

Walter J. Donnelly

as

High Commissioner

THE appointment of Walter J. Donnelly as US High Commissioner for Germany was announced by President Truman in Washington June 18. Mr. Donnelly, who has been High Commissioner and American Ambassador in Austria, was scheduled to assume his new duties in Bonn about August 1.

The naming of Mr. Donnelly was greeted cordially by the German press. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine* (Frankfurt) said he "is one of the few American diplomats who have been successful in Europe... because they seem so completely un-American." The *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* (Munich) concluded that "the ambassador as a negotiator with the Soviets on the Allied Control Council in Vienna has gained an idea of the American stake in Europe." *Die Welt* (Hamburg) commented that "he is no novice in diplomatic controversies with the East."

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine* continued: "A politically experienced Viennese once said that Mr. Donnelly could well be a diplomat from the time of the Congress of Vienna (1815). This statement made by a conservative Austrian means deep respect for the political skill of the immaculate personality of the US High Commissioner in Vienna... It is a great advantage in Mr. Donnelly's career that he is one of the few American civilians who has had experience in 'peaceful discussions' with the Soviets."

Mr. Donnelly will be accompanied to Bonn by his wife, the former Maria Helena Samper de Herrera of a prominent Bogota family, and their four children, George James, 14; Maria Theresa and Paul Henry, nine-year-old twins, and John Stephen, seven.

MR. Donnelly is a career Foreign Service officer with nearly 30 years of experience in international commerce and diplomacy. Beginning his government service in 1921 as a special agent of the US Department of Justice, he transferred to the Commerce Department's foreign service, serving during the next 19 years in Boston; Ottawa and Montreal, Canada; Bogota, Colombia; Havana, Cuba, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

When the Commerce Department's foreign service was merged with the State Department's Foreign Service in July 1939, Mr. Donnelly was commissioned a career Foreign Service officer, continuing at the American Embassy in Rio de Janeiro and later at the embassies in Panama and in Lima, Peru. He was appointed ambassador to Costa Rica early in 1947 and later that year became ambassador to Venezuela, a position he held until his assignment to Austria.

Mr. Donnelly was born Jan. 9, 1896 in New Haven, Conn., and after graduation from public secondary school there worked on a newspaper for two years. He served during World War I as a second lieutenant in the US Army. He received a scholarship to the University of Caracas, Venezuela, in the summer of 1920 and later was graduated from Georgetown University's Foreign Service School in Washington, D.C.

TALL, with dark hair and eyes, Mr. Donnelly has been described by newspaper correspondents as the best-dressed diplomat in Vienna. As has been his practice in the countries to which he has been assigned, he familiarizes himself with the history and literature of the people, making extensive trips to study the customs and cultures of even the most remote communities.

