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NEW MAN IN COLLEGE HALL

It was 8:15 on the morning of September 1 when Martin Meyerson arrived at College Hall for the first day of his new job as president of the University of Pennsylvania. After unlocking the door himself (photographer Frank Ross was the only person there at the time), he entered his new office to find some evidence of refurbishing: tissues wrapped around furniture legs to protect them during shampooing of the rugs. Within a few minutes, his secretary, Mrs. Frances Hardy, who had come with him from the University of Buffalo, and other members of the presidential staff were on hand—along with two men from buildings and grounds who were busy changing the nameplate on the door. It was the beginning of a long and busy day.

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First day visitors—and a talk with his predecessor



Faculty members, administrators, and students stopped in throughout the day to greet the new president. His schedule was flexible, allowing time for occasional surprises: President-emeritus Gaylord Harnwell dropped by (above), and a bouquet of flowers arrived from Provost David R. Goddard. Two transfer graduate students brought greetings from Berkeley where Mr. Meyerson had taught for three years and been acting chancellor for seven months. At mid-morning, he invited his secretarial staff to share their coffee break in his office, providing an opportunity for him to get acquainted and find out the duties of each person. Later in the day, he recalled for a *Philadelphia Bulletin* reporter his first day at Pennsylvania in 1952 when he came here to teach city planning: "I remember it well," he said. "I sanded my office floor."

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One of the new president's first visitors was William G. Owen, the secretary of the University, who chatted briefly (photo, top left) with Mr. Meyerson and his secretary, Frances Hardy. Later, there were short visits with two transfer students from Berkeley, with College dean William E. Stephens, and with law professor Curtis Reitz (left, in bottom picture) and physics professor Herbert Callen, who is the current chairman of the Faculty Senate. And in between, there was time to talk on the phone.

