

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #125,
Executive Offices of the White House,
May 25, 1934, 4.15 P. M.

Q How do you do, Mr. President? We had a nice time at your party.

THE PRESIDENT: Did everybody survive?

Q Yes, we all succeeded in pulling through. Still an old football player. That forward pass!

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: What is the news?

Q That is what we want to know.

THE PRESIDENT: I almost called the Conference off; I haven't any.

Q Let us make some.

Q Mr. President, the French Ambassador told us that he touched lightly on the debts, that is, during his visit. Will you tell us how lightly he touched?

THE PRESIDENT: Very lightly.

Q Anything further?

Q Did you only touch lightly on it also?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, very lightly. What the French call "l'aiselement."

Q Mr. President, anything you care to say about the strike situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I think I had better not. It is awfully difficult to say anything without going into details and differentiations. I think it is probably better I should not. We are all working on it, as you know.

Q You still need legislation of the type of the Wagner bill dealing with this?

THE PRESIDENT: It would be very helpful. There is no question about it

but it would be very helpful because it would clarify administrative procedure and at the same time would create methods that were perfectly clear under the law. In the individual strike cases people would know on both sides exactly the procedure, who they come under and to whom they go and what authority there is in any given case.

Q Is it fair to assume, then, that you want this legislation this Session?

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to have it very much. I think it would be helpful. I think you had better put this off the record.

Q What you are saying now?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, what I am saying now. It would be perfectly all right to say I am in favor of this legislation and hope it will go through but, off the record, you all know that in any period of this kind you are bound to have, with a return of prosperity and a return of reemployment and an increase in values, more strikes. I look for a great many strikes in the course of this Summer, a good many more. It is a normal and logical thing. I think I have said this before at a strike conference. They are brought about by a great many causes. For instance, keeping this again entirely off the record, in this Toledo case, the strike originated with only 400 employees in one factory but there are a lot of other factors involved. They had pretty serious political trouble where a lot of graft and misgovernment, etc., was shown in the city. The result was that the population as a whole got sore. It wasn't just these 400 men.

Yesterday, when this crowd of between 5,000 and 10,000 people started, they were, as a body, sore at certain definite people. As they got along, throwing stones, they would throw stones at one particular factory or shop and then they would go along past

several other factories or shops they were not sore at and then they would pick out the next fellow at whom they were sore.

Charlie Taft telephoned to Miss Perkins about two hours ago and made the point that it is not an indiscriminatory strike, it is a strike against people they are sore at and it is not just the 400 strikers, it is a very large element of the population.

So each case really has to be taken up on the merits of that particular, individual case. There is no general statement that can be made relating to it. Miss Perkins used a parallel which, of course, has got to be entirely off the record. She said in conference today that it is not a general revolutionary feeling but a feeling against certain old-line politicians and a feeling against certain industrialists. It is a pretty discriminating opposition. It is based on reason of some kind.

In the Toledo situation, of course, the one thing that all of us ought to appreciate and write about is that there are methods of settlement and that the attitude of employers in many cases has been so autocratic. Take, for instance, the man in one of the papers this morning who said that he would consider that he was demeaning himself if he sat in the same room with William Green. Now that kind of autocratic attitude on the part of a steel company official does not make for working things out. On the other hand, there are people on the other end of the camp, the labor end, who are just as autocratic.

Q One objection raised to the Wagner Bill is that they have a local board out there that is getting along pretty good and they thought that the action of the new board would largely destroy the author-

ity of the men working out there.

THE PRESIDENT: I think under the Act this particular board would keep on functioning.

Q Have you had any report from the Williams Board as to what they have accomplished?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I have one or two of the members next week to talk to me.

Q Will that be your first report from them?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had merely the one report. Williams was here nearly three weeks ago and we went into it for half an hour.

Q You say you are working on this strike. Can you tell us what the Federal Government can do or is doing?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have our staff out there acting as mediator for the Department of Labor.

Q Have they given any late reports?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not since the telephone (call).

Q Is this Taft report out?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it has not got to the making of a report stage.

Q Have you reached a definite decision as to whether you want the licensing power under the Recovery Act extended?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not talked to anybody about it; have not mentioned it.

Q Mr. President, did you make any statements concerning American naval policy in view of the preliminary talks in London?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Anything that comes out will come out from the State Department.

Q Have you signed the Japan Resolution as yet?

THE PRESIDENT: It has not come down yet.

Q Not down yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not down yet.

Q Is the debt Message going up next week?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. It is not written yet.

Q The licensing provision of the NRA seems about to lapse and at the same time the proposal is to strengthen the licensing provisions of the AAA under the new bill?

THE PRESIDENT: It is not necessarily inconsistent.

Q I know, but what is the reason for the difference?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know enough about it to answer the question fully.

Q But there is a difference there, isn't there?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I do not know enough about the details, frankly.

Q What is your attitude on the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a terribly difficult subject. I have been talking about the theory of it with Costigan and Bob (Wagner) and various other people for quite a long while. I don't think I had better give you an attitude because I frankly haven't got sufficient clarity in my own mind as to whether that particular method will work and also as to the constitutionality of it. I think there is a question. I am absolutely for the objective but am not clear in my own mind as to whether that is absolutely the right way to attain the objective. However, I told them to go ahead and try to get a vote on it. It would be a useful thing to try to get a vote on it in the Senate.

Q With reference to Chaco, now that you have the authority, do you intend to use the authority to prohibit the shipments (of arms, etc.,) immediately, or wait for the League of Nations?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any idea at all. It depends on what Secretary

Hull says.

Q Any new developments in the Russian credit and trade situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a word. I don't think there has been anything.

Q Have you had an opportunity to study the banking and insurance bill passed by the House?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not even seen it.

Q What was the idea of dressing up on us last night? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you off the record. There was a dispute as to what I should wear with the Missus, and my wife was wrong.

(Laughter) There is one case where I was right. It won't happen in another year.

Q Have you heard from the Cabinet Committee on the railroad study they are supposed to make as yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I do not believe they will report for some time.

Q Thank you. We are sorry there isn't any more excitement today.

(The Press Conference adjourned at 4.25 P. M)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #126,
Executive Offices of the White House,
May 30, 1934, 10.45 A. M.

THE PRESIDENT: You are not going to Gettysburg?

Q (Mr. Young) I am sorry, I am not.

Q Is that a new suit?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any news and it is a rather horrid (referring to the weather) morning. The Secretary of State is coming in at eleven o'clock and I am going to talk debt Message and it is nearer to going up than it was last week. In other words, I do not know about the actual date yet. It may be Friday. Everything from now on is in a sort of a moveable phase, including the trip through the (Panama) Canal; that has been moveable right along. I do not know where I am going. Nothing has ever been said on definite dates and locations. You can't tell. I might not go until the beginning of July. It is perfectly moveable.

