

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference #237,  
Held at Val Kill Cottage, Hyde Park, N.Y.,  
September 11, 1935, 2:10 P.M.

(Mr. Frank C. Walker was present at this Conference.)

Q First of all, we would like to know about the visit of Father Coughlin yesterday. Can you tell us anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: He came yesterday to lunch. Joe Kennedy called up and said he was going to bring him through from Albany on his way to Massachusetts. He came down and we had a nice visit. He stayed for lunch and then went on.

Q Where was he going?

THE PRESIDENT: Somewhere in New England.

Q With Joe?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q He reported, I believe, that it was he who informed you of Senator Long's (Huey Long, of Louisiana) death?

THE PRESIDENT: No. What happened was that he was present when Missy came in and said so.

Q Is he back on the reservation, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. It was a social visit.

Q That covers a multitude of conversation. (Laughter)

Q Could you help out on the conversation?

THE PRESIDENT: Just a social visit. Just that -- that is all.

Q That is bound to have a little significance of itself.

THE PRESIDENT: Chatting?

Q I thought so. (Laughter)

Q Did he talk about politics at all?

THE PRESIDENT: Just a social visit.

Q Is he coming back, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q What about Kennedy's mission? Can you tell us anything of what is on his mind?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea, except to act as chauffeur, I guess.

Q How about the report about Farley (Postmaster General Farley)? I understand he telephoned today -- that he is resigning?

THE PRESIDENT: That is just good old Charlie Michelson. There is not a word of truth in it. Probably one of those brain storms in Washington.

Q Then Mr. Farley won't run the campaign? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: The thing was never mentioned here.

Q Do you expect him to resign from the Cabinet?

THE PRESIDENT: You are getting "iffy," Ernest (Mr. Lindley).

Q There wasn't an "if" in there; there was a "when."

THE PRESIDENT: It is too "whenny."

Q Mr. President, what are you going to do about your Works Relief program?

THE PRESIDENT: This meeting tomorrow was arranged two weeks ago.

Secretary Ickes is coming tonight and we are all going to meet tomorrow. Colonel Hackett is coming, Corrington Gill is coming with Harry Hopkins, Frank (Walker) is here already, the Director of the Budget is coming.

This is the checkup that we have been working toward to get all of the figures synchronized and to agree and to find out how much we have got left out of the 4 billion. There is roughly a billion and a quarter unallocated. That may vary 100 or 150 million either way.

Then the second thing to be done is to check up to find out, as

to the money already allocated since the bill went through, whether any of it, and there will be some, cannot be usefully spent. That would be pulled back and put into the kitty, the general pot. Those are the figures we are going to go over tomorrow. It is the first time they have been definitely assembled.

You see, we are doing this preparatory to my going away. Then, the balance will be, as a general proposition allocated, tentatively of course because, as you know, we may want to pull some back. It will be tentatively allocated between two things we have left, which is FWA and WPA and a small portion for straight relief.

Q Is Hopkins coming here tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he is going to be here tonight.

Q Is West coming?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, he is coming. Charlie West and Harry Hopkins are coming up tonight.

Q Ickes said at his press conference -- he seemed to confirm the report of some days before that he is very unhappy about the Public Works project.

THE PRESIDENT: I have seen three separate stories and no two of them agree.

Q Those I have read may vary a little in the intensity of the grief, but the grief is there.

THE PRESIDENT: In the grief?

Q The good old Star (The Washington Star) had him coming up for a showdown.

THE PRESIDENT: That is because you were not in Washington. (Referring to Mr. Russell Young)

Q The A.P. seemed to take the same attitude on it, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: You don't believe that, do you?

Q (Mr. Stephenson of the A.P.) If the A.P. said it, it was right.

Q (Mr. Dick Lee of the N.Y. Daily News) Even to the burning of the bodies.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, even to the burning of the bodies. You are right. You were ahead of everybody that day.

Q (Mr. Lee) Always.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) He has imagination.

Q (Mr. Roddan) Will you have them both come down to see us tomorrow, both at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q We will provide the gloves. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Do you think it will be safe, Frank?

MR. FRANK C. WALKER: Absolutely.

Q You have a referee here.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we have a referee here.

Q Do you expect Ickes to go on with this work?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, although the A.P. story suggested that he would not.

Q You say some of this may be run back into the general fund. You mean for use on work relief?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. To give you a simple illustration, we hung up on the peg for housing \$200,000,000 --

MR. WALKER: (interposing) 224 million.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it seems perfectly clear we cannot possibly spend that within the necessary time and we will take something back of that and add it on to something else. The same way with rural electrification.

MR. WALKER: Resettlement, electrification.

THE PRESIDENT: There was a hundred million and I doubt if we can spend it all. We might take 10 or 15 back, something like that.

Q While we are reviewing this, I thought we had better get something on



rural resettlement -- how much you are spending on Dr. Tugwell's --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You have two things, the individual family proposition and the large rural community end of it. We cannot tell on that yet. We have an allocation of \$200,000,000.

