

The President.

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At 1 o'clock I went down to the executive lunchroom downstairs. The President came down for lunch today and Admiral Leahy, Rear Admiral Souers were there, along with the usual crowd - Vardaman, Colonel Graham, Hans Klaggsbrun (deputy to John Snyder), Mr. Latta, Commander Clifford, Bill Hassett, John Steelman, Judge Rosenman, Matt Connelly, Charlie Ross and myself. Leahy sat at the President's right and Souers at his left.

These two were named yesterday to the new intelligence service which is being formed, Leahy as the President's representative on the policy making board and Souers as the director.

After we had seated ourselves, the President rose and called on Leahy and Souers to stand. Then he read an announcement or "directive." It was a burlesque, naming Leahy as the front super snooper and Souers as the rear. It was amusing and when he finished the President called for the garments or insignia. Vardaman produced them - ~~some~~ two black cloaks, and two black hats of the Highwayman style, and a dagger, wooden, for each. ~~They~~ He put the cloaks and hats on each and handed them the daggers. Then he produced a flowing black moustache, which was put on Leahy. The two admirals made an excellent pair of "cloak dagger" men.

There was much talk and laughter but toward the close of the luncheon the President got to talking of the Potsdam conference. He said he thought that conference - the meeting with Churchill and Stalin, later Atlee and Stalin, - would go down in history as a bad conference. Yet, he said nothing more could have been done because they were confronted with so many accomplished facts before they started. He had in mind the fait accomplis of the Russians.

Admiral Leahy, who was a participant as the President's adviser at Potsdam, disagreed. He said there ready was only one accomplished fact, the Polish situation and in that, he said, of course nothing could be done when the conference was held. The President mentioned Stalin's remark that these (the Poles) were a proud people. He said he thought the funniest remark at the conference was Stalin's during the discussion of Polans when Churchill, in referring to the Polish Catholics said the Pope would be very displeased and Stalin turned to him, ~~and~~ took a tug at his moustache and asked: "How many divisions did you say the Pope has?"

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The meat seizure order was sizzling all day. It was ready - supposedly - this morning and the President signed it. Then, before it was completed for release, word came to hold up on it, that a change was to be made. It was only after we had lunch and I returned to the office that it showed up, in form for release. I took a copy, as mimeographed and delivered to my office, down to Ross, still in the dining room and he said to give it out. On the way back I met John Steelman and showed it to him. He read it and took