Q That late?

THE PRESIDENT: Possibly; cannot tell.

Q Any hope of California?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. There are so many Californians. (Laughter)

Q Are you going to Hawaii?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I hope so.

Q Are you still going to Puerto Rico?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is sure.

Q Mr. President, there was a report in the morning paper that Harry Hopkins

would be selected to head the housing activities.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any more idea than I had when the bill went in.

Of course we still want the bill very, very much.

Q At this session?

THE PRESIDENT: Very much.

Q And the Wagner Bill also?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will the Steel Code be ready today?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. They are bringing it in at 11.30. I have to go over one or two clauses in it before I actually decide on it. I have until tomorrow night but I hope it will be in shape so I can sign it before I go away.

Q I notice in the morning papers that the two French flyers are coming down.

THE PRESIDENT: 11.30, also.

Q Are they bringing the Steel Code? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we are pressing everybody into service.

Q Do you still stand pat in your decision not to have a general conference for debts with all debtor nations?

THE PRESIDENT: Somebody suggested that was the policy of the Hoover Administration, also this Administration. (Laughter)

Q Any Message requiring legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think you can all guess on that fairly well.

Q There is a report from London that the British are making an offer on debts. Have you received it yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Provided there is a general conference --

Q (interposing) Has any nation indicated their intention about the June fifteenth installment?

THE PRESIDENT: Not so far as I know, unless something came in the State Department yesterday.

Q Mr. President, do you care to comment on the court decision in the Weirton case?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not read it so I cannot comment on it. I have only seen the excerpt.

Q Any background on what is going on on the labor front?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think any more than what I said last week. All these various strikes and threats of strikes in various places, we hope we will be able to iron out as many as we possibly can. Of course we have ironed out a large number. I suppose you saw that report of the Department of Labor showing a large number of strikes but showing a small number of working hours cut out? That is pretty significant. In other words, mediation has been more successful than at any time in the past. The length of time they stayed out has been distinctly shortened in a great majority of cases and, of course, it is the total number of hours out that count rather than the actual number of walkouts.

Q Can you tell us about any of the appointments to the Power Commission or the RFC?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am going to try to do that on the train going and coming during the next three days, all the various appointments.

Q Does that include the local appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: Right. But, Count (Rudolph de Zapp), I won't release anything until I get back.

Q The two vacancies on the Mediation Board have been taken care of?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Are they going to be filled?

THE PRESIDENT: That is something I have to go over.

Q When do you intend to make the appointment of Chief of Staff?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not seen it.

Q In connection with the debts, does the fact that you aren't going to ask any legislation mean that the new agreement with Finland is going to be postponed?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I have not taken it up at all.

Q Can you tell us something about the sugar quotas for the Islands?

THE PRESIDENT: Sugar quotas are going to be announced -- I think it is tomorrow. We decided on them yesterday. I guess I had better not anticipate the story which you will get tomorrow. I can tell you off the record, subject to the announcement that the Department of Agriculture will make, that we have had, of course, this shortage in allotments to divide around, which amounts to a hundred thousand tons, because the Congress supplied us with an extra one hundred thousand tons for the beet sugar people. That means that based on the same estimates of consumption, I have got to divide that one hundred thousand tons around among Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Hawaii, and that is an awful thing to do because it has got to be done on some concrete basis of previous production, and it will work a hardship on all of those countries. On the other hand, there is a distinct hope that during the course of this sugar season we can give larger quotas to all of those five outside places, outside the Continental limits, because of the reduction in the actual beet sugar crop in this country. Because of the drought there has been quite a

shortage. It does not run as high as fifty per cent, as some of the people in Utah and Idaho and Wyoming claim, but it is a little bit early for us to make a definite estimate. It will probably be short of the 1,550,000 tons allocated and the amount of that shortage -- my general thought in talking with Agriculture yesterday was that we could divide that shortage and apply half of it to a reduction of the carryover, which would be a good thing, and the other half of it to increased allocations to Hawaii, Puerto Rico, etc. So the point I think you can make is that these allotments that will come out tomorrow are not necessarily final, that they are minimum, and that we hope to be able to increase them.

Q You said this is off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better hold it until the statement comes out tomorrow. I would rather have it break from the Department of Agriculture; they have all the figures.

Q Have you had an opportunity to read Litvinov's proposal at Geneva for the establishment of a permanent security organization to which the nations --

THE PRESIDENT (interposing): Only the headlines; we have not had the text of it yet.

Q We cannot induce you to comment on it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q In connection with the debts, there seems to be an impression in Great Britain and also in France that if their Governments come forward with substantial token payments, some way may be found to dodge the Johnson Act?

THE PRESIDENT: That is hard to talk about until we have the whole proposi-

tion, because any proposition would have to be referred to the Attorney General if it related to the Johnson Act.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I will be back Monday morning.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #127,
Aboard the Presidential Special Train
at Worcester, Massachusetts,
June 1, 1934.

THE PRESIDENT: Look who we have here! What do you know?

Q We are looking for a story, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: My story would not even pay your expenses.

Q Not here -- here we need an overcoat.

THE PRESIDENT: Everything is all quiet. I will have a few things for you
tomorrow night.

Q Will the debt Message go down today?

(The President did not hear the question.)

Q Any chance of the war debts Message going down?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a very good story. Whenever they meet, both Houses.

Q It has been completed?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

Q What did you think of that full-bearded sailor (at the Fleet Review)?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I did not see him.

Q He looked exactly like the advertisement for cigarettes.

Q How did you like the Review?

THE PRESIDENT: It was grand.

What are we going to do about the scoop the photographers made?

Mac (Mr. McIntyre) is terribly upset. They dropped plates overboard
into a speedboat.

Q Oh, yes; I saw that. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Mac did not sleep all night. We sent the others up (to
New York) with a destroyer or 32-footer.

Q Still too late?

THE PRESIDENT: Still too late.

Q Smart boys.

THE PRESIDENT: You know what I said at Gettysburg?

Q Chiselers?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

Q Will you meet us here at the train tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: I will get back when things are through (at Groton).

Q Have you received any word about this textile strike?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a word.

Groton at 11.00, class exercises, luncheon at 1.00 and then after that, I may take a little drive and go down to the river and watch the Crew. I cannot tell just what I will do.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, have a good day.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #128,
Executive Offices of the White House,
June 6, 1934, 10.45 A. M.

Q How about the District?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't a thing but I expect to have something by tomorrow on judgeships -- I hope so.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I would be very grateful if you would include in your stories this afternoon and tomorrow the announcement that the Corporate Bankruptcy Bill is going to be signed actually on the dot of noon tomorrow. There are reasons why it should be known beforehand that it is going to be signed at a specific time on account of applications by corporations, etc., to various courts. If it is given out ahead of time it prevents any one corporation from getting ahead of any other corporation. So, at 12 noon tomorrow, on the dot, it will be actually signed and will become a law.

