

July 13, 1939

Statement re Alleged Differences with
Secretary Hull over Neutrality Issue

FDR Speech File

1230

ORIGINAL AND ONLY DRAFT OF
STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRESIDENT
WITH CORRECTIONS

STANDARD FORM No. 14-A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 10, 1925

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

FROM

*file
with statement*
The White House
Washington

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 73770

July 13, 1939.

Roy W. Howard, Esq.,
c/o Pan American Airways,
Yankee Clipper,
Fort Washington,
Long Island, N; Y.

I regret very much that there was no other way open to me today but to issue the statement I did regarding the United Press story stop I hope you will explore the facts for yourself and I feel certain that when you do you will agree with me that this story had to be dealt with severely and immediately stop I asked Lyle Wilson several weeks ago to come in and had a very frank talk with him at that time about the preparation and dissemination of false news stop Today's story was repetitious and I believe was a disservice to his country and government stop I hope you have enjoyed your

STANDARD FORM NO. 14-A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 19, 1938

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

FROM

The White House
Washington

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 10742

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Roy Howard

trip on the Clipper and I dislike very much to give you this
message upon your arrival home

Lovely
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

July 13, 1939.

The reading public is entitled to a statement from the President -- a statement of warning which has been made necessary by a news story issued through the United Press today and already printed in one or more papers and on the United Press Ticker Service.

~~the headline of the~~ ^{local} the headline of the Washington Times - Herald states that the President and the Secretary of State have "split" on some form of note on neutrality.

The story states that they "were reported in Administration quarters" ^{today} to have disagreed on the language of a neutrality message. ^{||} The headline is, of course, wholly false. *So is the story.*

The subterfuge of saying in the lead of the story
|| ||
that they were reported to have disagreed is obvious because it is a practice too often engaged in to invent such "reports" out of a clear blue sky, failing wholly to check-up with any responsible source in Washington.

The United Press has been guilty of a ~~(deliberate)~~ falsification of the actual facts. If called upon to give the source of the information they will decline to give it. ⁻⁻⁻ Another usual subterfuge.

The fact remains that the story is contrary to every fact.

I am calling this to the attention of the public because it represents a culmination of ~~many~~ other ~~similar~~ false news stories to which the attention of the United Press has been called by me and by my office on ~~many~~ ^{previous} occasions.

It is, of course, impossible for the White House to deny every false story. This latest episode, however, represents the limit of any decent person's patience, and I am giving this in the form of a statement relating specifically to the United Press because I do not wish it to be considered as an indictment of the newspapers of the United States or other Press Associations.

The ~~simple~~ fact of this particular case is that the Press has been informed continuously for the past ~~several~~ ³⁶ hours that the President and the Secretary of State have not decided up to the present time whether he will address any Message ^{to} Congress or what the ~~policy~~ ^{next step} of the ¹

Administration on neutrality will be. That is the ~~simple~~
truth and it is a great pity that this simple truth, of
which the Press has been informed, has been ~~disregarded~~
disregarded by a Press Association.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Two uncorrected copies of
statement

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

July 13, 1939.

The reading public is entitled to a statement from the President -- a statement of warning which has been made necessary by a news story issued through the United Press today and already printed in one or more papers and on the United Press Ticker Service.

This story in the headline of the Washington Times Herald states that the President and the Secretary of State have "split" on some form of note on neutrality.

The story states that they "were reported in administration quarters" to have disagreed on the language of a neutrality message. The headline is, of course, wholly false.

The subterfuge of saying in the lead of the story that they were reported to have disagreed is obvious because it is a practice too often engaged in to invent such "reports" out of a clear blue sky, failing wholly to check-up with any responsible source in Washington.

The United Press has been guilty of a deliberate falsification of the actual facts. If called upon to give the source of the information they will decline to give it. Another usual subterfuge.

The fact remains that the story is contrary to every fact.

I am calling this to the attention of the public because it represents a culmination of many other similar false news stories to which the attention of the United Press has been called by me and by my office on many occasions.

It is, of course, impossible for the White House to deny every false story. This latest episode, however, represents the limit of any decent person's patience, and I am giving this in the form of a statement relating specifically to the United Press because I do not wish it to be considered as an indictment of the newspapers of the United States or other Press Associations.

The simple fact of this particular case is that the Press has been informed continuously for the past forty-eight hours that the President and the Secretary of State have not decided up to the present time whether he will address any Message to Congress or what the policy of the

Administration on neutrality will be. That is the simple truth and it is a great pity that this simple truth, of which the Press has been informed, has been deliberately disregarded by a Press Association.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

July 13, 1939.

The reading public is entitled to a statement from the President -- a statement of warning which has been made necessary by a news story issued through the United Press today and already printed in one or more papers and on the United Press Ticker Service.

This story in the headline of the Washington Times Herald states that the President and the Secretary of State have "split" on some form of note on neutrality.

The story states that they "were reported in administration quarters" to have disagreed on the language of a neutrality message. The headline is, of course, wholly false.

The subterfuge of saying in the lead of the story that they were reported to have disagreed is obvious because it is a practice too often engaged in to invent such "reports" out of a clear blue sky, failing wholly to check-up with any responsible source in Washington.

The United Press has been guilty of a deliberate falsification of the actual facts. If called upon to give the source of the information they will decline to give it. Another usual subterfuge.

The fact remains that the story is contrary to every fact.

I am calling this to the attention of the public because it represents a culmination of many other similar false news stories to which the attention of the United Press has been called by me and by my office on many occasions.

It is, of course, impossible for the White House to deny every false story. This latest episode, however, represents the limit of any decent person's patience, and I am giving this in the form of a statement relating specifically to the United Press because I do not wish it to be considered as an indictment of the newspapers of the United States or other Press Associations.

The simple fact of this particular case is that the Press has been informed continuously for the past forty-eight hours that the President and the Secretary of State have not decided up to the present time whether he will address any Message to Congress or what the policy of the

Administration on neutrality will be. That is the simple truth and it is a great pity that this simple truth, of which the Press has been informed, has been deliberately disregarded by a Press Association.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

1300

July 13, 1939.

The reading public is entitled to a statement from the President — a statement of warning which has been made necessary by a news story issued through the United Press today and already printed in one or more papers and on the United Press Ticker Service.

The headline of the local Washington Times Herald states that the President and the Secretary of State have "split" on some form of note on neutrality.

The story states that they "were reported in Administration quarters today to have disagreed on the language of a neutrality message". The headline is, of course, wholly false. So is the story.

The subterfuge of saying in the lead of the story that they were "reported" to have disagreed is obvious because it is a practice too often engaged in to invent such "reports" out of a clear blue sky, failing wholly to check-up with any responsible source in Washington.

The United Press has been guilty of a falsification of the actual facts. If called upon to give the source of the information they will decline to give it — another usual subterfuge.

The fact remains that the story is contrary to every fact.

I am calling this to the attention of the public because it represents a culmination of other false news stories to which the attention of the United Press has been called by me and by my office on previous occasions.

It is, of course, impossible for the White House to deny every false story. This latest episode, however, represents the limit of any decent person's patience, and I am giving this in the form of a statement relating specifically to the United Press because I do not wish it to be considered as an indictment of the newspapers of the United States or other Press Associations.

The fact of this particular case is that the Press has been informed continuously for the past thirty-six hours that the President and the Secretary of State have not decided, up to the present time, whether he will address any Message to the Congress or what the next step of the Administration on neutrality will be. That is the truth, and it is a great pity that this simple truth, of which the Press has been informed, has been disregarded by a Press Association.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT