE UNITED STATES
TO RESCUE DISPLACED JEWS, APRIL 14, 1945



MANDATE OF PALESTINE

Palestine has long been the site of political conflict. In 1917, the British government issued a statement favoring the establishment of a Jewish national home there. Known as the Balfour Declaration, the statement was, in part, payment to the Jews for their support of the British against the Turks during World War I. After the war, the British occupied the region; it officially became known as the British Mandate of Palestine in 1920.

With Britain in charge and supportive of their cause, optimistic Jews immigrated to Palestine from a number of countries. When a large influx arrived in the 1930s, having fled Nazi persecution in Germany, Arabs feared that Palestine would become the national homeland the Jews sought.

MAP KEY

- PROPOSED JEWISH STATE
- PROPOSED ARAB STATE
- CITY OF JERUSALEM



EXPLOSION

In the 1930s, violence ran rampant as nationalists tried to violently attack Arabs. Both attacks and Jewish underground administration headquarters facing bankruptcy, turned to

Truman announced U.S. support in 1946 on the eve of Yom Kippur. Would this prompt the Soviets that would cut America stood firm, feeling strong public creation of a State of Israel.

U.N. PARTITION PLAN OF 1947

Crippled by debt following the Second World War, Great Britain announced that it would terminate its mandate in Palestine. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations recommended partitioning Palestine into Jewish and Arab states following the planned British withdrawal in May 1948. Zionists celebrated. Arabs denounced the plan. Violence again erupted, threatening any hope for compromise.

Secretary of State George C. Marshall asked U.S. Representatives to the United Nations Warren Austin to promote a "trusteeship plan." U.N. forces would be sent to keep the peace after the British withdrew. This could buy time for a compromise. Austin argued for Marshall's plan without Truman's approval. Truman was livid. He did not intend to delay recognition. He felt the State Department had publicly undermined him.

"This morning I find that the State Dept. had reversed my Palestine policy. The first I know about it is what I see in the papers! Isn't that hell? I'm now in the position of a liar and a double-crosser."

— HARRY TRUMAN, IN A DIARY ENTRY,
MARCH 20, 1948

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.
March 25, 1948

President Harry S. Truman,
White House,
Washington, D.C.
Dear President Truman:

As an American first and a
Republican secondly, I wish to commend your recent
action in reversing the United States policy with
respect to the Partition of Palestine.

Millions of Americans who have been
to church and Sunday School, and many who haven't, know
that the Jewish people have absolutely no moral right
or legal right to land which their ancestors have not
controlled politically for more than 2000 years.
The civil rights of the Arabs must be observed.

I am completely opposed to your U.S.
Civil Rights program if for no other reason than the
fact that our country must be united against world
Communism at this time and not divided by Communist
agitators using the Civil Rights program as their weapon
for propaganda.

The people for Partition of Palestine
and for your Civil Rights program seem to be practically
identical, I have noticed.

Sincerely Yours,
Edward R. Place
Edward R. Place (sec'y)

From Edward R. Place
Washington, D.C.
March 25, 1948

"...the Jewish people have absolutely no
moral right or legal right to land which their
ancestors have not controlled politically for
more than 2000 years. The civil rights of
the Arabs must be observed."

"We absolutely approve of your new plan to
settle the Palestinian muddle and do away with
the partitioning of Palestine into two states. For
partitioning would create a tremendous number
of enemies from among the Mohammedans,
as well as no real satisfaction among Jewish
people. It is exceptionally wise to create a trust
of the Holy Land, for Palestine has become a
very important political center in the world, and
the Jewish People have never shown the ability
to maintain a permanent state."

Diocese of Harrisburg

To the President of
the United States



Bishop's House
2405 North Front Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
April 2, 1948

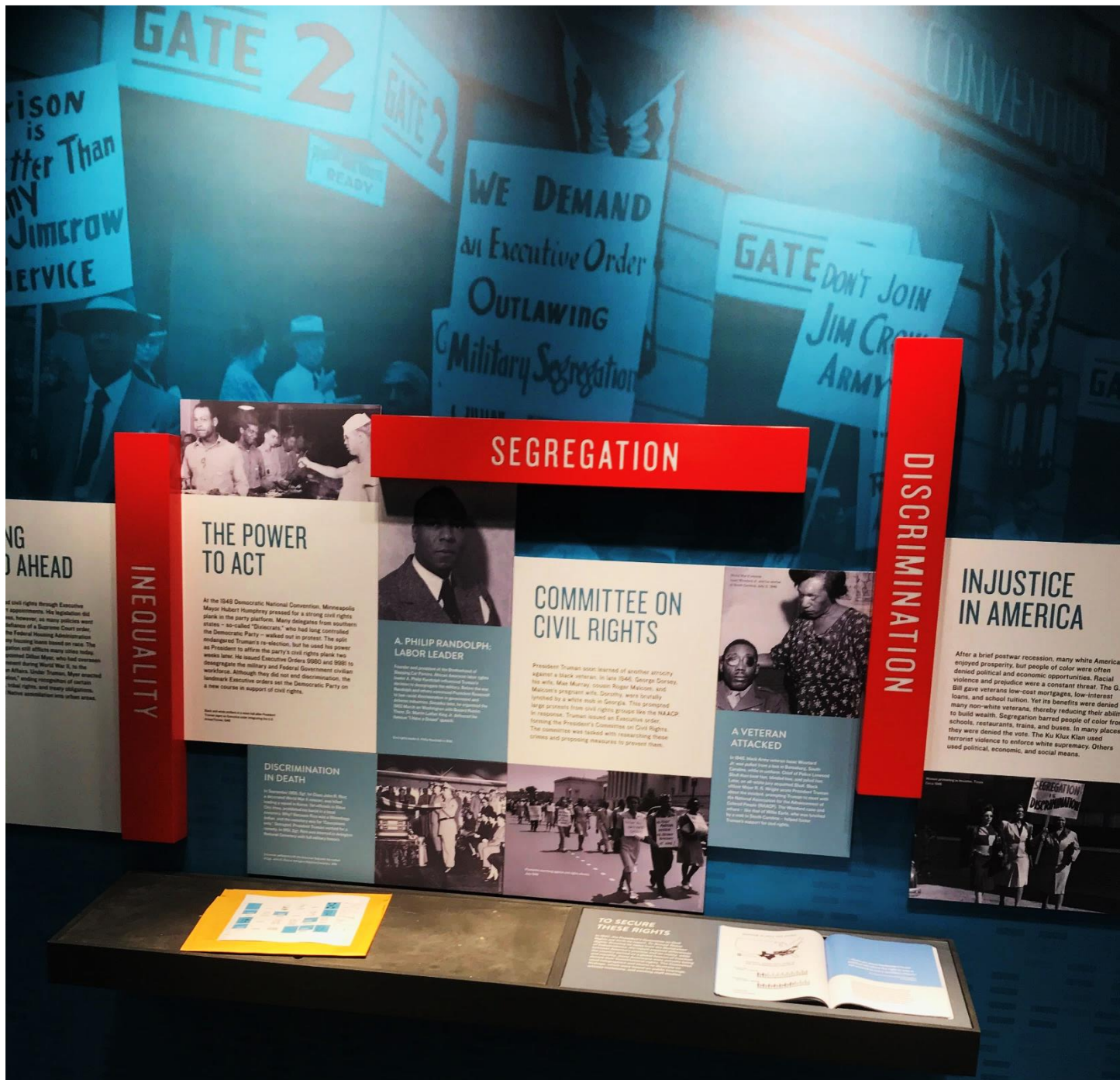
Dear Sir:

