

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.

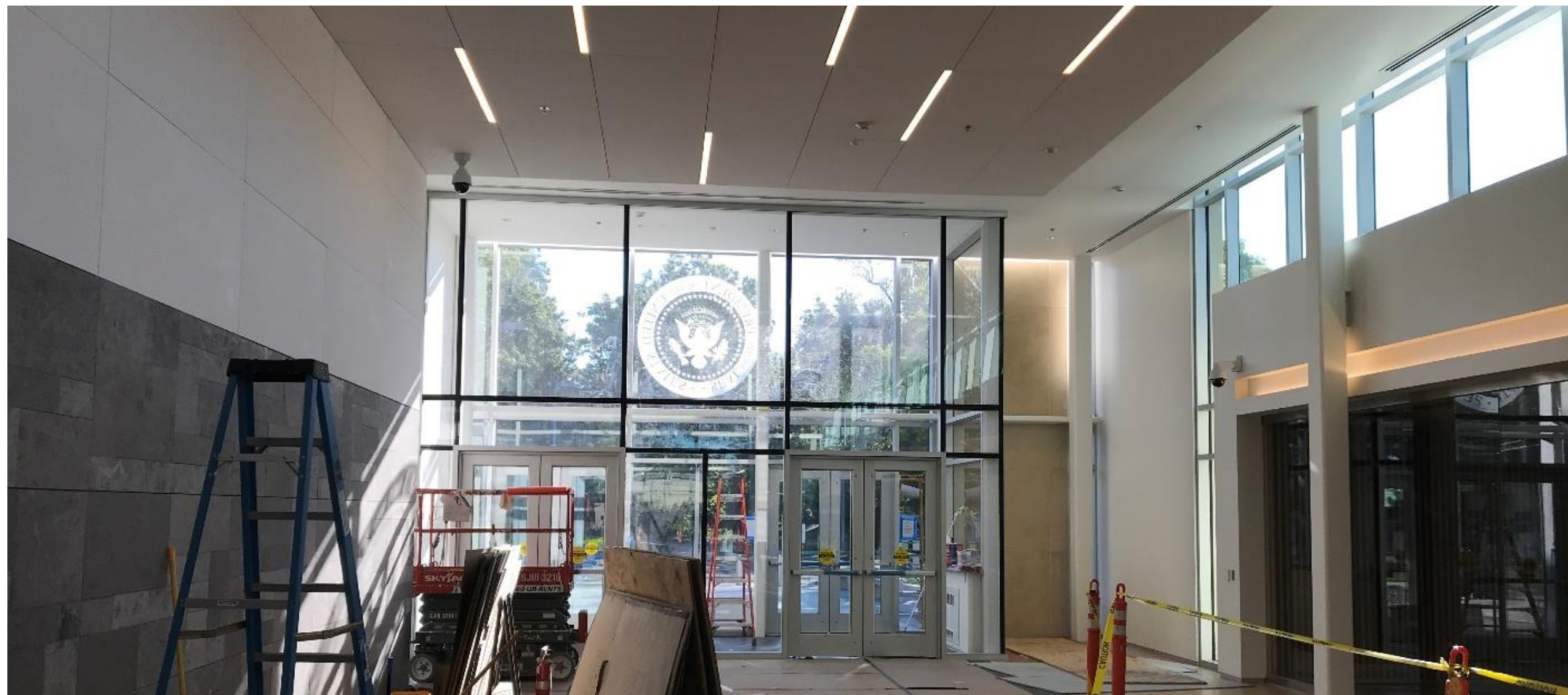
But this everyday man changed the course of American history. And his decisions as the 33rd President of the United States have made an enduring impact on our world.

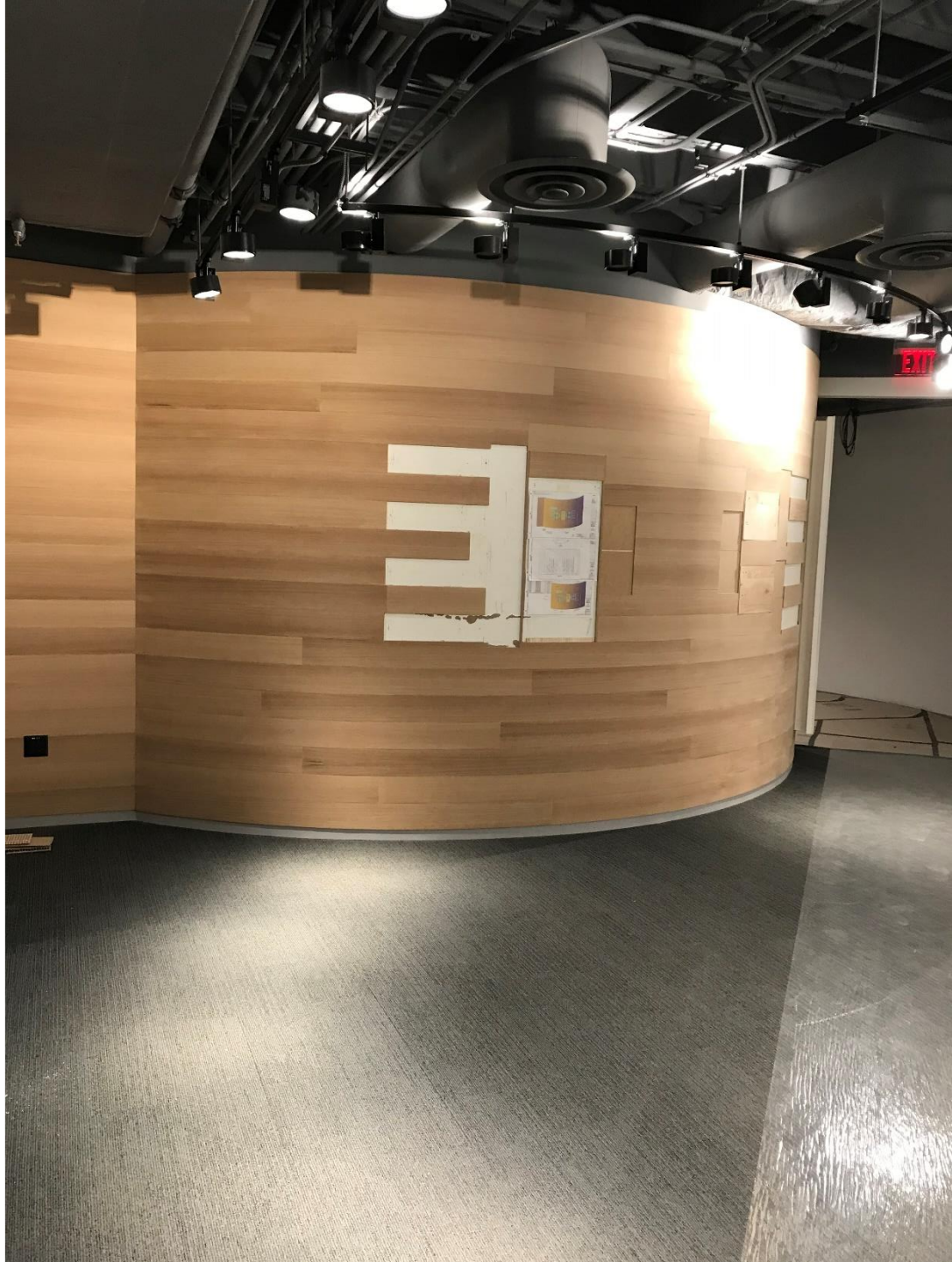
HARRY S. TRUMAN 
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308
TAVR
TAVR





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 Ethel 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 officially 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 28th 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 28th 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.

