

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #230,
Held at the Hyde Park Station on the
N. Y. C. Railroad,
August 16, 1935, 7:45 A.M., E.S.T.

Q It is the crack of dawn at this hour of the morning.

THE PRESIDENT: I am awfully sorry to get you up at this hour but it will give you a chance to go out and play golf.

Q Do you still expect to get the Holding Company Bill at this session?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q Have you read the statement made in Chicago by Mr. Hoover last Sunday -- Hoover's statement there, which he issued in Chicago?

THE PRESIDENT: It would not be fair for me to say either yes or no on that. As a matter of fact, I read it and did not read it -- I read it very hurriedly.

Q You would not comment?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Any comment on the passage of the Tax Bill yesterday by the Senate?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you any appointments at Washington Sunday when you return?

THE PRESIDENT: Tentative. I will be seeing various people and probably several groups, checking up with the status of legislation so that I will know exactly where everything stands by Sunday night.

Q On the Holding Company Bill, would you take whatever you can get out of the House?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell on the details because there again -- I hope it will go through.

Q Haven't you got an appointment on a board or something that you could

give a few hungry newspapermen today?

THE PRESIDENT: Going in this morning, on the Interstate Commerce Commission, Mr. Caskie. I don't remember his first name.

Q How do you spell it?

THE PRESIDENT: C-a-s-k-i-e.

Q You haven't the Labor Board in your pocket?

THE PRESIDENT: No, nothing on that. I hope to get that by Monday at the latest, and I hope to get the Social Security Board also early in the week.

Q When?

THE PRESIDENT: Early in the week.

Q Mr. President, in view of the fact that this is supposedly a morning newspaper conference, could we have a few kind words about noon tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe that there will be a blessed piece of news tomorrow because I am not doing a thing here, not seeing anybody. I haven't a single appointment here and nobody coming in to see me.

Q Who will be here for the birthday party?

THE PRESIDENT: Just Franklin himself -- he is the most important one -- the next one is John, who is here, and my mother and Mrs. Roosevelt, and Jimmy and Betsy are coming up. I think that is all. Anna is still traveling in the West.

Q Some warm in Washington.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It is cooler here. I hope you will find it cooler in Poughkeepsie, as usual.

Q We have a cold spot. (Laughter)

Q A little better than usual.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe there is any news. I am going to stay

around the place and play with the children and then we will leave tomorrow night, unfortunately.

Q Unfortunately. It will keep us out of trouble.

Q Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Have a good time. I will let you know if anything happens.

I don't think anything will break at all.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #231,
Executive Offices of the White House,
August 21, 1935, 10:40 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Sorry to keep you waiting; I have been writing my Boy Scout speech.

Q Is it long?

THE PRESIDENT: Six minutes, at a guess.

Q How about the Saturday night speech?

THE PRESIDENT: Russ (Mr. J. Russell Young), I have got to tell you the truth -- it is not written.

Q (Mr. Young) I feel sorry for you. (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Sorry to keep you waiting. I have been telling the boys in the front row I have been writing the Boy Scout speech. It is all done. About six minutes.

I have got two things here: I signed an Executive Order which is the second stage in bringing the independent agencies in under the Budget. The first one was August fifth and covered seven agencies, the lending agencies. This new one covers a new group of six agencies, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation, the Export-Import Bank, the Second Export-Import Bank, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Electric Home and Farm Authority. And there will be another Executive Order in a few weeks, before I go away, to take in the others. That will make three groups and then they will all be in.

Q How many remaining now?

THE PRESIDENT: Seven or eight.

Q After this?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Does that mean you are going to keep the first and second export banks in operation?

THE PRESIDENT: They are still there. I do not know what is going to happen in the future.

Then the other -- Steve (Mr. Early) has got copies of this for you -- the other is the release of the report of the Cabinet Committee on Cotton Textiles, and I am asking that this not be released until twelve o'clock as it is not going to Congress --

MR. EARLY: (interposing) We can only release the summary.

Q Any decision on the cotton loans?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

This report -- it is, as Steve (Mr. Early) says, 210 pages. I think it is more than that. It is about three inches thick and we have done the best we could. We have given you the letter transmitting the report from the Secretaries of Commerce, State, Agriculture and Labor, and this letter of five pages is a summary of the entire report and I think probably that is all that most of you will want to read. We only have one copy of the other and I am sending that up to the Congress. It won't be withheld; you can read it if you want.

Q Will there be copies of the Executive Order?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q When do you expect the decision on the 1935 cotton loan to be announced?

THE PRESIDENT: Soon, I hope.

Q Do you care to make any comment on the textile report before it goes up?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better read it first.

Q All 210 pages?

THE PRESIDENT: No, just this (indicating summary).

Q Any comment on the neutrality resolution?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at this time.

Q The morning papers indicated that both France and Great Britain might ask the United States to invoke the Kellogg Pact?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing on that.

Q Have any steps been taken to have the House Committee reconsider its action on the Navy contract bill, the Walsh Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are working on it today. I don't know what action has been taken. I think they are talking about it.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the Social Security Board, when you are likely --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I hope to get that up by tomorrow, the three nominations.

Q Do you plan to go ahead with the Florida ship canal?

THE PRESIDENT: We are probably going ahead on acquiring the right of way, a very, comparatively small operation, and probably some dredging I spoke about before.

Q Can you tell us of your conference this morning with the Camden strikers on that shipyard situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot, because I do not know about it. Up to date I have not heard anything for three days. I do not think they are down on my list.

Q Will you oppose passage of the neutrality legislation this session?

THE PRESIDENT: That is purely an "if" question. I cannot answer it.

Q Are you in favor of any neutrality?

THE PRESIDENT: I just said in the front row that I cannot discuss this.

Q Any oil legislation this session of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q When do you intend to sign the A. A. A. amendments?

THE PRESIDENT: They have not come down yet; probably this afternoon or tomorrow.

Q Any enlightenment on the situation on the utility bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. It shifts from hour to hour.

Q Any information --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I do not know what has happened.

Q -- on the ship canal? Do you expect some decision on the allotment this week?

THE PRESIDENT: It will come up before the Allotment Board next week.

Q We understood that a subcommittee of the House Committee wrote a letter about this Camden strike situation and they said if it were divulged it would have to come from here.

THE PRESIDENT: The thing is being discussed by so many people that I cannot intelligently -- the Labor Department, the shipbuilding company and employees -- I frankly do not know what the situation is today.

Q When did you say you expected a report?

THE PRESIDENT: Sometime today.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your talk with Mr. Moffett?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about his trip, all the countries he has visited.

Q Is he going to stay or leave?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope he will stay on for a little while.