MR. WALKER: \$131,000,000. --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It is supposed to go to \$200,000,000.

MR. WALKER: \$131,000,000 so far.

THE PRESIDENT: It will depend a little bit, as we said, as to the expenditure of the balance, whether we will use it for the individual family, which in most cases is almost a relief proposition. We will lend them \$20 to buy a plow with, or \$40 to buy a cow with, or lend them the seed money, et cetera and so on. It is a lending proposition to the individual farm family. We do not yet know, and we cannot tell, probably for several months, how much that would have to run to for the balance of the year, so we do not know how much of that money can be transferred to these new communities, of which twelve or thirteen are actually under way.

Q You speak of "we." Did the Allotment Board --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, it comes down to me because I have to do the allotting.

Q At this stage do you anticipate spending the full \$4,000,000,000?

THE PRESIDENT: Not all actually spent before the first of July.

Q Allocated?

THE PRESIDENT: A good many projects, like for instance, a schoolhouse -- it is almost impossible to complete the building before the first of July.

Q In view of the present pickup in business, as to which everyone seems to agree, isn't there a chance that it may be considerably less than

\$4,000,000,000 that is required?

THE PRESIDENT: That depends on whether business, in picking up, employs as many people as it did before because one thing we have to remember is that during the five years of the depression business learned how to pull in its horns, how to save on its cost of production. The result is today that if we were to go back to the 1929 figures tomorrow we would probably use only about 81 per cent as many people in this country to produce the same amount of goods we did at that time. That is sometimes forgotten when we come to make up the picture. Hence the larger number of unemployed.

Q Business reports are very good, aren't they?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Talking about hanging up on a peg certain amounts for this and that, can you tell me how much you had in mind for P.W.A. projects?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not have any figure.

Q Did Congress allocate a specific figure?

THE PRESIDENT: That was one of the items.

Q \$900,000,000 or \$950,000,000, wasn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. But, of course, remember this, that a great many of the W.P.A. items are really small P.W.A. projects. You put up a rural schoolhouse for \$15,000, you do not put it in the same kind of engineering survey as one that costs \$150,000., therefore on W.P.A. -- therefore it comes out of the amount, \$900,000,000.

MR. WALKER: Out of that classification.

Q What about the Coal Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope within a week.

Q Is there anything you can tell us on the international situation from your conversation with Ambassador Bingham?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Naturally, I have talked with him about it. I have talked with the Secretary of State two or three times. There isn't anything that has not appeared in the papers. Of course it is serious; you cannot deny the fact that it is serious.

Q Do you have anything for us separate from what we have asked?

Anything that you could think of? Any news?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there has been anything.

Q Anything on that shipbuilding thing?

THE PRESIDENT: No, you get the shipbuilding story down there -- the clause that went into the contracts.

Q All right.

THE PRESIDENT: That came out there, I think.

Q On the public works, do I understand that you think most of them can be done more expeditiously under Works Progress?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it depends entirely on the project. \*After all, taking the same example, if you build a \$15,000 wooden schoolhouse in the Village of Hyde Park or, let us say, at East Park, you put it under W.P.A. and, naturally, it is a quick project. All you use, practically, in a case like that is from very simple carpenters' plans. You can start a thing like that in two or three weeks. But, if you put up a \$150,000 brick schoolhouse in the City of Poughkeepsie, that is a P.W.A. and, of course, it takes longer to get going, obviously.

Q Do you intend to continue the administrative setup (of P.W.A.)?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And also on these larger projects, do you intend to go ahead with them?



THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes. It becomes a question of how much money we have for P.W.A. and W.P.A. We have had that (question) from the first and I won't know until tomorrow morning.

Q What is the average cost per man you are now operating on for the residue of this?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q I understood that the amounts allocated ran so much per man originally, averaging \$1100, and that you have to cut it down?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is it around \$700?

THE PRESIDENT: Around \$700, yes. That, of course, depends on the locality.

It is a good deal more in New York City and a good deal less in the South. You cannot use a \$700 scale with New York City. The scale for New York City, I imagine, would be around \$900.

Q No room allowed at all for materials in there unless the local or state sponsor puts money in there?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Of course your P.W.A. is a 45-55 proposition and the other is W.P.A., where we give a certain amount to a community that cannot raise the money or hasn't the legal authority to do it, and they provide the materials out of their own funds. It depends on the project and the community. There isn't any hard and fast rule you can lay down or talk about in any of this work.

Q How are we going to know when the Father Coughlins come in? (Referring to the undisclosed visit of Father Coughlin the day before)

THE PRESIDENT: I was going to tell you today.

Q He spills it in New York before we get a chance to talk to you.

THE PRESIDENT: It is very careless.



Q It put all the boys on the spot.

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't a real story in it, except his visit.

Q Can you tell us what he talked about?

THE PRESIDENT: A social visit.

Q No silver?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter)

Q Is there anything further that you have to add to your statement  
in connection with the unfortunate incident (the shooting of Senator  
Huey Long) down in Louisiana the other night?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Naturally I sent a telegram to Mrs. Long and the family.