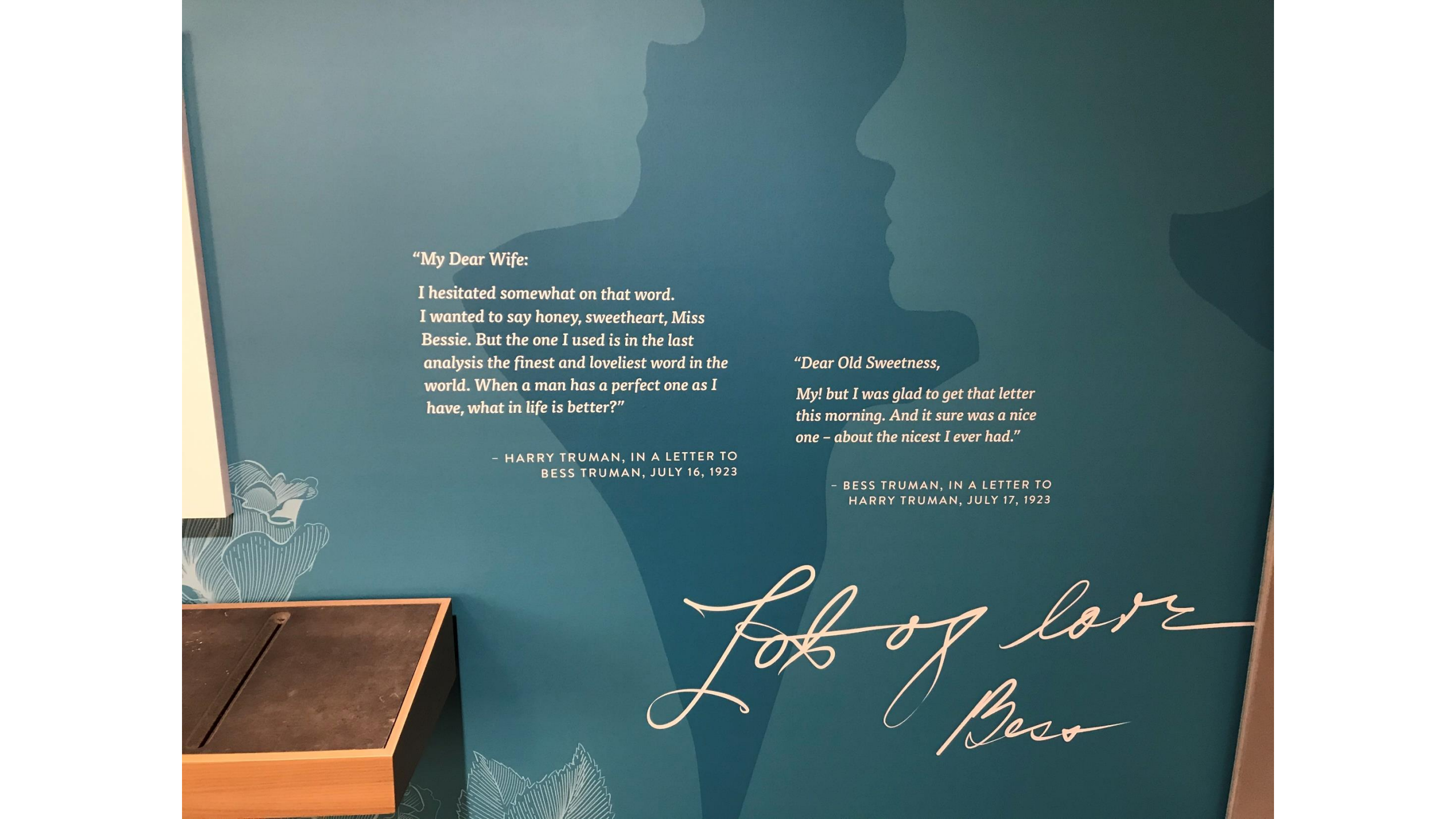
"Dear Mr. Truman,
I hope you are well and happy. I am
well and happy. I hope you are well and
happy. I hope you are well and happy."

HARRY TRUMAN TO ETHEL NOLAND, JUNE 28, 1916

ETHEL NOLAND TO HARRY TRUMAN, JUNE 28, 1916

Love
Ethel

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

Lot of love
Bess







A NEW OPPORTUNITY

Jim Pendergast was Harry's Army buddy from Camp Doniphan. In 1921, he and his father, Mike, came by Truman & Jacobson. They wondered if Harry might run for Eastern Jackson County Judge. After the hailriderdashy closed, Harry said yes. He won by fewer than 300 votes with the Pendergasts' "help." Yet he strived to stay honest and enjoyed public service. After losing the seat in the 1924 election, he was elected Precinct Judge two years later. With a Mason's interest in architecture and a farmer's knowledge of rural roads, Truman secured funds for infrastructure, including road work, a hospital, and a new courthouse.

"Went into business all enthusiastic. Lost all I had and all I could borrow. Mike Pendergast picked me up and got me into politics and I've been lucky. I loved him as I did my own daddy."

HARRY TRUMAN

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.