We absolutely approve of your new plan to settle the
Palestinian muddle and do away with the partitioning of
Palestine into two states. For partitioning would create a
tremendous number of enemies from among the Mohammedans, as well
as no real satisfaction among Jewish people. It is except-
ionally wise to create a trust of the Holy Land, for Palestine
has become a very important political center in the world, and
the Jewish People have never shown the ability to maintain a
permanent state. History says that it repeats itself and we
cannot afford to bungle in this matter, and we to be absolutely
sure, and therefore, it would weaken Christianity to ignore the
birthright of our faith.

We, therefore, suggest that Palestine shall remain a
Holy Land for Jews, Christians and Arabians, and if the three
groups will agree to believe in the good will principles of
either of the three holy books, and outlive, war and strikes,
they will lay the foundation for Peace, not alone for them-
selves, but Universal Peace.

The most important thing is to keep Palestine holy
and not have it made a ghetto, which will cheapen its character
and, therefore, an appeal should be made to the world.

From the Diocese
of Harrisburg
Harrisburg,
Pennsylvania
April 2, 1948



Jim Crow is better Than ANY Jimcrow SERVICE

GATE 2

WE DEMAND an Executive Order OUTLAWING Military Segregation

DON'T JOIN JIM CROW ARMY

SEGREGATION

DISCRIMINATION

INEQUALITY

INJUSTICE IN AMERICA

THE POWER TO ACT

At the 1948 Democratic National Convention, Minneapolis Mayor Hubert Humphrey pressed for a strong civil rights plank in the party platform. Many delegates from southern states - so-called "Dixiecrats," who had long controlled the Democratic Party - walked out in protest. The split endangered Truman's re-election, but he used his power weeks later. He issued Executive Orders 9800 and 9801 to desegregate the military and Federal Government civilian workforce. Although they did not end discrimination, the landmark Executive orders set the Democratic Party on a new course in support of civil rights.

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH: LABOR LEADER

As leader of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), Randolph was a powerful voice for civil rights. He was one of the few white labor leaders who supported the NAACP and other civil rights groups. He was also a strong supporter of the New Deal and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

President Truman soon learned of another atrocity against a black veteran. In late 1946, George Gorham, his wife, Mae Murray, cousin Roger Malcolm, and Maurice's program with Gorham, were brutally lynched by a white mob in Georgia. This prompted large protests from civil rights groups like the NAACP. In response, Truman issued an Executive order forming the President's Committee on Civil Rights. The committee was tasked with researching these crimes and proposing measures to prevent them.

A VETERAN ATTACKED

In 1946, black Army veteran Peter W. Henderson Jr. was killed by a mob of 150 white men in a small town in Mississippi. Henderson was a member of the Tuskegee Army Band and had been discharged from the service in 1945. He was returning home to his family when he was attacked. The mob was led by a white man named John W. Henderson, who was also a member of the local Ku Klux Klan. The attack was a direct result of Henderson's military service and his race.

INJUSTICE IN AMERICA

After a brief postwar recession, many white Americans enjoyed prosperity, but people of color were often denied political and economic opportunities. Racial discrimination was a constant threat. The GI Bill gave veterans low-cost mortgages, low-interest loans, and school tuition. Yet its benefits were denied to many non-white veterans, thereby reducing their ability to build wealth. Segregation barred people of color from schools, restaurants, trains, and buses. In many places they were denied the vote. The Ku Klux Klan used terror violence to enforce white supremacy. Others used political, economic, and social means.

TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS

The President's Committee on Civil Rights was established in 1946 to investigate and report on civil rights issues. It was the first federal agency dedicated to civil rights. The committee's first report, "The Negro in the United States," was published in 1947. It documented the widespread discrimination against African Americans and called for federal action to end it. The committee's work laid the foundation for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.



FARM AID

CIVIL RIGHTS

MINIMUM WAGE

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE



NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

TAX REFORM

100

"Every individual has a right to expect from our government a fair deal."

- HARRY TRUMAN,
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS,
JANUARY 5, 1949

After his marriage story, Truman was portrayed by a leading economy and Democratic think and think magazine. He proposed an ambitious program to Roosevelt's New Deal that would secure all Americans job, "for that" it included, among other things, old rights legislation, universal health insurance, and increased social security benefits. Yet, as he would soon learn, the Cold War, the Korean War, heated steel, fear of "communism," and public awareness for reform generated powerful obstacles. Conservative Democrats and Republicans blocked most of Truman's Fair Deal proposals. Some were passed in the decades that followed. Nearly all are still debated today.

Trotsky outlined the Fair Deal in his 1949 State of the Union address to Congress. Explore the points of left and right in learn more about the bold ideas for the country, how they fared during his Presidency, and what they stand today.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

LABOR RELATIONS

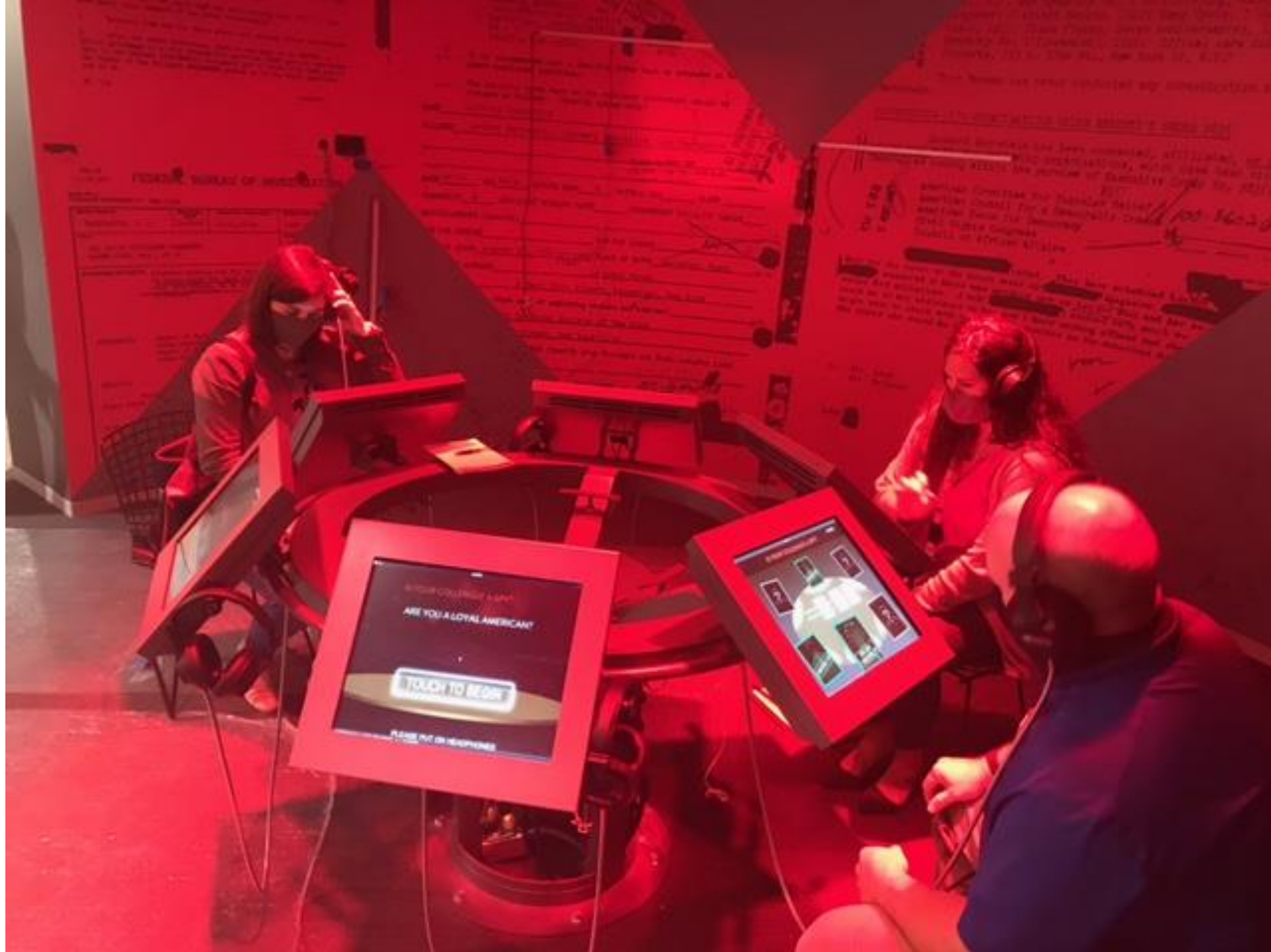
SOCIAL SECURITY

[illegible]

[REDACTED]

ANTI-TRUST LAWS

It was this interesting testimony to his strong will to live, not least to escape the threat of amputation. We found that a small fracture like this one and apparently in great pain. In this picture we showed a fracture of the tibia, which was the cause of his amputation. This was the cause of his amputation. This was the cause of his amputation.





**Truman Orders U.S.
To Attack In Move
To Stop Communism**

WASHINGTON, June 27 — (AP) — Truman today ordered American planes and warships into combat against the Communists, providing aid to South Korea, and ordering a general mobilization of defense against the threat to the far Pacific.

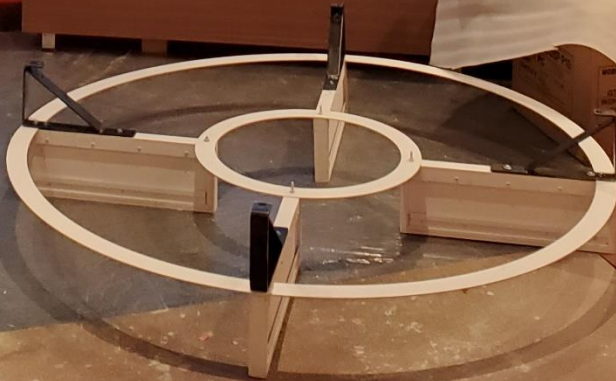
Truman said in a statement that he had ordered the U.S. Navy to shift its forces to the Pacific, and that he had ordered the U.S. Army to shift its forces to the Pacific.



Could the Korean War have been avoided?

Did it create a safer world?

Did Truman prevent World War III?



"This is the Greece of the Far East.
If we are tough enough now,
there won't be any next time."

- HARRY TRUMAN, ON ENTERING THE WAR IN KOREA

JUNE 1950

RETURN TO WAR

On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces invaded South Korea, sparking the Korean War. The United States and United Nations quickly intervened to support South Korea, leading to a prolonged conflict that ended in an armistice in 1953.

April 1951

May 1951

June 1951

POLICE ACTION

Police Action was the name given to the initial phase of the Korean War, from June 1950 to January 1951. It was characterized by intense fighting between North and South Korean forces, with significant American support for the South.

DEFENSE PERIMETER

The defense perimeter was established by UN forces in late 1950 and early 1951. It marked the line beyond which North Korean forces were not to advance, and it became a critical point of contention during the war.

