

secretary. When it came time to put together the briefing for Ike in November 1952, there might well have been a serious problem. What happened to Forrestal's original? His sanity was rapidly slipping in the spring of 1949 shortly before he apparently jumped out of an 18th story window at Bethesda Naval Medical Center. The FBI and Admiral Souers were certainly concerned with him, as was his friend (later Secretary of Defense) Robert Lovett. Bush was still around. His files would have had a copy and the signed letter from Truman of October 1, 1947. Truman himself might have added the signature, or perhaps Walter Bedell Smith (CIA director) had the file copy from Hillenkoetter's files and knew that Ike would want to see a signed copy or original. After all, we do have the following facts:

(1) We have some NSC memos from Lay where the date is done with one size type and the text with another. This certainly implies that the memos were put in two different typewriters. There is no reason to doubt the legitimacy of these memos.

(2) We have many examples of letters and memos from Bush's office with the period after the date.

(3) We know that Smith had arranged four briefings for Ike after the election.

(4) We know that there were other classified briefings prepared "for the President Elect" on November 18, 1952.

(5) We know that both Bush and Truman and certainly Forrestal had been involved in matters so classified that there was a minimum of written record. For example, Bush in his oral history at MIT, notes that there were weekly meetings concerning the Manhattan Project between himself, General Leslie Groves, Dr. James Conant and Secretary of War Stimson. There was no secretary, no minutes, no agenda. Yet the system worked very well.

(6) We know because of the serial numbers on the film of the Eisenhower Briefing Document that the pictures weren't taken until the 1983-84 time frame. So what was in the file might have been there for 36-37 years or might have been replaced along the way with a slightly more official version.

(7) We don't know the whereabouts of Bush's highly classified files. They are not at the Library of Congress. They might be with the two miles of OSRD files.

The next date in the Briefing was 22 May 1949, the date when Secretary Forrestal died, which indeed is the correct date. The next date is much less well known, that is 01 August 1950 "upon which date General Walter B. Smith was designated as permanent replacement" for Forrestal. It was difficult to imagine what was special about this date on initial perusal. But as I dug much more deeply into the role of Walter Bedell Smith, I found that this date also is special, but that to the best of my knowledge, nobody else knew why previously. I checked appointments for Truman for that date and then asked for all the dates on which Walter Bedell Smith met with Truman. You see it wouldn't be enough to establish that the two had met that day if they met once a week for many months before that or many months after that. Then you could be reasonably certain, for example, that the two of them met every