Q Are there any large companies among those?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any idea. It is a legal technicality but it is to prevent anybody from getting an advantage over anybody else.

Mac (Mr. McIntyre) says it is all right for me to read to you -- I do not know whether it should be off the record or not -- the following telegram which Mac received this morning:

(Reading) "Marvin McIntyre, Secretary to President, White House, Washington, D. C. Just received telegram from friend on Yale varsity who says that David Livingston rowing number four on junior varsity cannot go to New London to race against Harvard because of ROTC Engineering Camp. Apparently no Senators have been able to excuse him and they wish father to intervene as soon as possible if anything can be done. See you at the races I hope.

Franklin Roosevelt, Jr."

So this unfortunate fellow, apparently having failed through Senatorial influence to get anywheres, it at last reaches the White House.

Q Are you going to let him go?

THE PRESIDENT: I have turned it over to Steve (Mr. Early), who is very high in the War Department, as you know, to let Steve see what he can do.

Q Do you mind if we use this?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you can use it, if you want. It is rather amusing, especially about the Senators. It would be awful if Steve didn't get the poor fellow off. (Laughter)

I don't think there is any particular news. The drought message, you all know about that. There has been nothing since yesterday morning's conference. I think, just for your information, I might explain one thing to you and that is what I said to the Senators and Congressmen yesterday. Of course, in a very real sense, this is more than a drought. It comes pretty close to reaching the proportions of a disaster because of the number of people affected and affected in a way which -- well, the burning of a great city might affect just as many individuals but on the other hand, work, if a city burns up, is immediately available and it is a great deal of work to clear the ruins. These poor people on these farms have no work available for them and in a large portion of this area, even if it rains from now on, there will be a great many thousands of families who won't be able to raise anything out of the ground or keep the cattle going. In other words, they won't be able to sustain themselves until 1935.

As far as the money end of it is concerned, I said to the people from the Hill yesterday morning, "Of course, the Government has to take care of a disaster of that size." We have two ways of going about it. One is to use the authority to switch funds, which is in the Appropriations Bill. In other words, without asking for any more money by direct appropriation, we probably could have taken the amount, somewhere around half a billion dollars -- we don't know the exact amount yet, out of RFC because RFC, under the law, has the authority to raise the money itself. In other words, it is totally available and we could transfer it to relief purposes. But the more I thought it over the more I thought that RFC was frankly organized for a rather different purpose and it would be a much cleaner and honest thing to do to make a straight appropriation. Actually, of course, the amount of money which it obligates the Treasury to pay is exactly the same. If we took it out of RFC it would be disguised whereas, in this way, it appears in the open and it is much better to do it in the open. The total amount of the Government debt under either method would be exactly the same.

I don't know yet whether I will send the message up today or wait a few days for further information and we don't know yet whether it will be a separate bill or whether it will be put on as an amendment to the existing Deficiency Appropriation Bill. You will probably know that in the next twenty-four hours.

Q This won't increase the spending program?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my, yes.

Q It will be besides the budget, in other words?

THE PRESIDENT: It will be in addition to the budget, no question of that.

Of course the budget was done when nobody had any idea that this

major catastrophe was going to happen. If it came out of RFC borrowing power it would appear in expenditures and not in appropriations. This way it appears in both expenditures and appropriations.

Q You won't have a balanced budget in 1936 then?

THE PRESIDENT: Let us cross that bridge when we come to it. If it is not balanced, then it will be balanced by an amount necessary to take care of an unforeseeable major calamity. Therefore, in writing the story, I think you should write the whole story, not just a lead saying that a balanced budget is overboard.

Q Can you tell us anything about the conference of the automobile men on the Wagner Bill yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: We didn't talk about the Wagner Bill especially, we talked about the general subject. They thought things were working out pretty well in their industry.

Q They seemed to think that the Wagner Bill had upset their Labor Board out there.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is a question about which I don't know.

Q Is there anything on the legislative situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think I had better discuss the individual bills up there because, after all, the thing is up there. All of these various bills are up there and the leaders are doing their best to get as much through as they can. I don't want, at this particular time, to label bills in classes A, B or C because the situation changes from hour to hour and primarily, at the present time, it is the responsibility of Congress.

The only thing I have sent up is that message, to which I don't think there will be any opposition, about turning over some second-

hand rifles and a few old shacks down in Haiti but I sent up word that if there is any opposition to that great act of generosity on our part, not to hold up the Session on account of that.

Q Could I go back for a moment to the drought situation? Are there any estimates of the number of people affected?

THE PRESIDENT: At the present time, in the emergency drought areas -- in other words, the ones that are marked red on the chart, on the map -- there are probably 125,000 families.

Then, in the blue area, from which we are taking a certain number of counties almost every day and adding them to the red area because it is getting worse, that blue area covers such a very large territory that I don't think we have made any check-up on the number of families. Of course, the blue area has a bit of hope of being able to raise some supplies the balance of the season.

Another thing that is tremendously important -- I have spoken about it before but in spite of that there have been some stories -- there is no danger of human famine. Let us get that and repeat it and repeat it. I am going to repeat it this week again and again until I go away. There is no danger of human famine.

There will be probably several million head of cattle which have got to the point where it is cheaper to kill them and can them than it is to try to bring food in from long distances, especially because of the fact that in a great many areas there is not enough water for those cattle and it is almost impossible to bring water in by rail. But there is no danger of human famine. There is plenty of carryover.

Q Mr. President, with reference to that report you sent up the day before

yesterday, concerning the survey of the drainage areas of the United States, I notice the one dealing with the Great Lakes presupposes the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Anything you can tell us about that? Are they going to negotiate a new treaty or anything of that sort during recess?

THE PRESIDENT: All I can tell you is off the record on the St. Lawrence. It has got to be off the record because I have not done anything on it. During the course of the summer probably I will be in touch with the Canadian Government and also with our own people in the Senate here and see what we can do. The only thing we have to bear in mind, very firmly, is that we haven't by any means abandoned the St. Lawrence Seaway. We are going ahead with it but as to the time and method, as to whether there will be any amendments to the Treaty, I cannot say, because I have not taken it up.

Q Can you tell us anything about the application of Chemical Foundation for funds to develop pine pulp paper in Georgia?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard. Was it applied for?

Q Dr. Ezekiel made a rather adverse report on it when it was referred to the Agricultural Department.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know it was referred. What was the name of my friend down there?

Q Dr. Herty.

THE PRESIDENT: All I have seen was a delightful pamphlet telling about the experiments but, as I remember it, that pamphlet gave the suggestion that there ought to be another year or two before going ahead on a large commercial basis.

