

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #154,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
October 31, 1934, 10.40 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have a lot of stuff this morning. By special request of the Count (Rudolph de Zapp) and Russell (Mr. Russell Young), there is no reason why you should not know that the Budget estimates, as they are being made up, will include the elimination of the five per cent reduction on Government salaries. In other words, they will be five per cent more than they were this year, than is being paid now.

Q There is still five per cent of the original to go?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it brings it all back.

Q On what basis are you taking that action?

THE PRESIDENT: On the basis that the cost of living has gone up sufficiently by the first of July next year to justify it.

Q Make the newspaper publishers do the same thing. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: By Jove, I think that is a good idea. Let me get after them.

Q Mr. President, have you had your preliminary figures from the Labor Department?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. They have not come in. I did this on general estimates, that is all.

This will apply the first of July next year, the fiscal year 1936. The figures certainly will not show any justification for changing it the first of January. No question about that.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) Do you think that other businesses can do the same?

THE PRESIDENT: Ask the A.P. yourself. Why ask me to do your dirty work for you. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, can we take it, then, that you expect a continuing increase in the cost of living between January first and July first?

THE PRESIDENT: It will go up substantially, without much question. But, at the same time, couple something with that -- it is not fair to use just one-half of it. Couple increases in values thereby lessening the difficulty of paying debts.

Q That is a story for us.

Q Mr. President, do you think then that the October trend in the wholesale price averages, which has been down, will be very shortly reversed?

THE PRESIDENT: October trend? I don't know. It is not out yet, is it?

Q The averages for the first three weeks show rather surprising declines.

THE PRESIDENT: Whose chart are you going by?

Q The National Fertilizer Association. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: It will be interesting to see how that compares with the National Perfumeries Association. (Laughter)

The next order of business is an Executive Order which merges the Executive Council into the National Emergency Council. They have been in large part similar in membership and this order merely makes them one body which is simpler and gets rid of one organization. They are practically the same people that are now on the National Emergency Council. We have added the Chairman of the

Securities and Exchange Commission and the Governor of the Federal Reserve Board. They were neither of them on before.

Q Will there be an executive officer of that Council?

THE PRESIDENT: Just as it is today, Richberg.

Q Is there anything you can tell us on the public works program for the next year or the following year?

THE PRESIDENT: Only what I have read in the papers. (Laughter)

Q The papers say 12 billion dollars.

THE PRESIDENT: Some say 12 and some say 10 and some say 5. You pays your money and takes your choice. In fact, it depends entirely on which paper you read. That reminds me. One man came in the other day and said, "I hear you have a very ambitious public works program, self-liquidating on a 20-year basis." I said, "That is absolutely true. They are planting some black walnut trees in certain areas and it takes them that long to mature."

So far as all these stories go, I think I would avoid guessing for the very reason that final responsibility will be mine and I haven't the vaguest idea at the present time and I probably won't have any until the end of December. We are asking all kinds of departments for all kinds of information so that we will have the whole thing in alignment, relief, public works, soil erosion, planning, and so forth and so on. We are just gathering information, that is all. There isn't another thing to do at the present time.

Q In view of the recent developments and the interest being shown, are you going to recommend that the Costigan-Wagner Bill be passed?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to give me about twenty-four hours because I will have to check up and see what I did last year. I

have forgotten.

Q You endorsed it. You spoke several times, gave out interviews here after the Rolph thing in California.

THE PRESIDENT: Just give me a chance to see what I said.

Q Will you have to hold back your tax program until you know what the total (expenditures) is?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, absolutely. The two go together.

Q Can you make any comment on the present status of the naval discussion?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I will have to refer you to London.

Q Have you read the interview given by Ambassador Saito (of Japan) here yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I just read the headlines.

Q Can you tell us anything about your visit with Stimson (Henry Stimson)?

THE PRESIDENT: As you know, he is a very, very old friend of mine and I have not seen him since he went abroad. He came in and we talked about general world conditions, people he had seen on the other side. There was nothing specific. There was no object to it, just to say, "How do" to him again. He comes to lunch with me every few months.

Q Mr. President, as a practical matter, can all the trucks be brought under regulation?

THE PRESIDENT: All the trucks in the country?

Q Yes, sir; I mean this idea of regulating carriers by trucks.

THE PRESIDENT: I hesitate to talk on the record on that because I do not know what has been found out so far by the various people



working on it.

My own general slant is that you cannot, as a practical matter, regulate every truck in the United States. On the other hand, you probably can regulate regular trucks engaged in regular trucking business. For example, there is a farmer up my way who has a perfectly good truck and when not using it himself he will occasionally take a load down to New York City, if anybody wants to take it down there. He will make \$2. or \$3. out of it. Now, is he a common carrier? I doubt it. He may do it four or five times a year, but he is not in the business. As to him, there are great difficulties. But as to regularly established trucking lines, that is a different thing.

Q Can you tell us about your talk yesterday with Secretary Morgenthau and the gentlemen from the State Department?

THE PRESIDENT: The State Department was just talking about reciprocity and trade agreements -- nothing specific.

Q Did you discuss the most favored nation --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, it was not mentioned; it did not come out at all.

Q Have you any comment to make on the Labor Board's handling of the A.P. strike in Cleveland which, at this point, it appears will probably have a successful conclusion?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope it will have a successful conclusion; that is about all we can say.

Q Have your studies with regard to relief needs for this winter come to where you can discuss them at all?

THE PRESIDENT: Not until the end of December. I could not begin to.

I do not know anything about them. The information is flowing in here and will continue to flow for another couple of months. Yesterday, at the Council meeting, we got a report from the Federal Emergency Relief that is so clear and interesting that I asked Steve (Mr. Early) to have the thing mimeographed for you. It relates to the farm surpluses. You will find it outside. It points out that in the previous winter we had fairly large surpluses with depressed farm prices. A large number of people on relief at that time needed food so the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation purchased these various items of food, thereby reducing the surplus and at the same time feeding the hungry people.

It has all the figures in here and it gives also the figures with respect to the purchase of cattle and the processing of them into food. It also points out that this handling of the problem has saved all those cattle from dying on ranges, and that all the meat was used for relief families. It took 58,000 pounds of tin plate, 128,000 carloads of freight and they used unemployed people to actually can a large amount of food which otherwise would not have been canned.

You can read it yourself; it is one of the clearest statements made yet. It was the report to the Council.

Q Mr. President, sometime ago you said that you were considering the problem of handling surpluses through a national granary. Does this report mention the plans?

THE PRESIDENT: That is still very much in the study stage.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #155,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
November 2, 1934, 4.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought that this would be a small Conference, that most of you had gone home to vote. I am afraid very much that there is a lack of interest in the ballot.

Q. Most of us live here and cannot vote. Can't you fix that for us?

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am going home tonight and there is no reason why I should not give you the following which I wrote down three minutes ago. It is quite short but if you don't want to take it Steve (Mr. Early) will give you copies. (Reading)

"I am returning to my home to cast my ballot as a citizen of the State of New York. I have no hesitancy in making it known that I expect to vote for Governor Lehman and that I hope he will be re-elected.

