

December 7, 1939

[National Press Club Dinner]

FDR Speech File

1259

THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB  
Annual Founders' Dinner

Transcript of Telephone Conversations held with  
Honorable Marvin E. McIntyre, who spoke from Asheville, N. C.  
December 7, 1939, about 9.10 P. M.

MR. HACHTEN: Some of our members are absent tonight -- many of them.

The members here present, as you all know, represent a very small fraction of our entire membership of twenty-three hundred. Some of them are absent because of circumstances beyond their control, physical handicaps or other reasons that have kept them away. I think it would be well on this occasion if we made a telephone call to one of them as a sort of symbolic gesture to all of them. I know of no one who would serve better for that purpose than our good friend Marvin McIntyre. (Applause)

I have a telephone here and I would like to call Mac on the telephone and tell him just how much we miss him. This has not been rehearsed; he knows we are going to call him but we are just going to call him and see how he is getting along. So, with your permission, I will go ahead.

(Addressing telephone) Operator, this is Arthur Hachten, National Press Club. I would like to speak to Colonel Marvin McIntyre, of Asheville.

MR. MCINTYRE: (Without any preliminary pause) Hello, Arthur, how is everything?

MR. HACHTEN: Hello, Mac. It didn't take long for you to come in.

MR. MCINTYRE: Well, I was kind of looking for a call.

MR. HACHTEN: It is wonderful, these telephone devices. It seems as though you are in the next room.

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LINE 145 a message from the boy as crossing from outside off  
and behind outside to address anyone who has just  
left the house because someone is needed inside the next to  
I guess and I had just now come up to speak to the lady  
anymore so she is in no place right now and know if that  
was to the of course address to have a moment to see if the  
and anyone had not passed across him and one to word I  
(ambiguity) several hours ago two  
and no one else or will know I have said anymore is said I  
can and said and when we down and just said that has anyone  
seen me just said like of today we sawed off; however need  
drew on Garcia missed all said we have said like of today just  
the house of like I, sometimes know  
anyone in particular said, however (anyone but someone)  
several hours of time of will know I said over immediately  
individual to anyone  
all word, Garcia, off (using exclamation gas reading) :EXTREME  
Tremble  
at some of you not said what I think it is said, also :EXTREME  
like a not get to tell now I said :EXTREME  
as soon as received anyone word, let alone all :EXTREME  
more than not all was very difficult

MR. McINTYRE: It does sound like I am almost beside your door. I have been listening in.

MR. HACHTEN: How are you doing down there?

MR. McINTYRE: Just coming along beautifully. That is a grand glee club you have.

MR. HACHTEN: Thanks a lot. We are waiting for the day when you will come back here and you can put that tenor voice of yours in there.

MR. McINTYRE: It is coming around in shape.

MR. HACHTEN: Well, I suppose when you come around it won't be "Home on the Range," it will be "Carolina Moon is Shining."

MR. McINTYRE: Yes, something new. It won't be "Carolina Blues" either.

MR. HACHTEN: That's the way to talk.

MR. McINTYRE: Arthur, the President put me on the spot when he was down here.

MR. HACHTEN: How is that?

MR. McINTYRE: When he made a crack about me having gained forty pounds.

MR. HACHTEN: You must look like a balloon.

MR. McINTYRE: The trouble is, I don't, but Dr. Smith is trying forced feeding to try to make good for the President.

MR. HACHTEN: A lot of your friends are here, Mac.

MR. McINTYRE: Are Pa (General Watson) and Steve (Secretary Early) there?

MR. HACHTEN: Yes, they are here.

MR. McINTYRE: Well, I hope they are behaving. (Laughter) I never could at the Press Club.

Arthur, how are the bridge pirates?

MR. HACHTEN: Bridge pilots?

MR. McINTYRE: Pirates. I have still got my Christmas savings for them.

(Laughter)

MR. HACHTEN: The President is right here, Mac.

MR. McINTYRE: I don't suppose he wants to talk to me, does he?

MR. HACHTEN: Here you are.

MR. McINTYRE: Hello, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: How is the milk diet?

MR. McINTYRE: Well, I told him (Mr. Hachten) what happened to me.

They are feeding me forcibly now.

THE PRESIDENT: Mac, you ought to have heard the Press Club Chorus.

MR. McINTYRE: I heard it all.

THE PRESIDENT: It was a joy. You know what happened: they waited until you got out of town before they organized it. (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: You cannot even call that professional jealousy either.

THE PRESIDENT: Say, Mac, come back quick.

MR. McINTYRE: Still got a desk for me?

THE PRESIDENT: They need you in that chorus and there is no age limit at all. There is Charlie Hamilton and Mark Sullivan and old Kirk Simpson and a whole lot of old-timers.