Q Will you insist on Senate action on the Guffey Coal Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: That sounds like the word "must." "Out of the window," as Al (Governor Alfred E. Smith) would say.

Q It is a key bill.

Q In connection with Moffett's visit yesterday, would you care to say anything about silver policy?

THE PRESIDENT: He told me just what he told you people, what his impression was of the situation in China.

Q Mr. President, anything on the N. R. A. Administrator yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q When will the directors of the Federal Reserve -- the new Federal Reserve members, when will they be named?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not seen the bill. Doesn't it give me sixty days?

Q Until February first.

THE PRESIDENT: Then I don't know.

Q Mr. President, is any answer being sent to Mrs. Bergdoll concerning her request for an interview?

MR. McINTYRE: A letter was sent some time ago.

THE PRESIDENT: There was a letter sent about three or four months ago -- it may have been six months ago -- way back in the early winter.

Q This is the young Mrs. Bergdoll?

THE PRESIDENT: It was sent to her, I think -- wasn't it?

MR. McINTYRE: It was.

Q Can you tell us what you are going to talk about Saturday night?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q We can't guess then.

THE PRESIDENT: I have read what I was going to say but I have not decided on it.

Q Have you anybody in mind to send to the new Naval Conference the British are suggesting now?

THE PRESIDENT: Has the suggestion been made to the State Department?

Q I do not know whether the State Department got it yet -- (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That is what they call "premature."

Q On the Social Security Board, the administrators --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The three of them? I am going to send them in, I hope, tomorrow.

Q The Labor Relations Board?

THE PRESIDENT: The same thing.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #232,
Executive Offices of the White House,
August 23, 1935, 4:00 P.M.

Q Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, judging by your faces, I see you feel pretty happy today.

Q (Mr. Storm) We had plenty of work.

Q (Mr. Roddan) It has been hell today.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you looking for an easing up of the grind?

Q The phone booths are pretty hot out there. We really got a workout today.

THE PRESIDENT: Did you? It is cool today.

Q Not when you shut the door.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think I have a single bit of news today.

Q Good.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you are at the wrong end of the Avenue? (Laughter)

Q Are you calculating, sir, to sign any more bills this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I sign them every hour.

Q Have you got a list of those that are here?

THE PRESIDENT: I got a flock of them here.

Q (Mr. Essary) Triple A; T. V. A.; Railway Retirement; Rivers and Harbors --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Tobacco; Missouri River; Sheffield, Alabama; Rouses Point, New York; Plainville. That is all I have got, Fred (Mr. Essary). There are more here somewhere but not in here yet.

MR. EARLY: They are probably referred out to departments.

THE PRESIDENT: Referred out to departments, you know. In other words, bills that come down from the Hill, they fly through here, go elsewhere and

then come back again.

Q Can you tell us what you expect to happen to the subsidy bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Which one?

Q The ship subsidy bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. I have not heard today at all. I have no information on it.

Q Mr. President, will we get your speech tomorrow? About what time?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on when I write it. (Laughter)

Q I hope you write it early. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am not going to write it probably until late tonight or tomorrow morning. I will let you have it as soon as I can.

Well, there isn't any news here at all. Everything is quiet and I will be here probably for a week after Congress goes home and then go up to Hyde Park. Those are the only plans so far.

Q Mr. President, is there anything further you can tell us with regard to the neutrality bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing further. I think the Secretary of State talked to you about it this morning off the record and I think what he told you is all that is necessary to say.

Q Any comments you desire to make on the results of the last session -- the present session which is about to conclude?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet.

Q How long do you plan to stay in Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have not made any plans beyond going there.

Q Anything you can tell us about the present jam up of the alcohol control bill --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I have not heard anything on that since last night

Q -- and what steps might be taken in the event no bill is passed?

THE PRESIDENT: In case no bill is passed, the present organization keeps on for the same length of time, as I understand it, that the N. R. A. has been extended.

Q But not with any powers of control?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is right.

Q Do you have any comment on the Banking Bill, now that you have signed it? What you hope to accomplish?

THE PRESIDENT: Read the title of the bill. I hope it will accomplish all those things.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The chief thing in the title says, ".... and for other purposes."

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #233,
Executive Offices of the White House,
August 28, 1935, 10:45 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: We will be getting a little holiday, all of us.

Q We are ready for it, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. Tired eyes.

Q Mr. President, we have to call on you to umpire another ball game up there.

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. Are you on the Vassar team?

Q (Mr. Storm) I am the anchor man.

Q Have you had a reply to the State Department note?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Not yet? Not read the papers?

THE PRESIDENT: I read it, yes.

Q Anything to say about it?

THE PRESIDENT: You have to ask the State Department.

Q Anything on the direct evidence we have of the violations?

THE PRESIDENT: No, you have to ask the State Department.

Q Have you talked to Hull about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Only by telephone. I am seeing him today sometime.

Q On that?

THE PRESIDENT: On that and a lot of other things too.

You people are driving me. You know, normally I would stay up until ten or eleven, but I have got to get out this week so last night I stayed up until one o'clock and I will stay up until one o'clock tonight, just so you people can get away this week.

Q When do you think you will get away -- Friday or Saturday?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe, Russ (Mr. Young), it will be until Saturday,

because if I make it Friday I will have to stay up all night.

Q How about the Rhinebeck Fair?

THE PRESIDENT: That is off.

Q He is very anxious to get back to the Rhinebeck Fair in order to get his forty dollars back.

Q When will you sign the Guffey Coal Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: The signing will be done just as soon as Joe Guffey is ready to come down, and I think Dave Lewis and the Governor and who else?

Q John Lewis?

Q Snyder?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q What can you tell us about the possibility of getting some money to run these various offices sidetracked by the failure of the deficiency appropriation to go through?

THE PRESIDENT: Not very much, except that we went over all the items yesterday and it looks pretty discouraging. It looks very discouraging, especially for the Social Security bill expenditures. You see, there were 66 or 72 millions carried in the bill for that. Well, that covered the crippled children, the handicapped, the dependent widows and old age. I don't believe we can disburse any of that money.

Q Approximately how much of that would be required for the next four months, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you except we cannot get that money for disbursing, as far as we can see.

Q Can you set up administrative personnel?

THE PRESIDENT: What we are going to try to do is to set up, in the case of Social Security, enough of an organization so they can get all of their

paper work, all of their administrative work and their letters and contracts -- because that is what they amount to -- with the different states worked out, so that when Congress gets back they will be ready to shoot. But I do not believe any benefit payments can be made until we get an appropriation.

Q Any likelihood of calling Congress back before January?

THE PRESIDENT: No chance that I know of, no.

Q If the state had the money, could they advance any money for such payments?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe there is any appropriation we can do that out of, legally.