"In the first place, New York is my home State.

"In the second place, Herbert Lehman served as my Lieutenant Governor for four years and in that capacity earned my admiration as a public official and my warm regard as a man."

Only one more paragraph:

"In the third place, as Governor he has made good. He has shown courage, energy, fine administrative and executive qualities and, above all, a deep interest in and understanding of the welfare and needs of the citizens of our State."

Das ist alles.

Q. Do you expect to see Governor Lehman at Hyde Park before Election Day?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I cannot. He is in the middle of a campaign.

Then I have one other piece of news. I have just signed an Executive Order extending the Automobile Manufacturing Code to February one.

Q As it stands, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. The Executive Order is long but it changes the date and that is all. I received the request from the Automobile Manufacturers' Association, asking for an extension without change.

No. 2, Steve (Mr. Early) will give you afterwards -- we haven't had time to get it typewritten and mimeographed, you can get it in about fifteen minutes -- a statement -- I will read it to you hurriedly so you can get an idea of it. (Reading)

"With the extending of the Automobile Manufacturing Code, it is my purpose to institute a study which may contribute toward improvements in stabilizing employment in the industry and reducing further the effects of the seasonal factors. The manufacturers themselves have taken important steps since I first discussed the subject with them some months ago.

"In addition to what they have done and are doing in omitting their national shows and staggering the introduction of new models, I believe that we should develop further facts on the seasonal peaks and valleys of production in their bearing upon employment.

"I have not asked the manufacturers to agree that such an inquiry should be made. I have thought it better to bring the inquiry about under my executive powers.

"The manufacturers have cooperated in supporting the Administration's program in the past. I am confident that they will also cooperate with the Administration in this way in serving the purposes of Recovery and will consider with an open mind any practical suggestions that may arise out of the inquiry. And I am also confident that in this I shall have the interest and cooperation of labor."

Then, in addition to that -- does this go out too?



MR. EARLY: No, sir.

Q What is it?

THE PRESIDENT: There is no reason why the fact of it going out should not be known. Do you see any reason why we should not give out the whole letter?

MR. EARLY: You never give out a letter in advance of its being sent.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says I cannot give it out until it is sent.

MR. EARLY: You can tell them what you are doing.

THE PRESIDENT: I am sending a letter to Mr. Green (William Green, President of the A.F. of L.) and the same letter to Mr. Alvan Macauley, who is secretary (President) of the Automobile Manufacturers' Association. The same letter goes to him and to Mr. Green, telling them that I am going to start this study and pointing out that there are a good many examples which make it very advisable for this study to be made on the question of annual earnings as against the mere question of day rates, and saying that after such investigations it will be possible for me to determine definitely on a factual basis as to whether it will be necessary to arrange for a public hearing, and that I will arrange for a conference with them as soon as I get back.

I give out the letter as soon as it is sent.

Q A conference with labor or manufacturers?

THE PRESIDENT: With me.

Q Is it a labor conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I will have them all in to confer with me.

Q When are you coming back, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Tuesday night or Wednesday night, I do not know which.

It depends on how much snow we have up there -- I said, "snow."

Q Mr. President, in your statement regarding Governor Lehman in New York, there is no mention of Senator Copeland. Was that an oversight?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I am not taking up anybody else on the ticket.

Q Mr. President, you are voting the straight Democratic ticket?

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Stevie (Mr. Stephenson), it would be amusing if anybody knew how often I have voted for individual Republicans.

Q Mr. President, what, if any, recourse is left to us if any one of the signatories to the nine-power pact completely disregards the obligations under it?

THE PRESIDENT: Say it again.

Q What, if any, recourse is left to us, if any one of the signatories to the ~~Nine-Power~~ **P**act completely disregards the obligations under it?

THE PRESIDENT: I will get out my library on that subject. I think there have been twelve volumes written on it so far.

Q You haven't given any thought to it yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, any comment to make on the improved condition in the oil industry as the result of your Board's operation in Texas?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Secretary Ickes lunched with me today and was very happy over what he believed to be the fact that this new method seems to be working and that the bootlegging of oil, at least for the moment, has come to an end. He was very much pleased because, as you know, the situation got down to a critical point ten days

ago -- it was touch and go as to whether the thing would blow up in our face or not.

Q Now that you have seen Davis' (Norman Davis) report on the London conference, can we induce you to tell us whether -- or at least comment on it?

THE PRESIDENT: Which report?

Q The report you had on your desk last Wednesday?

THE PRESIDENT: There have been six or eight since then. That (report you mention) is entirely out of date.

Q Anything you can tell us?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing we can say except that we are still hoping for a favorable outcome.

Q Any comment on Harriman's (Henry Harriman) statement regarding his plea for a housing program?

THE PRESIDENT: Who is that, Averill Harriman?

Q No, the Chamber of Commerce man.

THE PRESIDENT: No. Has he a plan?

Q It was described this morning in the papers.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know it.

Q He advocated putting some \$15,000,000,000. into housing, principally smaller houses.

THE PRESIDENT: Is that all?

Q It is a rather large sum.

THE PRESIDENT: That is almost worthy of a New York Times headline.

(Laughter) That is a dirty crack on my part but, Charlie (Mr. Hurd of the New York Times), it is well merited.

Q Mr. President, while we are on housing, has there been any reaction

to plans announced last night for 5 per cent interest on mortgage bonds?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. Of course I have given a great deal of thought to that question and Moffett is right that probably in certain areas of the country that have 8 or 10 or 12 per cent interest it is going to prevent or slow up private capital going into mortgages on a lower basis, but it is a part of the general plan throughout the country looking toward the reduction of exorbitant and usurious rates, and the principle is more important than anything else at this time. We have to educate people that if they get a sound, insured mortgage under present conditions 5 per cent is quite enough for money to earn. I am sure that there will be plenty of people glad to put out their money for 5 per cent even in those sections of the country that charge 10 or 12 per cent. I feel very strongly on that subject. One of the things that has prevented progress is usury.

Q Senator-Elect Bilbo is coming in to see you?

THE PRESIDENT: He is coming in to see me in about twenty minutes.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

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



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #156,  
Held in the President's Study at Hyde Park,  
November 7, 1934, 1.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I commend to your attention -- you can take it away and read it if you want -- last night's editorial written in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle. It is probably one of the best things that has been said about Government in a long, long time. I do not know that there is anything more to say about it than that, but it is an awfully good editorial. I will let you have it if you will give it back to me.

Q Was that in yesterday's paper?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, written before the polls closed.

Q Does it meet with your hearty approval?

THE PRESIDENT: It meets with my very hearty approval as a statement about Democratic government, that it still lives. If you carry anything about it, you ought to carry the whole editorial and not a part of it because it ties in together.

Q If you were in our position, called upon to write an interpretive piece, would you interpret the verdict as an approval of what had happened or as a mandate to proceed further?

THE PRESIDENT: You must have got to bed early to talk about interpreting stories today. He has a very strong mind.