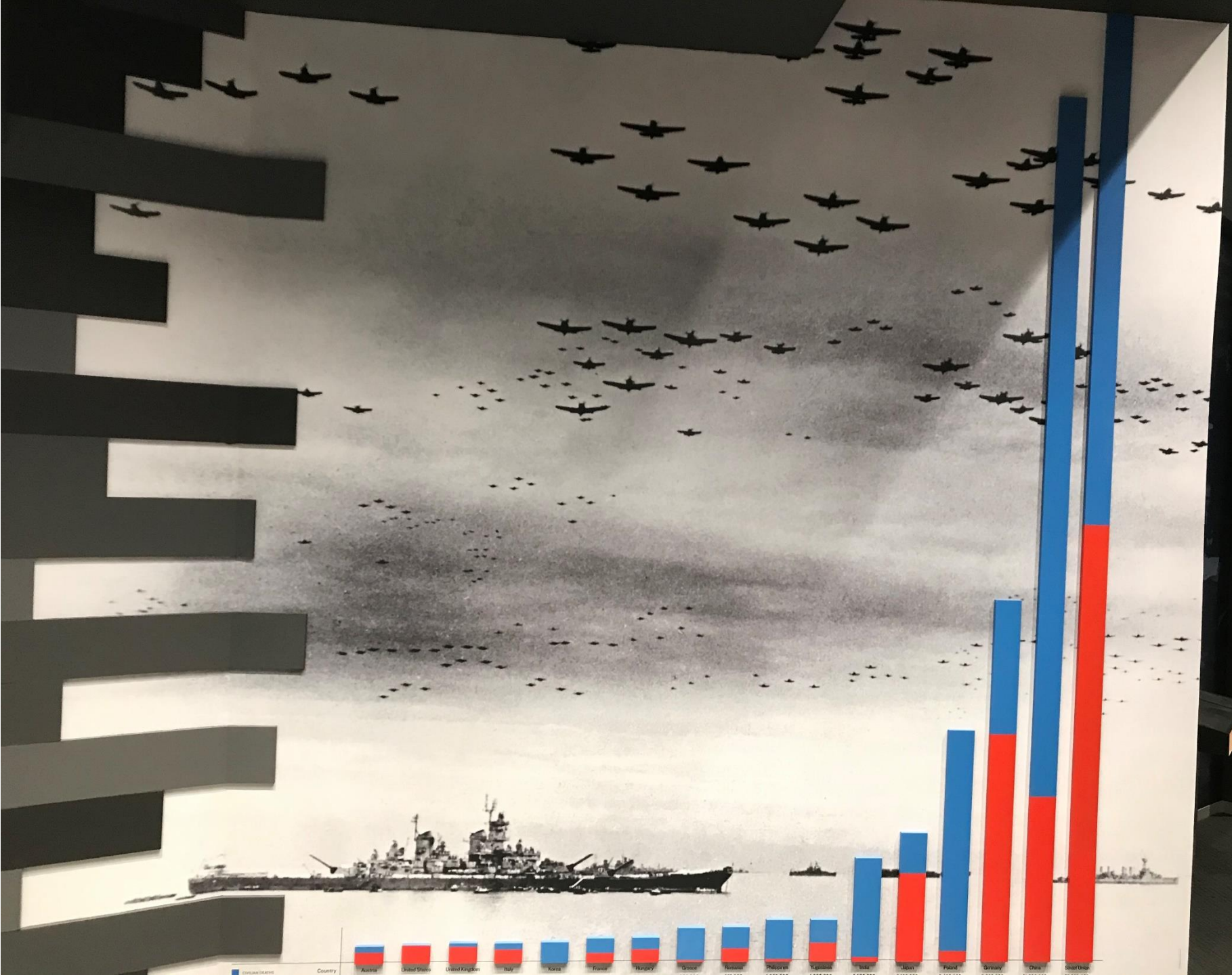


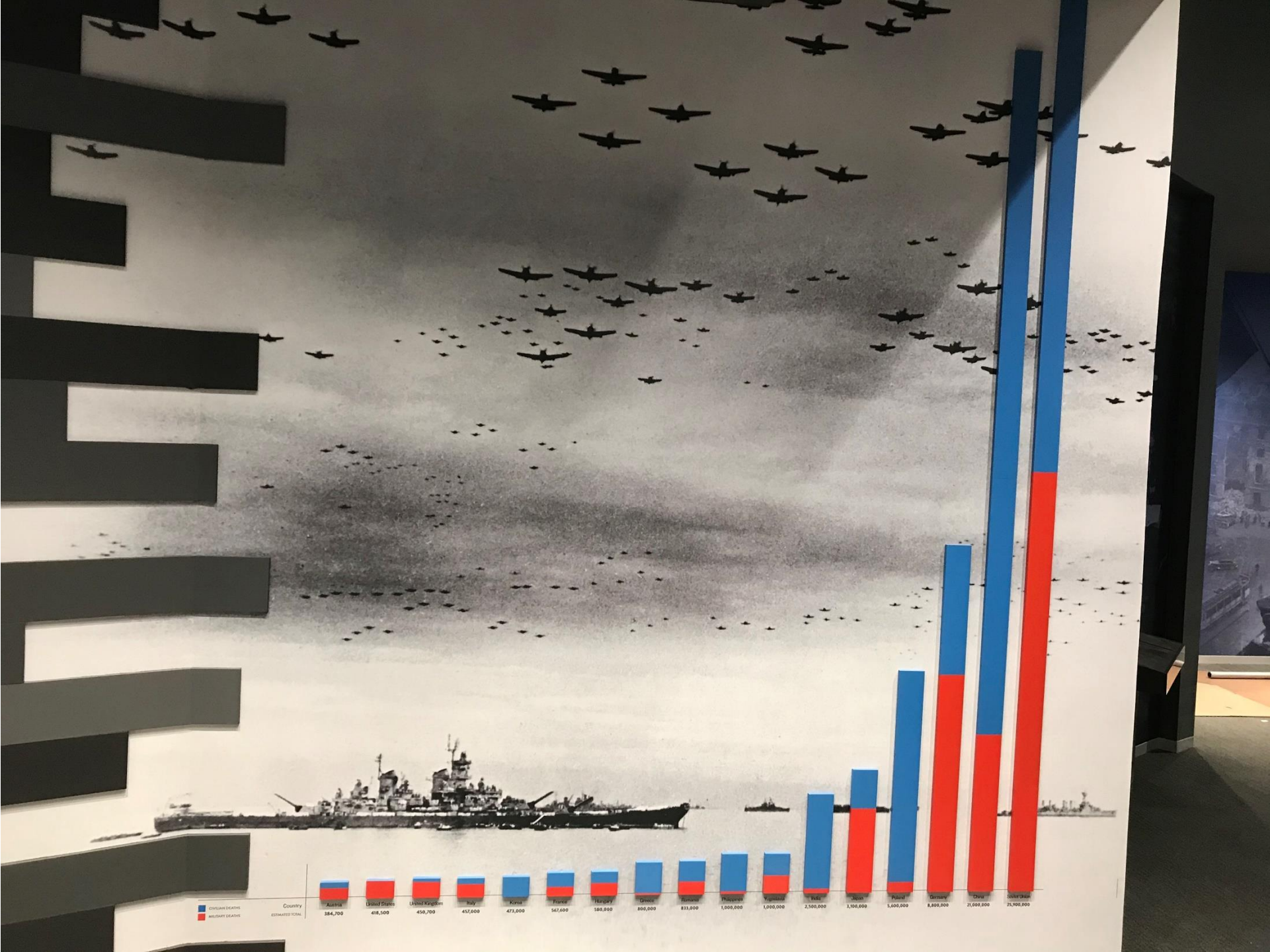
TRAL
Truman struck
his deals and
worked under
corrupt pols
to exonerate
himself

"... am I just a crook to
compromise in order
to get the job done?
You judge it, I can't."

- JUDGE HARRY TRUMAN, IN AN
UNDATED LONGHAND NOTE





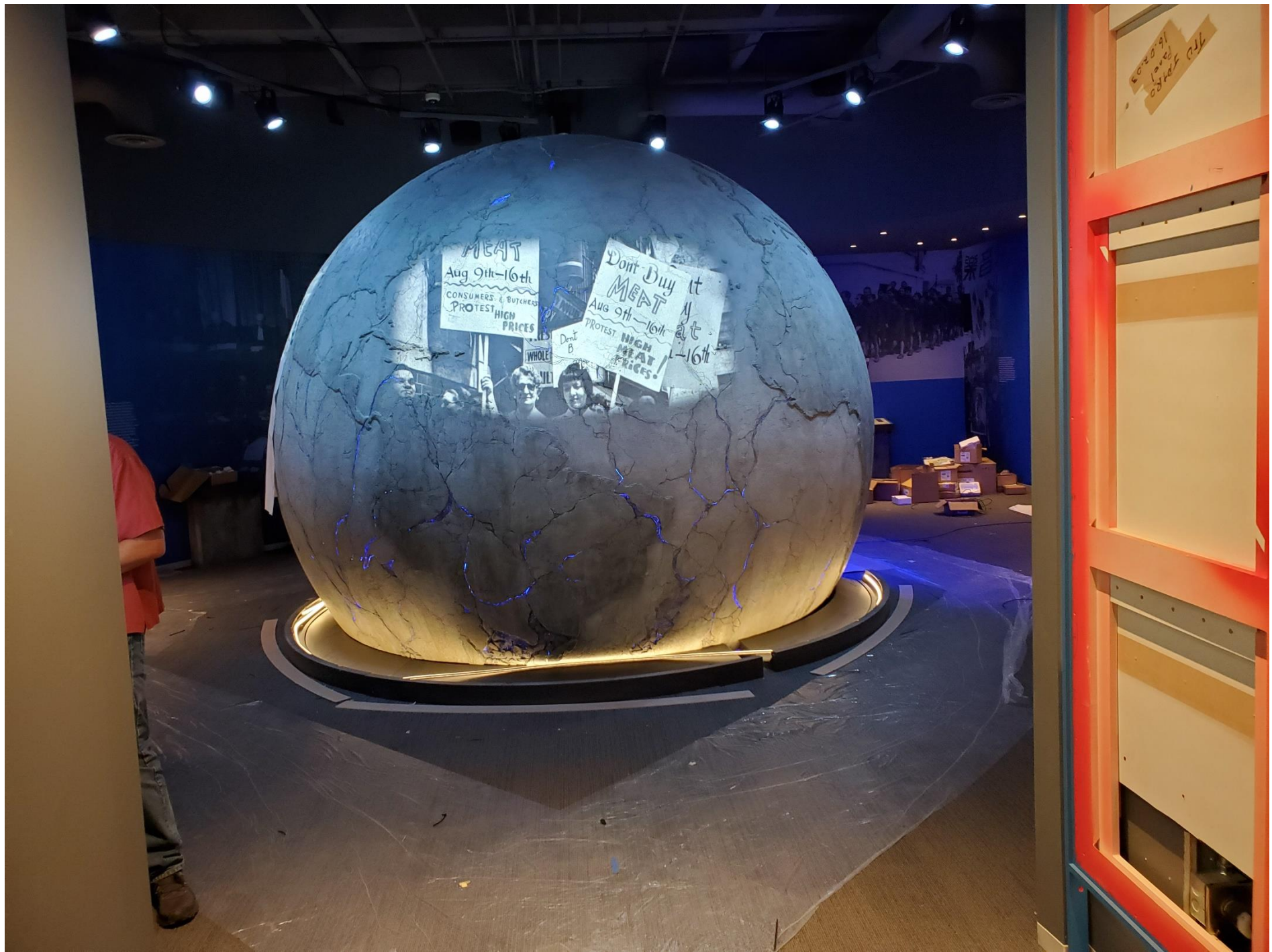




























"We stay in Berlin, period."

