

Dr. William J. Thompkins and Harry S. Truman : The Evolution of the Democratic Party, 1924-1948

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UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
MISSOURI
LEARNING TO A GREATER DEGREE

HISTORY

Dr. William J. Thompkins



Thompkins stumps for African American voters in 1924 and 1928

Elks Official Heads Smith Colored League

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 23.—(AP)—Dr. William J. Thompkins of Kansas City, commissioner of health of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, has been appointed regional director of the Smith-for-President Colored League for Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Tennessee, with headquarters in St. Louis.

Doctor Thompkins had charge of the negro bureau in Chicago during the presidential campaign in 1924.

1926 Assistant Commissioner of Health of KC



In appointing Dr. Thompkins, the Director of Health, Dr. Ernest Cavinness, said, "I selected the Doctor because of his special fitness for this work, and his outstanding reputation as an Organization and Institutional man. This is the largest field in the health of a great city. The record of Dr. Thompkins in handling the Flu and Smallpox epidemic of 1919 and 1921, is outstanding. His control of the Venereal situation in the protection of the Soldiers of Camp Funston during the war, was ideal."

Tom Pendergast and Truman



1932 Presidential Election and the Pendergast Machine

JAMES A. REED



FARLEY AND ROOSEVELT



Democratic Campaign of 1932

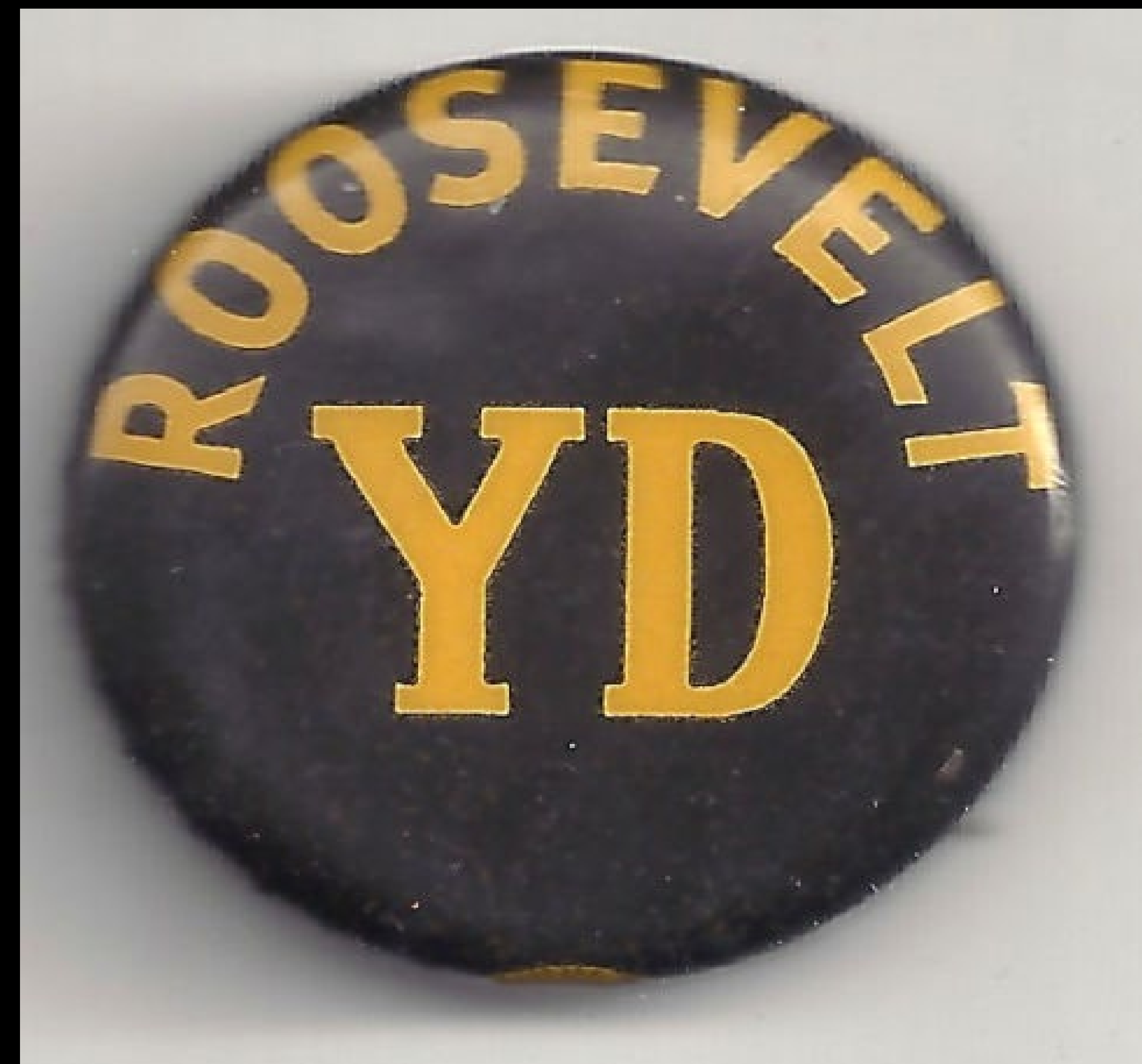
NEGRO DEMOCRATIC FACTIONS MAKE BID FOR CONTROL OF CAM- PAIGN SET-UP; RESULT UNDECIDED