Q I think it was a slug at gin this morning. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: It must be hell to have to interpret.

Q It speaks for itself.

Q It is, at times.

THE PRESIDENT: It must be terrible. But you know, that is one reason

why -- this is a severe thing to say and I just say it strictly in the family and off the record -- why the American public today are paying less and less attention to news stories because so many of them have become interpretive. That really is true. You pays your money and takes your choice. Now, the press associations have got away from it pretty well and most of the individual papers are demanding interpretive stories. I know how hard it is and I must say it is hell to write them and I think it is a mistake for newspapers to go over into that field in the news stories. They are beginning to lose public confidence in news. I have a sort of sixth sense about the public and they are beginning to lose it more and more.

Q You cannot fool the public.

THE PRESIDENT: It is a very serious question for the future of the American newspaper. I really, honestly believe that.

Q As I understand it, give the people the facts and let them judge for themselves.

THE PRESIDENT: That is the point, give them the facts and nothing else. In other words, *reductio ad absurdum*. That is the substance, because if I take Henry Morgenthau from Washington back to Dutchess County, there isn't anything behind the fact. But the story that says, "In all probability this means that foreign debt was discussed," or something like that, that is not news, that is just a wild stab in the dark, which is wrong, 99 per cent wrong at times. But, on the other hand, your own offices call for that sort of thing and what the hell are we going to do about it? Do you think that is wise? I know you don't agree with that.

Q If we had some inkling about what Morgenthau talked about, we would be justified in intimating that.

MR. MCINTYRE: His argument is that anybody who reads it does his own interpreting.

Q If we actually knew --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, if we talked debts, yes.

Q That is the way I feel about it. It is the feeling of the newspapers themselves.

THE PRESIDENT: It is not the feeling of any of you people, I am thinking about the general policy of the people who run individual newspapers in this country in going into the interpretive features of it rather than the news.

Q Do you think there is a public demand for that sort of thing or is it because they have been educated up to it?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there is a big demand. It goes along to the extreme of the Drew Pearson and the Walter Winchell -- that is the extreme of it -- and of course it has been aided and abetted by the popularity, quite frankly, of people like Mark Sullivan.

Q May I say something and put yourself in our place --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I do all the time; that is just it.

Q We get a query on it from twelve up to two at night that a fellow says this about it --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) And so you have to say something?

Q We don't have to but nevertheless it is what we are here for.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course it puts an awful burden on the Government end of it. For example, as a concrete case, the other day, last Friday, somebody said, "Are you including Copeland in this?" I

should have gone into a long explanation when I said I was going to vote for Lehman. I said, "No, I am not including anybody but Lehman." I should have gone ahead and explained it but I did not do it because I forgot to.

Q That did leave (room for) an interpretation there but I think the average fellow knew you didn't mean it that way.

THE PRESIDENT: I was so simple that I did not think of it at the time.

MR. MCINTYRE: That is one case where he did not blame the boys.

THE PRESIDENT: Not a bit -- that was my fault.

Q Mr. President, do you think the ordinary -- I won't say the ordinary but the intelligent reader of a newspaper is in a position to form, to judge on a bare presentation of the facts?

THE PRESIDENT: Pretty close to it, yes.

Q I should say so.

Q It is not from lack of intelligence but merely because they are out of the atmosphere in which it is occurring. I personally think that the reason the newspapers are going in for more interpretive writers is because there is an overwhelming demand for it.

Q There is a demand for gossip.

Q I am not referring to gossip so much. I am speaking of interpretation. They want the best opinion they can get, even if they read three or four in order to get different interpretations, on the ground that they want it from competent observers, particularly at a time like this when there is so much doubt.

THE PRESIDENT: Again you get into the difficulty of any person writing interpretive stories. For instance, Mark Sullivan -- a great friend of mine -- if Mark wrote once a week he would be much more



effective than if he wrote once a day. No human being can write a story once a day. He has to write a whole lot of pure bunk in order to fill his space.

Q I believe a lot of the papers are demanding interpretive stories simply on a competitive basis with Time Magazine and so on. They all want their readers to believe that they have the same sources of inside information, whether they have or not. The others purport to have and do not have.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is one of the most difficult problems we have and the only reason I am talking about this at all is that I do sense that newspapers have a lot less influence than they had fifteen or twenty years ago.

MR. McINTYRE: Of course, if I were on that side of the fence instead of this, I could make a very interpretive --

THE PRESIDENT: How?

MR. McINTYRE: Give the boys that write those stories a little more leads.

THE PRESIDENT: By God, I give them all the leads I can think of. I don't want to get into the dissertation stage.

Q Of course, Mr. President, our job is always finding out what you are going to do.

THE PRESIDENT: About two-thirds of the time I do not know.

Q Mr. President, do you expect any change in the relief policy before Congress meets?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Well, there I can give you something but we will have to make it off the record. I have to keep it off the record because we don't know what the thing is going to develop into.

Q Do you mean off the record or just background?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely off the record so you will know what we are thinking about. It has not got to the stage of background because you cannot write about it without giving the slant that we are going to do something one way or the other. It is almost impossible.

You take this morning, I was talking to Jim Townsend, who is County Chairman here. He knows this county extremely well. I was talking to him about the people on relief in this county. Of course this was not from a political angle at all. I said, "How many of them do you think are chiselers?" "Well," he said, "I should say somewhere between 15 and 20 per cent." I said, "So where are they?"

He said, "Here is where they come in: you will find in the relief office at Poughkeepsie that three or four of the girls employed there come from families who have plenty of money to get by with. The girls don't need relief. Then, they hired fourteen engineers and of the fourteen engineers only about three of them were engineers who were absolutely up against it." I said, "Are there any more engineers up against it around here?" He said, "Yes, there are lots of them."

He told me about the eleven who could get by.

Then you get out into the towns and the human element comes into it. It does not make any difference whether it is a Democratic township or a Republican township. It comes through the supervisor and naturally they pick their friends first. It is a very difficult problem to handle as at present constituted.

Now, if that is true in Dutchess County, it is true in every state of the Union. It is not all Democratic and Republican politics, personal favoritism enters into it too. A great deal is personal favoritism. You will help your friends and build yourself up. The local fellow wants to be known as the man who hands out the jobs. It is perfectly natural.

Now, how can we avoid that?

I said, "What is happening to the mental slant of those people on relief?" "Well," he said, "it is bad, for the reason that if it is home relief, a grocery store order or cash, they will barely get by in their families; nobody works and they just bum around all day. There is nothing to do. It is very bad for them, obviously. We ought, if we can, to give them work."

I said, "How about work? A lot of them are on some kind of work." "Well," he said, "I will give you an illustration: In the back part of the Town of Pleasant Valley here, they are putting in a mile of road and they have 150 people, work relief people, on that mile of road. They are supposed to work 8 hours a day. Most of them work 5 days a week. But there is a general feeling on the part of everybody who sees that work that the people who are in charge of them almost give the order, 'Do not exert yourselves. Do not push yourselves. Spread it out as long as you can.'"