Q, What is that?

Q I mean, if a state itself had enough money to pay \$30 a month for old age, could they do that on the expectation of being reimbursed by the Federal Government?

THE PRESIDENT: That I do not know. We cannot give them any pledge on a thing like that.

Q The District of Columbia old-age pension fund is in the same class?

THE PRESIDENT: In the same class. In other words, we can set up the machinery but not pay out anything.

Q Mr. President, will you comment on the report that you will sign the neutrality resolution reluctantly?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is just a -- well, I won't characterize it.

Q Will you sign it today?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. Today or tomorrow.

Q Will you have a statement on the bill at that time?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. As a matter of fact, on the neutrality bill I

suppose the easiest way of putting it is this: that it is entirely satisfactory, except that it does not include any power over loans for financing. That did not go through. The question of embargoes as against two belligerents meets the needs of the existing situation. What more can one ask? And, by the time the situation changes, Congress will be back with us, so we are all right.

Q In your Budget Message you promised to prepare and present a summary of the Budget by the adjournment of Congress or thereabouts. Is that in the mill?

THE PRESIDENT: The Director of the Budget is working on that now. It will take him, I imagine, two or three weeks, but I hope to get it through and finished before I go west.

Q Does the trouble with Russia affect the reciprocal trade arrangement you recently made?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I never thought of it. I could not answer it.

Q Mr. President, when do you expect to act on the Rivers and Harbors Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: That has not got down to me yet. You see, a good many of these bills are still out in the various departments for recommendation. This bill I got here is all that has come to me that I have not acted on and most of these are vetoes, which require the preparation of special Messages. You see, there is hardly anything there. I am right up to date.

Q Personal relief bills?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, things of that kind.

Q Is it too early to discuss your plans for the western trip?

THE PRESIDENT: A little bit. In general, so far I have only got as far as the approximate times. I have not got to the question of places any

more than I have said before.

Q Boulder Dam?

THE PRESIDENT: Boulder Dam and the San Diego Exposition. There may not be any other places because I may not be able to work the time in.

Q How about your return?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope through the Canal.

Q The Chamber of Commerce announced that you would be out to the Boulder Dam ceremony on the twenty-sixth of September. Is that positive?

THE PRESIDENT: No date is positive. I hope it will be around the end of September but I cannot give anything closer than that. I hope it will be during the last week of September.

Q Have you signed the railroad pension bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Is the gold clause bill back?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I signed it last night. I put the hour on it. That is one of the bills that I have to put not only the date but the hour. I signed it at 6:00 P.M. last night.

Q The gold clause bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Does the public works' deadline apply to housing?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as possible.

Q Will it apply to rural electrification?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as possible but, there again, there will be certain exceptions. Morris Cooke won't have, because it is a brand new thing, everything in by that time but he will probably know by that time how much he will have in by the following thirty or sixty days, so we will know what his total will be, which is the main objective.

And also, of course, on rural electrification, once the allotment is awarded, the actual work does not take very long to begin. You can do it in a week or ten days because there is so much manual labor.

Q Will it reach the bulk of the unemployed by November first?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so; during November anyway.

I do not think there is any other news. I will still be here

Friday.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #234,
Executive Offices of the White House,
August 30, 1935, 4:00 P.M.

Q When do we get away -- about midnight tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope to get away tomorrow night. Sunday afternoon the White House Correspondents' baseball team will hold its first practice. On Wednesday they play Vassar.

Q And we get licked.

Q In the tap room.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Mr. Early) tells me I have got forty or forty-five bills left that have not yet come back from the departments. I am going to try to get them in tonight or tomorrow morning and get them practically all cleaned up before I leave.

Q Can you tell us something about the Coal Bill, which was signed today -- your expectations, et cetera?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we hope to get the machinery going this autumn.

Q This autumn?

THE PRESIDENT: Get the appointments made.

Q That may mean several weeks before the Board is in operation?

THE PRESIDENT: That depends on the definition of the word "several." I hope to make the appointments to the Board within the next couple of weeks -- perhaps by the fifteenth of September.

Q Do you know what kind of a Board you want yet, whether they will be technical men?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not thought of it at all.

Q The Labor Department says that commodity prices have hit a new high for five years. Have you any comment on that? Do you want that to go higher?

THE PRESIDENT: What is that, steel and --

Q (interposing) The regular commodity index they get out.

THE PRESIDENT: Like the Times index?

Q They have been getting it out all the time.

THE PRESIDENT: It is a general index?

Q Four hundred of them.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know what the difference is between their index and the Times index and the Dunn & Bradstreet index. You take your choice and pay your money. Of course the general price level, I suppose, is what? -- somewhere around 80 or 82 of the 1923-5 level, isn't it?

Q 80.2.

Q Of the 1926 level.

THE PRESIDENT: 1926 level.

Q Is there anything you can tell us today on the Russian situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No, nothing today.

Q You are going away tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. There will be something from the State Department, I think, soon.

Q Have you approved an allotment for the Natchez River Bridge in Texas?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q Mr. President, in that connection can you give us your ideas on the Florida ship canal?

THE PRESIDENT: The Florida ship canal, the status is that we are going to

go ahead and do a certain amount of work purely on an unemployment basis. Senator Fletcher and some of the others wanted an allocation of a large sum, fifteen or twenty million dollars, I think. We cannot give anything like that amount but we probably will do three or four million dollars worth of useful work solely on the basis of giving employment.

Q Mr. President, is it true that, as claimed in Collier's, George Creel's article tells what you intend to do?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I have not read the article.

Q One thing he says you want to balance the Budget with half a billion surplus in 1939?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot comment on an article I have not read.

Q Is he in a position to tell? They say he is.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell; I have not read the article. That would be highly dangerous if I created that precedent.

Q They tell the readers he is an old and a good friend of yours.

THE PRESIDENT: He is a very old friend of mine; that is true.

Q Have you signed the Tax Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q You will sign it tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, probably tomorrow night.

Q Will you sign the T. V. A. Bill, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I am waiting for one or two people to come in and watch it signed.

Q You have not signed the Rivers and Harbors Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q And the Neutrality Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Will you say when you will consider the Neutrality Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Tonight or tomorrow morning. I will get rid of nearly all of them. Of course one thing that takes a good deal of time now is the vetoes because on every one I have to dictate a memo giving the reasons for it. I don't have to, but I do it.

Q The Buffalo sewage disposal plant, calling for an allocation of 15 million dollars, is one of 386 projects turned down by the P. W. A. Can you tell us what is likely to happen to these projects turned down?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not know.

Q It was because the unit cost per man was too high.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was sent back for restudy, to try to get the unit cost down. That is my recollection.