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, 1948, the Soviets cut rail, road, and water access to West Berlin. The "Berlin Blockade" ended the Soviet response to a plan by the Western Allies to join Western sectors into one federal entity and to establish a separate currency. 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 forcing the Soviets to open land

routes to shipping supplies in Berlin. Others in the Truman Cabinet, who often accompanied meetings of the so-called "Big Three" — the United States, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain — argued that the blockade was a strategic mistake.

The solution, the Berlin Airlift, was to supply West Berlin by air. It was a massive logistical effort that lasted for over a year. The airlift was a triumph of American logistics and a symbol of the Cold War.



"We stay in Berlin, period."

WALTER TRUMAN, IN A MOMENT
WITH MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET,
JUNE 26, 1948

At the Potsdam Conference, the Allies divided Germany into four temporary administrative zones: American, British, French, and Soviet. Although Berlin fell within the Soviet zone, it was not split up - the Soviets took the eastern side, the other Allies took the west.

On June 24, 1948, the Soviets cut rail, road, and water access to West Berlin. The "Berlin Blockade" was the Soviet response to a plan by the Western Allies to join Western sectors into one federal state and to establish a separate currency. The Soviets consisted Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria when they sought all of Berlin.

With more than two million West Germans facing starvation, Truman had to act. Some advised forcing the Soviets to open land

routes or imposing restrictions on Soviet access to the Panama Canal, while others recommended evacuating the city or negotiating via the United Nations. But Truman had no interest in leaving Berlin or starting another war.

The solution, the Berlin Airlift, was a massive humanitarian mission - planes flown by pilots from seven countries delivered millions of pounds of food and supplies to the people of West Berlin. Stalin thought the airlift could not last through the winter, but, facing international condemnation, he finally lifted the blockade after nearly a year.

The airlift was a dramatic win for Truman. It showed America's resolve to resist the Soviet threat without direct confrontation.

Illustration by [illegible]









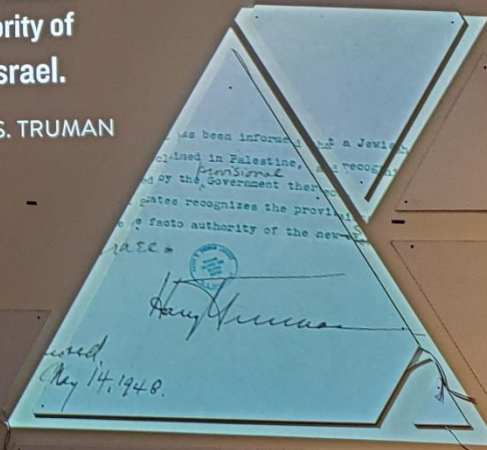
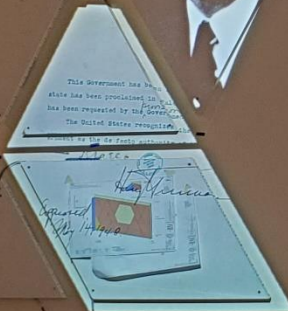


May 14, 1948
6:11 pm



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









"Today marks the beginning not
only of a new administration,
but of a period that will be
eventful, perhaps decisive,
for us and for the world."

PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN,
INauguration Address,
JANUARY 20, 1949

NO LIFTS
THROUGH
FINISHED
OPENING
NO
EXCEPTIONS



PARKING
MINUTES
TO 6 PM
DAY
TO 10 PM



FARM AID

CIVIL RIGHTS

MINIMUM WAGE

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE



NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

TAX REFORM

10

"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 boomer, economy and Democratic threat and health insurance. He proposed an ambitious program to Medicare's New Deal that would ensure all Americans got a "big deal." It included, among other things, old rights legislation, universal health insurance, and increased social security benefits. Yes, at he would soon learn, the Civil 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.

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

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

LABOR RELATIONS

SOCIAL SECURITY

[illegible]

ANTI-TRUST LAWS

It was this interesting testimony to his strong will and healthy, not least entrepreneurial, attitude to competition. We built him a 2 month business plan training and apprenticeship programme. In this programme we shared our experience with him, talked about the sharing ideas hypothesis that you will increasingly require and emphasised that

MINIMUM WAGE

In Truman's words: "Our farmers still face an uncertain future. And too many of them lack the benefits of our modern civilization. Standards of living on the farm should be just as good as anywhere else in the country. Farm price supports are an essential part of our program... to prevent farm price declines, facilitate adjustments in production to consumer demands, and to promote good land use. Rural electrification should be pushed forward."

CIVIL RIGHTS

In Truman's words: "Our democratic ideals are often thwarted by prejudice and intolerance. The driving force behind our progress is our faith in our democratic institutions. That faith is embodied in the promise of equal rights and equal opportunities which the founders of our Republic proclaimed to their countrymen and to the whole world. The fulfillment of this promise is among the highest purposes of government. The civil rights proposals I made to the 80th Congress, I now repeat to the 81st Congress."

TAX REFORM

AGE

"Our minimum wages are far too low. The health of our economy and the responsiveness of high schools further require that the minimum wage fixed by law be raised to at least 75 cents an hour."

Under Truman, the minimum wage was established at 40 cents an hour. It was then adjusted in 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

In Thurman's words: "My main goal, my effort to raise the general standard of health in this country, is to expand as much as I can, it is a daunting but huge task of millions lack adequate medical care. We are short of doctors, hospital rooms. We must remedy these shortages. Otherwise, we need -- and we must have without further delay -- a system of prepaid medical insurance which will enable every American to obtain good medical care."

**"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 surprise victory, Truman was heartened by a booming economy and Democratic House and Senate majorities. He proposed an ambitious agenda to meet Roosevelt's New Deal that would ensure all Americans got a "fair deal." It included, among other things, civil rights legislation, universal health insurance, and increased social security benefits. Yet, as he would soon learn, the Cold War, the Korean War, limited staff, fear of "socialism," and joblessness for reform prevented 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.

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

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

is Thorne's words: "Two million new small homes are needed and housing two million families more than three million jobs. The housing shortage continues to be acute. Congress has made the provisions for low-cost public housing, but otherwise, low housing and housing research, building construction is slowed. The Government is now engaged in a campaign to reduce the impact of the building industry to contribute to the production of lower cost housing."

LABOR RELATIONS

In Truman's words: "At present, the working men and women of the Nation are unfairly discriminated against in a statute that deprives their rights, curtails free constructive efforts, and hampers free exercise of free collective bargaining. Their status in the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947, sometimes called the Taft-Hartley Act, that act should be repealed. Without endangering our democratic freedoms, means should be provided for setting up machinery for preventing strikes in vital industries which affect the public interest."

SOCIAL SECURITY

In Prager's words: "The present coverage of the Social Security program is a ghastly illustration of the benefits payments are not low. One-third of our workers are not covered. Those who remain the age and survivors insurance benefits receive an average payment of only \$25 a month." Many others who cannot work because they are physically disabled are left to the mercy of Social Security. We should expand the Social Security program."

ANTI-TRUST LAWS

"If our free enterprise economy is to be strong and healthy, we must reinvigorate the forces of competition. We must ensure small business the freedom and opportunity to grow and prosper. To this purpose, we should strengthen our anti-trust laws by closing those loopholes that permit monopolistic mergers and consolidations."