Now, that is a waste of money. They probably waste at least 50 per cent of the money spent for labor on that road. It is inefficient.

They had a lot of people this summer around here. They were at work cleaning and cutting grass on the highways. That does

not bring in anything. It is not constructive.

Now, that applies to almost every county in the United States. The result is that most of the relief money spent -- of course part of it is local money and part state and part Federal but the great bulk of it will never come back, not alone to the Government but it won't come back to the Nation in the form of permanent improvements.

Therefore, we are trying to find some method by which all this relief money will be made to do one of two things, either make a practical contribution to the wealth of the Nation such as, for instance, if you take a valley, a little valley, and go in for soil erosion, to prevent the topsoil from running off, to prevent flood damage and to use the land in the best way possible by planting trees and things like that. That is work which, if it is efficiently performed, will give wealth to the Nation. The other thing we are trying to do is to get this money, as far as we can, returned to the Government so that we can pay off the debts. You see, we have to borrow it therefore we are trying to find more and more self-liquidating projects.

The objective, therefore, is twofold -- threefold: First, to eliminate -- don't call it graft -- but to eliminate the 10, 15 or 20 per cent of the people who are on relief and who ought not to be on relief. The second thing is to put the money either into the kind of thing that will add to the national wealth even if it does not come back to the Government or, secondly, into the kind of public works that will liquidate themselves and have the money returned to the Government so that it can pay off the debt



incurred when it was borrowed.

Now, that involves a tremendous search -- you might call it such at the present time -- a tremendous search problem and everybody is working on it. The idea is to see whether, with next year's relief money that is to be divided up between three organizations, really, the C.C.C. camps, public works and Harry Hopkins, to see whether we cannot use all of that expenditure to take people off what we call home relief, that is cash and grocery orders, and put them on useful work instead.

Now, that is the thing we are groping for and we are only in the groping stage. We have no idea how much money it will cost. And, as I said the other day, you can put the figures anywhere from 2 billion to 100 billion. We have no idea of figures but we have an objective. We don't want to come out with new ideas and the objective of spending money in line with objectives unless we know the amount involved and unless we feel fairly certain that if Congress gives us so much money to relieve unemployment for the following year that we will be able to spend all of that money. In other words, unlike public works, the money will have to be put to work quickly.

One trouble with public works at the present time is that you have to plan each project very carefully in order to prevent waste and, when we do allocate the money, we do not have the assurance that it will go to work even that fiscal year. When we do a job, we want to do a 100 per cent job, and that is a difficult thing.

That is, really, the only way I can explain the whole situation to you, the present situation. We have to have something by

the third of January on it. What it will be, I don't know.

Q You expect to present a program, then?

THE PRESIDENT: For example, in looking over all of these 150 or 200 different suggestions to carry out that objective, we must decide that this particular thing looks darn good and lift it out of the general pile and say that that is something we can accept. It is a process of weeding out those things which are out of the question and accepting the things that look pretty good.

Q Is there any indication as yet, any tangible figure at all, on the amount of absorption from these Government rolls into active private industry or business?

THE PRESIDENT: I would say that there is a constant absorption. The only figures we have got are these C.C.C. figures which were given out two weeks ago and which show that of the last batch of the C.C.C. boys who finished their six months or a year in a camp, a larger percentage got jobs than the previous crowd. One reason for it is that the average employer thinks that these C.C.C. fellows are pretty good. They have some training and know how to work and have the right mental attitude and they are glad to employ them.

Now, if we can develop that idea -- not the C.C.C. camps but the theory of developing jobs for fellows that are really jobs and make them work at it, they stand a better chance of being taken back into employment. I would not want to take this fellow on the road who has been cutting grass this summer in Hyde Park. He has been working perhaps 3 days a week and out of every day he has been doing just about 1 hour and 10 minutes of useful work. He has become a working bum. I would not take him on my farm but I

would take the C.C.C. boy at this Staatsburgh Camp.

- Q Then the general idea of the work you can put these people on and the way you can get this money out and give the workers a definite education and training and be able to build morale, et cetera, is a big part of the program?

THE PRESIDENT: A big part of the program, and necessarily. It does involve probably more concentrated work on larger projects rather than this absolutely diffused work at the present time of six men working here and ten men working there. In order to make it more efficient we have to do it with infinitely better supervision and of course that calls for larger units, unquestionably.

- Q Is there any danger in putting these men to work on definite work projects, instead of keeping them on the roads or on home relief as you call it, thereby -- this is a difficult question to frame -- thereby possibly removing some potential possibilities for construction or industrial work that may be done by industry? In other words, is there any danger of going ahead and spending a great deal of money on roads and buildings, even public buildings, and cutting down the amount of work which may be done by private industry? Must all the work that is being done to give relief, must all that work be non-competitive with private industry?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course building roads does not represent competition. That does not interfere with private business. Putting up a public building does not interfere with private industry. I will give you an illustration: I got a long letter from Joseph P. Day, who is tremendously interested and who is a very old friend of mine. We are carrying on correspondence at the present time trying to

develop ideas. He feels that if we go in for slum clearance in New York City it is going to hurt private enterprise. That is very possible. Well, I wrote him back and I dictated the letter this morning. I told him, "I want you to think about two things before you come down to Washington. The first is this: The cost of a properly financed building is made high because it is very difficult to get private money in" -- he wrote me that he is very much against limited dividend corporations -- "at less than the reasonable expected return of 6 per cent, 5 or 6 per cent. But if you charge 5 or 6 per cent it is almost impossible to provide really cheap housing and that brings up the second question: The objective in New York City is to provide rooms that will rent for \$5 per room for a month or say \$6 maximum. If it is properly financed, it is almost impossible to turn anything out at less than \$11 or \$12 a room a month. Now, who are the people we are trying to help in the City of New York? Who are the people living in the slums? They are people having a family income of less than \$1,000 a year and there are several hundred thousand families. Those are the people who inhabit the slums. They cannot pay that rental. Of course, you have Fred French's Knickerbocker Village. That eliminates a lot of old tenements but the people there in Fred French's district are mostly financial district workers who are able to pay \$13 or \$14 a month, which he charges."

Q Do you know what the charges were before?

THE PRESIDENT: Around \$6 under terrible conditions.

MR. McINTYRE: Your luncheon has been waiting for you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Then, the other thing which I said to Joe Day: "I want



you to think about another thing. It will be an awful shock to you. New York City has seven million people in it. Can it give work to more than six million?" That is a question mark and is an awful shock to, let us say, the real estate people in New York. There are a million people too many. Suppose we could come back to the 1929 level of industry? Wouldn't we still have a million people on relief in the City of New York? A lot of people think we would.

Q What is the answer to that?

THE PRESIDENT: Decentralization of population.

Q Who is going to do that?

THE PRESIDENT: Planning. We will have to invent a new word that is different from "planning". For instance, we are talking with the automobile industry, with General Electric and Westinghouse and the steel corporations about the possibility of their taking small units and putting them away from the big centers, putting them in small towns. The same thing is going on in England and on the Continent. There are probably too darn many people in the big centers.