HEROIC REARGUARD ACTION

As UN forces retreated from the Korean Peninsula in late 1950, they fought a series of heroic rearguard actions to delay the North Korean advance. These actions were crucial in allowing time for the evacuation of civilians and the deployment of additional UN forces.

LANDING AT INCHON

On September 15, 1950, UN forces launched a surprise amphibious landing at Inchon, South Korea. This bold move cut off North Korean supply lines and led to a rapid UN offensive that pushed North Korean forces back to the Yalu River.

By August, MacArthur's troops had lost their last line of defense. As the crisis mounted, MacArthur proposed a surprise amphibious assault at the port of Inchon, behind North Korean lines. It could only work if it was timed to take advantage of the tides. Truman approved the risky plan. The assault, launched on September 15, 1950, trapped North Korean forces between two large wings of American and UN forces. North Korean forces were decimated and retreated.

MAP KEY

UN FORCES

North Korea

South Korea

SEPTEMBER 1950

MEETING WASH ISLA

On October 15, 1950, Truman met with MacArthur on the "Great Pacific" in the Pacific. The meeting was a turning point in the war, as Truman decided to limit the conflict to the Korean Peninsula and avoid a broader war with China. MacArthur's aggressive stance and desire for a more expansive campaign were not in line with Truman's policy of containment.

"This is the Greece of the Far East.
If we are tough enough now,
there won't be any next time."

- HARRY TRUMAN, ON ENTERING THE WAR IN KOREA

JUNE 1950

RETURN TO WAR

Truman was in Independence on June 24, 1950, when he received a call from Secretary of State Dean Acheson. North Korea had invaded South Korea. Truman immediately returned to Washington and approved weapon and supply shipments to the South. He ordered airstrikes on North Korean forces. Truman and his advisors did not want to send Americans into another land war; they hoped a strong show of air and naval force would make Kim Il-sung back down. Although the U.S. believed Moscow was to blame, it was Kim - not Stalin - who had initiated the invasion.

MAP KEY
■ NORTH KOREA
■ SOUTH KOREA
38° PARALLEL



POLICE ACTION

North Korean forces, well equipped with weapons from the Soviet Union, quickly overran South Korea's capital. Truman ordered the U.S. Seventh Fleet to the sea. The fleet of U.S. and British ships in the Pacific was ordered to prevent North Korean ships from passing through the straits. Truman decided not to - he wanted to force the U.S. to use its military power. He ordered the U.S. Navy to block the North Korean supply lines. He also ordered the U.S. Navy to block the North Korean supply lines. He also ordered the U.S. Navy to block the North Korean supply lines.

United Nations began to take action in Korea. The UN Security Council passed a resolution calling for North Korea to withdraw its forces from South Korea. The UN also called for a ceasefire. The UN also called for a ceasefire.



HEROIC REARGUARD ACTION

Many of the best American ground troops in Korea were committed to the Inchon landing. After the landing, they fought a heroic rearguard action to hold the beach. They fought a heroic rearguard action to hold the beach. They fought a heroic rearguard action to hold the beach.

A photograph of a soldier in a trench, looking through a rifle scope. The soldier is wearing a helmet and a uniform. The background is dark and smoky.

LANDING AT INCHON

"Tell the President I will land at Inchon on the 15th of September. And between the hour of this landing and the end of the Eighth Army I will smash and destroy the armies of North Korea."

By August, MacArthur's troops held their last line of defense. At this crucial moment, MacArthur proposed a surprise amphibious assault at the port of Inchon. Truman approved the risky plan. The assault, launched on September 15, 1950, trapped North Korean forces between two large wings of American and U.N. forces. North Korean forces quickly disintegrated and retreated.

MAP KEY
■ NORTH KOREA
■ SOUTH KOREA
38° PARALLEL



SEPTEMBER 1950

SEPTEMBER 1950

OCTOBER 1950

MEETING AT WAKE ISLAND

On October 18, 1950, Truman flew more than 14,000 miles to Wake Island in the Pacific to convene with MacArthur on the "final phase" in Korea. The two had never met before, but Truman reassured the general and felt he was forgiven. While somewhat popular at home, MacArthur showed contempt for Presidential authority by delaying his landing, forcing Truman to land first. During their 90-minute meeting, MacArthur predicted the war would be over soon and that the troops would be home by Christmas.

U.N. FORCES SWEEP NORTH

Elated by the success of MacArthur's assault at Incheon, Truman and the U.N. approved the general's next plan to cross the 38th Parallel and pursue Kim's forces into the North. On October 19, 1950, U.N. and South Korean troops captured the North's capital of Pyongyang, driving Kim's forces nearly to the Yalu River, which borders China. Mao's diplomats had warned that China would enter the war if U.N. forces crossed the 38th Parallel. But MacArthur was certain they were bluffing.

MAP KEY
■ NORTH KOREA
■ SOUTH KOREA
--- 38th PARALLEL



"I've worked for years and six months and it looks like World War III is here."

- HARRY TRUMAN, IN A LONGHAND NEWS CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 9, 1950

NUCLEAR TENSION

Despite Truman's efforts to limit the war, he inadvertently contributed to MacArthur's aggressive stance during a press conference in November 1950. When asked by reporters about the possible use of atomic weapons in Korea, Truman said, "The military commander in the field will have charge of the use of the weapons, as he always has." Atomic spread throughout the world as newspapers reported that the bomb was under consideration, and Truman was leaving the decision to MacArthur. Truman moved quickly to amend his statement.

CHINA ENTERS THE WAR

Contrary to MacArthur's predictions, by November 24, 1950, a quarter-million Chinese soldiers poured across the border into North Korea. Fearing his forces would be decimated, MacArthur proposed destroying the bridges connecting North Korea to China, evacuating the Chinese coast, and seeking support from Chiang's forces on Formosa (Taiwan). He also urged dropping atomic bombs throughout China's mainland. Appalled, Truman felt this would restart the United States as the aggressor and possibly trigger atomic war with the Soviet Union. He forbade aggression against China.