Q There is a story that Jim Farley is getting out on January eighth.

THE PRESIDENT: I told Charlie about it.

Q (Mr. Hurd) It has been officially denied.

THE PRESIDENT: The tire went flat.

Q That is one way to get on the front page of the Times.

Q I wonder if you had read the local newspapers of late regarding the answer  
of the various supervisors of the town to your address a few days ago?

THE PRESIDENT: I had not, no. The only one I read was the story of the  
party here.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q How about Postmaster General Farley? Is he going to resign?

THE PRESIDENT: I never suggested it at all. I never talked about it before.

Q That certainly gets Frank Walker right out of a good job.

THE PRESIDENT: What paper do you represent? (Laughter)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference #238, in his home at  
Hyde Park, N.Y.,  
In the President's Study  
September 13, 1935, 11:00 A.M.

(Mr. Fred Pasley, representing the New York Daily News, was introduced to the President.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have got the Captain (Captain Patterson of the New York Daily News) coming up today. Is this all there is?

Q Another batch (of correspondents) coming in.

THE PRESIDENT: That is good.

Q What are you going to talk to the Captain about?

THE PRESIDENT: Just a social visit.

Q Are you going to have a prepared speech? (Referring to the forthcoming trip to Lake Placid and Whiteface Mountain)

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Both extemporaneous?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I suppose you are not a bit posted in getting things off. Is there any telegraph office in Whiteface Inn, at the foot of the hill?

Q I understand that they are going to have to take it back to Placid.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you suppose you can file where we get back on the train?

Q They have some place at the base of the mountain.

Q It is about ten miles from the point you are going to talk.

Q The office is three blocks from the Olympic Stadium.

Q They are going to rush it down by auto.

THE PRESIDENT: You see, the trouble is there is darned little time on the schedule because after I come down from the top of the mountain I stop

down at Whiteface Mountain Inn and eat a hot dog. That is all the time I have.

Q How long are you going to talk?

THE PRESIDENT: I think five minutes.

Q Have you prepared anything?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had time to prepare anything. I am going to talk to the Foresters in the morning. Don't they have some kind of a parade or something?

Q Foresters Day, yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there will be any news. I am going to talk extemporaneously on sustained yield foresting.

Q Oh, my God!

THE PRESIDENT: "Oh, my God!" says Eddie (Mr. Roddan). I am afraid that won't be a front-page story but it really is important enough to be on the front page. You haven't any sense of news values.

Q (Mr. Roddan) I have, but I do not make up the paper.

Q Have you seen John Lewis, or do you expect to see him?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. I am talking to him today on the telephone. I am working on those appointments today.

Q Will we get them by tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. I might by Monday.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) Can you tell us about your talks yesterday? (with Secretary Ickes, Harry Hopkins, et al)

THE PRESIDENT: There again is a complete lack of news value. The real news value today is the foreign situation.

Q What can you say on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is the real news of course. We are all watching it.

The Secretary of State in his very excellent statement in the papers this morning seemed to put the situation very well and there isn't anything further that we are doing at the present time. We were all very much concerned over it.

Q Does that imply --

THE PRESIDENT: No, it does not imply. We are not going to get into the war.

Q It might be a question of judgment but, as I read one of these sentences and as an implication based on what you said, "That you are not doing anything more at the present time," does that imply that you might at a certain time participate in sanctions?

THE PRESIDENT: If the war breaks out we have perfectly definite legislation covering the subject. Simply a question of following legislation. Nothing further, not even by a stretch of the imagination.

Q That legislation is subject to your interpretation.

THE PRESIDENT: As to whether a state of war exists.

Q Mr. President, would you state what constitutes implements of war?

THE PRESIDENT: That question is being studied by the State Department at the present time.

Q What is that?

THE PRESIDENT: What constitutes implements of war.

Now, to come back to Stevie (Mr. Stephenson) and his question, I do not quite know how to go into this. I dictated a page and a half memo last night which is rather general, perhaps too general, but the difficulty of making it more specific is that there are two professions in this world that do not know the difference between dollars and dimes; one is the clergy and the other is the press.



Q We know about the dimes, Mr. President, but not the dollars.

THE PRESIDENT: So, really, what I ought to do in talking about this is to do what I do at budget time, make Fred (Storm) sit down on the floor while I talk on the fundamentals of finance.

Q Will it be more helpful if you read this little brief thing first before you explained?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. As a result of a careful checking of figures today, decisions were made with respect to allocations for relief and work relief during the coming six weeks.

Direct relief into the early part of November -- what I call the mopping up process -- will call for 85 million in addition to what has been already allocated.

Tentative figures, necessarily tentative, were arrived at for the total cost, that is through the balance of the year, for rural rehabilitation, rural relief and rural housing. Now, all of those three things come under the Rural Resettlement Administration. However, these tentative figures for these three are subject to later re-check; in other words, to see what the needs are.