Q Will they have to be in under the September twelfth deadline just the same?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so, and I think you have plenty of time.

Q To get back to the Guffey Coal Bill for a moment, I believe that the operation of that Board was to be financed by an appropriation in the third Deficiency Bill that failed to carry. Have you found a way to get around that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we will be able to get around the absolutely necessary part of the administrative expenses. You see, it does not require a very large administration and I think that the Labor Department will be able to help them out and possibly N. R. A., and it will be able to give them enough staff so that they can get everything ready for their announcement of a code. As I remember it, the first job they had is to promulgate a code. I think they will get enough staff to

carry that part through. Of course it will be a very small staff.

Q Will it be necessary to attach some of those employees to other departments, to ration them out?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. You will have to ask the Comptroller General. Some of them, I think, can be loaned from the Labor Department. I do not think it will mean taking on any new people.

Q Anything in the housing situation about which you could comment, the general housing situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Which part? Do you mean the Federal Housing Administration?

Q Yes, sir, and I think the other housing. I think there are some developments expected very shortly.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course the Federal Housing Administration is getting on very well in the volume of actual loans going out every day. They are running about an average of 3 million dollars a day, something along that size, and it undoubtedly is helping to speed up general construction all over the country. The insurance companies are showing an increased activity in coming in under those loans and are lending their money.

Q Have you approved the allocation of Navy ships to be built in Navy Yards? There are eleven out of that twenty-four to be built in Navy Yards and I understand --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Only tentative approval because we have not signed up yet with the private bidders and, of course, the Navy allocations must be more or less dependent on the private contracts being put through. They are working now on a labor clause -- several conferences going on -- to go into the private contracts. I suppose it will be another four or five days or a week before they get that

clause agreed on.

Q Do you mean, speaking of Russia, that there would be nothing further today?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there will be anything today for it. There might be something tomorrow.

Q Can you tell us what the labor clause is?

THE PRESIDENT: It covers collective bargaining and it covers the determination, in accordance with the old standard clause that they used to have in, as to whether a strike is avoidable or a delay arising from any other cause is avoidable and, under the old contract, that determination was made by the Secretary of the Navy. So, probably, something along that line will be included in the new contracts. That was the old standard clause for years.

Q Will it be with the Secretary or the Labor Board?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably the determination as to that would be with the Secretary but the question of collective bargaining would be the Labor Board.

Q Mr. President, do you plan to balance the budget by 1939?

THE PRESIDENT: Now, really, that is an awfully leading question.

Q That is an "if" question.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know who is going to be President in 1939. (Laughter)

Q That's fair.

Q Does the situation created by the defeat of the deficiency bill look any better now than it did a few days ago?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it does not. Of course the major item was 66 or 72 or 76 million dollars to start the old-age pensions into actual operation and we cannot use that money for those expenditures. That

seems perfectly clear. On the other hand, the purely administrative expenses for various new boards, we can probably get that going in a preliminary way -- only in a preliminary way -- so that they will be ready to function fully by January.

The other large item in there, payments of claims, that cannot be paid until we get a new appropriation.

Here is a rather interesting example of cooperative suggestion, a telegram from Mr. Robertson, International President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers. They were meeting -- they had a meeting of their Executive Committee. The Brotherhood offered to loan the United States Government the amount necessary up to one million dollars to establish the Retirement Board and set up the machinery for its administration, such loan to be offered for a period of one year. With much regret I had to telegraph Mr. Robertson back that I deeply appreciated his telegram and the offer of a loan, but the laws governing the receipt and disbursement of Government funds and the incurring of Government obligations makes acceptance of his generous and patriotic suggestion impossible. At the same time he will be pleased to know that we hope to work out a plan to begin the far-reaching activities authorized by the Act and that we hope that Congress will provide sufficient funds when it convenes in January next.

Q What are his initials?

THE PRESIDENT: D. B. He is International President of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers.

Q Is that Robertson or Robinson?

THE PRESIDENT: Robertson.

(The Press Conference adjourned at 4:12 P.M.)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #235,
Held in the Study of the President's Home,
at Hyde Park, New York,
September 4, 1935, 11.00 A.M.

Q You were speaking of Grover Cleveland. Hasn't he the record of the White House also for vetoes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Of course that was caused mostly, in those days, by the very large number of what they called private pension bills.

Q Civil War pensions?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You are getting a bunch of them.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. These that come are mostly for individuals -- private.

All you had to do in those days was to get hold of John Henry Ketcham, who served in Congress here from 1864 to 1910 or 1908, with one term out. He was beaten once. The old boy was the Colonel of the Dutchess County Regiment, and all you had to do was to get hold of him and he would introduce a private pension bill and he nearly always got it through.

Q That kept my father in cigars for quite a while too, pensions.

THE PRESIDENT: A great thing. The old boy was very deaf. Of course, before the Civil Service days, he would go into the Secretary of the Treasury and he would say, "Mr. Secretary, I have a beautiful, nice girl from Dover Plains who has come down here and I want you to give her a job."

(And the Secretary of the Treasury would say,) "She has to take her place on the list and the list is pretty long. It would probably be a year or a year and a half before she could be placed."

And he (the Congressman) would say, "Thank you, Mr. Secretary, I will have her report right away. She will report within the hour. Who do you want her to report to?"

And the Secretary would say, "I can't take her." "That is perfectly grand, Mr. Secretary. She will be here in an hour."

And she always got there; no getting away from that. (Laughter)

He had a great combination. He was a great friend of Chauncey Depew's and he had a game all through this district. Whenever any family of Democrats was growing up, father a Democrat, four or five or eight or ten children -- we had a family in the village, father and mother Democrats, and there were ten children. The first one got to be eighteen or nineteen years old and he drives in with a horse and buggy one day and says, "Don't you want that boy to get a good job?" He had three places -- he had all the places in the world: he had the Government in Washington and the Customs in New York, and, today when I come in on a steamer, I can always find a Dutchess County boy. There are lots of them. They are up around the top now. (Laughter) And then there was the New York Central.

Q The name was Ketcham?

THE PRESIDENT: Ketcham -- John Henry Ketcham. Third was the New York Central. He was a great friend of Chauncey Depew and could place anybody on the railroad.

Q I would like to match him with Reed Smoot.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing I have got today is the third of a series of Executive Orders -- I just signed it -- which places seven more government agencies under the Bureau of the Budget in relation to all administrative expenses. Steve (Mr. Early) will

give you a copy of it. They are the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Federal Co-ordinator of Transportation, the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the National Recovery Administration and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

MR. EARLY: That is the third and final Order.