**THREE POWERFUL ORGANIZATIONS STRENUOUSLY
SEEK TO CARRY BANNER OF ROOSEVELT-
GARNER NOMINATION**

**National Colored Democratic Association
Dr. W. J. Thompson as President**

Farley's visit to KC September, 1933

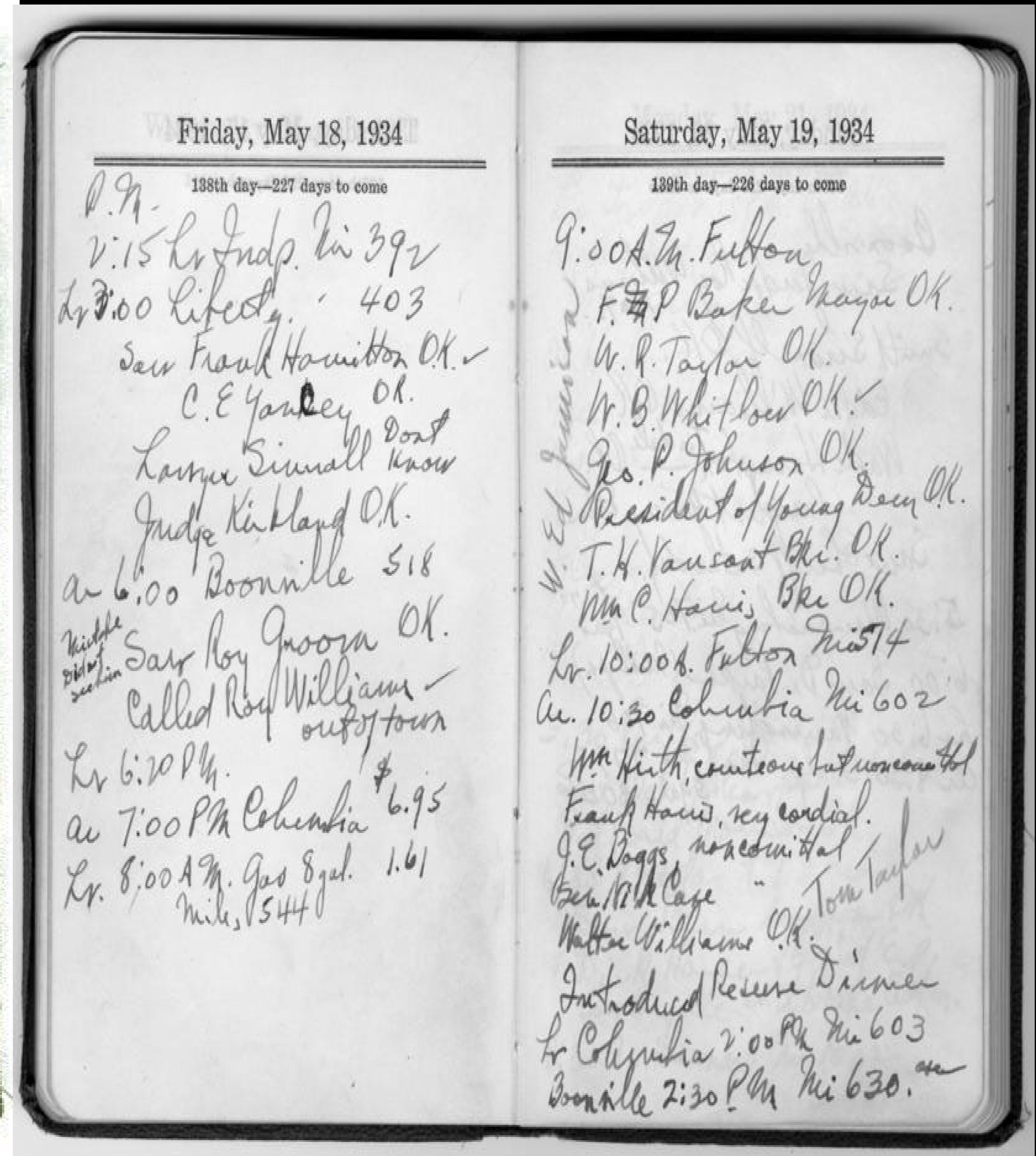
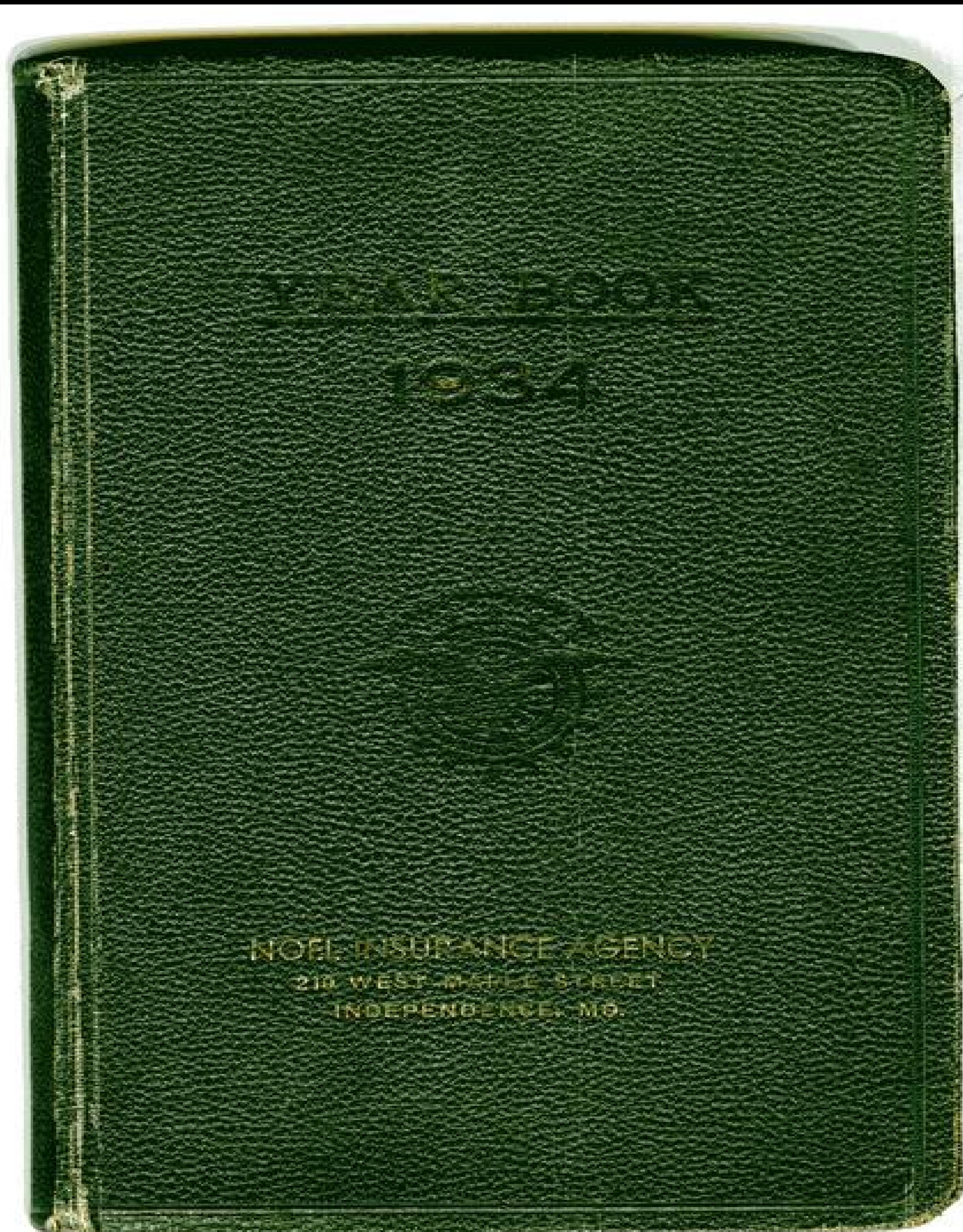
Farley Assures Missouri Democrats
Of The 'New Deal's' Interest In Them



