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# Truman Says Eisenhower Realizes Task

## He Calls General 'Rather Appalled' by Size of Job at White House Briefing

By James E. Warner

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—President-elect Eisenhower was "rather appalled" at his White House briefing here Tuesday at the magnitude of the job of chief executive, President Truman said today.

Speaking to about 300 employees of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Agriculture Department Auditorium—a closed meeting and a secret speech later put on the record—Mr. Truman said:

"I don't think anyone realizes the immensity of the problems that face a President of the United States. It was my privilege a few days ago to brief the General who is going to take over the office on the 20th day of January, and he was rather appalled at all that the President needs to know in order to reach decisions—even domestic decisions.

### "Tremendous Responsibility"

"He must know exactly what is implied by what he does. The President makes a decision every day that can affect anywhere from 100,000,000 to 1,500,000,000 people. It is a tremendous responsibility."

Mr. Truman remarked that it is the C. I. A. which provides intelligence from all parts of the world for his information each morning; said he was most appreciative of the work of the agency, and called on its employees to give Gen. Eisenhower "the same loyal service you have given me."

He recalled that when he became President there was "no concentration of information for the benefit of the President," that each department had its own information service "walled off from every other service," with the result that when the President

wanted information he had to "send to two or three departments to get it and then he would have to have somebody do a little digging to get it."

### 3 Months to Catch Up

The President said he had to read a huge stack of documents when he took office, and that "it took me three months to get caught up."

"Only two people around the White House really knew what was going on in the military affairs department," Mr. Truman said. "They were Admiral Leahy (Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, chief of staff to the President) and Adm. Brown (Rear Adm. Wilson Brown, naval aide to President Roosevelt and to Mr. Truman during the early days of his administration). I would talk to them every morning and try to get all the information I could. And finally one morning I had a conversation with Adm. Leahy and suggested to him that there should be a Central Intelligence Agency, for the benefit of the whole government as well as for the benefit of the President, so he could be informed."

### Lauds C. T. A. Work

"And the admiral and I proceeded to try to work out a program," the President continued. "It has worked very successfully. We have an intelligence information service now that I think is not inferior to any in the world."

The United States now is "at the top—the leader of the free world," a responsibility which should have been assumed in 1920, Mr. Truman "thrust" upon it. And it is the duty of this country, he said, "to continue that leadership in the manner that will prevent a third world war which would mean the end of civilization." Thus it is most important that the Executive be kept fully and promptly informed, in order that he can make proper decisions, the President said.

"... The Presidential office is

the most powerful office that has ever existed in the history of this great world of ours," he said. "Genghis Kahn, Augustus Caesar, great Napoleon Bonaparte, or Louis XIV, or any other of the great leaders and executives of the world can't even compare with what the President of the United States himself is responsible for, when he makes a decision. It is an office that is without parallel in the history of the world."

### Seeks to Aid Continuity

"That is the principal reason why I am so anxious that it be a continuing proposition, and that the successor to me, and the successor to him, can carry on as if no election had ever taken place. That is the prospect we are faced with now. I am giving this President—this new President—more information than any other President ever had when he went into office."

This last theme was a repetition of Mr. Truman's news conference remarks yesterday, when the President said he was making a precedent by having representatives of the new administration here to effect a smooth transfer of government responsibilities, and is one which Mr. Truman has emphasized since Gen. Eisenhower's victory became certain election night.