Q I understand they are asking \$4,000,000. to develop it, that is, to

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produce commercial paper in a limited way?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe that Public Works funds can be used for purely development experiments. I rather doubt it. If they had something that was practical, something to go ahead with, it would be a bit different, but I don't think they are ready to go ahead on a commercial sized plant.

Q That is one point that Dr. Ezekiel raised.

THE PRESIDENT: I am tremendously keen about the thing. Herty has been down to the Springs (Warm Springs) and talked to me about it.

Q It was announced that Robinson (Senator Joe Robinson) and McNary (Senator McNary) would come up and see you sometime relative to the legislative program. Is there anything on that?

THE PRESIDENT (turning to Mr. McIntyre): You have not heard anything?

MR. McINTYRE: No, sir.

Q Have you anything on the threatened steel strike?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing, except that Hugh Johnson told me yesterday he was still negotiating.

Q Have you had a report from the West Coast, from Mr. McGrady (Assistant Secretary of Labor McGrady) in connection with a dock workers' strike out there?

THE PRESIDENT: No, the only thing I got was that Miss Perkins showed me yesterday a telegram which sounded a bit hopeful, but I think you will have to get it from her. It looked like better news than we had yesterday morning.

Q When you sign the Stock Market Bill, will you be ready to announce the membership of the Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: No, sir. It really is true that I have given absolutely no consideration to it. I suppose I have had fifty or a hundred

names submitted and I put them all into a folder and I suppose I will dig it out after Congress goes home. But I really have not thought about it, despite the fact that New York has announced the membership.

Q Anything in the report that Senator Blaine is going to be selected to the RFC before Congress goes home?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- wait a minute -- I haven't got anybody yet, but I am going to send up a name for the Federal Power Commission today.

Q In spite of the fact that we have repeatedly told Great Britain that we are willing to listen, they insist that it is up to us to make the first move?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing to do is to read the Message I sent to the Congress.

Q Is it likely you will have any time to receive any European debt missions before you leave?

THE PRESIDENT: Are any coming over? They will have to hurry.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Can you mention the name of the appointee to the Federal Power Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Just as soon as it comes up.

Steve (Mr. Early) suggests if you want to write that St. Lawrence story on your own responsibility, it is all right.

Q In connection with that watershed report?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Has anything definite been settled on the drought area, the section that is suffering?

THE PRESIDENT: The only way I can answer that is this way: I do not know yet how much free money we will have in Public Works in the coming

fiscal year and how much will be necessary to carry on existing projects like the Upper Mississippi and Fort Peck, et cetera. We have not yet discussed how much balance there will be for new projects, but undoubtedly if some of those Upper Missouri projects look pretty good and do not cost very much and will help in this drought area, we may spend some of the Public Works money on that, but we have not got to the point of any decision.

Q I understand you have been conferring with some of the Naval officers about the forthcoming talks in London. Can you give us any intimation of what the attitude of the United States will be?

THE PRESIDENT: The only thing is that some officers are going over very shortly for preliminary conversations. That is all. We won't have any announcement to make at all as to what the policy is. It will probably come out of London, not here.

Q Who is going over?

THE PRESIDENT: Admiral Leahy -- ask the State Department if there is any reason why the personnel, as to who is going over, should not be --

Q (interposing) It has been made public.

Q Are we going to have any platform?

THE PRESIDENT: No, just conversations. (Laughter)

Q What are the chances on (visiting) Green Bay (Wisconsin)?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope to get there but it is not definite.

Q Will there be any chance of going anywhere else in the State (of Wisconsin)?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I hope to do it just at the end of July.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #129,
Executive Offices of the White House,
June 8, 1934, 4.00 P. M.

THE PRESIDENT: Remember that white clothes are much cheaper in Puerto Rico and Panama than here.

Q We will remember that, Mr. President.

Q We will need them much more there than here.

Q I think it will be cheaper for us to buy a couple of suits of dungarees before we leave.

THE PRESIDENT: They are supplied free of charge by the Navy.

Q You have to pay for them.

THE PRESIDENT: You do? I did not know that.

Q You can put it on the expense account. (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any news except I suggested to The Three Musketeers that white suits are cheaper in Puerto Rico and Panama than here.

Q That suits us.

Q We will travel light, then, until we get there.

Q We may send some back, duty free, for those that don't go.

THE PRESIDENT: I should think so; they are going to charge them to the expense account.

Q Have you any comment to make on the selection of Fletcher as the new Republican leader?

THE PRESIDENT: No comment on the record but off the record entirely I can repeat to you what I said to Steve (Mr. Early) about it. I said, "De mortuis nil nisi bonum." (Laughter)

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Q I think it is safe to put that on the record.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Mr. Early) said, "Is that a compliment or not?"

(Laughter)

I do not think there is any particular news.

Q What did you really say there?

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you about the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

(Laughter)

Q In the Message you say you hope to present a plan to the next Congress.

That means you will have a commission to study the problem during the summer months?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know that I will dignify it by the name of a commission. I will do most of the work myself on it. I have nothing to do this summer. In other words, I will have quite a lot of conferences with the War Department, the Reclamation Service, etc, and it may develop into some kind of a reviewing commission. I will handle most of it myself. That is, the land and water, the big drought thing.

Q When do you sign the Tariff Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think until Monday because there is some kind of complication about the sugar allotments. They want to get that out of the way first. I approved that today.

Q Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us further about the steel situation? Did you discuss it with Miss Perkins today?

THE PRESIDENT: The only thing I know is what came out on the ticker (the United Press ticker in Mr. Early's room) about three or five minutes ago. They announced something. I have not heard since then.

Q When will you sign the Air Mail Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: That has not come down yet.

Q Mr. President, did you get a protest from Senator George and others about the attitude of Dr. Ezekiel toward the Chemical Foundation's application for money to develop wood pulp paper in Georgia?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; I do not know whether you could call it a protest or not because I have not seen what Dr. Ezekiel said. Anyway, I wrote a letter on it to somebody, saying I was very much interested in wood pulp made from yellow pine.

Q Can we have a copy of it?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it has to be released down there.

MR. EARLY: You remember the statement you made about the forest conservation. That was announced earlier.

THE PRESIDENT: You did that?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Mr. Early) handed out something earlier that took care of it.

Q I thought what they objected to was that the Chemical Foundation was raising the point that seventy per cent of the paper stock was imported and Dr. Ezekiel said it was not altogether an evil, that the foreign countries used that money to buy American exports, and they construed it as throwing cold water on this application.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know what he said but of course the real answer is this: that to make pulp as a general proposition out of an American wood supplied in the North, that supply of wood is decreasing at such a fast rate already that there won't be any woods left. It is obviously the economic thing to do if we can use this yellow scratch pine in the South, which is not being used for anything else, to make

paper. That will be all to the good, as long as we replace it as fast as we cut it. That is the catch to it.