Dr. William J. Thompkins Recorder of Deeds, April 20, 1934



Truman's 1934 Senate Campaign



1934 Senate Campaign

Thursday, June 14, 1934

165th day—200 days to come

4215 Lv. 11:10 A.M.

4282 Indp. 11 P.M.

Saw all the women in the 6th District. Made a talk on Campaign Contributions.

Friday, June 15, 1934

166th day—199 days to come

mi 4303 Lv. Indp. 6:20 A.M.

4376 Rich Hill 8:00 A.M.

Saw Dr. Allen brother of Allen newspaper man at Reuther OK.

Wrote Dr. W. H. Allen ~~Reuther~~ Hume, son of above.

4470 Keosau 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Good meeting. Introduced by Jesse James. Met people from McDonald, Barry, Lawrence and Tazewell Counties. 500-600 people.

Friday, July 6, 1934

187th day—178 days to come

7633 Indp. Lv. 8:20

7641 K.C. Saw Mr. Kemper 9:00

7672 Excelsior Springs 9:45 to 11:15. Went to Mrs. Flinders and met every leader in town.

7800 Columbia 3:00 P.M.

Speech 8 P.M.

Negros 9 P.M.

Ball game 9:30 P.M.

Saturday, July 7, 1934

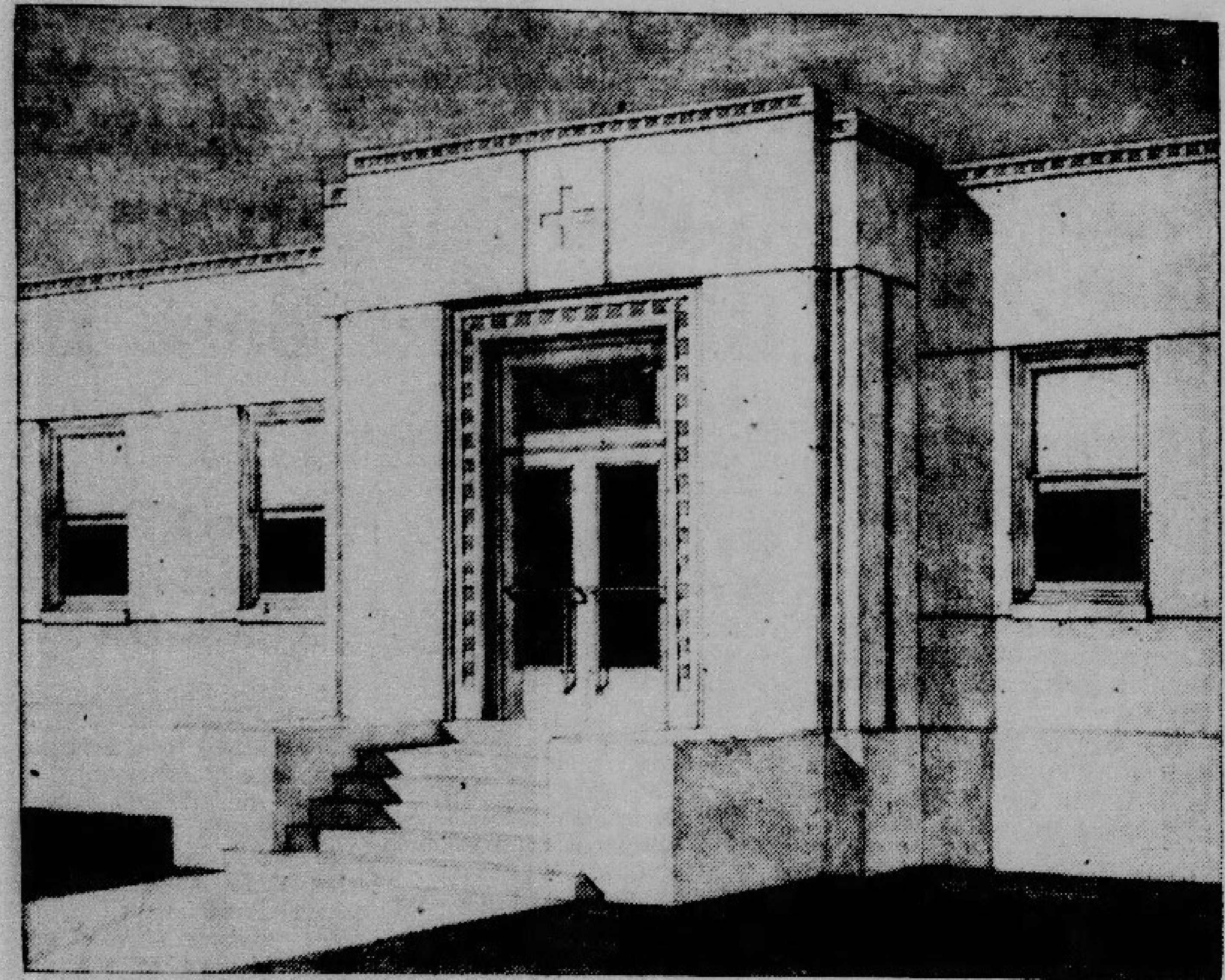
188th day—177 days to come

7805 Lv. Columbia 10:00 A.M.
Speech Editor's dinner with Cochran + Cleveland.

Two Opening Campaign speeches in Sedalia June 15, 1940

Dedicate Ground For Hospital

Entrance To City Hospital No. 2



The above is a drawing by Hal Lynch, architect, of the proposed entrance to City Hospital No. 2, for Negroes, which will be erected in Hubbard Park.

The first speech

Sedalia June 15, 1940

Dr. William Thompkins, Negro, recorder of deeds of the District of Columbia, Washington, D. C., was introduced and gave an excellent talk in which he praised the work of Junior Senator Harry S. Truman from Missouri, in an introduction of the senator.

Senator Truman did not deliver a political address, giving a most interesting dedicatory talk to the Negroes of Sedalia in which he praised highly their accomplishments in the past several years. He told of their present-day advantages in education, business, and public life, and of their present day status in public affairs.

Senator Truman's Tribute to the Negro

Congressional Record July 25, 1940