No anti-trust legislation passed Congress during Truman's administration.

Do you think it should be free?

In Truman's words: "children are not receiving an overcrowded, obsolete education, short of teachers, but the salaries are too low to attract the best and hold the ones we have." The Federal financial system for education is too complex to operate and too inflexible to change. The government now administers education in a haphazard way given full de-



"Read your history through Jefferson's
administration...Hysteria finally died
down...and the country didn't go to
hell, and it isn't going to now."

- PRESIDENT TRUMAN TO REPORTERS
ON THE RED SCARE, JUNE 16, 1949



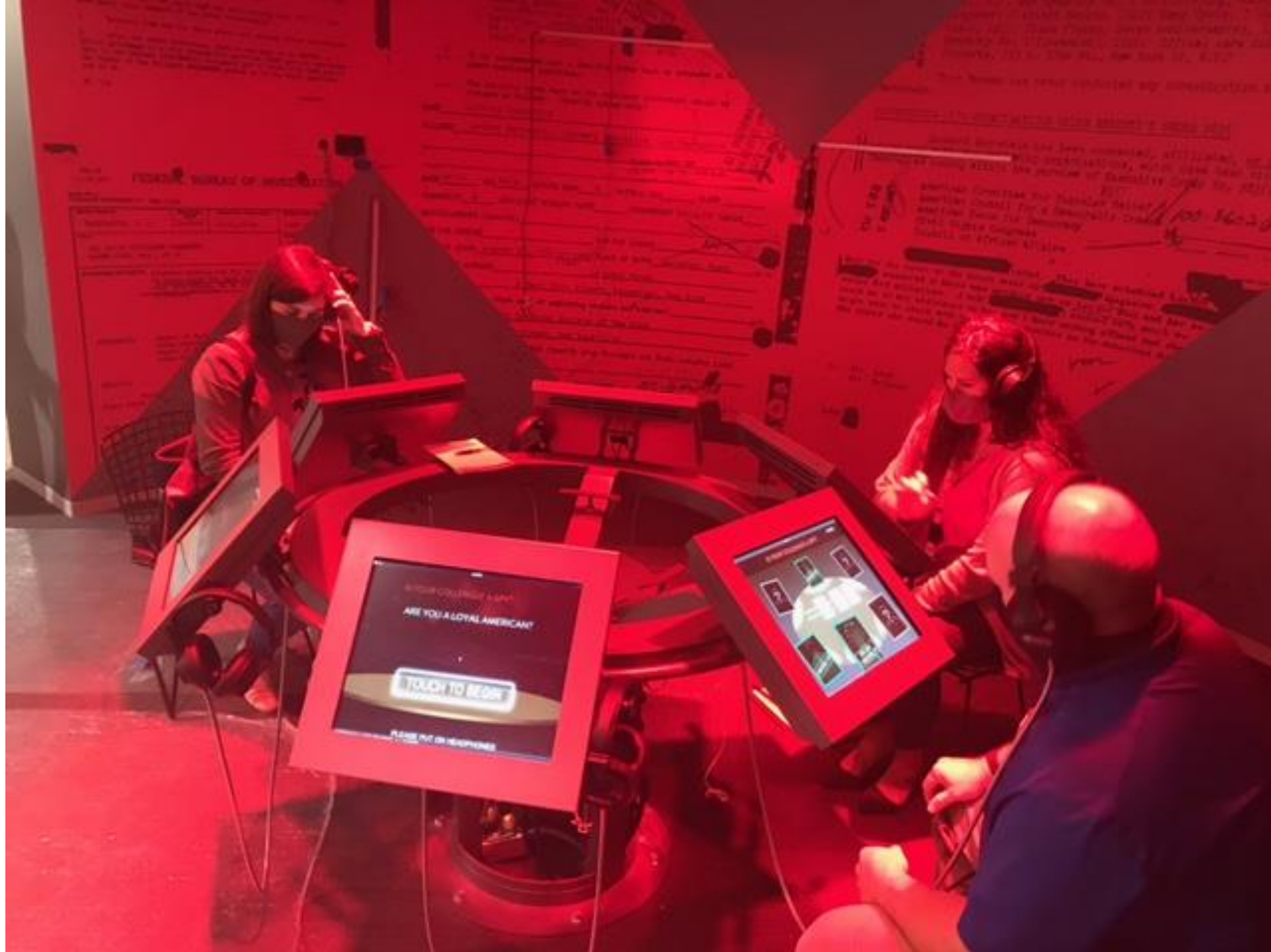


"I've worked for peace for five years
and six months and it looks like
World War III is here."

- HARRY TRUMAN, IN A LONGHAND NOTE,
DECEMBER 9, 1950

SCAR

Decks
& more
SPRAYER
more
benefits





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

WASHINGTON, June 27—(P)—President Truman today sped American planes and warships into combat against the Communist invaders of South Korea and ordered a general stiffening of defenses against the conquest in the far Pacific.

... in support of the Korean republic.

It said briefly that an advance echelon of U. S. Military G-2 had been established in South Korea.

Navy Ships Shifted

In Washington, the Navy said some of its fighting craft now on the U. S.





**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.

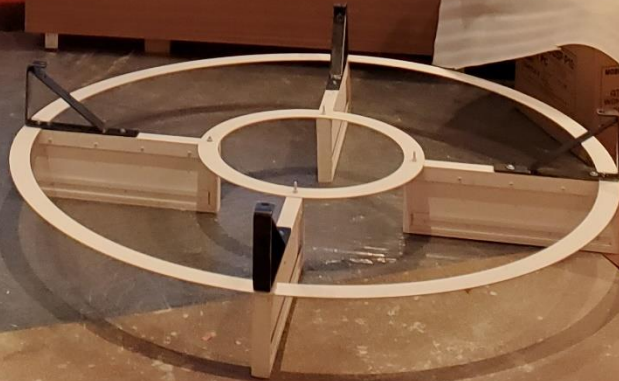
Truman said in a statement that he had ordered the U.S. Navy to shift its forces to the Pacific, and that he had ordered the U.S. Army to shift its forces to the Pacific.

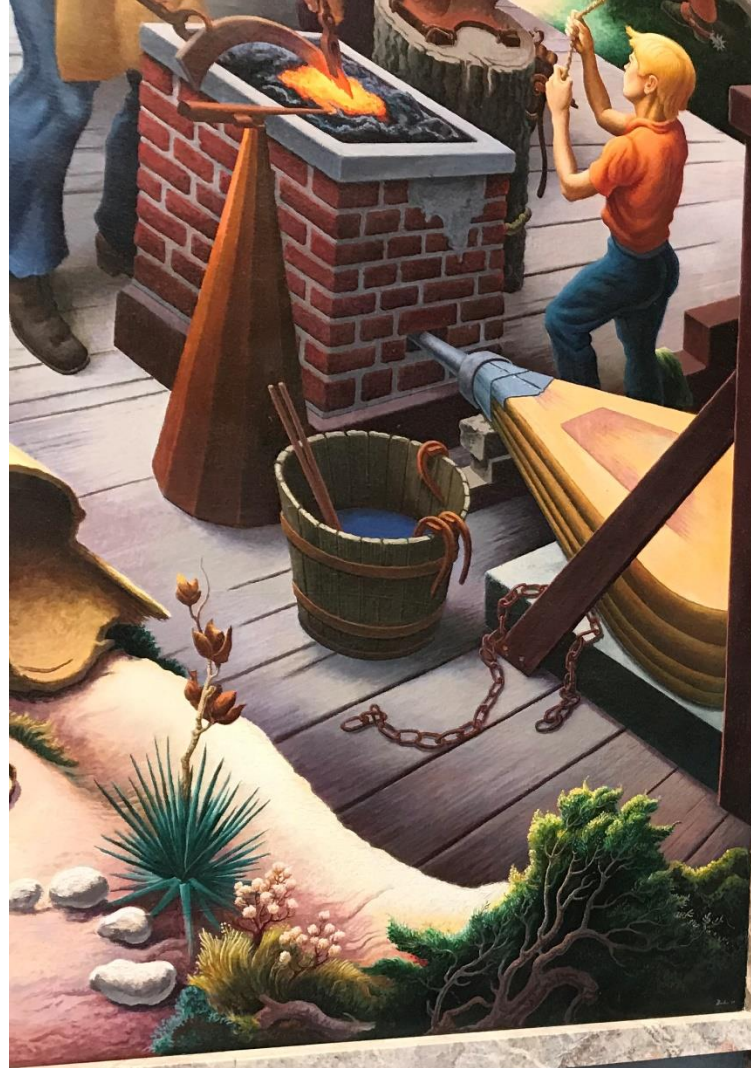


Could the Korean War have been avoided?