I don't think any of you understand, few people do, and a lot of people concerned in the Administration do not, what these mean. Rehabilitation, relief and housing involve three separate things, all in the same Administration. Rural rehabilitation means taking care of, say, 100,000 families who are actually on farms but who, because of lack of equipment, lack of materials, -- in other words, meaning plows and cows and seeds and lack of money -- are unable to make a go of their farm life. In other words, that is the rehabilitation of

the individual farmer on the land on which he is already located.

That has been going on now for two years and it was transferred from FERA to Rural Resettlement.

Then, the second part of that is rural relief. That is concerned primarily with families in the drought area, who have to be tided over. That figure has been, of course, very materially reduced because the drought area of last year in most States today is back on its feet with the exception of one or two areas that were hit again by a drought this year as, for instance, the place that the dust storms came through and those same families still have to be taken care of by the relief method.

Then the third element in the Resettlement Administration is rural housing which means the existing projects that are actually under way and a few more for which the land has been substantially purchased up to the present time.

Q Mr. President, on rural housing, does that mean building homes?

THE PRESIDENT: It does.

Q Individual homes?

THE PRESIDENT: Individual homes and in some cases multiple homes. I don't know what the bright word for it is. Those are the communities outside of the suburban area but within access of a city.

Q You did not give any figure on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not, because I haven't any. For instance, I don't know whether that particular project will go through or not, but there is one project out at Bound Brook, New Jersey, which is about, as I remember it, 30 or 40 miles out of New York City. There it might be partly individual homes and partly apartment houses, with the effort also to bring in some kind of small industry that would take care of either a

portion of the population on a full-time basis or a larger portion of the population on a part-time basis.

Then on that question of rural housing we also discussed the possibility of doing there what we thought of as a possibility in regard to slum clearance and that is the establishment of a revolving fund. We would have to get legislation for it. The general idea is that if the Government puts through, let us say, one project, either slum clearance or rural housing, the people who go in after the thing is all finished organize a corporate entity and give back to the Government securities, bonds issued by that corporate entity, which would mean repayment to the Government over a period of years together, possibly, with Government management until they get on their feet, which might be a matter of five or ten years. Those securities would have a definite value and would form the security behind a revolving fund so that they could be sold or credit obtained on them and a new project started.

It is only what might be called the germ of an idea because it means legislation but in the long run it would mean a reduction of appropriations out of the Federal Treasury and at the same time a continuation of something over a period of years for which there is a very great need and that is housing, both urban and rural. The same thing could be applied to the other type of rural housing, the individual home communities.

Q Who will organize these corporate entities, the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: The Government will help the people going in to organize.

Q These are the projects that come under Mr. Tugwell?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.



Q How far did you go on this? Have you decided to back this?

THE PRESIDENT: Just studying it, that is all.

Q Just the germ of an idea?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It does two things. It saves actual cost to the Government and continues and possibly makes permanent an annual program of better housing.

Then on the question of Public Works as against Works Progress you have to get a background if you are going to write a truthful story.

Q That is the only kind we know how to write. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Nearly all of you. (Laughter) I am good today, it is all right.

You have got a perfectly simple problem -- I have to go back again -- and here is the way we took it up yesterday, and it is the easy way to describe it: You have three factors, one is dollars, the other is men and the third is time. The first thing we did yesterday was to find out how many men and how long a time was involved with respect to the existing allocations. In other words, assuming that we have made X number of dollars of existing allocations, how many men will they put to work and when will those men be employed and for how long a time.

The study showed this, and it is the simplest way of putting it: The allocations already made, because of their nature, nearly all being for rather permanent things, will give an increase in employment slowly. That is because of the nature of the projects. They go up steadily month by month, but they won't reach a peak until late in the spring. In fact, they do not reach a peak of the number of people employed until <sup>[June]</sup> June. That being so, you have an ascending scale of



employment on the monies already allocated going up like this (indicating a rising curve). Therefore, we have the problem of filling in the gap between now and June. That means that we have got to put more people to work quickly with the balance of the money than we are putting to work with the money already allocated. Do you see the point? That means that probably the bulk of the money that we have left has got to go for projects which will give the most employment during the months of December, January, February and March. Before March comes, those projects can start downhill because the other projects will have reached a much higher level.

Now, we did two principal things yesterday in regard to that: The first is that we are going to give enough money before I go away on the 26th to WPA to increase their employment on projects during the months of December, January, February and March. We have to do that if we are to live up substantially to what I said before, to somewhere around 90 per cent of the objective of getting the unemployed to work during the month of November. There is nothing new in it, it is just what I have said right along.

At the same time, we are going ahead with as many projects as we possibly can which will get work started during those months through PWA. During the coming week PWA is going to give me a list of projects which meet four conditions. We have to have four conditions on them in order to get people to work quickly. The four conditions are these: First, they have to be let by contract on or before December 15, 1935. That means that those projects will actually put people to work, I suppose, between December 15 and January 1; that is, as soon as the contract is let. The second is that they have to be

completed inside of a year.

Q A year from that date?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. The third is that they have to be in areas where there are sufficient people on the unemployment rolls to furnish the labor.

I guess there are only three conditions.

