

June 26, 1934

[Informal Remarks to National Emergency Council]

FDR Speech File

0712-a

## new deal mosaic

Works. Now I have to get an Executive Order from the President to get it back. Your department recommends that. I thought you knew about it.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS: You asked for \$12,000.

MR. WALKER: You left me only two or three thousand dollars.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS: I think that will be enough, Frank.

MR. WALKER: Not for a very long time.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT: You want to keep the Council going. That brings up the subject of the next six weeks. It looks possible that I may be beyond the three-mile limit on Saturday.<sup>4</sup> I think it is a pretty good idea during the six weeks I am away that you should have a consolidated meeting of the Emergency Council and the Executive Council. Do you see any reason why you should not? It will give the people just one more afternoon to play golf, if you do that. Frank is going off to take a holiday, but somebody will take his place during the interim, and the senior member of the Cabinet in Washington will preside over it.

I think it is just as well to have these meetings once every two weeks for the next six weeks, for at least it is a clearing house of information. I hope very much we are going to have a peaceful time, depending on the labor situation.

I hope everybody will take a perfectly adequate holiday during the course of this summer, as I mentioned before, because of the fact that people don't think straight unless they take a proper holiday; and we have got to keep ourselves in proper condition for a very strenuous fall and winter. In other words, there will not be very much let-up next year. I hope you all will be able to take a holiday, and I think things will be fairly quiet during the next two or three months.

I just want to say one thing that comes into my head, and that is that there is going to be a great deal of shooting at the government of the United States during the next few months, and it is my expectation that a large part of the shooting—not all of it—will come either from merely political sources or will come from people whose toes have been stepped on. I think the situation we are to bear in mind.

<sup>4</sup>F.D.R. sailed from Annapolis on July 1, aboard the cruiser *USS Houston*, for a cruise to various points in the Caribbean area, the Panama Canal, and Hawaii. He arrived back in Washington on August 10, after a cross-country train journey with frequent stops.

The next two meetings occurred during this period, they illustrate the NEC functioning during a prolonged Presidential absence.

probably more than ever before, is that the government is being run less for political purposes and more for the general good than it has been in some time. I think the people who are in this room are a pretty good illustration of the correctness of that statement. In other words, we are thinking about government, and not merely about party; and the more we emphasize that fact, the more it will really be brought home to the public that we are trying to do service regardless of mere party or political reasons. And, incidentally, from the political point of view, we catch more votes doing it that way than the other.

I hope you will all be able to take a holiday, and that it will be a delightful holiday. I expect to get back the fourth or fifth day of August, and remain here during the latter part of the month of August, and remember also one thing—that I am entirely accessible, although I will be a good many miles away physically. Any important matter that you want to let me know about, or consult about, you can send to me by sending a message over to the office of Naval Communications, and they will be able to reach the ship I am on within ten or fifteen minutes, whether it is in the harbor or in the middle of the Pacific somewhere. So, actually, I will not be nearly so much out of touch with things as one might think. As you can imagine, I will have plenty of time. Of course, you may get some "horseback" opinions from me, based on lack of complete information, but I hope you will keep in touch with me in case anything does come up.

I think if the two Councils meet jointly every two weeks during the next six weeks, it will be a very good thing for everybody. I am sorry to be going away, but I think it will do us all good.

*Meeting closed 4:20 p.m.*