Q But, if you take a million people out of the City of New York won't you still have a problem? In other words, that won't solve the problem because you will have a million people less consumption there and it will only reduce your unemployment from a million to say 750,000 or 500,000.

THE PRESIDENT: No, because with people living on relief consumption is terribly low. That brings up just one more point which is just a rule of thumb. Suppose I have got an unemployed individual in

the City of New York with a family of three or four, with a wife and several children, on home relief. It would probably cost the Government as a whole, city, state and Federal, about \$500 to support him and his family for a year, to pay the rent, buy the food and buy the clothing. That is all that goes to encourage consumption in this country, that \$500. Suppose I give him work, useful work, the kind of work I am trying to find, and pay him \$1,000 a year in wages. I have doubled his consumption.

MR. McINTYRE: I think we ought to have a distinct understanding before we get out that this is off the record.

THE PRESIDENT: This has got to be off the record. None of it should be printed yet because, as I say, we are merely groping toward an ideal. How far we can get to it by practical recommendations we don't know yet.

MR. McINTYRE: The most important matter has not come up yet. When do you think the pool ought to be split? I am not sure about Vermont yet; that is the reason I am holding out.

THE PRESIDENT: I think Vermont is overboard and I am afraid Michigan is overboard this morning.

MR. McINTYRE: I think about half and half; I think Vandenberg is elected.

THE PRESIDENT: I think so too.

Q Here are some figures but there is nothing about the various states.

THE PRESIDENT: I probably have as good information as anybody this morning.

Q I think you have better information than any of us. Of course we were up all morning studying this.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no question about this. I lose very badly.

Q Every one of us has studied. I do not know who wins.

MR. McINTYRE: I think Grace (Miss Tully) does; she put "D" all along the line.

THE PRESIDENT: Grace started in by saying, "How am I going to vote?

I do not know any of these people; I do not know any of these states;

I am going to put a 'D' after every name."

Q Then I know who wins.

THE PRESIDENT: That is all right.

Q Did you hear whether Governor Ritchie won in Maryland?

THE PRESIDENT: I asked Charlie Michelson and Charlie did not know.

Q Have you heard about Wyoming?

THE PRESIDENT: It is all right.

Q Did the Governor come through?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the whole ticket.

Q Not wanting to do any interpreting, does your statement that you lost on the pool mean that the Democratic landslide was a surprise to you? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I wasn't going to pass up twenty-eight or thirty dollars, you know. (Laughter)

Q You do not mind if we print you on that, do you? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I talked to Jim (Mr. Farley) this morning -- and that is also off the record. He said that Rhode Island came through by thirty thousand for Green, which again, off the record, surprised me very much because I thought that labor would have it in for Green ordering out militia and trying to get me to get out the troops.

MISS LeHAND: I am going to eat, Mr. President.

Q Is there anything we can write about the election from the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know how you can, Fred (Mr. Storm), because, heavens, what can I say?

Q We can begin by saying that you are obviously cheerful, but where do we go from there? (Laughter)

Q Are you going to see anybody later today?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know of anybody. I am going to see an awful lot of people between tomorrow and next Thursday, flocks of people including, I think tomorrow, Bob LaFollette.

Q Is Phil coming too?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: Don't you think he had his fill of LaFollette? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I will see lots of people over the week end, just trying to clean up before we go down.

Q Have you had any late reports on Georgia, whether that corn is aged sufficiently for us to tackle it again? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Ambassador Long has an appointment, Prime Minister Steinhardt of Norway also has an appointment.

Q That is tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: Long is tomorrow and I think Steinhardt is the next day.

Q He is Sweden?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I really don't know that there is anything at all to say.

MR. McINTYRE: We will notify you of the returns.

THE PRESIDENT: I think Grace is going to win.

Q I picked four or five Republicans there. I know I should have gone right down the line.



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #157,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
November 9, 1934, 4.15 P.M.

Q Did you win the pool?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I was next to the worst.

Q I heard that Mac (Mr. McIntyre) is leading, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Mac is leading. We have got to hear from Cutting first.

Q It looks like he is licked.

THE PRESIDENT: Cutting is licked? Mac wins then.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: We are trying to find out which member of the Press won the Hyde Park pool.

There isn't any news. You are all written out and I am all talked out, so there we are.

Q Mr. President, would it be a good guess --

THE PRESIDENT: Now, wait! (Laughter) Do rephrase it.

Q Might we speculate on the probability -- (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you a third guess.

Q Well, to put it politely, is General MacArthur still going to be Chief of Staff after the seventeenth?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I do not know anything about it.

Q Is Farley going to continue as Democratic National Chairman?

THE PRESIDENT: I have done nothing about it.

Q Anything you can tell us about Governor Ritchie's defeat?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Now do not go and say that I declined to say anything about it and therefore my silence was fraught with implica-

tions. I am not saying anything about individuals, either defeated or elected.

Q Can you tell us anything about a budget, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: It is coming along pretty well. I had a nice talk with Congressman Buchanan yesterday and he is going to ask some members of his subcommittees to come up here -- he told you about it -- early in December and we will have a number of the principal tentative estimates ready for those subcommittees. He felt he could not call all (of the members) of his subcommittees together, because the membership of some of the others has practically disappeared -- it has disintegrated or members are serving on the other subcommittees so could not handle both jobs, but I think he said there were four or five of those subcommittees that would be able to go through those estimates early in December. I have very nearly finished; I have only three more departments to go through.

Q Did you reach a total?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, heavens, no.

Q Could you indicate which subcommittees were --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) He (Buchanan) did tell me but I would be afraid -- you had better get it from him. One was the Treasury-Post Office Bill; another was a bill that had four departments, State, Commerce, Justice and Labor. Is that right?

Q That is right.

THE PRESIDENT: I have forgotten the other two.

Q The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Tidewater Association seems to indicate that there has been some change in the St. Lawrence Treaty since the last session. Has there been any change in that up to date?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose there is no particular -- that sort of puts me in a hole because I do not know whether I want to answer that on the record or for background. Suppose you put it this way: I think it is perfectly all right because, naturally, I do not want to step on anybody's toes. When Under Secretary Phillips was in Ottawa, he spoke informally with the Prime Minister in regard to one or two small changes which he hoped that we could discuss. That is, really, as far as it has got.

Q Do you recall what the Prime Minister said, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Do you recall what the Prime Minister said, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he has taken it under advisement.

Q Did you hear of Buchanan's hope of a short session in the Seventy-fourth Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I always do.

Q Could you tell us whether those one or two small changes had reference to Lake Michigan?

THE PRESIDENT: I can give you this as background, simply repeating what I have said so often to the Chicago papers. They might just as well get it through their heads once and for all and then you won't have to ask questions again. Under common law, if I am a property owner on a stream, I can use the water of that stream for drinking purposes, for feeding cattle, for running a mill wheel, but I have got to put that water back into the stream.