Q Is there no cost condition in there?

THE PRESIDENT: The only cost condition is that they have to live up substantially to the average of \$850 per man.

Q That makes that the fourth?

THE PRESIDENT: I forgot that. That is the fourth. An average of \$850 per man, which PWA says they can do.

Q Doesn't that first condition regarding starting of the work, not only getting the contract let on December 15, but starting the work within a few weeks after that, bar outside construction in most of the northern part of the country?

THE PRESIDENT: Nearly all of this construction can be done through the winter.

Q Building construction?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. There is very little difficulty now in the northern country under winter conditions. That does not worry them at all.

I think probably before I go I will approve, be able to approve, projects for at least 200 million dollars which represents a 45 per cent grant. That means that municipalities put up another 55 per cent or approximately 225 million more. That would take in projects for 425 million dollars.

Then, in addition to that, PWA is rechecking to find out what

PWA projects already authorized are not being pushed by the municipalities, or where they are running into technical or legal difficulties. Those projects will be cancelled and the money used for new projects under this same plan. It is expected that they will run to about 50 million dollars more on the 45 per cent basis, or about 110 million dollars of additional new construction.

That is only for the coming six weeks.

Q Now, that 200 million dollars you speak of is entirely PWA?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And, may I ask, that is only for the coming six weeks?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q How about the deadline that was to go into effect yesterday? Is there a possibility that further allocations may be made after six weeks?

THE PRESIDENT: If we have more money, yes. That is subject to re-check at the time. In other words, this is not limited to the 200 million dollars. When I get back we will have a re-check on expenditures and it is entirely possible, in fact probable, that there will be further PWA funds.

Then the urban housing. I will tell you what we have done on urban housing. The total amount hung up on the books was about 200 million dollars, segregated but not allotted. We found in going over the slum clearance out of the old appropriation, the 3 billion 300 million appropriation, that they have quite a lot of projects. Under the present appropriation we have two projects under way at a total cost of 7 million 400 thousand and 13 others, on them the lots have been acquired and the projects will be started within the next sixty days, the total involved being 26 million 500 thousand dollars. In those projects, the land is completely bought or under option. In January they will be



ready to proceed with 21 more projects, the land for which is substantially bought or under option. Those January projects total 51 million dollars. They are all approved. And we also have approved 15 million dollars of projects to start in February.

Q Fifteen million dollars?

THE PRESIDENT: That is right, 15 million dollars of additional projects.

In those cases the land is only partially under option and therefore, of course, it is subject to their ability to get the balance of the land. That makes a total of 100 million dollars.

Now, they had various other projects, some in February, a lot of them in March and one in April, the cost of which would have been another 100 million dollars. We have cut them out entirely because of the lateness in starting them.

Q What division is this under?

THE PRESIDENT: Under Colonel Hackett.

Q Is this distinct from slum clearance?

THE PRESIDENT: This is slum clearance, and we are taking that 100 million dollars and transferring it to PWA projects that can be started, as I said before, as soon after December 15 as possible. There will be quite a number started before December 11.

Now, on that 100 million dollars allocated for slum clearance, there again it comes under the question of getting legislation so that a revolving fund can be created for it.

Q The 100 million dollars for slum clearance?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Now, let us see what else there was.

Oh, yes, out of the balance we have got to give 75 million dollars more to CCC camps to carry them through the balance of the year with



the thought, not yet finally determined, that the CCC camps will be continued for the following year on a somewhat smaller basis, in other words, about 300,000 boys. And there is the further thought that they will become a permanent part of the Government's policy.

Q That is to maintain the CCC?

THE PRESIDENT: To maintain the CCC at an average annual rate of 300,000 boys.

Q That would be on a one year basis for each boy?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know.

Q You realize, Mr. President, that there is nothing new on that. Senator Young announced that in Warm Springs.

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely.

Q (Mr. Young) I had a hard time working it out for you. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: He committed me and I had to go along.

Q Are there about 600,000 in it now?

THE PRESIDENT: There are 510,000 in it now.

Q Do you happen to recall offhand what this 75 million dollars will bring the total allocation of CCC up to?

THE PRESIDENT: About 600 million dollars representing about \$1200 per boy.

Q Have you the figures on the check-up as to the unexpended balance of the 4 billion 800 million dollars?

THE PRESIDENT: Around a billion and a quarter.

Q That is unallocated?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Was that billion and a quarter split up yesterday at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q It was not?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only what I have told you.

Q A definite amount was not allocated to WPA?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Then one other thing, on rural electrification. In order to get people to work, also to see if we cannot save money to be used for putting people to work, I am taking up with Morris Cooke of Rural Electrification and with Jesse Jones of the RFC, the possibility of the RFC financing a large portion of the Rural Electrification work. As you know, that Rural Electrification work, as it proceeds, is intended to return the money wholly to the Government. In other words, it is only a loan, and it may be a loan to a farm organization, a farmers' cooperative or to a local lighting district, a municipality or to a private company, but the loans are intended to be self-liquidating and I hope that Jesse Jones will be able to bear a portion at least.