Q Would you care to say anything about the luncheon today with the Japanese Prince?

THE PRESIDENT: Just a luncheon of courtesy and a visit of courtesy. Very nice time.

Q Nothing political?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Did the Labor Board Bill go through?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q Is the Ickes Oil Control Bill as necessary as it was two weeks ago?

THE PRESIDENT: I have complete ignorance on the subject.

Q I thought perhaps you might know.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard what is happening in Congress since the Vice President got here at 2.00 o'clock.

Q That is a long while ago. (Laughter)

Q I understood you to say that the Wagner Bill was not slated to go through?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard anything about it since 2.00 o'clock.

Q Anything about Harry Newton as a member of the Federal Home Loan Board?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I do not think his time is up until July twenty-first. I have not done anything about it.

Q Any Tariff Commission appointments in mind?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Frankly, on the Tariff Commission, until I have had a chance to have a general talk about it, I do not know whether I am going to fill those two vacancies or not. The thought, as I think I told you all about six months ago, is that four people on the Tariff Commission may not be necessary. I have not discussed the

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details of it since then. I suppose, after the Tariff Bill is signed and Congress goes home we will have a general conference on the tariff situation with this Interdepartmental Foreign Trade Committee that is operating and the Tariff Commission to determine whether we should fill those two vacancies or not.

Q There is a third vacancy coming up this month, isn't there?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know that; who is it?

Q Dr. Porter.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know that.

Q How about the RFC appointment?

THE PRESIDENT: RFC? No. I hope soon.

Q Mr. President, have you had any personal part recently in the trade and credit discussions with the Russian people?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a word on it for a couple of weeks.

Q On the tariff, how soon do you think you can get any actual bargaining on that under this new Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will have to ask the State Department for details.

As I understand it, they have got at least half a dozen nations that they are holding preliminary discussions with already.

Q Mr. President, in view of the fact that an agreement has been reached on the Communications Bill in conference, is there anything you can tell us with reference to the plans in reference to that Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not even thought about who is to go on it. Do you happen to know whether that goes into effect immediately or does it go into effect --

Q (interposing) July first.

THE PRESIDENT: July first? Then I won't think about it until after Congress

goes home. I am putting off everything I can until Congress goes home.

Q Do you think they will go?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think so.

Q Do you plan to put the Housing Bill through?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so, very much. That is an essential thing.

Q What instructions are our delegates carrying to London with respect to this conference preliminary to the Naval Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: That will break from London rather than from here.

Q Will there be any surprises?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q Are you going to allow your secretary (Mr. Early) to go through with that golf match?

Q He ought to give Lew Douglas some ideas.

THE PRESIDENT: There is a catch. Lew Douglas is to keep score so Steve (Mr. Early) is perfectly safe. It will be a low score.

Q Any further reports from the drought area?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Acting Secretary Tugwell gave us a very interesting picture of it in the Cabinet meeting. Of course a great many people are going to be affected who are not on farms. That will be one reason why this Bill that goes in tomorrow is going to carry the provision for putting on relief the people in cities who are thrown out of work because of lack of cattle and wheat coming into the cities. The preliminary, tentative estimate for that is about fifty million dollars more which is to take care of city people thrown out of work. The general thought, in taking care of these drought areas, is that we are doing everything possible to get people to plant, try-

ing to get seed to them, to plant any kind of a crop that has a chance of growing from now on. Of course in certain areas you can plant -- if we get a good deal of rain -- you can plant certain crops up to the first or tenth of July and they will mature sufficiently to take care of the soil, the ground, and provide a certain amount of forage. The chief problem, in general, is the question of forage for livestock, and that is very serious.

Q Should this drought make any difference in the crop production loans?

THE PRESIDENT: In what?

Q Your attitude toward crop production loans?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q How about the seed loans?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you mean that. Of course those seed loans are primarily cotton loans, not affected by the drought one way or the other. Nearly all of it is cotton.

Q Do you know whether they plan to handle that as a separate piece of legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: The latest is that it will be tacked on as an amendment in the Senate.

Q That is fifty million more? What is the total?

THE PRESIDENT: Five hundred and twenty-five million.

Q Have you heard anything on the Pacific longshoremen's strike?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard anything since yesterday, when it looked pretty favorable.

Q Is there any steel conference scheduled for the week end, or in sight?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea. The thing changes from minute to minute.

Q What is your view on the crop curtailment in the light of the drought?

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THE PRESIDENT: How do you mean, what is the view on it?

Q Do you still think it is a desirable thing?

THE PRESIDENT: Has nothing to do, one way or the other; no connection.

Q The drought affects the crop.

THE PRESIDENT: Which means that next year, if there isn't any carryover on a given crop, you increase the amount of crops that may be sown so as to provide for the estimated annual consumption plus a surplus.

Q Any further -- (interruption)

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, let us take a very good example of what you might call the eastern city point of view that does not know the difference between barley and wheat. People are apt to jump at the conclusion that there is a connection between a drought and crop curtailment. Of course, there is absolutely no connection whatsoever. The whole theory of crop curtailment is to prevent excessive surpluses. That is because excessive surpluses or carryovers force down the price to such an extent that the farmer cannot make both ends meet. If you have an adequate surplus to take care of a crop failure one season, that is all you need. Only it ought to be absolutely sufficient to take care of a failure, as it will be this year. There is enough food in the country. Now, the next year, you not only plant to grow enough crop to take care of the demand, the consumption, for the following year but also enough to establish a surplus.

Q Would it be a surplus that the farmer or the Government might own?

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't got to that stage yet in determining that.

Of course, it has been under discussion for four or five years as to whether surpluses should be owned or controlled by the Government.

Q Mr. President, on this loan, is your attitude toward the Three A amendments unchanged?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are advisable.

Q You still wish to see them go through?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q What is your attitude on the Ickes oil control?

THE PRESIDENT: Unchanged. I hope we will get it because, as I understand this decision down in Louisiana, it is pretty good but only covers the particular case before the court and we are dependent, without the oil bill, on whatever the courts may decide between now and next January.

Q Can you throw any light on the conference with Perkins?

THE PRESIDENT: What did we talk about?

Q Steel, by any chance?

THE PRESIDENT: Only for a minute, that is about all. I do not know whether -- we talked about various departmental matters.

Q It was not only the steel industry?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you any more plans for the social service?

THE PRESIDENT: We will have to keep on studying. We have been at it now for six months.

Q No commissions or anything like that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Probably handle it myself like the other one.

Q What did Mr. Eastman have up the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: To tell you the truth, I have forgotten. We did talk about the bills up there and he hopes to get some of them through. Which ones, I could not tell you. You will have to ask him. He still thinks there is a chance.

(The Press Conference adjourned at 4.25 P. M.)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #129-A,
Executive Offices of the White House,
June 13, 1934, 10.55 A. M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe there is any news today at all.