THE PRESIDENT: That is the third and final Order, and it means that these groups have got to clear through the Budget all administrative expenses after the 15th of October. The first group, as I remember it, was the 15th of September. The second group was the 1st of October and this group is the 15th of October so that, by that time, it means that we will have a complete check on all administrative expenditures for every one of the twenty agencies and commissions that are outside of the regular departments. It will mean a check to prevent overlapping, to cut down on unnecessary personnel and it means also that so far as the emergency part of the work -- of course we had to set it up quickly in order to get results -- that part is over and from now on they have got to budget in accordance with best budgetary methods. That means also that they have to cut down their personnel as fast as the emergency part of the work slows up or stops. For example, although it does not happen to be among these, the Home Owners Loan Corporation is gradually becoming a management corporation. The date for making applications for new loans is past. They are now engaged in cleaning up all of the final obligations. After the final loans have been made -- in fact during the process of making final loans, which will be for a few months longer and that is all -- they will begin to change their personnel

from an appraisal and loan-making personnel to -- I don't like the word "collecting" -- what is the word? It will be a management corporation which will see to it that properties are kept in repair, that the interest and amortization on the loans are paid. That means a gradual reduction in personnel.

Take NRA: We had 4900 employees in May. That has been cut to about 3300 but it has got to be further cut.

That is a straight administration problem and the Director of the Budget, from this date on, will check the necessity and the salary of every employee. We will do that in all twenty agencies.

Q Does that mean you regard the emergency as over?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not talking about that. The peak of the emergency work is over, yes.

Q Is Works Progress Administration under this?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It is not down in this but it actually comes under it.

MR. EARLY: I think it has been covered, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I think so, but I am not sure. In any event, it is in.

It may be in here under FERA or it may be in the last order, I have forgotten which.

Q You mentioned enough details there to suggest that you might be able to give some figure on the possible cut in employees.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot do that until January. We haven't gone over that yet. That is a budgetary matter. The Budget will be doing that between now and the sending of the estimates to Congress and they will make, undoubtedly, some very substantial cuts.

Q There was some talk that when the preliminary work or the first phase of the work of the HOLC was over and it becomes a management cor-

poration that the whole business might be turned over on some sort of basis to a private agency of that kind.

THE PRESIDENT: For private profit?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q I supposed it would have to be a very small percentage.

THE PRESIDENT: They would hardly take it otherwise. Why should we do a thing like that?

Q I didn't think so, except possibly they wanted it.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, undoubtedly when these various credit agencies get into the management stage there will be -- I cannot tell yet when or what the exact form will be -- a consolidation of management to a very great extent. That also will save money. The actual operating costs are not very high. When it comes to management, to the management end, they will not be any higher than the average private business which does exactly the same thing. You take, for instance, one of the mortgage companies -- take any big mortgage company, it always figures a certain percentage for management and probably the Government percentage will be approximately the same.

Q Mr. President, do you feel in general that these emergency agencies have satisfied the purpose for which they were created, now that the peak is past?

THE PRESIDENT: The easiest answer to that is that there are some simple figures. There have been about a million home owners of the United States who, through just one agency alone, the HOLC, have had their homes saved from foreclosure.

There have been about a million farms in the United States

where the farmers have had their homes saved. There have been about -- I have forgotten the exact figures -- about seven thousand banks that have been saved from going under. That is just to cite three very obvious examples. I think that answers the question.

MR. EARLY: In addition to saving them, you have given them a national rate of interest for the first time.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a different story. Then you take the cost to home owners and depositors, farmers and people going into housing operations. The cost of their borrowings in the past has run altogether too high and that has been reduced on the average probably about 2%, which is not a bad record, besides which it keeps the original owner of the property still in possession instead of having it foreclosed and going into the possession of somebody who will sell it at a loss and throw the fellow out.

Q Is there anything you want to say further on this Ethiopian situation, that is, the cancellation of the oil leases?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think it has got pretty full stories from Washington.

Q It was a good piece of diplomacy.

THE PRESIDENT: A good job. Of course you can -- if I were writing the story, I would put it this way: that by no stretch of the imagination has the President or the Secretary of State ever been the least bit concerned over the possibility of this oil lease involving the United States, in any shape, manner or form in the Ethiopian or Italian problems. Nobody who knows the Administration policies could think for a minute that there could be involvement. The only danger lay in the effect of the oil lease on the negotiations between European powers and Ethiopia that are now going on in Geneva.

And of course the result yesterday of the withdrawal from the concession has been a fine thing because it has cleared the air of those conferences. And then, if I were going to write one more paragraph, I would put it this way, "that this is another proof that since March 4th, 1933, dollar diplomacy is not recognized by the American Government." (Laughter)

Q May we quote that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you could quote that.

MR. EARLY: Just that one sentence.

THE PRESIDENT: Since the 4th of March, 1933, dollar diplomacy is no longer recognized by the United States Government.

Q Are you sure that this was dollar diplomacy and that there were no other currencies involved? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Off the record, I would say that that would depend on the rate of exchange.

Q Would you be willing to answer the question that neither is the pound sterling diplomacy going to be recognized? (The President did not answer.) (Laughter)

Q As I get it, Mr. President, this means we are not interested --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Wait a minute -- as you get it! (Laughter)

Off the record, again, I had a very amusing time night before last. One of the more important people said, "You know, it is perfectly clear what it is. This fellow Rickett is an intimate friend" -- this is off the record but it shows the flight of imagination people will take -- "Rickett is an intimate friend of the Italian baron who shot himself out hunting the other day. And the Italian baron is the son-in-law of the British Minister to Ethiopia, so you get a perfect

triangle, do you see?" And I said, "That is very ingenious. What is the next step?" "That is simple. The Italian baron has got hold of his intimate friend, Rickett, and he has told his father-in-law, the British Minister. Rickett comes in and gets the concession and then, when the time comes, he turns it over to the Italian baron, who turns it over to Mussolini. His face is saved and the baron has dropped out. You all fell down."

Q This fellow Rickett did refer to his "old friend Mussolini" when he announced it.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Anything about your talk to General MacArthur, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about the Army -- we talked about going over to the Philippines.

Q When does he go?

THE PRESIDENT: The end of this month.

Q Has a successor been decided upon?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Would it be a bad guess if we were to guess General Craig?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't guess because I have not made up my mind.

Q What do you expect to talk to General Farley about?