Q Have you a figure on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I haven't taken it up with him yet. This will be news to him.

I don't think there is another thing. We went over the various drafts and they all came down to the same picture.

Q May we have this photograph and reproduce it?

THE PRESIDENT: There are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million people. Probably we cannot get all of them. Suppose we get 90 per cent of the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million people, which is 3,150,000 people. They are the people we ought to get to work. The 10 per cent at the top, the difference between 3,150,000 and 3,500,000 would be on some form of relief.

Everything down at the bottom is represented by Government agencies. That is at the present time, those Government agencies are taking care of 800 and some odd thousand.

Q You are counting the CCC in there?

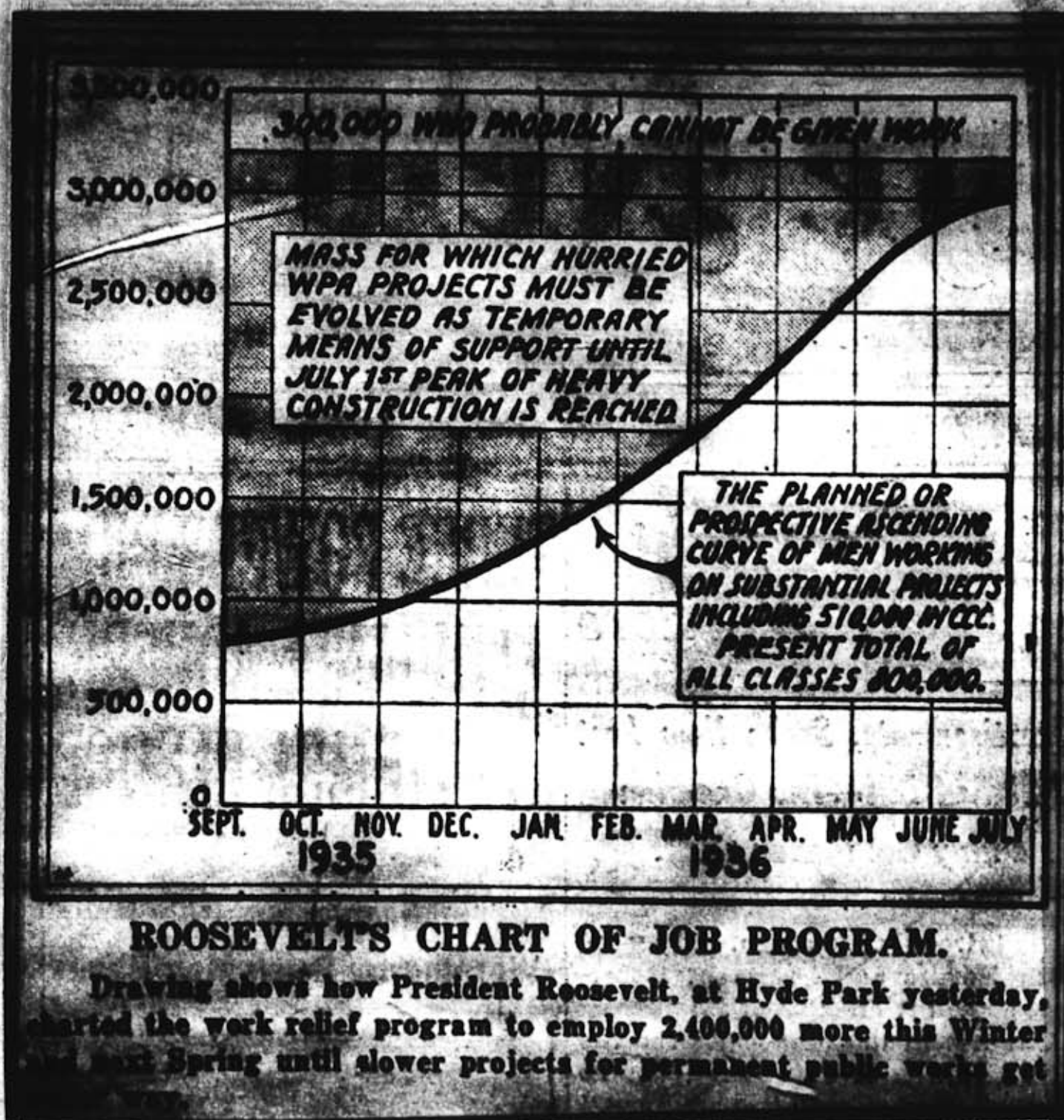
THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Now the difference between that 800 thousand and the 3 million 150 thousand is 2 million 400 thousand, which must be taken care of by relief, WPA or PWA. We start our curve down here at the 800 thousand figure and as it proceeds it absorbs people from relief, increasing very rapidly from about the middle of December until it gets up to about April. We get up pretty well by the first of April. This is the gap (indicating the space between 800 thousand and 3 million 150 thousand) that has to be filled in between now and then. WPA is supposed to take care of that gap. Meanwhile this curve, representing PWA employment, will constantly be going up. In other words, those are the PWA contracts that are let on the 15th of December and they start getting people to work within 15 to 30 days but it does not get to its maximum of people until about May.