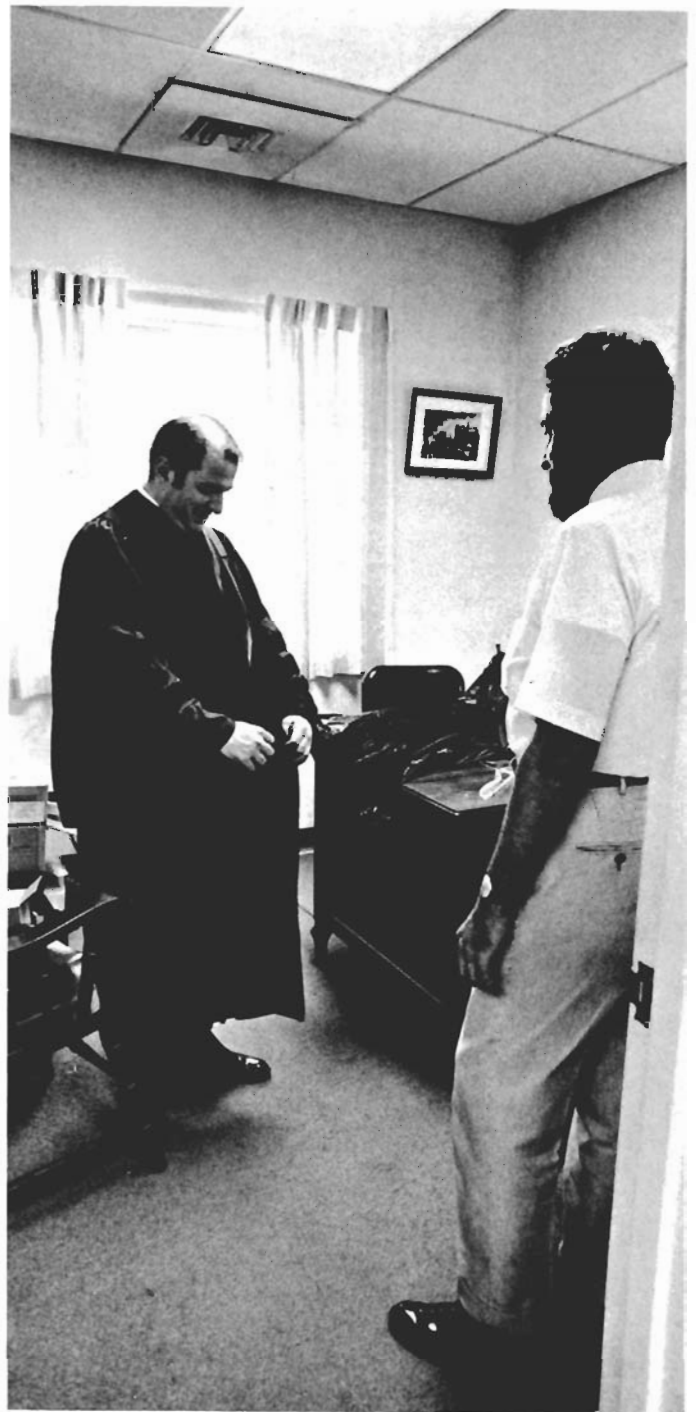


Lunch in Houston Hall and a campus tour

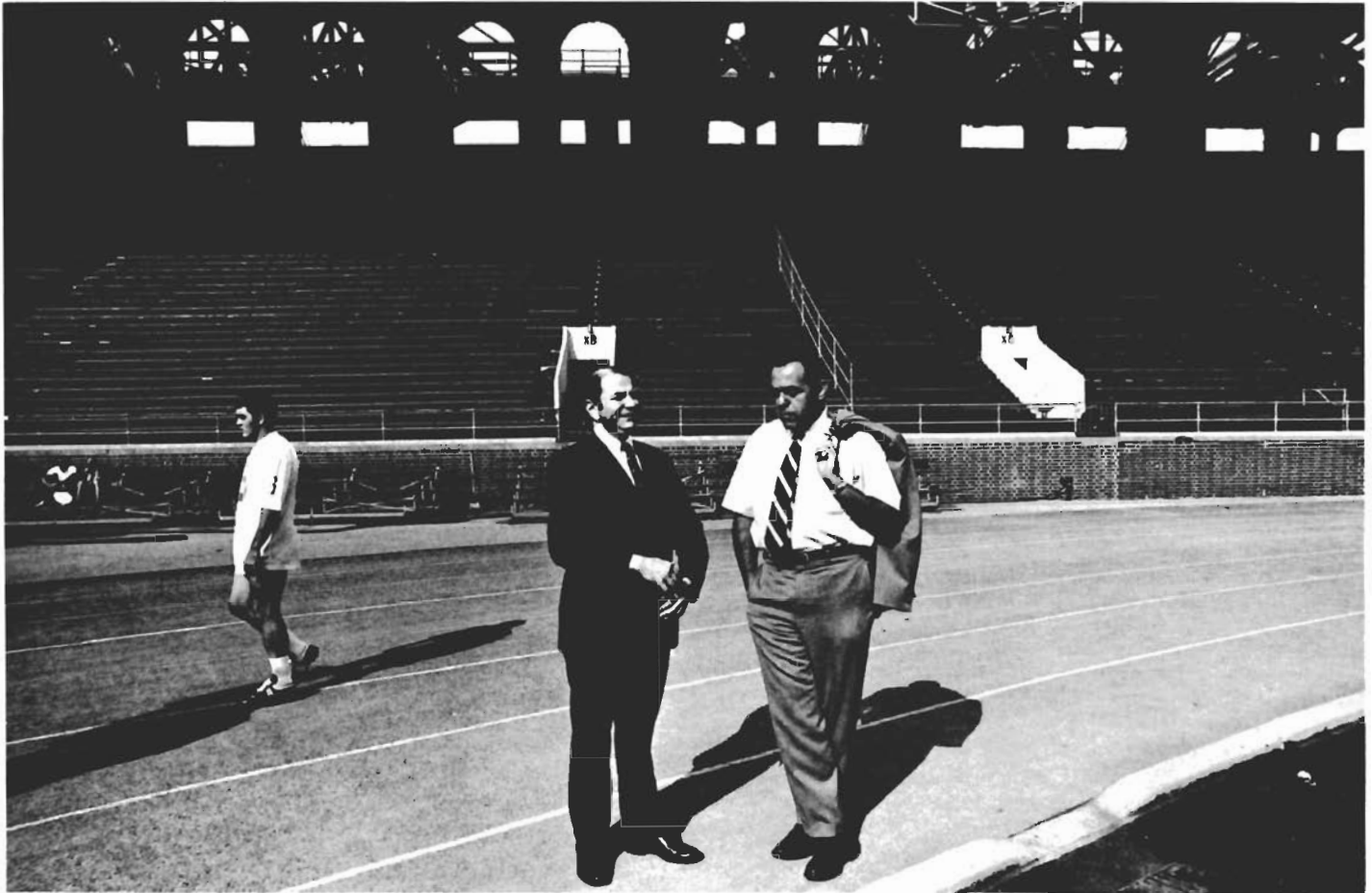
After lunching in Houston Hall (where he sat down with a group of students and said, "I'm Martin Meyerson"), he and Dr. John N. Hobstetter, vice provost for research, went on a walking tour of the campus. At each building where he stopped, the president listened as an administrator or faculty member explained the function and architecture of the building. The searching questions he asked at each stop revealed a deep concern for the students who use the facilities. Stopping at the Bookstore, he tried on the presidential cap and gown he would wear for the first time a few days later at the Opening Exercises. Later he was asked what the most startling physical difference is between the campus of 1952 and 1970? He pointed down Locust Walk toward what was once Woodland Avenue. "When I was here before, it was a group of separate areas. This feeling of a campus is delightful."

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One of the places the president visited on his tour after lunch was the new Social Sciences Building (left), which is located on Locust next to the Kappa Sigma house. Just after the picture was made, he introduced himself to the students seated in the foreground. He also visited the student residence superblock, accompanied by Dean of Residential Life Gerald Robinson (at left in photo at right). The president took a second walking tour later in the afternoon, and this one included Franklin Field, where his guide was athletic director Fred Shabel (above).

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Reception by the Council, and a picnic with students



Martin Meyerson's first days continued at a rapid pace, as he sought to meet as many of his new colleagues as possible. The second week of September brought his first meeting with the University Council, the faculty-student-administrator group which is the president's principal advisory body. After the meeting, the Council held a reception for the president and Mrs. Meyerson in the University Museum (in the picture above, they are meeting associate professor of English John Wideman). At the University's Opening Exercises on September 11, the president was the speaker. There he talked about the "humaneness" of the University and asked his "fellow freshmen" of the Class of 1974 to join him in extending that humaneness. Afterwards, he and Mrs. Meyerson moved to College Hall Green for a picnic lunch for all members of the University community—and where he and Mrs. Meyerson met and talked with literally dozens of students.