MAP KEY
■ NORTH KOREA
■ SOUTH KOREA
--- 38th PARALLEL



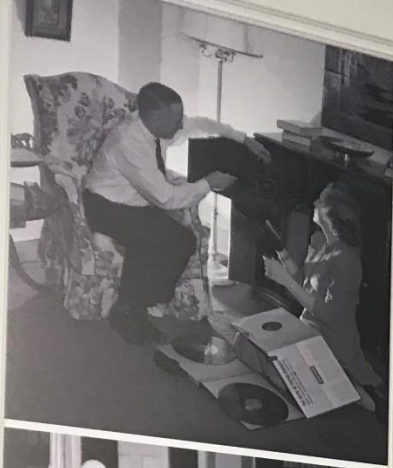
DECEMBER

KOREAN EMERGENCY

On December 15, 1950, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Korea. Truman's administration was divided over whether to accept the ceasefire. Truman's decision to accept the ceasefire was controversial, as many felt it would allow the North Koreans to remain in power. Truman's decision to accept the ceasefire was controversial, as many felt it would allow the North Koreans to remain in power.







Left: Alvin Karpis, Bremer kidnaper, and Harry Campbell, Karpis' partner, in the Bremer kidnapping (1934).
 Middle: Harry Campbell and Margaret Truman (1943-45).
 Right: Alvin Karpis, Bremer kidnaper, and Harry Campbell, Karpis' partner, in the Bremer kidnapping (1934).
 Below: Alvin Karpis, Bremer kidnaper, and Harry Campbell, Karpis' partner, in the Bremer kidnapping (1934).

Truman called his decade in the Senate from 1935 to 1945 his "ten happiest years." Bess and Margaret enjoyed the capital's cultural attractions while splitting their time with family and friends back home. Truman relished his work and the camaraderie of the Senate's inner social circle. Bess was his partner and sounding board. He made a point of seeking her counsel, and she sometimes worked alongside him in the office. While apart, the family wrote letters revealing private jokes, insights, and observations of the widening world around them.





Top: Margaret Truman and a young child. Middle: Harry S. Truman at his desk. Bottom: Margaret Truman standing next to a seated woman.

"[Mother]
instantly fell in
love with the place."

- MARGARET TRUMAN

The Truman family lived in Blair House from 1948 to 1952 during the White House renovation. Their "guest house" at 1651 Pennsylvania Avenue was, in fact, more like home. The First Lady found relief from hosting elaborate state dinners. She and the President enjoyed reading, talking, and dining together. Truman walked to work each morning until an attempted assassination in 1950. To his frustration, he was thereafter driven across the street to work. Truman's first Cabinet meeting after the invasion of South Korea took place at Blair House.



Top: Margaret Truman and two young women. Middle: Harry S. Truman walking. Bottom: Harry S. Truman and another man in tuxedos waving.







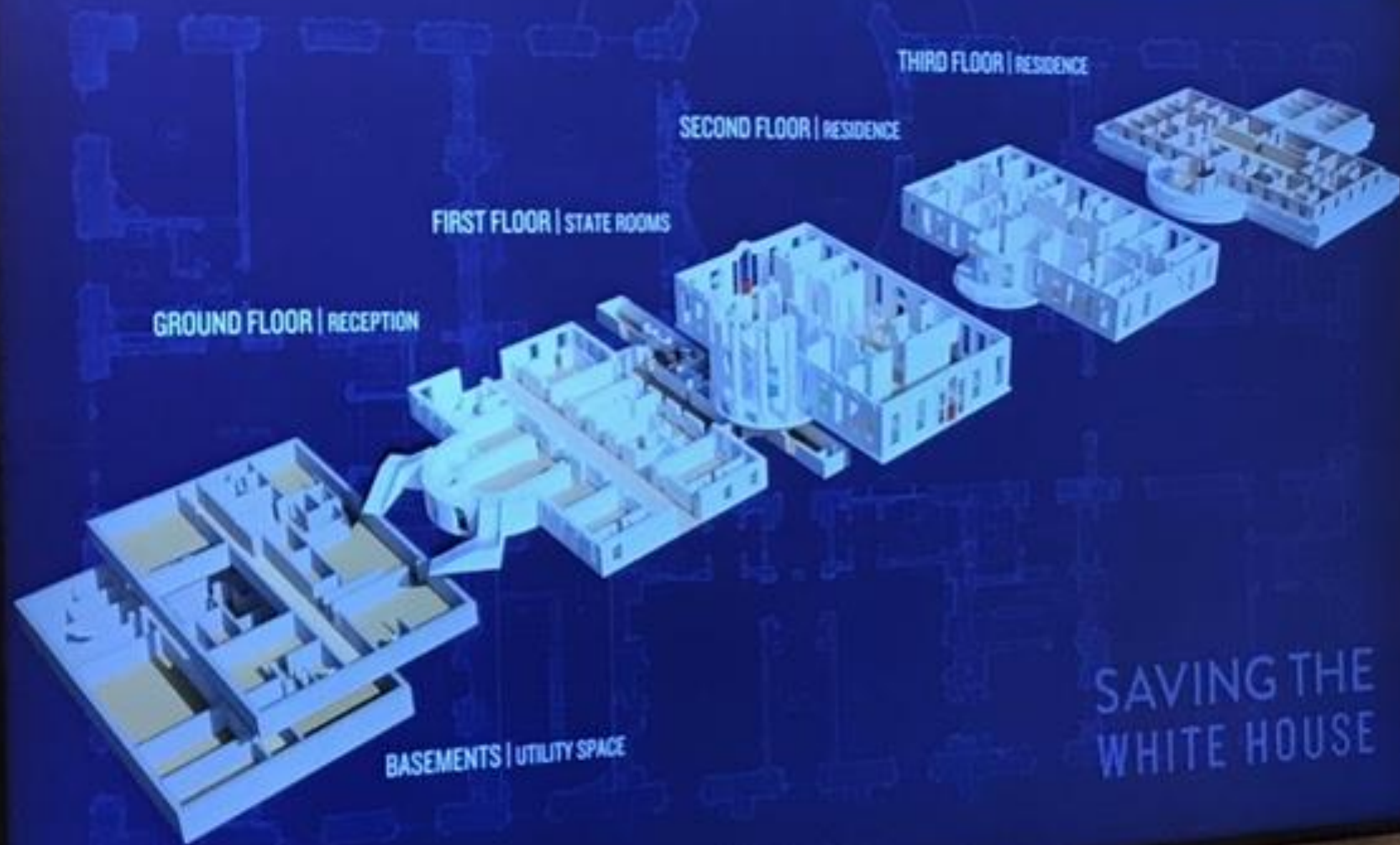
“This great white jail
is a hell of a place in
which to be alone.”

