

APR 29 1945

## NATION

### The President's Job

Last week President Truman was plunged deep in the details of war and diplomacy. On Sunday and Monday he met with Russian Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotoff, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Secretary of State Stettinius in a last-minute effort to iron out the Polish problem before the opening of the San Francisco Conference. Mr. Molotoff was reportedly impressed by the President's blunt, direct and typically American manner of plain dealing. On Tuesday the President made a mystery-shrouded call at the Pentagon Building for conferences with the High Command—a call that apparently was linked with the junction of American and Russian forces and the German offers to surrender. On Friday also he announced his first major diplomatic appointment naming Edwin W. Pauley, treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, to serve as American member of the Allied Reparations Commission.

In between these more important happenings the President maintained at the Executive offices in the White House—and in the evenings in his temporary home at Blair House diagonally across Pennsylvania Avenue—the busy pace he had set the week before. His appointments numbered as many as eighteen a day and totaled about fifty for the week. He began to move about Washington with something of the same ease he had known for ten years as a Senator. Three times he left the Executive quarters for calls elsewhere in the capital—once at the Pentagon, once to visit Walter Reed Hospital, where he attended church services and greeted wounded service men, once to talk to former Secretary of State Cordell Hull at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

### Congressional Relations

The "era of good feeling" that has prevailed between Mr. Truman and members of the Congress was clearly in evidence. A group of Democratic Senators, calling at the White House, greeted him as "Mr. President" and left twenty minutes later calling "Good-by, Harry." But there were some indications that this friendly relationship would soon be put to a decisive test. Mr. Truman has declared himself for several of the controversial measures put forward by the Roosevelt Administration; some of his friends are in the opposing camp. The lines are clearly drawn and the Truman Administration apparently is prepared to press for action.

Fred M. Vinson, Mr. Truman's chief

administrator as director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, called for "action now" on the program of international economic legislation before Congress. The appeal was made during Mr. Vinson's appearance before the House Ways and Means Committee.

The four broad economic policies to which President Truman has pledged his support and for which his aides are pressing are:

### Reciprocal Tariffs

(1) A three-year extension and strengthening of the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act which expires on June 30, 1946.

(2) At a House committee meeting last week Commerce Secretary Henry A. Wallace summed up the Administration position on the tariff act as "the best way to maintain American free enterprise, full employment and the capitalistic system." "To reject it," he said, "would mean that this country was returning to isolationism." Critics want Congress to maintain a veto power over tariff agreements because, they say, no one can foretell what trade will be after the war.

(3) Extension of the authority of the Export-Import Bank to finance United States Foreign Trade. Committee hearings have not yet started on this proposal.

(4) Report of the Johnson act which prohibits American loans to foreign Governments that are in default on their obligations to the United States. This proposal is closely tied to the Bretton Woods agreement.