

A QUICK SHOW OF STRENGTH

Definite Attitudes of New Chief Executive Toward Inherited Issues

Favor for world economic program. Prompt rejection of Lublin Poles as delegates

A slender man wearing glasses stopped at the White House gate and said to the uniformed guard: "Do I have to show my card to get in?" The guard saw who he was, smiled, and said: "No, Mr. President." And Harry S. Truman walked in to begin a week of work that, for jobs done and people seen, compares well with any in Washington since those early, crisis-ridden days of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.

Mr. Truman, too, was taking over in the midst of a crisis. The old President was gone. He had left many tasks of warmaking and peacemaking, of world politics and home affairs, unfinished. Upon the new Chief of State had fallen the job of carrying those tasks forward. President Truman made his first work one of assuring Congress, the nation, the armed forces and friends and enemy abroad that this would be done. He did this by statements and brief speeches. Then, he picked up the load.

Congress. President Truman made it clear at the outset that he would work closely with Congress and would rely heavily upon his congressional leaders for advice. He lunched with Senators and House members, asked for their support. He talked at the White House with congressional delegations of both parties.

In the Republican group were men like Senator Taft, the Ohio Republican, who were making their first visit to the White House since Herbert Hoover went out more than 12 years ago. The Republicans told the President they would be glad to discuss policies with him and help to avoid conflict wherever possible.

Democratic congressional leaders got from Mr. Truman the go-ahead signal on the general legislative program of Mr. Roosevelt. At a party conference in the Senate a little later, the Democrats agreed to co-operate fully with Mr. Truman.

In his press conference, President Truman went straight to the question of his attitude on economic treaties. He said he was for the Bretton Woods monetary agreement all the way.

And in rapid-fire order, he said: He is for the reciprocal trade agreements program; for a Missouri Valley Authority; will back up the United States delegation to the San Francisco Conference from his



THE FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE

... a mere symptom of other visitors and problems

desk; will call for the help of James F. Byrnes when he needs it; will be glad to meet with the Allied leaders but has no present plans for such a meeting; and does not plan to lift the ban on racing, the curfew, or the brownout.

International problems. The press conference was one of the biggest in Washington history, with 348 reporters and 50 visitors trying to get in. But this crowd was only symptomatic of the problems that scores of other visitors brought to Mr. Truman's desk. Topmost were questions about the San Francisco Conference and about dealing with Germany.

The President bade Secretary of State Stettinius go ahead with plans for negotiating an agency to keep the peace, and promptly rejected a second request from Soviet Russia that the provisional (Lublin) government of Poland be invited to the Conference. The United States reply said Poland should be represented, but only by a new, unified government in accord with the Crimea agreement. New negotiations were prompted by the reply.

President Sergio Osmena of the Philippines came to pay respects, curious about Philippine independence, but not mentioning it. Chinese Foreign Minister T. V. Soong told of acute inflation in China. The President promised all possible aid.

Legislation and jobs. Freshly finished legislation pressed in, and there were jobs to fill. The President signed almost \$4,000,000,000 of appropriation bills. He signed a measure extending Lend-Lease. But one minor bill to refund a bond in a white slave case, which he had signed as Vice President, he now vetoed.

For the post of Federal Loan Administrator—the job shorn away from the Commerce Department when Henry Wallace was confirmed to supplant Jesse H. Jones—Mr. Truman chose John W. Snyder, a St. Louis banker, a warm personal friend and former official of the Defense Plant Corp. Mr. Jones said the President could not have made a better appointment.

Visitors streamed in and out. Ted Marks, veterans' placement officer for Missouri, told him the troubles of that agency. Senator Byrd of Virginia, long absent from the White House, talked reciprocal trade. Generals and Cabinet officers came. On one day, the President had 16 callers before luncheon. To help in the sorting process, Mr. Truman picked an old friend for his press secretary. Charles G. Ross, a distinguished Washington correspondent, was drafted for the job. The two telephoned their old English teacher back in Independence, Mo., that they were working together again.