Now, that is common law and if it is the common law between two people that our civilization is founded on, it is certainly common law between nations. The United States has not the right

and never will have the right to divert water from one watershed into another watershed to the detriment of somebody that lives downstream. Furthermore, the Supreme Court has said that it would not be reasonable to divert more than the amount provided for by treaty. And, number three, the Army states in absolutely categorical terms that that amount of water is sufficient for navigation from Lake Michigan out to the Mississippi.

They might just as well get that through their heads in Chicago; they have enough water and they won't get any more water.

Q The power company is keeping up its fight against the Alcorn County Power Plant. After losing in the State courts, they have gone into the Federal courts and asked for an injunction on the ground that it is illegal constitutionally.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't anything on that.

Q Can you tell us whether you have anything on the Newspaper Code or the Special Newspaper Code?

THE PRESIDENT: Only that I had Heywood Broun and some of your other members at Hyde Park the other day. I promised two things and that is since the hearing was held in December I would take the matter up immediately, and number two, that I hope very much that the Press Associations will take part in these hearings on the general theory that a press association is a news collecting agency and not a country club. That is off the record, that part of it. That is merely for Stevie (Mr. Stephenson) (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, I did not say the Newspaper Code -- I meant to say the Newsprint Code.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know what has happened on that.



Q I understand it has come to you.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't it and Mac (Mr. McIntyre) hasn't it and I haven't got it.

Q Any plans over the week end?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except to clean up a lot of things before we go away Thursday. Everything else is all quiet. Lots of conferences.

Q Can you tell us anything about a naval pact in London?

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to tell you this off the record. After I read this morning's papers, I got a bit worried and I called up Bill Phillips and I said, "What is the news from London?" He said, "None," and told me that up to an hour ago there hadn't been anything from Norman Davis, not a thing.

Q What were you worried about?

THE PRESIDENT: It looked quite serious. One or two of the dispatches had it that the British and Japs got into a jam. This is off the record because I haven't any news.

Q There is a report around town that the present Minister to Norway may be replaced.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a report around town. It had not got here until you mentioned it.

Q Is there anything to the report that the Department of Agriculture will give up the Forestry Service, to be transferred to the Interior Department?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you contemplate any radio speeches in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose when I get back from Warm Springs. In the last radio talk I did not talk about relief and lots of things.

Q It will be on the state of the Nation?

THE PRESIDENT: Sometime early in December.

Q Are you planning to go down to Arlington Sunday (on Armistice Day)?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Sunday at eleven o'clock.

Q Have you a telegram from the Acting Director of Housing in San Francisco asking for more money?

THE PRESIDENT: Mac (Mr. McIntyre) says I have got a telegram; I have not seen it yet. It will probably go to Secretary Ickes.

Q They want more housing.

THE PRESIDENT: As I understand it, the Federal Housing Administrator out there reached his quota and wants to get more money.

MR. MCINTYRE: He wants to get a quota increase because it has gone over the top.

THE PRESIDENT: Good; fine.

Q Will you make a speech (at Arlington)?

THE PRESIDENT: The one minute of silence, just the way it was last year.

Q Will you say anything about a relief program?

THE PRESIDENT: We are still working on it awfully hard. We have been talking about it once a week every week in the evening. We have had different groups of people.

Q Any tentative figure?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is the new Federal Reserve Governor in sight yet?

THE PRESIDENT: You are getting warm. Pretty soon.

Q What did you tell the Executive Committee of the railroad executives?

THE PRESIDENT: They were just in to tell me that they were organized

and ready and I told them any time they wanted to see me to let me know.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #158,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
November 14, 1934, 10.35 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Russell (Mr. Young) asked a question about a story that was given out about the publication of the volume of naval documents and thereby hangs a tale. I do not think there is any particular news in it but a great many years ago, in 1913, when I first went to the Navy Department I started a tour of inspection and I got up under the eaves in the old State, War and Navy Building and I found a place full of old war records and I went into them to find out what records they were and I found that they were all the Captains' letters from the Captains of the early frigates. They were in awful condition, just all falling apart. They had been loosely bound together somewhere between 1830 and 1840 and book-worms had got in and they were being eaten. We rescued those and shortly after that we started the Naval Records Division in the Navy Department, putting Dudley Knox in charge and this past year I started an experiment which I hope will extend to a lot of other Government publications. We have in the Navy an enormous amount of very valuable historical manuscript material. In the past, the custom has been to print it at a very large expense and hand it out through members of the Administration and members of the Congress free of charge. Last year we got from the Congress an appropriation which I hope will become a revolving fund. It is only \$10,000. but it is to be used for the printing of these old Navy records and people will subscribe to them and we will only



print the number of volumes that are subscribed to. They will be printed on better paper than the ordinary Congressional document and will therefore last. We hope to get the revolving fund and we hope to get back the cost of each volume into that revolving fund. In other words, you might say that with that cash capital of \$10,000., if the Congress grants this revolving fund, we will be able, eventually, to print all the old historical records.

Q Can you tell us what the price will be?

THE PRESIDENT: It won't be a popular book; it will be a book for libraries, for students, for historians, et cetera. It depends on what it costs. If it costs \$5,000. to print and 500 people subscribe, it will be \$10. a volume.

Q Have you heard anything from Davis (Norman H. Davis)?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not a word and nothing came in yesterday.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on reports that a plan for greatly increased Government control over public utilities is being formulated under your direction?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely nothing I know of. There is a report -- isn't there some kind of a power board under the Secretary of the Interior, under his chairmanship, that is working on a report on power? I think so. I am a little vague as to who is on it (the committee) but in any event there is nothing new. It is just coordinating activities.

In that connection, I have one more story that has some merit in it. As you know, with all the old departments and new activities, we have been studying the last few months the desirability of coordinating them and tying them in together and there have been

various interdepartmental boards, committees -- they were informal, most of them -- they were interdepartmental committees appointed to study and report on this, that or the other thing. So the other day -- I think you had better leave this off the record because it is on me -- somebody came in and said, "What about the report of such and such an interdepartmental board?" I said, "I never heard of it." They said, "Yes, you established it six months ago." I had to go back in my files to remind myself that I had established it.

Under those conditions you are very apt to get lost in the shuffle and so we decided, in the Council meeting yesterday, that we would examine into the number of these boards, how many there are, how many have completed their work -- a good many have already completed their work -- and as to which ones could properly be tied in in such a way that their existence will not be forgotten by the President.

The first step we took was to make the Interdepartmental Committee on Merchant Marine, which was merely a studying committee and which has nearly completed its work, to make that a subcommittee of the Emergency Council, and at each meeting of the Emergency Council the chairman of that subcommittee will be required to report his existence, at least his existence. He may have something interesting to tell us but in any event he will report through the secretary of the Emergency Council, Mr. Richberg. It might be only a report that they are still alive and making progress.

Q Who is the chairman, can you tell us?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; it is merely a good example.