- "I believe in the brotherhood of man; not merely the brotherhood of white men, but the brotherhood of all men before law. I believe in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. In giving to the Negroes the rights that are theirs, we are only acting in accord with our ideals of a true democracy. If any class or race can be permanently set apart from, or pushed down below, the rest in political and civil rights, so may any other class or race when it shall incur the displeasure of its more powerful associates, and we may say farewell to the principles on which we count our safety."

Kansas City Call reaction

- Truman for 'Equal Rights' Condemns Injustices in Speech Opening Campaign for Reelection to Senate

The second campaign speech

Sedalia June 15, 1940

Senator Truman's Rally Crowd On Court House Lawn



The staff photographer "snapped" the court house lawn crowd a few minutes before the Truman meeting opened last night.

Helpful Relations

"The relation of colored and white people in this community and this state is one that should be given our interest and attention. We all desire to see proper and helpful relations exist between all classes of people. Certainly there should be no injustice, no contemptuous or unfair treatment allotted by any class to any other class. Most of all, the stronger group should not impose upon the weaker obnoxious conditions or situations. In all matters of progress and welfare, of economic opportunity and equal rights before law, Negroes deserve every aid and protection.

People Source of Power

National Colored Democratic Association Meeting July, 1940

Negro Democrats to Hear Farley



HON. JAMES A. FARLEY

Delegates to the National Colored Democratic Association will hear Postmaster General James A. Farley during their three-day session July 12, 13, 14.

Other prominent Democrats who have accepted invitations to speak at the mass meeting are Senators Alben W. Barkley, Kentucky, Democratic majority leader of the Senate; William H. Smathers, New Jersey; Elmer Thomas, Oklahoma; Harry S. Truman, Missouri; Sherman Minton, Indiana; Joseph F. Guffey, Pennsylvania, and Congressman Jack Nichols, Oklahoma, as well as Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller, Democratic National Committeewoman of Pennsylvania.