Did it create a safer world?

Did Truman prevent World War III?

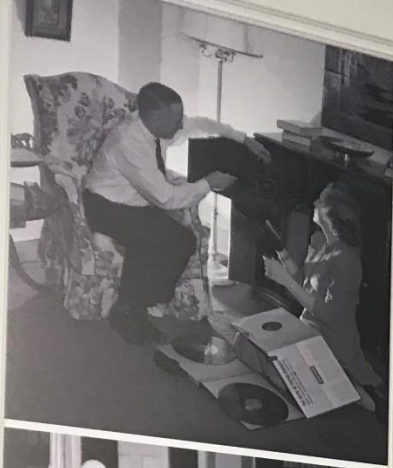












Left: Alvin Karpis, Bremer kidnaper, and Harry Campbell, Karpis' partner, in the car during the kidnapping of Edward G. Bremer, U.S. District Judge, in 1935.
 Above: Harry Campbell and Alvin Karpis, Bremer kidnappers, in the car during the kidnapping of Edward G. Bremer, U.S. District Judge, in 1935.
 Above: Harry Campbell and Alvin Karpis, Bremer kidnappers, in the car during the kidnapping of Edward G. Bremer, U.S. District Judge, in 1935.

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.





"[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.









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

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

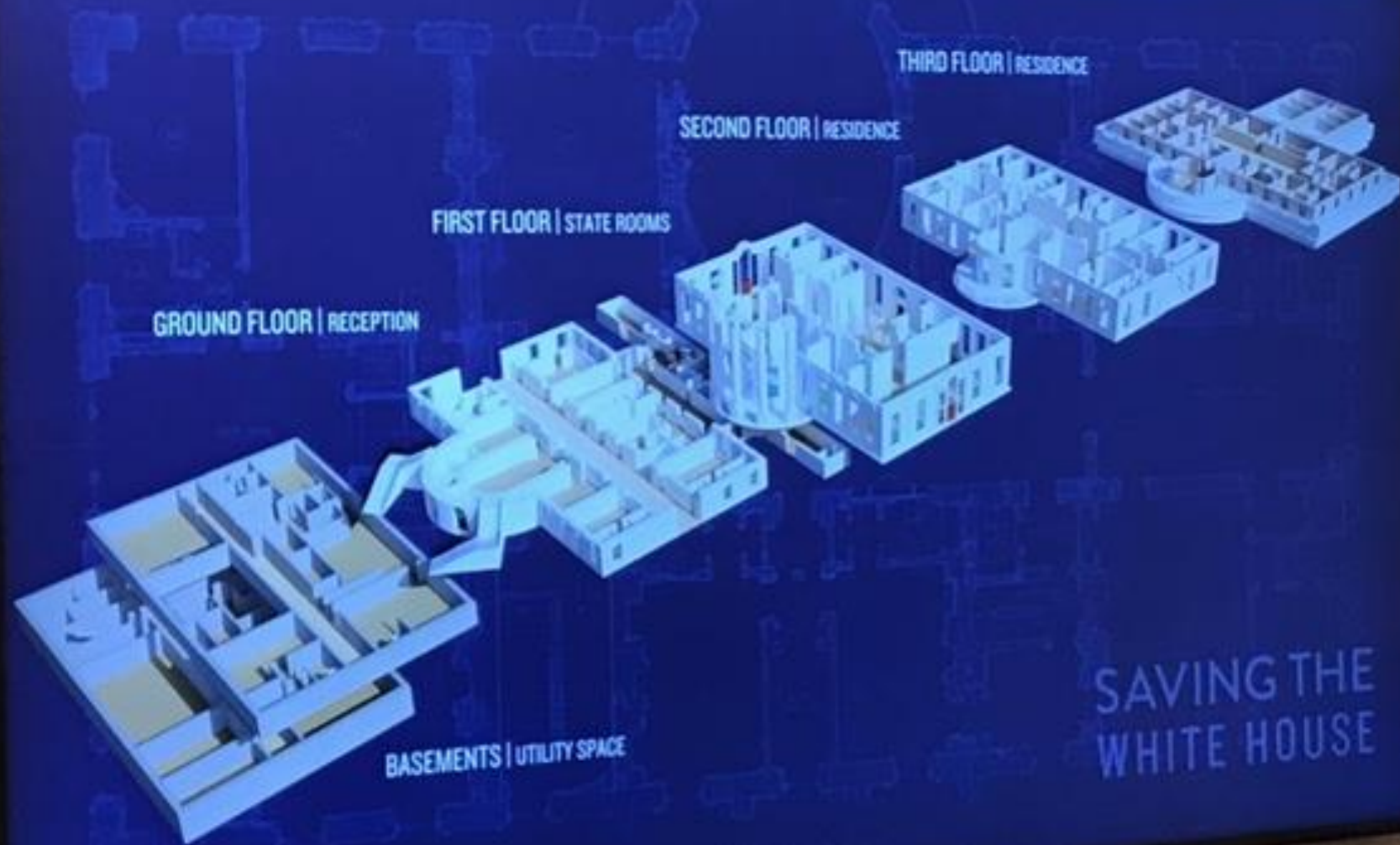
When the Trumans moved into the White House in 1945, they were shocked to find it falling apart. Boys went to work, hoping fresh paint and new curtains would improve morale. When she and Margaret were in town, the Trumans read, played the piano, and talked most evenings. Yet with his family in Independence 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















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!

1

INTRODUCE
THE BILL

A member of one of the chambers of Congress introduces the bill.

3

DEBATE AND VOTE

If the bill is approved by committee, it is then debated by all members of the Congressional house where it was introduced. If it passes, it is sent to the other house. This process takes place in both chambers.

5

PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

After passing both houses, the bill goes to the President. If the President signs it, it becomes a law. If the President "vetoes," or rejects it, it goes back to Congress where they can vote to override the veto. That requires a 2/3 majority vote.

2

GO TO COMMITTEE

If the bill is selected, a small group from that chamber meets to discuss its details, conduct research, and make changes. They decide if the bill should continue on to the next step.

4

RECONCILE DIFFERENCES

If the two chambers of Congress each pass a different version of the bill, a Conference Committee consisting of members of both chambers works out a compromise that must then pass in both the House and Senate.



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



Justices in the Washington Federal Bar Courtroom. From left to right: Chief Justice Fred Vinson, Justices Tom Clark, Sherman Minton, and Harold Burton.

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.

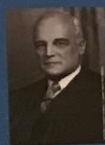


In this political cartoon by Morris, the scales of justice weigh the government's actions against the Constitution. The government's actions are shown as a small boat, while the Constitution is represented by a large stack of books.