Q) Tell us about the 22 billions. (Referring to the report by George Peek)

THE PRESIDENT: You have this (indicating printed report). This is George Peek's story, given out on foreign trade. I do not know whether you are familiar with it but apparently it is the first time it has ever been done. This is something already given out by George Peek's office so I suppose you are all familiar with it. It is what might be called a preliminary estimate and subject of further studies, but it is the first thing of its kind that has been attempted, showing the total of American exports and imports from 1896 down and through 1933. In other words, it is a thirty-seven or thirty-eight-year period.

I suppose most people have the idea that during that period, because we had an apparently favorable export balance, that this country has made a lot of money out of its foreign trade. Well, these figures that George Peek's office has been working out, which have been at least partly checked by the Department of Commerce, rather disprove the theory that the United States makes a lot of money out of its so-called favorable balance. You will have to read the letter to me to get the details of it. The rough figures are that during this whole period we sold to the world goods to the amount of 121 billions -- that is billions, don't make it millions -- and we bought from the world goods valued at 84 billions, so there

is an apparently favorable balance to the United States of 36 billion dollars, which means that, in another way of putting it, our imports were only seventy per cent of our exports.

But, as against that apparently favorable balance of 36 billions, George Peek says that we ought, in fairness, to deduct the amount that good Americans spent on their trips to Paris, in other words the tourist money, which amounts to 19 billions, so with that deduction it leaves an apparently favorable trade balance of only 17 billion dollars.

Then, you have two other amounts that you have to take into consideration: First, the services rendered by us to the world in shipping and freight services, interest and dividend payments, interest and principal payments of various debts, etc., which add to the amount owed us 26 billions, making a total owed us of 46 billions. Of course, if you do that, you have to charge off the other side of the picture and deduct the services rendered to us by the world shipping and trade services, interest and dividend payments on all foreigners' investments in the United States, things of that kind, and net gold imports, which would reduce the world debt of 43 billions by 21 billions, which would show that during this 38-year period the net amount owed to the United States is about 22 billion dollars.

And then, Peek makes the point that that 22 billion dollars, which is the net profit -- the easiest way of putting it -- the net profit of all of our foreign dealings, that that 22 billion dollars has not been paid us, that we have only got evidences of indebtedness, so that if those evidences of indebtedness are paid, then we will be 22 billion dollars better off for this 38-year period.

Now, of course, that is a very interesting thing and I suppose all of you people who know more of these things than I do will be able to write some fascinating stories; then you will turn it over to the headline man and he will do some more editing. However, it is a fine subject to go into because, as far as I know, this is the first time there has ever been what might be called a serious attempt to estimate these figures and perhaps a lot of people will dispute them.

Q Does it mean that the world welshes on their debts?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no.

Q How do they owe us 22 billion dollars?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they have not paid us the favorable balance of trade in cash.

Q What are the evidences of indebtedness?

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to study it some more before I answer that question. Well, there are balances that various American firms have in Europe, which they cannot bring back here. The whole foreign exchange situation is involved in that. Then there are notes of foreign corporations, bonds of municipalities, their notes and bonds of all kinds of foreign corporations that are held here, not only by investors but by companies. If the General Electric (for example) sells a lot of equipment to some private concern in Italy, it takes notes of that private concern over a period of years, part cash and part notes. In other words, it is all the various mercantile type of debts.

Q A good part of that is liquid short-term stuff?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is it true that the whole 22 billion dollars, none of it has been paid in cash?

THE PRESIDENT: 22 billions. That is the net part that has not been paid in cash. In other words, all the rest has been paid, just the same as we paid for what we bought.

Q Is it true that goods and services of foreign countries must be accepted by us if this country is to be paid off?

THE PRESIDENT: That, of course, is much too definite a statement because goods and services are one form of payment, only one form. Just the same way as the reply the Secretary of State made. For example, there are large headlines in the papers which would give the average layman who reads those papers -- it is the headline fellow's fault, not yours -- the idea that we had definitely made an offer to Great Britain that they could pay all their debt by sending us goods. That is what the layman gets from reading that type of headline in the morning papers. If you will read Hull's reply carefully, you will see that that kind of headline was unjustified.

Q In that connection, the London dispatches state that the British are a little puzzled by what we mean. Do we mean we would be willing to open our markets here sufficiently to permit them to accumulate dollar balances here?

THE PRESIDENT: We would be willing to discuss that with them as they had suggested on several previous occasions, in order to avoid the obstacle they raised, which was the payment in cash. We would be entirely willing to go along and talk about what they had suggested, which was partial payment in kind, but very partial. Obviously, you cannot transfer the whole -- what did they agree to pay us, 350 or 400 million dollars? Of course that could not be paid in kind.

Q Isn't it a safe guess we are not going to open our markets to permit

them to accumulate dollar balances here?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a perfectly impossible question, to answer. You cannot answer yes or no unless you start beating your wife. In other words, suppose we had agreed to take some tin. I just take that out of the air because I saw it in the paper this morning. Suppose we agree to take a certain amount of tin which we do not produce, does that open the markets in this country or not?

You can't write a definitive story on any of this stuff; that is the real answer. I could not if I tried.

Q Isn't the main purpose of this note to keep the debt question open?

THE PRESIDENT: No, the main purpose is to answer the British note.

Q Coming back to the Peek Report for a moment, he says in his report that the figures show that the international trade has been cumulatively disadvantageous to us and he says we have to make a new approach. Has he made any definite suggestions to you as to what the new approach might be?

THE PRESIDENT: No. As I say, this is the first time these figures have been worked up. Then, too, he divides them into a series of periods which are quite interesting: 1896 to 1914; 1914 to 1922, which is really the war period; 1923 to 1929, which is really the madness period; and 1930 to 1933, which is what might be called the reconstruction period.

Q What, if any, moral might be drawn from the figures?

THE PRESIDENT: None, absolutely none. That is exactly what I am trying to drive home, that nobody is trying to point any moral or do anything more about it except to give out these figures for people to think about and get interested in.

Q What effect on your policy in negotiating reciprocal trade agreements will that report have?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not any idea, any more than you have.

Q You signed a bill of great importance to the District -- I am spokesman here for the District --

THE PRESIDENT (interposing): Right.

Q That is the Alley Improvement Bill and in that it says that an agency is to be appointed to take the matter in hand. Have you decided who is to be appointed?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I asked the Commissioners and Mrs. Hopkins ~~to~~ to talk over the formation of an agency and to come in and talk to me about it before I go away, because I would like to have something started.

I also told them another thing which, for the District, I suppose has some news value, which was that they have got \$500,000. to start this work and I am very keen to see if we cannot increase that sum, how much I do not know, but I do not think that \$500,000. is enough on the first year of the operation of this Bill.

