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we get rather tired of being asked. Members of the press are present, I know, but I do not mind them hearing this because such questions as this really are silly. The particular question was this: "Is the Government going to stop giving relief next July?" Now, that is the kind of thing we have got to combat in this country -- spreading the word around that everybody who is now on relief is not going to be taken care of starting with the first of July.

My answer was that the Federal Government, and I am sure your answer will be the same for the city governments, did not propose to let people starve after the first of July any more than we have during the past few years.

We are learning also a greater efficiency. Certainly the new work this year, so far as lasting usefulness is concerned, has been infinitely more successful, better planned and better carried out than it was under the old C. W. A. program of the Autumn of 1933. Think what a gain it has been in two years. Go over the lists of projects, both W. P. A. and public works this year, and the percentage of them which will be of lasting benefit to the communities is very, very high. That is something that I think the average citizen in all of your cities appreci-
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Of course, in the last analysis, you people who run governments of the cities in this country -- and in the country districts, the supervisors and county commissioners -- are responsible for these projects. You people suggest them and, on the whole, your suggestions with respect to these projects have been extraordinarily good -- a very high percentage, if I may say so. I am perfectly delighted with the usefulness and permanence of these projects.

Well, all of this has come about in the course of less than three years. All of us have learned a lot but we still have a lot to learn. There are various processes of government that can be simplified and ought to be simplified.

For example, and this is not my fault because Congress put it in the bill, I have to sign all the allotments in person. I have signed hundreds, thousands of allotment papers for various projects. Of course, they ought never to come to my desk but we have to go through all kinds of what they call "red tape" because of the law. When such things come in here from the various localities, they have to go through a certain process. They have to go, in part,
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I would like to say another word on a subject, an important subject, that you and I have in mind. That subject is taxation. As you know, taxes have grown up like Topsy in this country. Of course, there have been a great many efforts to simplify taxation -- to establish lines of demarcation between the different types of taxation, giving certain types to localities, other types to the States and still other types to the Federal Government. But we are all stepping on each other's toes, especially in these past five, ten or fifteen years -- in fact virtually since the beginning of the World War the general tax situation in the United States
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Of course, we don't want to get it mixed up with -- I believe there is an election next Fall. Mayor Hoan has said that this is a non-partisan gathering and we have to keep it so and, in the approaching conference, we have to think of taxation in a non-partisan spirit.

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EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT IN GREETING THE MEMBERS OF THE U. S.
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