

THE PRESIDENT RELAXES.

The President was able to relax, at last; and where better than Culzean Castle. Since he arrived in Europe, Mr. Eisenhower resolved that nothing should prevent the weekend of rest at this supremely beautiful place on the coast of Ayrshire. It will be remembered that in 1953 the top flat of the Castle was placed at the disposal of Mr. Eisenhower, in token of Scotland's thanks for his services as supreme commander in the war, by the fifth Marquis of Ailsa. Culzean Castle was presented to the National Trust for Scotland in 1945. And now, from Prestwick Airport, the President arrived in the familiar open Rolls Royce, USA 1.

Mr. Eisenhower and his party were welcomed to Culzean by the Marquis of Ailsa; Brigadier Sir James Gault (who is an old friend) Provost John Dunlop of Maybels and (as President of the National Trust for Scotland), the Earl of Wemyss. Of the numerous honours lavished upon the President in many parts of the world none is more cherished than this placing at his disposal of the apartments here. So important a man can visit them only very rarely which is Scotland's loss, as well as his own. Culzean is not old as Castles go in Scotland; most of it dates from the late 18th Century, but it forms the link between modern times and the brave days of old.

Turnberry Golf Club the President was bent on visiting, having announced his intention of doing so almost as soon as he arrived in London. He owes it to gold, very largely, that he has made such a splendid recovery from the serious illnesses he suffered a few years ago. It takes a courageous man to tell the world that he is going to play golf in Scotland, where the game originated and where it is still played at its best. And though Turnberry is no St. Andrews it is, as the President remarked later on, a very tough course. On this occasion it provided a multitude of highly critical spectators. The game's in their blood. They size a man up before he's played half-a-dozen strokes.

The President played in a foursome, and by all accounts did pretty well. Judging by the number of onlookers you might have thought it was the open championship, but by the time a man has been President of the United States for nearly two terms he expects very little privacy. The average goldfish has nothing on him.

So the President did manage to get in his round of golf (even if he had to travel several hundred miles to do it) and very enjoyable it was.

Back at the Castle there was a new experience for the visitor. Probably for the first time in his life Mr. Eisenhower sampled travel by Governess Cart. It's one of the glories of Culsean that it can take life at a leisurely pace. Completely absent for a few hours was the rush and tear of Washington or London. There was time to absorb the essentially Scottish atmosphere of this Historic Ayrshire Coast; time also to appreciate the perfection of the grounds and gardens.

On Sunday, at the Church of Kirkoswald, three miles from Culsean, the President attended morning service. In the accompanying party was the American Ambassador. This was a very different scene from the last church the President visited in this Island - St. Paul's Cathedral a few days ago. Here, Mr. Eisenhower joined with the children and village people in a simple Scottish service.

Here in this Scottish Village the President had worshipped with ordinary people, of the kind with whom, despite his great office, he had never lost contact. In Kipling's words, He Has Mixed With Kings and Kept the Common Touch. The President was now nearing the end of his visit to Europe. He would be the last man to claim that he came, saw and conquered; or that in the magic of his personal presence the world's difficulties desolved, but it may well turn out that the natural diplomacy he showed during the War has worked again, and that as he bade Scotland goodbye he had accomplished his mission and made peace more secure.