Q How about public works? Where will that come from?

THE PRESIDENT: Public works? Another thing I told the Commissioners is what my position is -- it has always been the same -- I would like to see Washington, D. C., as the best residential city in the United States. But, on the other side of the picture, I do not think the capital of the United States should ever become an industrial or manufacturing city. It would be a shame. It involves all sorts of difficult problems. Let's keep it the best residential city of the United States and stop there.

Q Has the Tariff Bill been signed or are you giving it any further thought immediately?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q The labor disputes compromise -- is there anything on that?

THE PRESIDENT: We are not ready on that because they are talking about it up on the Hill and I suppose I will hear something about it at two or three o'clock this afternoon.

Q Can you comment on the Goldsborough Bill, parts of which were drawn by the General Motors Acceptance Corporation and the Johns-Manville Acceptance Corporation?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that everybody is making allegations up there. Some are saying that the Building and Loan Associations are behind the effort to give them more money and eliminate other forms of guarantees. Frankly, I do not know anything about the cat fight going on up there in the Committee.

Q Do you want to comment on the House amendments to the Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is pretty well known I am not for them.

Q How about the new Senate Bill to put it on an administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know enough about it. What are they going to do?

Q There is a substitute bill before the Senate Committee which would set up a Federal Housing Administration and put everything in the hands of the Administrator.

THE PRESIDENT: What did the original bill set up?

Q Very much like the House bill, in different sections.

THE PRESIDENT: What kind of an administration.

Q I think all under the RFC in the House bill. I haven't analyzed that.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know enough about the details.

Q There is a new bill up there.

THE PRESIDENT: Where?

Q In the Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: In the Senate?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: How does it differ?

Q It puts everything under the Federal Housing Administrator.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think it makes a lot of difference who administers it.

Q It is an entirely different bill. I am not familiar with the details.

THE PRESIDENT: It is a terribly complicated bill. I read the original through and have not looked at the substitute or amendments or anything else.

Q Should the Bill finally come down here so messed up that it is unworkable, is it likely you will veto it? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: If it is unworkable, I certainly will.

Q Have you any comment to make on Mr. Tugwell's victory before the Senate Agricultural Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I had better not.

Q Have you a Latin comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: There is a certain restraint one must exercise.

Q Are you in favor of convict labor on roads?

THE PRESIDENT: Where?

Q In Virginia.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any idea; that is a state matter. We did use them in the State of New York in winter camps.

Q In view of the numerous and sundry reports and the changes made on

NRA, can you give us an outline of your own ideas on the ultimate setup? Does it appear to be shaping up?

THE PRESIDENT: When I do, it will take forty-eight hours to explain it.

Q What are the prospects of adjourning?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to ask them up there, I do not know. Ask John Garner; he is a pretty good guesser.

Q Going back to your stand that Washington should not be an industrial city, does that entail greater financial responsibility on the Federal Government for its maintenance?

THE PRESIDENT: Why should it?

Q Industrial development might bring more money.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but good housing conditions bring good receipts too.

Q There is a story printed today to the effect that there is a new relief plan whereby unemployed will be put in closed factories and start canning our surplus goods.

THE PRESIDENT: I read it. Did that come from Hopkins?

Q I do not know where it came from.

THE PRESIDENT: I guess that probably was a hot weather story.

Q I believe the morning story is that they are going to take over a couple of factories and run them.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw the headline and read the lead; that is all.

Q The story seemed to put it rather definitely as the plan of the Federal Emergency Relief?

THE PRESIDENT: That is new to me. I never heard it.

Q What are the prospects of Governor George White, of Ohio, being given a Federal position?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

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Q Are you considering a cut in the Canadian whiskey duty?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard about it. Does it have to come from me?

(The Press Conference adjourned at 11.15 A. M.)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #130,
Executive Offices of the White House,
June 15, 1934, 4.10 P. M.

Q That is Stevie's (Mr. Stephenson) presidential suit.

THE PRESIDENT: Is it his presidential suit? Looks to me as if he has outgrown it in front. He will lose a lot of that on the destroyer.

Q Yes, leaning over the rail.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think all the news is up on the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue today. Things are happening up there and you know more about it than I do.

Q Is it going fast enough?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think so; going along all right.

Q When does it look like you are going to get it?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard within the last hour.

Q What did you hear then?

THE PRESIDENT: Fifty-fifty.

Q Can you tell us whether you are contemplating any action with regard to Germany's latest moratorium, that is anything in the nature of representations to them?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. The Secretary of State mentioned in Cabinet meeting that they are studying the effect of the German action. I do not know whether they have taken it up with the German Ambassador yet or not.

Q In the absence of our friend, the Count (Rudolph de Zapp), are you getting anywhere near that judgeship appointment in the Municipal Court?

THE PRESIDENT: God! You know, I had entirely forgotten it.

Q The Attorney General thought he would send a name over here?

THE PRESIDENT: Will you make a note of that to ask about it? It will have to go up fairly soon.

Q The term of Frank McNinch (Chairman of the Federal Power Commission) expires next week. Have you definitely decided --

THE PRESIDENT (interposing): When does it expire?

Q The twenty-third (the term actually expired on the twenty-second).

THE PRESIDENT: I have not done anything about it at all.

Q Isn't there another vacancy on that Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I filled that the other day, Mr. Seavey.

Q Mr. President, is the Mediation Board going to be filled, Railroad Mediation?

THE PRESIDENT: I doubt it. Something might happen between now and tomorrow night, but I doubt it.

Q What about a new Public Printer?

THE PRESIDENT: Won't be anything until after the session anyway.

Q Any more Tariff Commission appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so.

Q Have you signed the Communications Commission Bill today?

THE PRESIDENT: Has it come down to me yet? I do not think it has. It has not got in here yet. The only bill I have on my desk, not acted on, has to do with the Cherokee Indians.

Q Do you intend to appoint the members to the Communications Commission before you go?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q The New York Evening Post carries the story today that Mayor Hague has

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invited the New York manufacturers to come over to his town with their plants and that there would be no strike trouble. The Chief of Police issued an order forbidding picketing and the National Labor Board said it was powerless. Anything submitted to you yet?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is the usual attempt of Jersey City to steal New York's business.

Q The matter has not been laid before you?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard of it.

Q Inasmuch as it is (war) debt payday, can I induce you to comment on the generosity of the debtors?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you tell us anything about your plans for the summer other than --

THE PRESIDENT (interposing): I suppose you would like to know, Fred (Mr. Storm). Well, the only thing that is definite is that the actual date of departure is indefinite. In other words, I do not know what day we are going to push off. I might put it off three or four days to give me a little bit more time to go up to New London and then come back here for three or four days just to clear up odds and ends and then push off from Annapolis instead of New York. But the date is on a moveable basis, some time, we hope, between the twenty-sixth of June and the fourth of July. That is as near as I can give it.