(Continued on following page)



(Note: The chart to which the President is referring was copied by Mr. Charles Hurd of the New York Times, and a copy of that chart as reproduced in the New York Times is attached below.)



Q There is one point on the calculation of the number of people that I have not been able to get straightened. If these 500,000 boys in the CCC camps are counted as part of the 3 million 500 thousand, then there

will be a considerably larger percentage of the total relief rolls left on relief, won't there, because most of these CCC --

THE PRESIDENT: It does not provide the full amount. In other words, there is that line in there. If a family needs \$50 a month and they only get \$25 from their boy in the CCC camp and they haven't another worker in the family, then we have to fill in that gap of \$25 from this section, which is relief.

Q Under this chart the family that got part help from CCC would be down here (indicating 800,000 sector) because you have figured 500,000 CCC boys.

THE PRESIDENT: The family gets \$25 out of this (indicating 800,000 group) and \$25 out of that (indicating relief sector).

Q You have this 3,150,000. Then, if you subtract 500,000 from that for families getting part help from the CCC, you are only taking 2,650,000 families completely off the relief rolls?

THE PRESIDENT: You are taking care of the balance of those families from the top (indicating the top sector completely on relief). They get paid half out of that and half out of this. (Indicating the 800,000 sector)

Q Wouldn't that line be there now if we were back to the prosperity of '29? (Indicating full relief sector)

THE PRESIDENT: Probably more than that.

Q It would be about 3 million, wouldn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q This is not the total of unemployment. This is the number to be put to work out of the 4 billion?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And of course the municipalities are supposed to take

care of the unemployed beyond this 3,500,000 people. Our only contract was to carry out what I said to Congress, these 3,500,000 people.

Q As you define that, I don't quite see how the CCC, how you can count them out in the 3,500,000, because you are not putting those families on a full work basis. You are getting one of the sons out of the family.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but, on the other hand, you are not putting the \$25 up in here (indicating the 2,400,000 sector). It is a half person down here (indicating 800,000 sector) and it is a half person up there (indicating the full relief sector) and therefore it checks.

Q I don't see how that other half goes here.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, look here. There are 350,000 families in this group (indicating full relief group) -- let us say, 90 per cent. Now, there are 350,000 CCC boys down here (indicating the 800,000 group). Now, suppose there are 100,000 CCC boys down here whose families have got to be helped over and above what the CCC boys send home. Therefore you have got to take off 50,000 families from there because they are only getting, the whole 100,000 are only getting half help. Now, these families up here, these 350,000 families, we assume that they are getting full help. Since the 100,000 families are getting half help, you subtract half that number or 50,000 from the 350,000 families on full relief, making the total on full relief 300,000.

Q I don't see why you are subtracting that from up here (indicating full relief). You have already subtracted 500,000 on the basis of CCC enrollment down here (indicating 800,000 group).

THE PRESIDENT: They are getting half the help out of here and half help up here (indicating full relief).



Q Why don't you just put the 250,000 down here (indicating 800,000 sector)?

Q It looks like a foreign plot to me.

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't I tell you they needed to go to school on arithmetic?

Q May I draw a map for you and send it out?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q If my notes are correct, I understood you to say that you were going to give enough money to WPA to increase employment to the necessary level for these four months coming?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you give us some rough idea of how much of that \$1,250,000,000 you have left?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Is it fair to take \$75,000,000 for CCC and \$200,000,000 for public works, add them up and subtract them from a billion and a quarter?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it is not, because you will still have a balance left on hand, if you do. You will find, if you add those figures and subtract them from a billion and a quarter that you will have \$700,000,000 or something like that for WPA --

Q And Rural Resettlement which is the figure you did not give us?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Actually I think you will have \$700,000,000 that could go to WPA. Well, they are getting nothing like that. I don't know what they are getting. As it is, I am going to have a nice balance left over.

Q To turn back to the Treasury or to re-allocate later?

THE PRESIDENT: To re-allocate later.

Q Do you have any superstition on Friday, the 13th?

THE PRESIDENT: Lucky number, that is all.

Q Anything about your talk with General Johnson and Mr. Manley?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea what it is about.

Q Would it be a fair guess to say it has something to do with Moses'

(Robert Moses of New York) and (General) Johnson's fight?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe it does.

Q Did he ask for the conference?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And Basil Manley, what are you going to discuss with him?

THE PRESIDENT: I imagine he is going to discuss the legislative requirements placed on the Federal Power Commission, and how he is going to carry them out without any money because his money is in the Third Deficiency Bill. I think that is a pretty good guess.

MR. McINTYRE: You do not care to ask what Captain Patterson is going to say?

Q We already did.

Q Do you regard Friday the thirteenth as a lucky number?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think so. Yes -- it is all right.

Q Aren't you going to get a copy of that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. This isn't in here. These are just notes for myself.