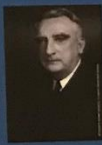


The Constitution gives the judiciary the authority to interpret laws. The Supreme Court remains the ultimate authority, but a system of district courts and courts of appeal has evolved over time. Judges and justices are appointed for life but can be removed through the impeachment process. In theory,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

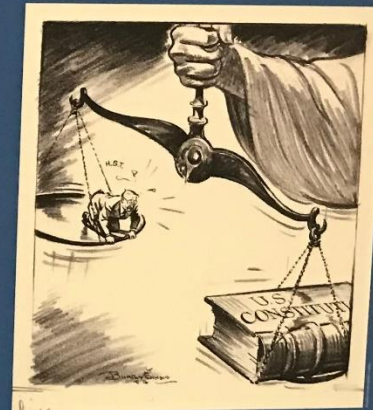


Sherman Minton



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.

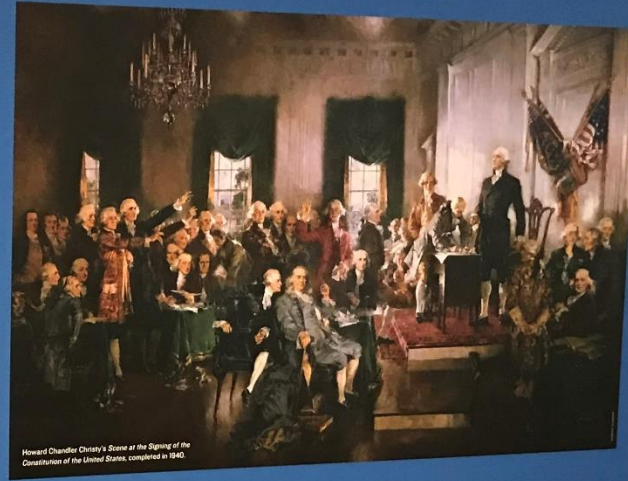
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In this political cartoon by Burke Jenkins, the scales of justice tip in favor of the U.S. Constitution while Truman, accused of oversteering his powers to bring to force the country's steel mills, watches anxiously.

Signed in 1787, the Constitution, one of the founding documents of the United States, defined the government's structure and the fundamental laws of the land. Although it is one of the cornerstones of American democracy, it remains a work in progress, intended to be updated to suit the changing times.

The Constitution's first set of amendments addressed a major concern held by the original Congress: balancing governmental power with the personal liberty of citizens. Collectively known as the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments provide every American with powerful tools to challenge their government to protect their individual freedoms. These include freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to assemble, and the right to a trial. Truman was particularly committed to educating young people about their rights and responsibilities.



“...our great Government was obtained by ‘blood, sweat and tears’...Why, we even had to spend four bloody years whipping ourselves to make the Constitution work. And we are still at it – trying to make it work!”

– HARRY TRUMAN, IN A LETTER TO STANLEY E. WHITEWAY, JANUARY 21, 1959

THE JOBS OF THE PRESIDENT

"[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."

- HARRY TRUMAN, IN A LETTER TO STANLEY E. WHITEWAY
JANUARY 21, 1955

Consisting of the President, the President's advisors, and various departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and committees, 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.



In a 1959 speech at Columbia University, Harry Truman detailed what he called the "Six Jobs of the President." A close look at his appointment calendar from April 1, 1952, reveals that occasionally he performed all six roles in a single day!



THURSDAY
APRIL 3, 1952 - continued

3:00 pm Honorable Allen W. Barkley, The Vice President
(Mr. James Dale and son) OFF THE RECORD

3:15 pm (Honorable Frank McNulty)
(Usual Tuesday appointment; Mr. McNulty asked if he
OFF THE RECORD, LINTS MUST DOE)

4:00 pm Honorable Myron Taylor
(Called Mr. Gosselin from New York yesterday to ask
for this)

TUESDAY
APRIL 1, 1952

1 21000 nm (Staff)
21000 nm His Excellency Sir Oliver S. Franks, the British Ambassador
Lord James
(The British Ambassador asked through Protocol if he might
bring in Lord James, who has been present in Britain
possibly life through the war, which was Royal British
Cabinet 1950, now Secretary in Liberal Government of 1930-32
Has published number of widely read books on philosophy
is in 50th year and visiting this country in connection with
Palestine Electric Company of which he is Chairman. Was
High Commissioner in Palestine from 1919-1925. Was required
by President Wilson in 1921 and by President Roosevelt in
1931 and 1934.)

11:25 am Congressman Frank Chelf, of Kentucky
Mr. Stephen A. Mitchell, counsel of Congressman Chelf's Committee.
(Mr. Mitchell only came in to share news of completion of
the Congressman's appointment. Mr. Murphy wrote Congressman
Chelf from my post that the President wanted to talk to
him re the Congressman's request that his subordinates be
allowed to examine income tax returns of certain Government
officials.)

11:30 am (Mr. George Harrison, of Railroad Brotherhood) OFF THE RECORD
(Mr. Michael Fox)
(Mr. George Leighty)
(Mr. T. C. Carroll)
(Mr. Harrison phoned Mr. Connolly last Friday and asked for
this Off Record. Southwest (WA) HALF RUN

12:05 Honorable George F. Kennan, the American Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
(Asked for this through Protocol)

12:15 pm His Royal Highness Prince Pan Vajithayakon, the Ambassador of Thailand
(Appointed Foreign Minister of Thailand and asked through
Protocol to see the President prior to departure.)

12:20 pm Admiral William D. Leahy

2 12:30 pm Honorable William C. Foster, the Deputy Secretary of Defense
(Usual Tuesday appointment. Mr. Lovett away and Mr. Foster
came in his place.)

2:00 pm (LUNCH)

"We have to take care that the tests are faithfully executed. The President is the representation of the whole nation, and he's the only without-the-arena in the arena here."

2 COMMANDER IN CHIEF
OF THE ARMED FORCES

VICE PRESIDENT	John N. Warner
SECRETARY OF STATE	James H. Baker Jr.
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY	Walter F. Mondale Jr.
SECRETARY OF WAR	Frank C. Lucas
SECRETARY OF NAVY	James F. Parsons
ATTORNEY GENERAL	Francis B. Baker
POSTMASTER GENERAL	Frank C. Miller
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE	Henry A. Wallace
SECRETARY OF LABOR	Francis Perkins
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE	Charles D. Wickard
SECRETARY OF INTERIOR	Harold L. Ickes

John N. Warner
James H. Baker Jr.



John N. Warner



James H. Baker Jr.



Walter F. Mondale Jr.



Walter F. Mondale Jr.



Frank C. Lucas



James F. Parsons



James F. Parsons



Francis B. Baker



Frank C. Miller



Robert J. Thompson



Henry A. Wallace



Harold L. Ickes



Francis Perkins



Charles D. Wickard



Charles D. Wickard



Charles D. Wickard



Harold L. Ickes



John A. King

John A. King
George C. Marshall



George C. Marshall

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



James V. Forrestal



Henry W. Henshaw



Robert H. Johnson



Charles E. Johnson



George C. Marshall



John A. King



Charles E. Johnson



John A. King



John A. King



Charles E. Johnson



Charles E. Johnson



Charles E. Johnson



Charles E. Johnson

"Nobody can make a final judgment
as to whether a program of an
administration has been right or wrong
until the results of those decisions
have been worked out, and that takes
fifty years..."

- HARRY TRUMAN



Many of the issues Truman confronted during his time in the White House both preceded the Presidency and inspired it. From providing its political, the nation moved its attention onto the state of civil rights, foreign assistance, health care, Social Security, and labor in America. These stories unfolded in United States.

1948
DESEGREGATING
THE MILITARY



1947-48
GLOBAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS



1948
NATIONAL HEALTH CARE
PROPOSAL



1950
SOCIAL SECURITY
ACT AMENDMENTS





1946 RAILROAD STRIKE

President Truman declares a rail strike a national emergency and seizes control of the nation's railroads.

1947 TAFT-HARTLEY ACT

Enacted by Republicans after a series of strikes, this legislation restricts the power of labor unions. Truman vetoes it but is overridden by Congress.