Then we created another interdepartmental committee which we have had in mind for some time, but we have created it as a subcommittee of the Emergency Council. Steve (Mr. Early) will give you the names of the people on it afterwards -- it is too long to take it down -- but the object is to tie in all of the Government lending agencies so that the lending agencies will not be doing an overlapping business. Obviously, all of that ties up into finance, therefore the Secretary of the Treasury was appointed the chairman of this subcommittee, which will consist of the Secretary of the Interior, who makes loans to municipalities and extends Government credit; the Farm Credit Administration; the R.F.C.; the H.O.L.C.; the Home Loan Bank Board; the Emergency Administrator of Public Works; the Public Housing Corporation; the Federal Housing Administration; the A.A.A.; the president of the Export-Import Banks; the Commodity Credit Corporation; the governor of the Federal Reserve Board and others.

As I say, that committee will meet from time to time and report back to the Emergency Council on coordinating all of the work of lending by all the departments of the Government concerned.

Now, there may be other committees and as we discover them, they will be made subcommittees of the Emergency Council.

Q Is it likely that the action taken yesterday with regard to the Home Loan Corporation, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, in closing off all applications because the emergency is over can be duplicated soon in connection with the Farm Credit Administration?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; you are a little previous. I cannot tell you that until around the first of January.

Q Are we to assume also that the action in regard to the H.O.L.C. indicates a desire on your part to close up these emergency agencies or to restrict them in their scope as rapidly as recovery permits?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. I would not write too much about that because we won't know definitely at all until around the first of January. Of course, in the case of the H.O.L.C., as I understand it, the number of applications they have got in, when reduced to terms of those that will pass, those that will be accepted, will use up the whole \$3,000,000,000. Well, they have only got \$3,000,000,000. at the present time. What we will do later, I do not know.

Q Can you give us any hint of the status of Dr. Hutchins? There are reports that he is no longer under consideration.

THE PRESIDENT: There has been nothing new on it at all.

Q Mr. President, is there anything new about the Chief of Staff of the Army?

THE PRESIDENT: No and I told Steve (Mr. Early) this morning that I doubt whether there will be until I get back from Warm Springs.

Q Will there be some strengthening of the foreign trade activities of the Department of Commerce in view of the reciprocal arrangements?

THE PRESIDENT: Do you mean more commercial attachés and things like that?

Q I mean the whole activities.

THE PRESIDENT: I doubt it.

Q General MacArthur's term would expire before you got back, would it not?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it expires tomorrow.



MR. MCINTYRE: That is the four-year usual term but there is no definite time limit on the appointment of Chief of Staff. He can continue.

THE PRESIDENT: It is just the same way in the Army and the Navy. Any bureau chief stays on until his successor is appointed.

Q Is there any likelihood of asking Congress for more H.O.L.C. funds?

THE PRESIDENT: I was just saying that I do not know. I cannot tell you anything on that until January.

Q Would you care to comment on Chairman Jones' suggestion for modification of the Triple A?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean Marvin Jones? I do not know; I have not heard anything about it. What did he do?

Q He suggested that the benefit be paid on the portion of the crop raised for domestic consumption and that individual restrictions be loosened.

THE PRESIDENT: That is going back to one of the old theories. I do not know; I have not read it.

We are leaving tomorrow afternoon, sometime. I do not know whether you know the schedule. Is there any reason why it should not be given out soon?

(Mr. Early indicated a negative.)

Anybody interested can stay behind and they can see the schedule.

Q What Cabinet officers --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Secretary Hull is going with me and Secretary Ickes. Secretary Ickes leaves after Chipley and Secretary Hull leaves at Knoxville to come back to Washington.

Q How about Senator Norris?

THE PRESIDENT: He could not come because he had a date arranged about six months ago. I am awfully sorry he could not come.

Q So is he.

Q What time do you leave?

THE PRESIDENT: Four o'clock, standard time.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference #159,

In the President's Cottage on the Georgia

Warm Springs Foundation, Warm Springs, Georgia,

November 21, 1934, 10.30 A. M.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Drape yourselves around. Sit on the sofa, Russell (Mr. Young). Fred (Mr. Storm) does not have to sit down today; he is a little in the light, otherwise he is all right.

Well, I asked the Trustees (of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation) to come here today because we have been working on this thing for about a couple of weeks now, on the subject of a Birthday Ball. The easiest way to describe it is to give you the letters all about it. Henry L. Doherty suggested another Birthday Ball and we put it up to the Trustees and the Trustees made a recommendation which, really, is in two parts. You will get this thing (indicating mimeographed release). The first is:

(Reading) "to encourage, coordinate and enlarge the present established orthopaedic facilities and services wherever possible so that those already handicapped by Infantile Paralysis may be helped:

"Second - to secure money for the continuance of scientific research which aims at preventing the disease itself and which must be carried on until successful if thousands of our children are to be spared its devastating aftermath.

"For these reasons we feel that the willingness of Colonel Doherty again to place at the disposal of this humanitarian cause the National Committee for the Birthday Ball for the President is a magnanimous action which comes at a most opportune time, and it is our hope that you will again lend the Committee your birthday, not for the benefit of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, but for a further effort toward the solution of the problem as a whole.

"At a meeting of the Trustees of Georgia Warm Springs Foundation held today I was authorized to inform you that the Trustees, therefore, recommend to you that Colonel Doherty's offer of service be accepted and that a second Birthday Ball

be held on the occasion of your next birthday in January 1935.

"Furthermore, we recommend, in keeping with the two main phases of the problem as stated above, that

"Seventy per cent of the funds raised through and by the American public on the anniversary of your next birthday be used directly to help those committees, individuals, doctors, hospitals and other organizations struggling with the task of providing care and treatment in their communities, counties or states for those afflicted with Infantile Paralysis, such funds to be expended within the community or within the nearest geographical unit of which the community is a part; and that

"Thirty per cent of the funds raised be used to maintain and intensify the efforts of medical research to develop preventives of and immunization against Infantile Paralysis with the purpose of eradicating this scourge exactly as medical science has successfully combatted and brought under control smallpox, diphtheria, typhoid fever, yellow fever and other similar maladies."

It means that the money would go, 70 per cent locally and 30 percent for research and none of it to the Foundation.

And then I wrote to Colonel Doherty yesterday and said:

(Reading) "My dear Colonel Doherty:

"Your generous offer of November 8th is most gratifying to me.

"The Trustees of Georgia Warm Springs Foundation have acted on my request for their recommendation in this matter and their suggestions which have my hearty approval are transmitted to you herewith.

"It gives me much happiness to lend my next birthday, January 30th, 1935, to the National Committee for the Birthday Ball for the President for this purpose, in the hope that this effort will bring us nearer to the goal of forever ending the tragic consequences of Infantile Paralysis.

"May I again express, through you, my gratitude to all those who are making my birthday the occasion for serving in this humanitarian cause.

Always sincerely,"



Well, there is the whole thing. Mr. Kannee has copies for you.

I think that covers it all right. We have been working on it quite hard for two weeks at various meetings of the Trustees.