MR. McINTYRE: I didn't hear any discords.

THE PRESIDENT: They are looking for substitutes.

MR. McINTYRE: I will be there on the job right after the first of the year -- maybe.

THE PRESIDENT: We need you to help out the police force at the White House.

MR. McINTYRE: Well, that is the job I am looking for.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you are good at it. All right, that is fine.

MR. MCINTYRE: I did not know whether tonight I was "The Little Man Who Wasn't There." (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Mac, come back soon, for God's sake; I need you.

MR. MCINTYRE: I will be right there, Mr. President. Hello?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. MCINTYRE: You had better be a little careful. I am listening in and can hear all those wisecracks you are making to Arthur.

THE PRESIDENT: I had better say goodbye.

MR. HACHTEN: Well, Mac, I won't say goodbye, knowing that you are still there, listening in.

MR. MCINTYRE: Well, Arthur, give my love to all the old gang. I will be back, pestering you, before long.

MR. HACHTEN: We will have a brass band for you.

MR. MCINTYRE: All right. You had better get old Benter (Lieutenant Benter) to lead it.

MR. HACHTEN: Well, hang on.

MR. MCINTYRE: Yes, I am going to listen. (Applause)

THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB  
Annual Founders' Dinner  
December 7, 1939, 9.30 P.M.  
Transcript of Gene Buck's Opening Remarks

MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE CLUB:

Up to now, this has been an extremely delightful occasion.  
This Club has done itself pretty.

It did one distinctive thing tonight, that very human episode with dear old Mac down there in Asheville, he called for the President who, incidentally, grabbed himself a couple of small laughs. That was a delightful thing to do, to sit here as a listener and to hear Mac down there and his voice in all its naturalness.

And we want to commend this choir. Those boys went to town tonight.

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(Applause)

THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB  
Annual Founders' Dinner  
December 7, 1939, 9:30 P.M.  
Transcript of the President's Extemporaneous Remarks

(The President was introduced by Arthur Hachten, who said:

I think we are all agreed that we have seen a wonderful show. We have never been more delightfully and wonderfully entertained. Gene (Mr. Buck), again you have come through with colors flying. There is only one man I know who is a better showman than you.

I have purposely held back my references to him. This showman got his start as a journalist, not as a publisher or a printer's devil but on the staff of the Harvard Crimson. By hard work and constant application he has worked his way up. Today he is editor and publisher of the Federal Register.

Seriously, Mr. President, you are a newspaper reporter's President. By that I mean that you make news and in these times, when those lousy dictators are choking free press, it is mighty comforting to know that in our country our chief magistrate keeps his door open to the Press. (Applause)

No greater honor could come to our Club than to have the President of the United States as our guest. The pleasure is doubly compounded in the case of President Roosevelt. He is a member of our Club and is a dues-paid member at that.

Our Number One member has graciously consented to say a few words off the record. (Applause) )

THE PRESIDENT:

PRESIDENT HACHTEN AND FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE CLUB:

I feel a lot better this evening than I felt all day, for a

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FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT  
OF KNOWLEDGE  
AND  
THE PROMOTION  
OF LIBERTY  
AND  
DEMOCRACY  
IN THE  
WORLD

at first a great many difficulties were met even in  
the preparation of the speech itself. The first difficulty  
was how much material to add to the speech. (Second difficulty)  
The next problem was what to do with the speech itself. It  
was decided to add material to the speech to make it more  
interesting and informative. (Third difficulty) The third difficulty  
was how to add material to the speech without making it too long.  
The fourth difficulty was how to add material to the speech without  
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making it too long. (Twenty-ninth difficulty) The twenty-ninth difficulty was how to add  
material to the speech without making it too short. (Thirty-first difficulty)

good many reasons. Well, just for example, I have been seeing one of those weeklies with a face in it and comments almost every week for a good many years but this is the first time that I ever knew that Lew Lehr was a living man. (Laughter)

Well, there is another thing. I have been down in the dumps all day. I have been worrying and doing a little silent crying into my handkerchief. If I had had a Press Conference today, it would have been a complete flop; oh, I might have said some pert things about the Press. (Laughter) Well, the reason was this: I discovered, when I read the papers this morning, that I was a defeatist, and that nearly all of you, the great overwhelming majority of you, my fellow members, were defeatists. Well, that is an awful name to call a fellow.