THE PRESIDENT: I am awfully sorry to have to tell you -- some people are so far out on the limb I don't know how they are going to crawl back. The trouble was that I changed my plan. If I had been writing the story again, I would have said what would probably be true -- which is a dirty dig, a damned dirty dig -- I would say that probably Jim didn't go on a political trip. Of course he talked to a few people, but the primary object of the trip was to have a damned good time

taking his Missus out to Hawaii. I do not think we will talk politics. I think he will tell me all about the trip. I do not anticipate for a minute that we will talk politics any more than the stories are true when I go out on the SEQUOIA with the Comptroller, that we solemnly talk about the affairs of the Government and the Comptroller Generalship. That is a lot of bunk. So don't get bunky. It is not done. After all, news is news. The same way Kelly is coming here. I am not going to talk politics with Kelly. I am going to talk public works for Chicago.

Q Anything in particular for Chicago, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No, they got four or five projects down there. They got the Exposition; they are making it permanent. They got the airport. They got some school developments and they got the continuance of -- what is it? -- of the sewage disposal plants.

Q That is the Supreme Court decision.

THE PRESIDENT: Part of that, yes. And we are faced there with another thing. It shows how you always ought to have a little money in reserve. The War Department Engineers brought in the other day an estimate and a demand of about a million and a half dollars for control of the Chicago River. They suddenly discovered that the Supreme Court decision calls for the limitation of water -- I have forgotten the exact date, to 1937.

Q The first limitation.

THE PRESIDENT: The first limitation and, unless they start the work now, they won't get it done before the Supreme Court decision goes into effect. That hit me pretty heavily because it is an operation where the cost per man is very, very high, so I have cut them a little

and gave them about three-quarters of what they asked on general principles.

Q That is a million?

THE PRESIDENT: I have forgotten what it is. Those figures are not correct but it is somewhere around that.

Q The original estimate was over a million dollars by the War Department Engineers.

THE PRESIDENT: You had better check the figures somewhere. I think it was a million and a half.

I do not think I have anything else in the way of appointments. Mr. Broughton of Michigan is coming at 11.30. That is a long standing thing. He wanted to see me and I have had him on the appointment list for the last six months. His initials are C. E. He is editor of the Sheboygan Press.

Q (Mr. Storm) A client of ours, Mr. President.

MR. EARLY: That is Wisconsin.

Q He is National Committeeman.

MR. EARLY: He is and has been.

THE PRESIDENT: You had better check up and see if he is.

Q Jerry Mahoney?

THE PRESIDENT: Jerry Mahoney, and then Kannee has listed here Vincent Dailey, Kelly, the Postmaster General and Robert Jackson. Vincent Dailey wanted to see me for a long time, and this is the Jackson of the Treasury (Department).

Q Internal Revenue?

THE PRESIDENT: They have no connection whatsoever with the visit of the Postmaster General and Mayor Kelly. Kannee has them down all at the

same time but there is no relationship.

Q What is Dailey coming up to visit about?

THE PRESIDENT: He has not seen me for two months.

Q Who is Jerry Mahoney?

THE PRESIDENT: He is the Supreme Court Justice in this State. He used to be in the Legislature in the old days. He is head of the Olympic Games Committee. I am not quite sure, but he does not want to talk about Americans in the Olympic Games. So don't get out on a limb on that. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Roddan) They had forgotten all about Ethiopia and everything else.

Q (Mr. Young) That's down Hearst's alley, Eddie (Mr. Roddan).

MR. EARLY: After all, his name is Mahoney.

Q Is it Jeremiah?

THE PRESIDENT: Jeremiah, yes. Jeremiah T.

Q We have had queries about twice a week for the last month down in Washington as to when Jerry Mahoney was going to see you about the Olympic Games situation. He has an appointment sometime?

THE PRESIDENT: I am quite sure he wrote about something entirely different.

Q He has a little battle on with Tammany (Hall). He is running for District Leader.

THE PRESIDENT: Is he, really? Maybe he is going to talk to me about that.

MR. EARLY: It won't be political.

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter)

I am not sure about tomorrow. We have Jim Townsend, County Chairman of Dutchess County. I don't know what he is going to talk about. He is going on his vacation in the afternoon. He wanted to see me before he went on his vacation.

Your old friend, Congressman Sirovich, is coming tomorrow.

Also Maldwin Fertig, my old Counsel in Albany and Judge Murray Hulbert, whom I have not seen since I appointed him to the District Court bench.

Q Mr. President, what time is Jim Townsend coming up to see you tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: He is coming up tomorrow at 10.45.

Q Is that going to be political?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. He is going to tell me about his vacation, which he is leaving for in the afternoon.

Q Anything else Dutchess County would be interested in in addition to General Ketcham -- is he a general?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my, yes.

Q They were going to build a monument to him at one time.

THE PRESIDENT: They have one over in Dover Plains, haven't they?

Q I don't know. I think the money is still in the First National Bank.

THE PRESIDENT: What ever happened to the money that John Mack and I raised for a monument to old Dick Connell?

Q I don't know. There is no monument. I don't know anything about it.

THE PRESIDENT: There is a good story for you. Ask John Mack for a story on it. Where is the money? I know we raised a thousand dollars.

Q Mr. President, we have had a good many inquiries about your plans for a trip to Whiteface. Do you care to say anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not made any plans. I don't know whether I am going or not.

Q That would be next week, wouldn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q That would be a long drive.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it will be by train. It is an awfully long drive.

I think you would be more comfortable if you went up by night train. I have not gone as far as that. I have only appointments two days ahead.

Q It would be the fourteenth?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It depends on how things crowd in. If we are awfully rushed, I don't know.

Q Is Governor Lehman coming down?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q We have had another challenge issued by Lowell Thomas and we are going over there Sunday, and of course if you will be busy we will be busy.

THE PRESIDENT: It is perfectly safe. We will put the lid on Saturday after the Morgenthau party.

Q By the way, we got a letter from Lowell Thomas and he expressed the hope that you might be able to drive up.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think I can on Sunday. We have a lot of neighbors coming in.

Q He mentioned something about you mentioning to Casey (K. C.) Hogate that you might go there.

Q You don't go to Sunday ball games anyway.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't go to Sunday ball games? (Laughter)

Q Stevie (Mr. Stephenson of A.P.) had to go on the defensive, playing left field.

THE PRESIDENT: Over the fence and out.

Q You know what they did with our star first baseman (Al Waldron of Fox Movietone)? They sent him to Ethiopia.

THE PRESIDENT: Did they really!

MR. EARLY: He has gone over for the Fox Company.

Q That just ruined the team.

THE PRESIDENT: This year Eddie (Mr. Roddan) will be able to run for himself all right. How you ever got around to second on the one leg, I don't know. It was pretty good.

Q I hate to break it up, but we are much obliged to you.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any news but we did very well.

Q Very well.

THE PRESIDENT: I was wondering a little bit about Friday. It is a hell of a nuisance for me to stay in for it. (Referring to the fact that the Friday Conference is usually held late in the afternoon.) Make it in the morning and hold it for release.