— HARRY TRUMAN, IN A DIARY ENTRY,
JANUARY 6, 1947

When the Trumans moved into the White House in 1945, they were shocked to find it falling apart. Bess went to work, hoping fresh paint and new curtains would improve morale. When she and Margaret were in town, the Trumans read, played the piano, and talked most evenings. Yet with his family in Independence half the year, Truman was often lonely. He buried himself in work. Late at night, the creaks and groans of the aging White House conjured up thoughts of past Presidents who had roamed the same rooms. His fascination with White House history guided him later when major repairs became an urgent necessity.

JESSIE





SAVING THE
WHITE HOUSE

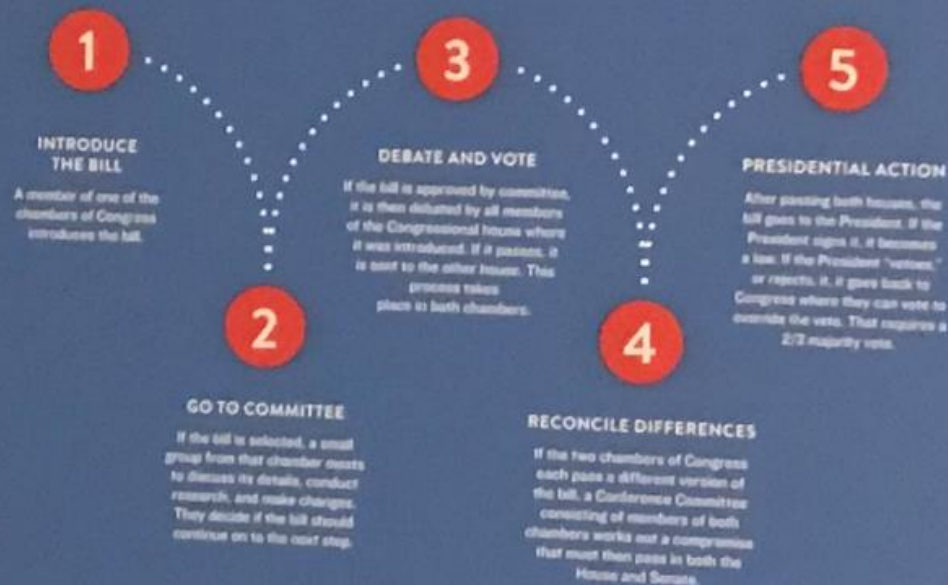


LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



HERE IS WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN
FOR A BILL TO BECOME A LAW:

The legislative branch, also known as Congress, drafts, revises, and passes laws. It is composed of two chambers – the Senate and the House of Representatives – both of which can introduce legislation. Bills, or proposed laws, often face a long and challenging road to passage. Members of Congress go through a rigorous process of research, writing, debate, editing, and, finally, voting. After this process, some bills end up being more than 1,000 pages long!



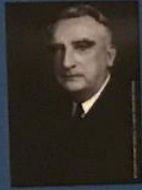


The Constitution gives the judiciary the authority to interpret laws. The Supreme Court remains the ultimate authority, but a system of district courts and courts of appeal has evolved over time. Judges and justices are appointed for life but can be removed through the impeachment process. In theory, this insulates the courts from partisan or political influence.

Harry Truman appointed four justices to the United States Supreme Court: Harold Burton (1945), Fred Vinson (Chief Justice, 1946), Tom Clark (1949), and Sherman Minton (1949).



Harold Burton



Fred Vinson



Tom Clark

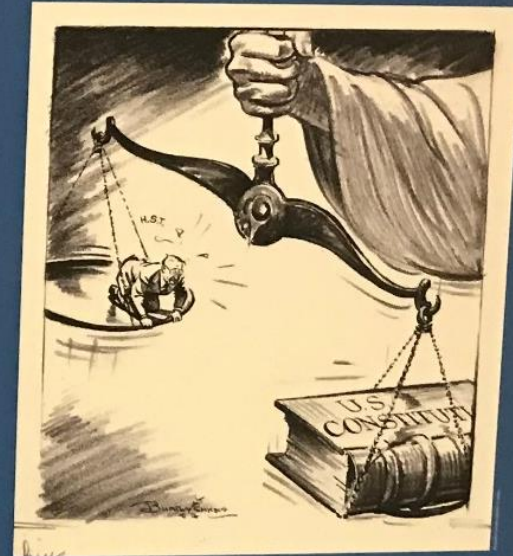


Sherman Minton

Truman had a mixed relationship with the Supreme Court. In 1952, in a six to three opinion, the Court struck down his attempt to seize the nation's steel mills. Truman had done this to prevent strikes from delaying production of war materials needed for the conflict in Korea. Having lost the case, Truman relented. But strikes closed down much of the nation's steel production for nearly two months.



Published in the Washington Evening Star around June 1946, this Jim Berryman cartoon satirizes Truman's appointment of Fred Vinson as Chief Justice of a fractured Supreme Court.



In this political cartoon by Burris Jenkins, the scales of justice tip in favor of the U.S. Constitution while Truman, accused of overstepping his powers in trying to seize the country's steel mills, watches anxiously.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

"[The Presidency] is the greatest executive office in the history of the world. I say that not because I held it but because I became acquainted with it by experience."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, introduction to *Executive Decisions*, published by 1946

Overseeing the President, the President's advisors, and various departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and commissions, the executive branch's primary role is to carry out and enforce the laws passed by Congress. But the President's job has a number of different facets, from overseeing the military to managing the economy to conducting diplomacy with other nations.