1952 STEEL STRIKES

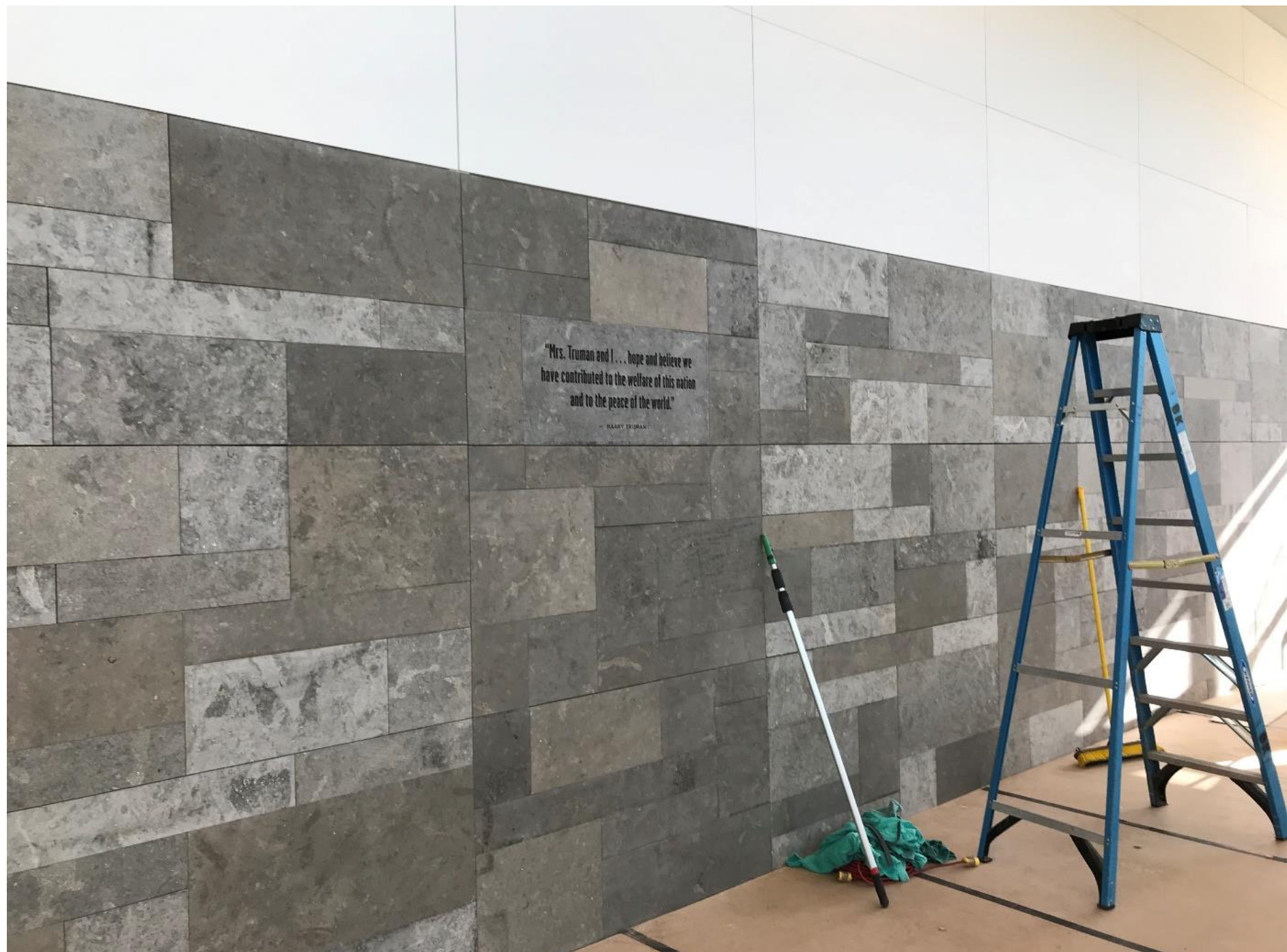
Truman imposes wage-price controls on steel to avoid inflation during the Korean War, but the workers' union wants to raise wages and steel companies want to raise prices to keep up with demand. To avoid a strike, Truman seizes the steel companies. The Supreme Court rules that he has exceeded his Constitutional powers.



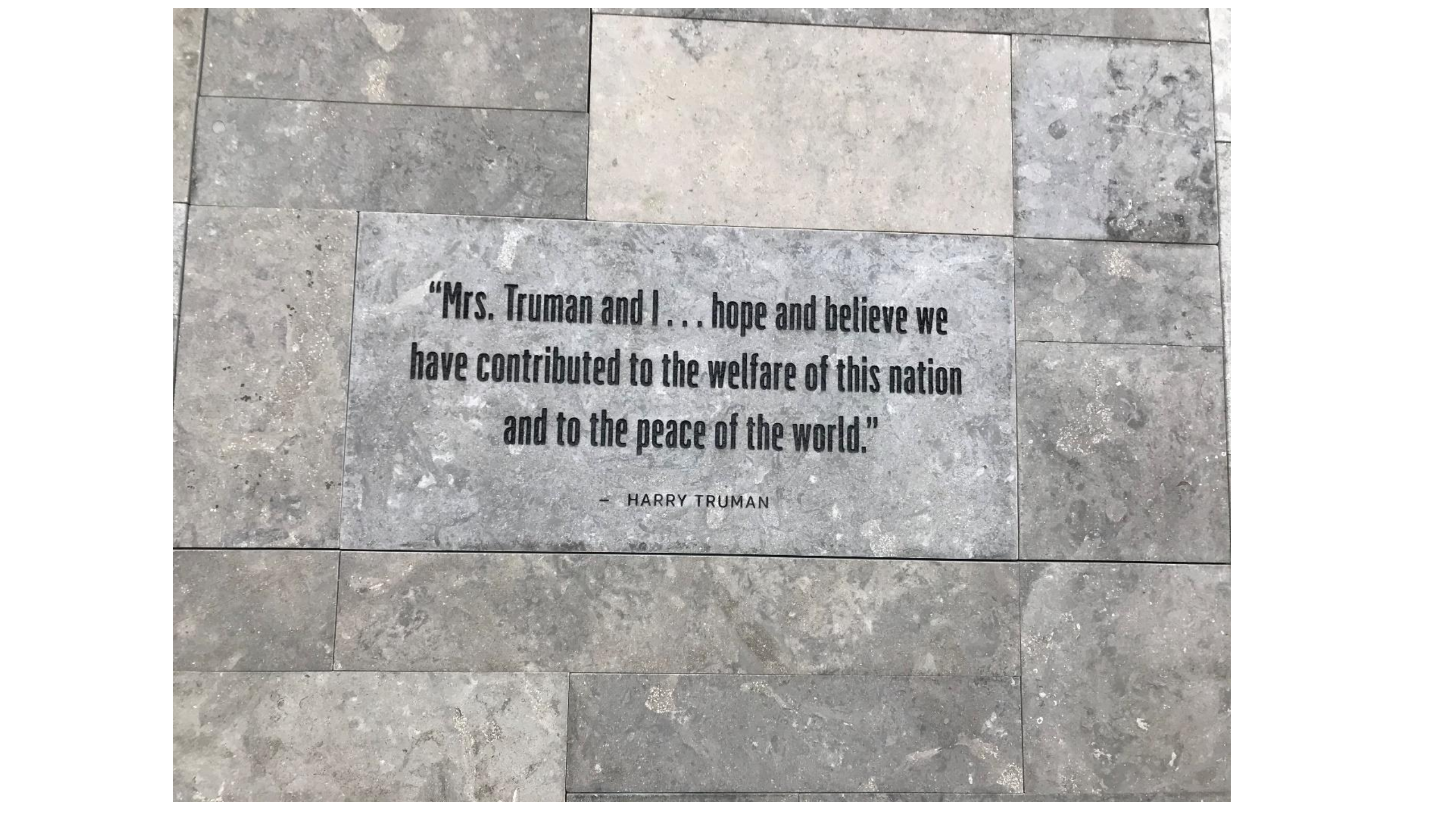
EXIT







"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

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? Mark.adams@nara.gov

TrumanLibrary.gov