Q Yes, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Unless it is a bad day. In that case we can have it at four o'clock in the afternoon.

Q It would be much more convenient for us.

THE PRESIDENT: That is what I thought. As long as it is a small crowd we can hold for it.

MR. EARLY: Yes, they can clean up Friday to Monday morning.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is all right. Then we will make it Friday morning.

Q The same time?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Oh, where is Ernest Lindley and also Charlie Hurd?

MR. EARLY: Tell them all about it.

THE PRESIDENT: This really is awfully amusing. The National City Bank gets out its monthly report, you see, on conditions. And here is the headline of the New York Times -- mind you, the story is written

about exactly the same report. (Reading)

"City Bank visions wide fall gains. Monthly letter says business made more than seasonal advances in August. Stock prices are higher. Rise interpreted as evidence that easy money is working into economic situation."

Then the lead:

"General business made more than the usual seasonal advance in August and the markets all gave evidence of a further strengthening of confidence in the fall outlook, according to the September monthly bank letter of the National City Bank of New York. Retail business, it is pointed out, is running steadily ahead of last year."

Now, the average person reads just what I read and that is all.

The Herald-Tribune, on the same story: (Reading)

"Grave dangers ahead, bank letter warns. Jobless, huge U. S. outlays held ample evidence of disrupted organization. Foreign stability doubted. National City cites uncertain status of AAA."

Then the lead:

"Although business reports during August have continued of an encouraging character, the National City Bank, in its current monthly letter, points out that there are grave dangers ahead. However, the immediate trade situation is not in danger, the bank letter points out, holding that the emphasis for the time being is on the increased farm income this fall and the rising activities of the industries."

Don't you think it is a scream?

Q Unlike the Times, the Herald-Tribune does not express consternation that the country may go to pieces if you absent yourself from Washington.

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. Don't you think that is amusing, written on exactly the same story?

Q (Mr. Roddan) Anything in the Hearst Press?

Q (Mr. Hurd) It is too heavy for them, Eddie. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I have to admit that I do not subscribe to the Hearst Press up here. I don't get it.

Q (Mr. Roddan) It is a mistake. It is the only one that gets you on the front page this morning. (Laughter)

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #236,
Held in the Study of the President's Home,
At Hyde Park, New York,
September 6, 1935, 11.00 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Ernest (Mr. Lindley), you are looking very pale.

Q (Mr. Storm) Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: You are looking good. You will have to take Ernest out
and give Ernest a sun bath.

Q (Mr. Storm) If you will provide the sun I will take care of the sun bath.

THE PRESIDENT: They have a good nudist colony across the river.

Let's all understand that this is a morning paper Conference.

The only news is that I have just signed -- he does not know it --
the commission of Stewart McDonald to be Federal Housing Administrator.
He is coming in to lunch so don't --

Q (interposing) I am sorry; we have already done that.

Q Don't give us more news than that. We will get out and tell him now.

THE PRESIDENT: That is all I have got; I am sorry.

Q I have a reply from John Mack to your query of the other day. The money
was used.

THE PRESIDENT: Have they a tablet?

Q No, they haven't, but John Mack today said he would get a big boulder
from his place and have a bronze tablet to be put on it. He will
contribute the money to it and also the boulder.

Q That is Dick O'Connell?

THE PRESIDENT: Richard E. Connell, not O'Connell.

Q Can you give us some idea of what you talked with the Mayor (La Guardia)
about?

THE PRESIDENT: Public works.

Q Did he discuss the referendum he is having in New York City?

THE PRESIDENT: No, public works -- P.W.A. and W.P.A.

Q In that respect, the afternoon papers have to write a story that he was here. Any particular reason we should not?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What did you discuss with the gentlemen from Wisconsin (Senator and Governor LaFollette)?

THE PRESIDENT: We discussed the Wisconsin public works program.

Q What has been holding that up? I thought the allotments went through so well.

THE PRESIDENT: Only part of it, something like \$13,000,000. went through. They should get about --

Q (interposing) \$70,000,000.?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Wasn't there a condition attached that they are having difficulty in fulfilling -- state contributions, or something like that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It is going along like other states, no difficulty.

Q The papers were interested in the Florida hurricane deaths -- why no precautions were taken. Anything you can tell us along that line?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more. No more news than we have.

Q I see by this morning's paper that they are burning the bodies down there.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. Certainly they are doing everything by order.

Q They were doing it on the theory of stopping pestilence.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not see any story that they were actually doing it.

MR. EARLY: I didn't -- actually burning?

Q It is an A.P. story right here: (reading) "Florida Burning Dead."

Q (Mr. Stephenson, representative of A.P.) It is not an A.P. story.

Q (Dick Lee representing the New York Daily News) I will bite. It is written from the A.P.

THE PRESIDENT: Dick, pin it on him.

Q (Mr. Stephenson, reading) "Special to the News;" written in the office.

Q (Mr. Lee) That is right; we had to improve the literary quality of it.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) That is all you had when you went to press.

THE PRESIDENT: That is all right. I will have you both up here before an investigating committee. (Laughter) We will get Colonel Ijams to subpoena you both and we will get the truth.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) Suits me.

Q Are you through with vetoing bills -- all cleaned up?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet; some more coming.

MR. EARLY: About eight left.

Q Are we apt to get any today?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; I sent a whole flock down.

Q Any of those long memorandums coming out?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, several more.

Q They are actually pocket vetoes, aren't they? But you just issue a statement. In other words, you are not limited to today or Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a thing you can argue backwards or forwards. Theoretically, you are right. The only method you have is a pocket veto. But, like at Albany, I go on the assumption that although it is technically a pocket veto, instead of letting the thing lie without anything, I take the opportunity to say I have positively disapproved, instead of negatively letting it die.

Q You can issue a statement any time?

THE PRESIDENT: That is right, I can issue a statement any time. I can do it before the 10-day period is up or after.

Q Have you had any reaction to your interchange of letters with Roy Howard?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only a telegram from him.

Q How did he receive it?

THE PRESIDENT: He said he hoped he was going to have a good play.

Q (Mr. Roddan, representing I.N.S.) How about a letter to Mr. Hearst?

(Laughter)

Q (Mr. Stephenson) Let's have something we can write.

Q (Mr. Roddan) He (indicating Mr. Stephenson) admits the A.P. would not carry it.

MR. EARLY: He means something he can print.

THE PRESIDENT: You mean something you can print. That is all right, Stevie (Mr. Stephenson).

Q Have you decided on a new Chief of Staff?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. I probably won't for a couple of weeks, around the end of the month.

Q Any more visitors?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. and Mrs. Moffett and Stewart McDonald. Harry Hopkins is here. Keith Morgan is here about the Warm Springs Foundation.