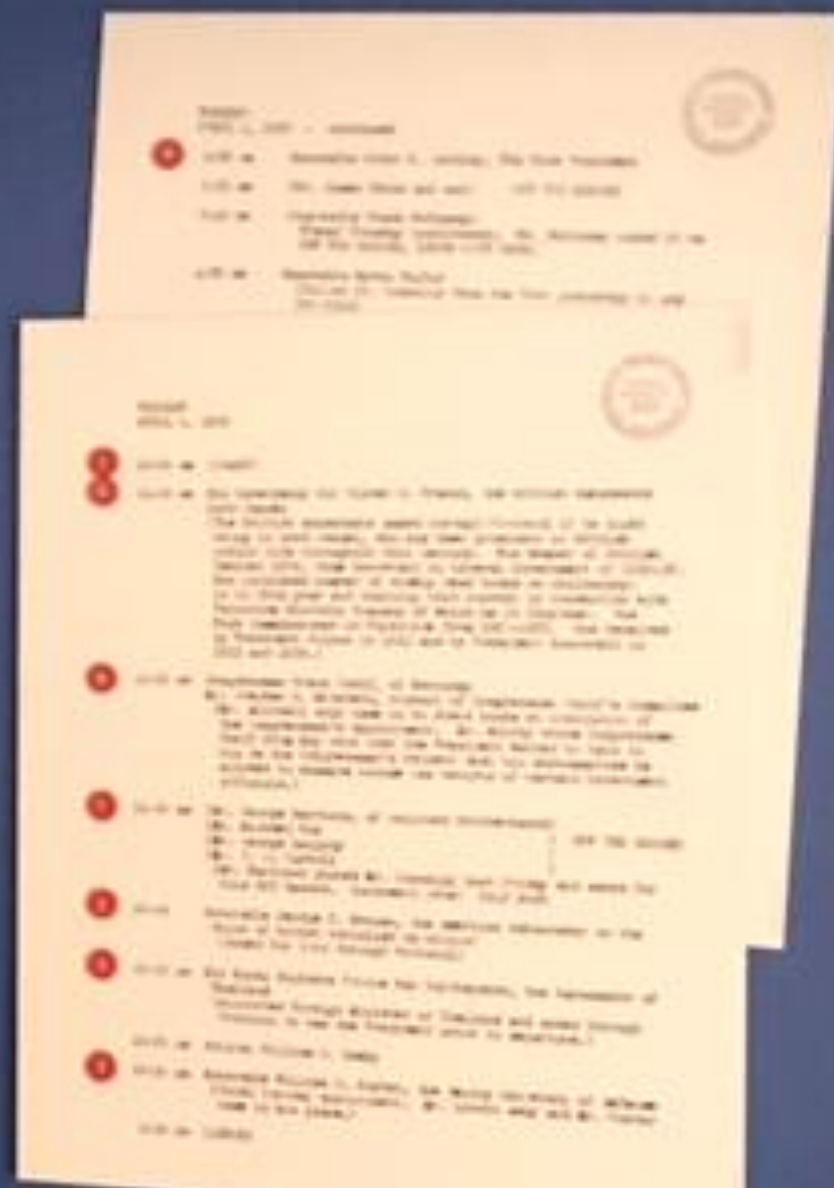


THE SIX JOBS OF THE PRESIDENT

In a 1950 speech at Columbia University, Harry Truman detailed what he called the "Six Jobs of the President." A closer look at his appointment calendar from April 1, 1952, reveals that occasionally he performed all six roles in a single day!



President Truman at a press conference, 1952



1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE
The President is the head of the executive branch and is responsible for carrying out the laws passed by Congress.

2 COMMANDER IN CHIEF
The President is the commander in chief of the United States Armed Forces and has the power to declare war and make peace.

3 HEAD OF STATE
The President represents the United States at home and abroad and is the symbol of the nation's unity.

4 POLITICAL LEADER
The President is the political leader of the nation and is responsible for setting the national agenda and proposing legislation to Congress.

5 HEAD OF DIPLOMACY
The President is the head of the nation's diplomacy and is responsible for negotiating treaties and conducting foreign relations.

6 LEGISLATIVE
The President has the power to veto legislation passed by Congress and to propose and appoint or remove judges and other officials.



