

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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FOR THE PRESS

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W. AVERELL HARRIMAN SWORN IN AS  
AMBASSADOR AT LARGE

W. Averell Harriman was sworn in today as Ambassador at Large. Mr. Harriman had been serving since April of 1963 as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. *Library Copy*

Mr. Harriman was born in New York City on November 15, 1891, and attended Yale University, graduating in 1913.

Mr. Harriman brings to his new position a wide experience in private business as well as government service. In 1915, he became Vice President of the Union Pacific Railroad, and was named Chairman of the Board in 1932. He held that position until 1946. In 1920, Mr. Harriman founded his own firm, W. A. Harriman and Company, which as the result of a merger in 1931, became Brown Brothers, Harriman and Company. Mr. Harriman still retains a position as a Limited Partner with that firm. Having served as a Director of the Illinois Central Railroad since 1915, Mr. Harriman became Chairman of the Executive Committee of that firm in 1931. He held that position until 1946.

In 1933, Mr. Harriman became a member of the Business Advisory Council for the Department of Commerce. Four years later he was named Chairman of the same group and held that position for three years. In addition, Mr. Harriman served as Administrator with the National Recovery Administration during 1934 and 1935.

During part of 1940 and early 1941, Mr. Harriman served with the Office of Production Management. In March of that year he was appointed Special Representative of the President in Great Britain with the rank of Minister, where he served as a member of the Combined Shipping Adjustment Board, the Combined Production and Resources Board, and the Lend Lease Munitions Assignment Board.

From 1943 to 1946 Mr. Harriman was the United States Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. In April of 1946 he was appointed Ambassador to Great Britain and served at that post for six months before being named Secretary of Commerce by President Truman.

In 1948, Mr. Harriman became United States Representative in Europe with the rank of Ambassador under the Economic Cooperation Act. Appointed Special Assistant to the President in 1950, he also served as United States Representative and Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Committee to study Western defense plans. Mr. Harriman was appointed Director of the Mutual Security Administration in 1951. He was elected Governor of the State of New York in 1954 and served in that capacity until 1958. Mr. Harriman returned to Federal service in February 1961, when President Kennedy appointed him Ambassador at Large. He was named Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs in December of that year. He served in that capacity until April 1963 when he was named Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

Mr. Harriman is married to the former Marie Norton. He has two daughters: Mrs. Shirley C. Fisk and Mrs. Stanley C. Mortimer, Jr.

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