I cheered up a little bit quite late this afternoon when I got the last edition and saw that Harold Ickes said that he had a baby too. (Laughter)

Well, I have got an awful lot of grandchildren so I think we are fairly safe. (Laughter)

Then, tonight, there was only one thing in the whole procedure that I objected to. I thought I was Santa Claus. (Applause)

They raised the question about when is Christmas. Well, I said it all right; I said it all right. It is the last Monday in December. (Laughter)

However, we are a democracy -- still. (Laughter) Isn't that so, Mark (Mr. Sullivan)? (Laughter) Even John Lewis will agree with that. (Laughter) I think, being in a democracy, we ought to leave it next year -- it is too late now to change it -- I think we ought to leave the date next year up to George Gallup.

Well, this fake Santa Claus didn't look the least bit like me. It was a poor representation. He handed various things up here to the head table. I have forgotten most of them. I tried to jot down some of them. He gave me a ring, a great big one -- well, that goes to the latest grandchild. And he gave me a hat but, you know, I have a curious habit -- I suppose it is part of my Dutch blood and part of my Scotch blood -- I have never given away a hat yet. (Applause)

And then he gave me a calendar. I like that, because that sets the date of the Convention -- approximately. (Laughter) July is torn out and August is torn out and September and he went me one better: October is torn out. So, Gentlemen, the Conventions, both of them, will be held between the first and fourth of November, and the fifth is Election Day. It will be a good custom because, you know, I love change. I love to change customs for better customs.

And then, what else did he give me? Oh, he gave me a dunce's cap. What happened to that dunce's cap? I have not used it since, I don't know who it was -- young Post (Mr. Robert Post of the New York Times) went to London. I think he must have taken it with him because I did not use it again, but I lost it. Thank God, it has come back.

Now, I have been downcast about this defeatism thing, very much, but I have got one suggestion in view of the fact that this country is going to Hell. We were glad -- I was glad because I have been talking to a lot of my fellow members about the preservation of the records, permanently, of the Press. Of course you and I know when the country goes to Hell the first place to be attacked is the National Capital. You have not a safe place here in this building and you know what would happen if you put them in the Library of Congress. Probably

the new Librarian, Archie MacLeish, would translate them into poetry and then you would not have any original records. So I made a perfectly serious suggestion: Probably the safest places in the United States are the places we have in the country. They are not worth bombing just for one little library up in Hyde Park. And, as a matter of fact, that Library will have papers in it, documents of all kinds, that go back to that very famous year, 1908, the year the Club was founded.

I think it is a pretty good idea and I hereby invite you to place the records of the founding of the Club and the building of the building down through this Administration in the Library at Hyde Park.  
(Applause)

And then, at the very end, nearing the end, was a very nice song, one of a lot of very nice songs, from which I got just a little thought, and the theme of the song was these words and there are just two words to answer them with. The theme of the song was, "Anything can be done today."

And the first word in answer to it is a perfectly proper word to use for people who stop short in merely expressing the opinion, "Anything can be done today." It is one little short word; the word is, "How?" -- "How" with a question mark.

And the other word, that is not a bad answer, is just the same word but it is expressed differently. Fellow members of the Club, "How!" (Applause)

~~Nat Parallel Thomas - C. Hamilton - K. King~~

Syndicate on Sullivan. - 75M. 1<sup>st</sup> right

Documents - Library N.P.

Distributions - Baby too - I have lot of  
Thoughts now & <sup>Franklin</sup> children.



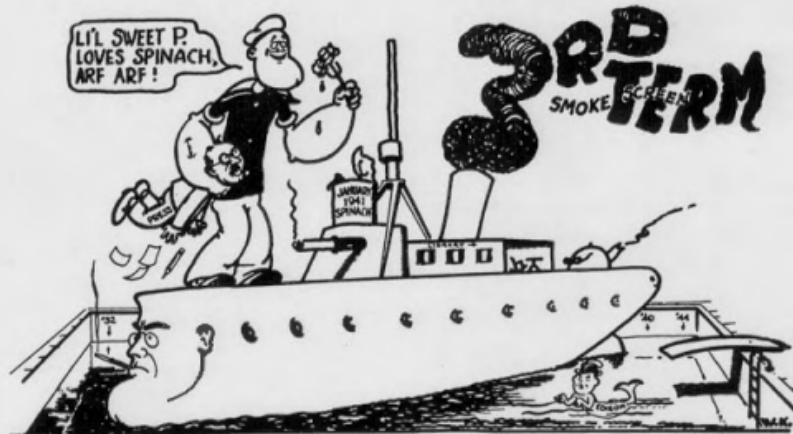
Dec. 25 - Last Man in Sight - Baby  
Ping - John Wesley - What was it  
Done 1st -  
J. Amy. 1st Act train out  
" (Braggmonta)  
Anything else to know today?"

Now?

Now!

Original notes in Book 14  
Program, December 23, 1915

The National Press Club  
ANNUAL FOUNDERS' DINNER



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, Guest of Honor

DECEMBER 7, 1939

WASHINGTON, D. C.