Q Have you given any thought to touching at any ports?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I hope very much to be able to go to Cartagena, Colombia, and pay a call on the President of the Republic of the United States of Colombia. It is about fifty miles -- less than that, about forty miles out of the way of the straight course from St. Croix to Panama, so all it would involve would be spending one extra day and

go in there if the President of Colombia comes down to Cartagena. We would spend the day together and that would be the first time that any American President has ever visited any nation in South America during his term of office.

Q What is the occasion of this official visit?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q What is the occasion of the visit to Columbia?

THE PRESIDENT: Just to say, "How do you do?" It is on the way.

Q Any celebration?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we get there on the Fourth of July if we leave on the twenty-sixth.

Q Would that involve landing on their soil?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; there would be nothing new in that.

Q I thought they might come out to your boat.

THE PRESIDENT: I am going to lunch with the President of Panama. That has been done on many occasions.

Q Mr. President, I am not sure whether there is a map out there in the Press Room. Do you mind spelling the name?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, anglicized it is C-a-r-t-a-g-e-n-a and it takes you quite a while to practise the pronunciation of the "g".

Q On the steel situation, it has been intimated that you might consider calling both parties to Washington. Is that a fact?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not heard anything about it.

Q Tomorrow is the sixteenth and the present tenure of the NRA Licensing Act does expire tomorrow. We heard from some people on the Hill that there might be a possibility that you might want to extend that. Can you give us any idea on that?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a long time between now and tomorrow.

Q Thank you. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Frankly, I do not know; anything might happen.

Q Do you care to comment, or has your attention been called to the statement up there at Pittsburgh proposing that you appoint an arbitration board?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Steve (Mr. Early) told me about it. Of course I could not comment until I see the whole thing.

Q Have you received the Shipping Code? What has happened to it?

THE PRESIDENT: I got it quite a while ago and it has been going the rounds. I think I can intimate that I am not satisfied with it but I have not had time to put down why I am dissatisfied with it. The same way, I do not like the provisions of the Utilities Code.

Q What are the objections?

THE PRESIDENT: I was just saying I have not got to the point of setting them forth in detail.

Q That means you probably won't sign either one?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably not as submitted.

Q Mr. President, on this German moratorium business, Germany complains that she has not been permitted to pay in goods on these obligations. In view of the fact that we have more or less invited partial payment of war debts in goods, would it not be possible for Germany to come here with goods for payment on these other debts?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. In other words, we have not considered it one way or the other at all. They have never offered to pay in goods, have they?

Q No, sir; not that I know of.

Q Did you tell Senator Robinson, sir, that you wanted labor legislation this session, before adjournment?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, quite a while ago.

Q Have you agreed on a substitute form?

THE PRESIDENT: That you will have to find out up there on the Hill. In other words, the real situation is this: We have been trying to get some form of legislation which would not greatly delay the termination of the session, and there have been at least a dozen different drafts of legislation, and it is a matter, and has been for the last two days, a little over two days, of discussion between Senator Robinson and Senator McNary. That is really what it comes down to. I haven't heard anything since this morning when various other suggestions were made.

Q Mr. President, can you comment on those three or four principal objections to the terms, such as limiting it to one year and restricting power?

THE PRESIDENT: There is no objection to restricting it to one year. There was definite objection to eliminating the word "organization" from the principle of representation. In other words, 7-A. This might just as well be made absolutely clear once and for all: About 120,000,000 people out of 125,000,000 understand plain English, and there seems to be a very, very small minority that do not understand plain English. 7-A says that the workers can choose representatives. Now if they want to choose the Ahkoond of Squat they have a perfect right to do so. If they want to choose the Royal Geographic Society, they can do that. If they want to choose a Union of any kind, they can do that. They have free choice of representation and that means

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not merely an individual or a worker, but it means a corporation or a union or the Crown Prince of Siam, or anybody. And that has got to be made absolutely clear in this legislation.

Q How do you feel on the point of minorities?

THE PRESIDENT: The question of minorities is not a tremendously serious one because that has to be worked out in each individual case. If there is a substantial minority, it seems fair and equitable that that minority should have some form of representation, but that is a matter of detail depending on the individual case. In some industries it is possible that neither side may want to have it.

Q Suppose they do choose the National Geographic Society, then do the employers have to trade with them?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely.

Q About this Crown Prince of Siam, how is he going to get over? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: If he is anything like the King of Siam, he will be pretty good.

Q Are you going on the radio before you leave Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: If I have time. I don't know whether before I leave Washington or before I sail.

Q With reference to the vacation, have you any plans for touching on the Pacific Coast?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I am going to land on the Pacific.

Q On the return?

THE PRESIDENT: Where I am going to land, I do not know, but of course I would like to go up the whole length of the Coast although it seems very doubtful that I would have time at the present time because, as we all know, the Pacific Coast is exceedingly hospitable and if you

go to one place, you have to go to all, and I have to get back to Washington so that the length of time I can be on the Coast will have to be limited. On the way back I am going to specialize, you might say, in going to some of the big projects, like the two Columbia River projects, the Fort Peck project and some of those. Those individual places are not by any means certain but I will go to three or four projects on the way back; it might not be those.

Q Assuming you get away on the twenty-sixth, at what time will you get to the Coast?

THE PRESIDENT: Somewhere around the end of July.

Q About four weeks?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; the total length of time away would be less than five weeks; about four weeks, four days.

Q On this possible radio speech, will that be a general report of your stewardship?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea; none at all. There is one other thing which I noticed somebody had already started to write a piece about, as they say. During the summer -- in case I forgot to mention it -- it looks probably now as if Congress is going to give us some money in order to have a bit more room in the Executive Offices -- this room, too -- and we have, after fifteen or twenty different designs were made, we seem to have arrived at a pretty good design which will have the entire approval and sanction of the Fine Arts Commission and which would at the same time not destroy the general White House plan. There are certain tricks involved in it. A portion of the new space would be underground, hidden entirely by hedges and things like that, with a sunken courtyard and all sorts of tricks, and another portion

of the addition would be up over this (indicating the ceiling) with practically no change except making the attic livable. Then, the third portion would carry a little one-story portico out on that side (indicating) of the Cabinet Room and in that sort of portico effect would be my new office. My new office would be substantially the same design (as this office) but two feet longer and two feet wider. I did that on account of the Press.

Q Just two feet? (Laughter)

Q May I offer a suggestion that you have some bleacher seats for those little guys in the back? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: We are going to have it designed. Did you ever see an operating room in a medical school? We are going to have tiers running around the wall, almost up to the ceiling, so that you can all see the carving.

Q Are you going to the World's Fair on your return?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

(The Press Conference adjourned at 4.20 P. M.)