Q Is Hopkins going to stay overnight?

THE PRESIDENT: Harry is here for a rest. Don't say he has been sick, I decided it would be better for him to come up and spend a week end. There isn't any more significance than that. I think he is going in with Henry (Secretary Morgenthau). I did not expect him this morning -- he was going to fly up with Secretary Morgenthau.

MR. EARLY: I asked the White House about Mac (Mr. McIntyre) and the White House said that Mac had left on the midnight train last night with Harry Hopkins.

Q The dispatches from Washington this morning indicate that the Works Progress Administration is throwing out, by the wholesale, P.W.A. proposals on the ground that they are not properly suited or the amount --

THE PRESIDENT: The power isn't there?

Q Or the cost is too high, one or the other. At least our story indicated that the Public Works people were quite up in arms about the thing.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will find a good deal of collusion between them, off the record.

Q There has been only \$125,000,000. of P.W.A. grants so far and the deadline is getting very near.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course the whole difficulty is that there is a great difficulty in these cities qualifying. I do not mean qualifying from a financial point of view; I mean they have to qualify on the cost view and also on the number of people needing relief. There are a lot of communities, for instance, where they haven't any skilled workers to put on these P.W.A. projects and a P.W.A. project is very apt to require a good deal of skilled work. It depends entirely on your locality and on the individual project.

Q I realize the difficulty.

THE PRESIDENT: You cannot get a rule of thumb on it.

Q But, at the same time, there are apparently a lot of things there that cities want to put up, that are needed, and where they fail to qualify.

THE PRESIDENT: They have to come within the limitations of the appropriation.

I would like to do nothing but these fine jobs but, after all, that does not conform to the appropriation. It would be much better to put up permanent buildings and bridges and East Side highways, et cetera and so on, but it just cannot be done. We are trying to spend this money this year, within the year, and it is very difficult for them to qualify. That has been the simple fact from the beginning. There is nothing new about it.

Q But suppose, at the beginning of the next session of the Congress, you find you need an appropriation for next year for work relief, then whether all this particular money is spent within this year or not, it becomes necessary that you make a new request? You have a continuing program then?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a thing you cannot take into consideration at the present time because we do not know what we are going to recommend at the next Congress. That is a purely suppositious thing. I cannot suppose. That is logical.

Q The supposition is that there will be some need for the unemployed who will still be there. At any rate, you don't suppose that the improvement is going to be sufficient to wipe out unemployment altogether?

THE PRESIDENT: I have got \$4,000,000,000. That is all I have got and I have got to spend that \$4,000,000,000. and I won't be ready to make a recommendation until January, when the Congress meets.

Q Has the status of the slum clearance been definitely cleared up? Is that exempt from the requirement that the work must be completed within this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes and no. If slum clearance cannot start until this fall -- actually start -- we must stop.

Q That means actual construction to start this fall?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, practically, yes. Before the turn of the year.

Q Mr. President, in the matter of news for tomorrow --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) After all, that is not news either because that has been the story from the beginning. I said that a dozen times. On slum clearance, any project to start next summer is out and always has been

Q In several of his press conferences, the Public Works Administrator said he felt that the housing was exempted from those general rules on account of the difficulty of getting plots.

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't got enough money -- we are coming to the question of financing -- much as we would like to do it.

Q On Wisconsin, do you think there will be a chance of getting some more money out there for their program?

THE PRESIDENT: More than what has been allocated already?

Q Yes, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my, yes.

Q What news tomorrow? What else are you going to do?

THE PRESIDENT: Practically nothing. You can put the lid on now. I don't think I have anybody coming in tomorrow.

Q The man behind you has an evil eye.

Q It is getaway night for him.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Mr. Early), I haven't any appointments tomorrow?

MR. EARLY: No, sir; Henry Morgenthau's picnic.

Q Can you tell us anything about your plans for Sunday -- give us an idea?

THE PRESIDENT: I will go to church in the morning and play around the rest of the day. Nobody coming.

Q Any instructions to the team before we travel over the hill? (Referring to the baseball game)

Q Keep in training.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a good idea. I wish I could get there and umpire -- sit in a chair back of the pitcher.

MR. EARLY: No. If you got hit in the head with the ball somebody would have to write that story.

THE PRESIDENT: If I caught it, that might be a good story too.

Q We might take two balls with us. (Laughter)

Q Never saw him muff.

THE PRESIDENT: That is pretty good for a man of Russell's age. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Young) I am three months younger than you. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, we have not heard from Lowell (Mr. Lowell Thomas) about Sunday's game. I suppose we are going. We sent him a wire but we have not heard. If possible, we would like, on one of the succeeding Saturdays, to invite him back.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you suppose Oggie (Mr. Ogden Mills) would let us use his private golf course?

Q If you take the fence down.

MR. EARLY: He will let the newspapermen use it.

Q Is that the field we used last year?

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't you know that? Sure it was his field.

MR. EARLY: Ask the Press to ask for the use of the grounds and then you go over and see if they keep you out.

Q Ed Starling did it last year.

THE PRESIDENT: You will have one more Saturday anyway, the 21st.

Q You won't do anything definite before the 21st?

MR. EARLY: I would not shoot at the 21st.

Q Why? Is it dangerous to invite them over here?

Q Saturday the 21st -- all right.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it would be fine. They could come up in the afternoon.

Q Will you be making any trips over the week end?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so.

Q Did the Mayor see the La Follette boys here?

THE PRESIDENT: No; they left at half past 10.

Q I thought you might be interested in this from the Washington Post
(showing the President a cartoon).

THE PRESIDENT: That is good, too. It is a pretty good likeness. I think it is
a scream. Don't you love it? That is awfully good -- you bet it is
only the beginning.

Q No further business?

Q All set.

Q You certainly kept us up late last night, but no complaint.

THE PRESIDENT: It was a good story. Quiet Stevie's (Mr. Stephenson's) nerves.
I am in the business of quieting nerves.

Q It was very clear.

MR. EARLY: You know what Eddie Roddan and George Durno (representing the Hearst
newspapers) are going to do tonight? A new show opens across in the
theatre opposite the Nelson House.

THE PRESIDENT: The Bardavon?

MR. EARLY: Yes. Marian Davies is making her first appearance and George and
Eddie are passing flowers over the lights. (Laughter)

Q Talking about Dick Connell, Mr. (Judge) Mack told me at the time that Mr.
Connell was going around the County making speeches, he would stop at
every schoolhouse and deliver his flag speech so that when the school
children grew up they would vote for him.

THE PRESIDENT: He did that in eight campaigns, that was sixteen years, and they

have all grown up and voted for him.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.