Q Mr. President, can you give us the names of the Trustees here today?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Leighton McCarthy, Dr. Hoke, Mr. Keith Morgan, Mr.

Arthur Carpenter. Then we have the regular meeting of the Trustees the day after Thanksgiving.

MR. CARPENTER: Thanksgiving Day, the afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT: I think this will be a great thing because it means that a great many communities -- and this is not for quotes at all -- a great many communities have not facilities and will now be able either to start their own facilities for orthopaedic work of all kinds or to coordinate their work with the next community that has got it and improve and build up that community. It does not mean every little village will have a hospital but they will be able to get together on a geographical basis.

Q Is that broad enough in certain cities so that if they wanted to pick up children they could use it that way for individual cases?

THE PRESIDENT: If the town has its own hospital, certainly.

Q Do you recall the total raised?

MR. MORGAN: One million, 330 thousand --

THE PRESIDENT (interposing): And 61 cents.

MR. MORGAN: Sixty-one dollars and eight cents.

THE PRESIDENT: I am wrong. (Laughter)

Q Who got that eight cents?

THE PRESIDENT: I think Cary Grayson kept it; I do not know.

MR. McINTYRE: I think that went for postage.

Q Any other news?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe there is any other thing. I have been studying all kinds of reports and as a result there will be all sorts of interesting things coming out in the course of the next two or three weeks. Nothing startling. I have been studying this morning a tremendously interesting report on the tying in together of all the map-making facilities of the United States Government. We found that there are several dozen agencies that are making maps and we are going to tie them in together as a first step toward a greater consolidation. It does not mean that one organization will do it but it eliminates a good deal of duplication and will save money.

At the same time, we hope to be able to start the standard key map of the United States. A certain amount of work has already been done on that but it ought to go on for the benefit of all kinds of services, states, municipalities, counties and the Federal Government work. I just use that as an example of the kind of studying we have been doing.

Q Are you planning consolidations on a larger scale in any of the Departments?

THE PRESIDENT: No, these are minor.

Q What is a key map?

THE PRESIDENT: Why don't you wait and let me give you a good story on this? Well, it is a standard topographic map, all on the same scale. We find, for example, that the Government has been doing mapping work on two or three different scales which have no relationship to each other and this standard map of the entire country would take a good many years to complete but would cover every portion of the country.

Q It has been started?

THE PRESIDENT: It has been started.

Q Under what one of these agencies?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you; I do not know. The Topographic Survey, I think.

Q Mr. President, in the absence of Joe Smith, I will ask this question:  
Is there anything new from London? I cannot put the accent to it --  
(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, I haven't had a thing.

Q Mr. President, in the absence of the Count (Rudolph de Zappe), I might ask you --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Have we appointed anybody in Washington. No. The did appoint somebody the other day.

MR. McINTYRE: That got quite a play, so did the power story.

Q In that connection, on power, do you care to amplify --

THE PRESIDENT (interposing) Why don't we wait until Friday and let me talk off the record? Everybody gather around here and let me talk off the record because there are very few of you who are here now who were here two years ago and you will remember that two years ago we had a perfectly grand informal off-the-record talk about TVA, what it was all about, and I think perhaps it will help to do it again.

MR. McINTYRE: I think on part of it you might just give them background and not all of it off the record.

THE PRESIDENT: Most of it will be off the record.

MR. McINTYRE: Yes, I appreciate that.

Q We are for you, Mac (Mr. McIntyre); talk that background. (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us about the new relief plans?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing on it. There won't be until the third of January.  
I am just thumbs down on it until the third of January.

Q Did you read Donald Richberg's speech in Atlanta?

THE PRESIDENT: No, did he speak yesterday?

MR. McINTYRE: The day before yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not seen it.

MR. McINTYRE: They say he made a speech.

Q Yes, he did.

Q Governor Talmadge had some suggestions for you the other day. Did he have them up last night?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. McINTYRE: Off the record, we certainly had Gene (Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia) on the spot last night.

THE PRESIDENT: We did not talk about the sovereign State of Georgia at all last night.

Q Was there anything in the conference last night?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We talked about the unemployment insurance thing and then here is the thing I have got to give you off the record. I did talk with him a little bit about the idea of a Southeastern Council corresponding with the New England Council and told him what had been the actual experience of the New England Council. It (the New England Council) started off very well and it has lately become, primarily, an organization of the bigger businessmen. It does not have any of the other aspects, the Government officials or the citizenship represented on it and it has tended, in New England, to be a body which passes resolutions and fires them at the heads of individual governors and gets a great deal of the limelight -- has a hotblooded executive secretary, and things like that. In other words, it made the mistake of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

On the Southeastern thing, if they want to develop it, the Governors ought to be a little bit careful.



Q They did organize last night in Georgia Hall, and invited Governor Laffoon (of Kentucky) and Governor McAlister (of Tennessee) and Conner (of Mississippi) to join them on the tenth of December.

THE PRESIDENT: That is exactly the difference. In other words, the New England Council is an association primarily of businessmen and the governors haven't any kind of say in it at all. The New England Council shoots things at Governors' heads.

I told the Governors last night that I thought as a result of my long experience in the big Governors' Conference -- I was on the Executive Committee for four years -- that if they would start a regional conference, all governors and nobody else, it would be an awfully good thing for the Southeast.

Q That is what they did last night.

THE PRESIDENT: There is one very effective local governors' conference and that is the western governors -- that is the Rocky Mountain States and the Coast -- but only the governors attend them and they do not have any outsiders in at all. When I was in Albany we had a conference up there that related to the industrial Northeast to study unemployment insurance, old age pensions and things like that. That was a very effective instrument. But the general thought that I told them about last night was that if we could have five or six regions in this conference -- five or six governors covering the region, that if anything came up between them and the Federal Government we could get them up to Washington, getting five or six governors instead of forty-eight.

Q I think last night they decided to hold quarterly meetings and the governor of the state that holds the particular meeting becomes the governing officer for the succeeding quarter. That gives everybody

a chance to become president of the Governors' Conference.

Q There are reports in Birmingham this morning that Governor-elect Bibb Graves is coming here to see you this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: He is sitting outside.

Q He was going to ask that the Government purchase \$100,000,000. worth of State bonds in order to promote a subsistence home project to care for the unemployed.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a new one to me.

Q Will you send him down to our cottage?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on what he says. He may sneak home over the mountain (Pine Mountain).

Q Mr. Willkie of Commonwealth and Southern said in a statement in New York that he was sure you would give the utility people a chance to give you the facts on TVA. Do you expect to receive any of them?

THE PRESIDENT: That was kind of him. (Laughter)

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. McINTYRE: May we have the Conference (the next Press Conference) at two o'clock, with the understanding that it is for the morning paper release?

Q I might report that we had a meeting last night for the redistribution of wealth.

THE PRESIDENT: Did it circulate?

Q We might also add that I have petitioned the White House Correspondents' Association officials to name a receiver in bankruptcy for some of the boys.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you a creditor?

Q Much obliged.

THE PRESIDENT: Then you do need a receiver in bankruptcy.