EXIT



CIVIL RIGHTS

TRUMAN DOCTRINE

BERLIN AIRLIFT

NATO

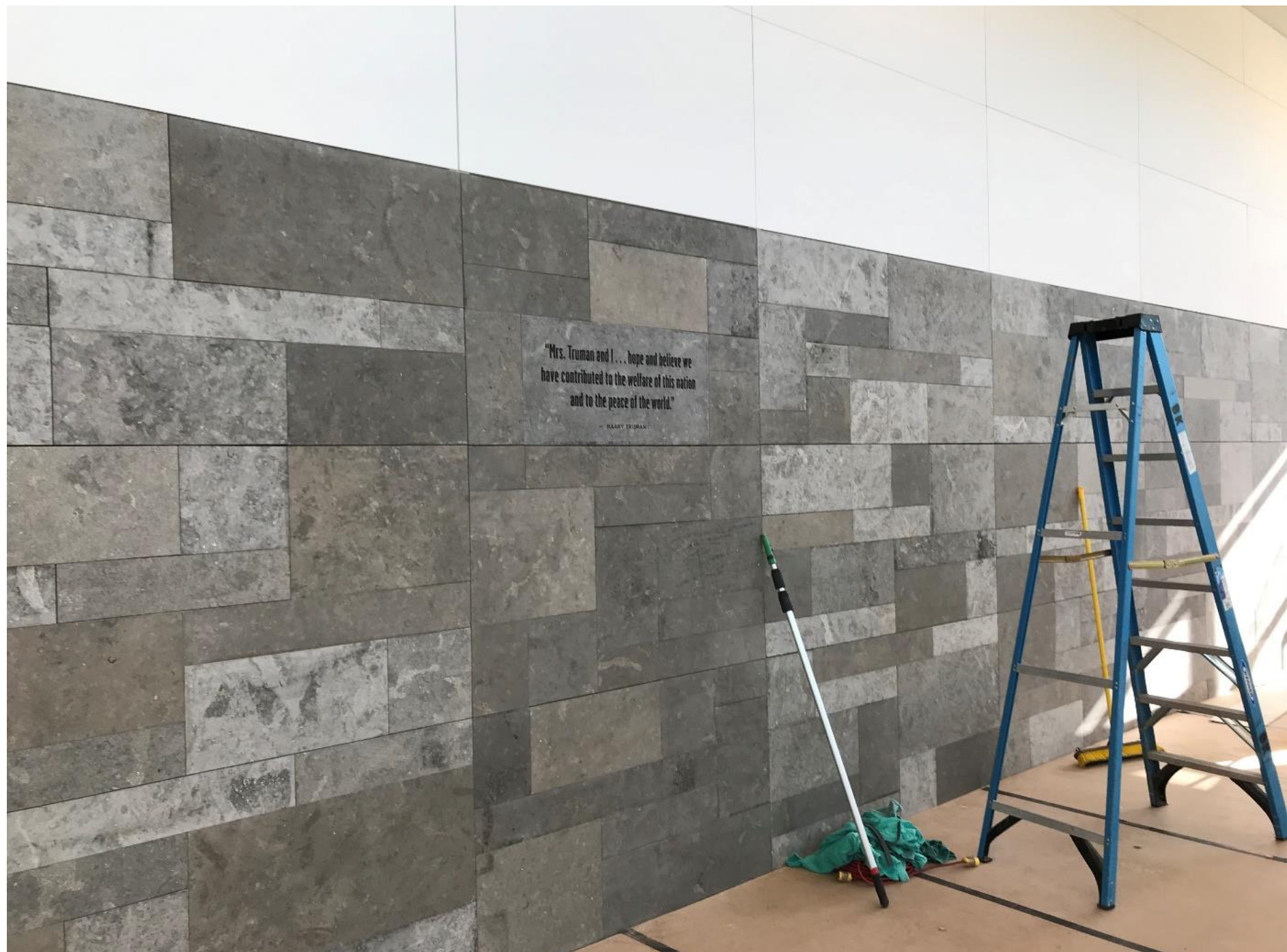
MARSHALL PLAN

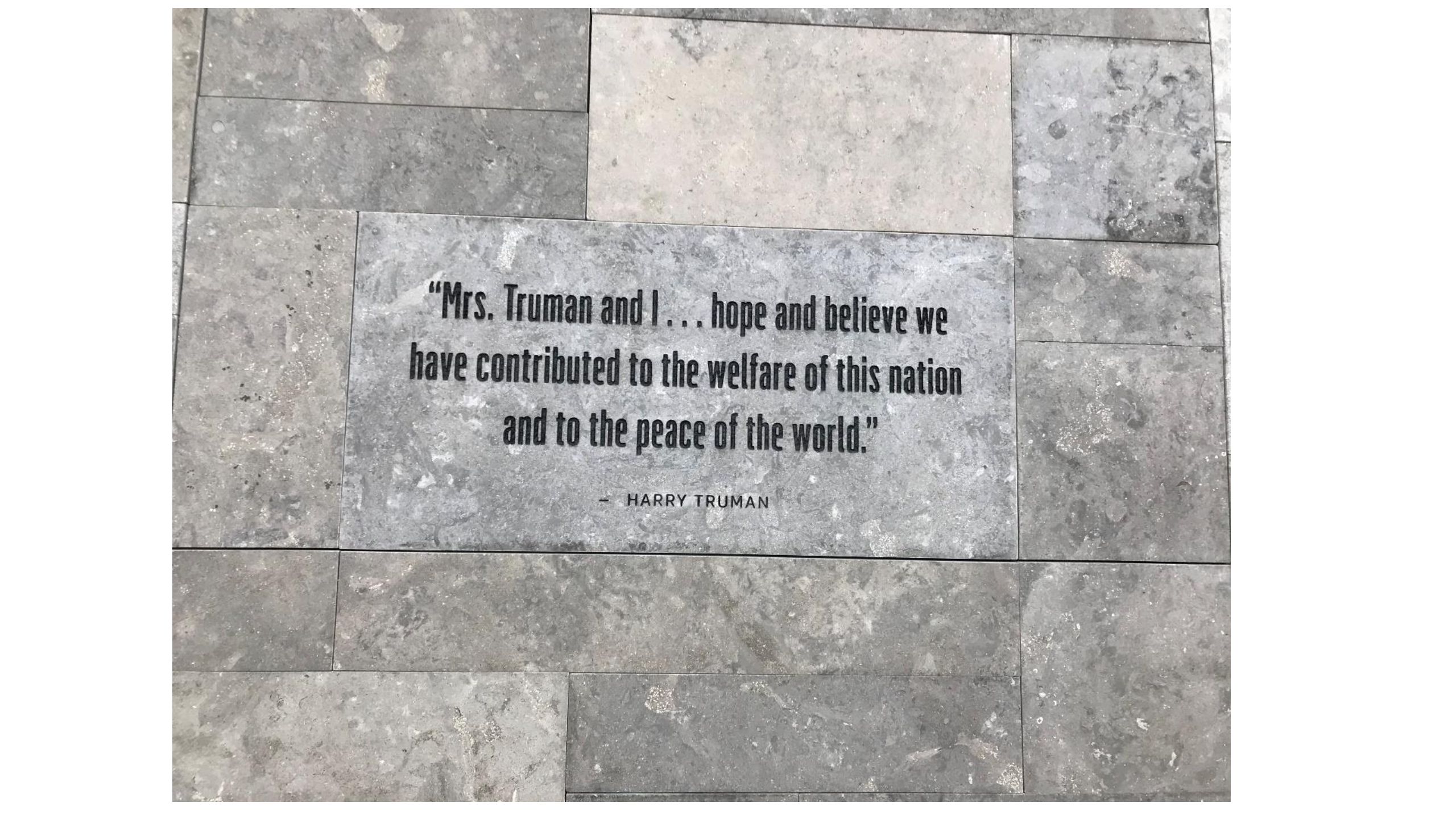
UNITED NATIONS FOUNDING

ATOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ashley
THE GLADE





A photograph of a stone wall made of large, rectangular, greyish-brown stone blocks. In the center of the wall is a slightly larger, darker grey rectangular plaque. On this plaque, a quote is inscribed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the quote, the name 'HARRY TRUMAN' is inscribed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, preceded by a small horizontal line.

**"Mrs. Truman and I . . . hope and believe we
have contributed to the welfare of this nation
and to the peace of the world."**

— HARRY TRUMAN

Questions?

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TrumanLibrary.gov