FDR and Thompkins at September 1940 Groundbreaking



The Legacy VP & President 1944-1953



To Secure These Rights, 1947 and Freedom to Serve, 1950

To Secure These Rights

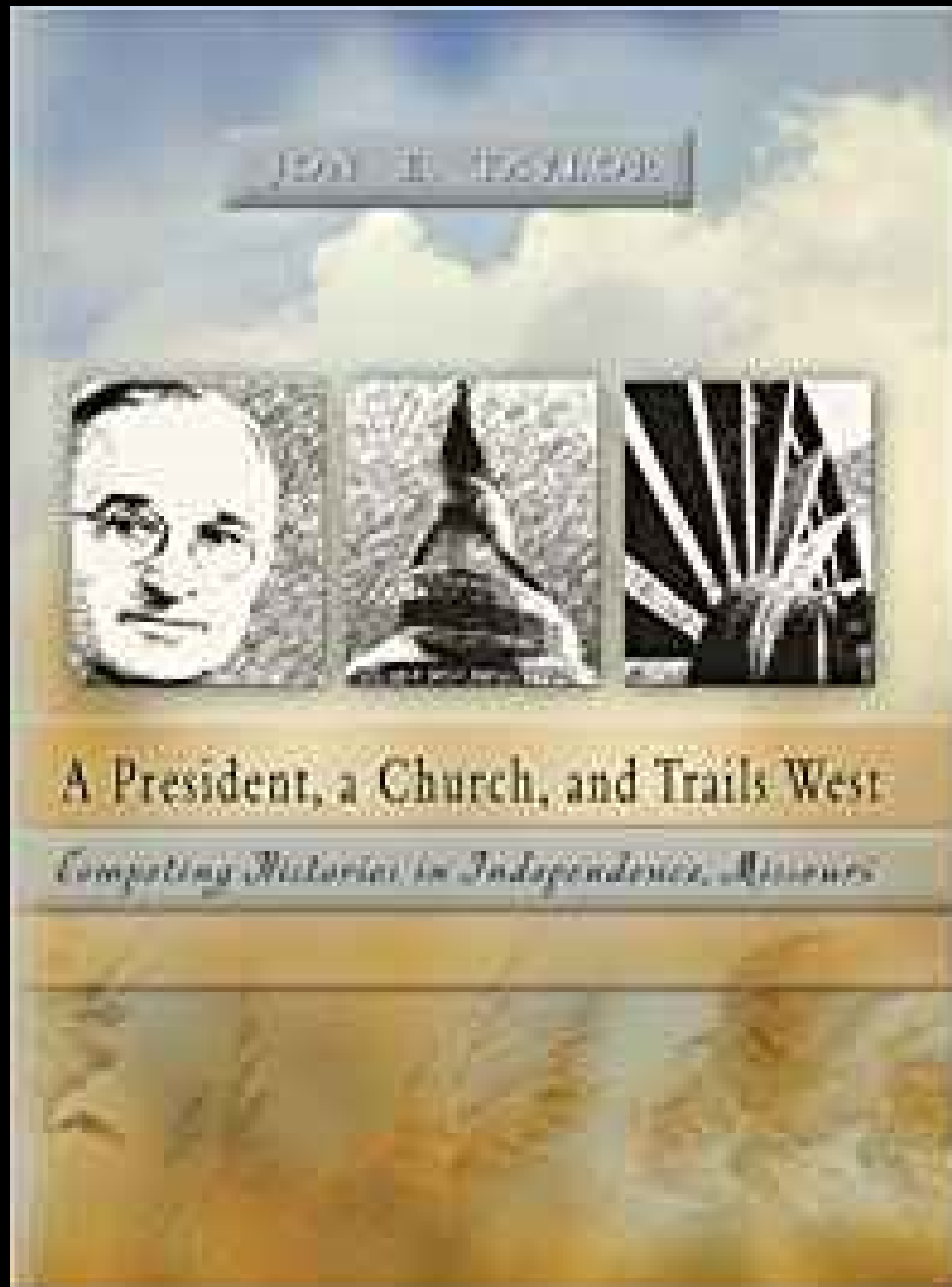


Freedom to Serve



Equality of Treatment
and Opportunity
in the Armed Services

Jon E. Taylor

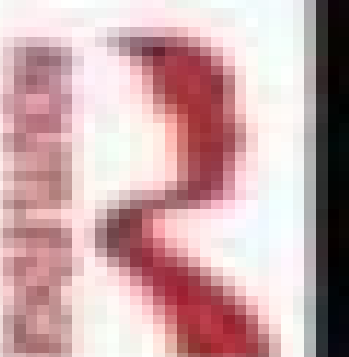


CRITICAL MOMENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

FREEDOM TO SERVE

Truman, Civil Rights,
and Executive Order 9981

JON TAYLOR



Jon E. Taylor