Q Have you any comment on the report that some Dutchess County farmers are objecting to the so-called potato law?

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you what I can, just as background, on the potato law. It is only background, and that is that it was not advocated by the Secretary of Agriculture. It was put through largely through the insistence of Senator Borah, of Idaho.

Q The old Idaho potato. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: And Senator Hale, of Maine, and Senator Bailey, of

North Carolina.

Q I think Senator Hale skipped the roll call on it but Senator White might have voted for it.

THE PRESIDENT: He came down to ask me.

MR. McINTYRE: I think you had better explain what you mean by background.

THE PRESIDENT: It means for your information but it did not originate here.

Q You can't write anything under a Hyde Park dateline.

MR. McINTYRE: Tip your office and let them write it.

THE PRESIDENT: And then the other part of it is that the Department of Agriculture is engaged in studying the damned thing at the present time.

MR. McINTYRE: That bars the local paper on that story. You cannot write a story on the Hyde Park dateline. The only thing you can do is to tap your story to your paper.



**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference #239,  
Held in the Study of the President's Home,  
at Hyde Park, New York,  
September 18, 1935, 10.45 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, my good friend. How are you this morning?

Q Fine. You are looking great, Mr. President.

(A member of the Press handed to the President a letter from  
Lowell Thomas with respect to the forthcoming baseball game.)

THE PRESIDENT: We have Jack Dempsey refereeing it.

Q We have Jim Stringfellow with two guns.

Q We are going to have those boys? (Referring to the President's sons)

Q We will have Jim (Stringfellow) wearing his two guns and that will  
decide Mr. Dempsey.

THE PRESIDENT: Great. I will try to get over if I can. I don't think  
I can -- I will have a lot of people coming to lunch, as usual.

MR. MCINTYRE: It is a swell party. You can motor over. He is getting  
up a very swell party.

THE PRESIDENT: See if you can't pull it off.

Q Young John is coming to play.

Q And John Boettiger.

Q There have been some rumors you were contemplating a western trip?

THE PRESIDENT: We have not finished the itinerary yet. It looks now --  
I find there is such an awful lot of stuff to do in Washington it  
looks as though we cannot get away until the end of the week.

Q What day do you leave here?

THE PRESIDENT: Sunday night.

Q That knocks out the American Legion invitation, doesn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid it does. I don't think there is a chance of my being able to make it. You see, they adjourn on the twenty-sixth. I have just been piling up things that I cannot do here.

MR. McINTYRE: It has been piling up here too, hasn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: If I tried to do it in two days, I couldn't.

Q More for personal interest and not for writing, what will be the prospects of the specials that have to go out to the West Coast making the trip back on one of the Naval vessels?

THE PRESIDENT: All the three specials? Yes.

Q I mean the real specials.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe there is enough room on the cruiser, is there, Fred?

Q (Mr. Storm) I won't say because I will get in bad, Mr. President.

MR. McINTYRE: Take a few trained seals along for a sea trip.

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't really any possibility of it because they can't take more than three people on that. It upsets the routine of the ship too much.

Q Mr. President, are there any engagements to announce on the trip westward?

THE PRESIDENT: Boulder Dam, San Diego and probably some kind of a luncheon in Los Angeles.

Q You take in Los Angeles before San Diego?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and then drive down -- probably drive down.

Q Can you tell us the approximate dates there?

THE PRESIDENT: It will be five days after I leave.

Q Is it too premature to say what possible western stops you might make?

THE PRESIDENT: None.

Q You say, "None"?

THE PRESIDENT: None. Sorry to make a liar out of you again but it is all right. That is off the record.

Q Mr. President, I don't recall having written flatly that you would make a midwestern stop. I have been very dubious. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: All these political speeches across the Continent. It is all right.

Q Yesterday, in Pennsylvania, they had up a constitutional revision of the State Charter, making it easier to put through New Deal policies?

THE PRESIDENT: In Pennsylvania? Did they?

Q Apparently it was defeated about three to two. Governor Earle tried to put it over.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know they had one going.

Q I did not either. I had a terrible time finding it in the paper this morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Don't say I did not know it was pending because, after all, that sounds funny either way. Just say there is no comment.

Q Mr. President, is there any late news from Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing. I talked yesterday afternoon and the thing is absolutely the same.

Q The Associated Press reports today that Italy is looking for a compromise, or is ready to talk turkey anyway.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot comment on it because, off the record, I do think, from the newspaper stories this morning, that it is beginning to look as though there is a ray of hope.

Q That is off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: I have had nothing from the State Department up to today



at noon. I have had no cheering news.

Q As a matter of fact, rather careful reading of those dispatches this morning indicated that all Italy has agreed to do is to consider substantial proposals, if made, and no suggestion that they have been made.

Q It shows that the British is a more powerful agency of peace than the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, one of the Washington papers is interested in Congressman Sirovich's visit up here about two weeks ago on a Civil Service bill, which he says he plans to put in at the next session. I do not know what the bill calls for but he represented you as being all for it. Did he talk to you about a Civil Service bill?

THE PRESIDENT: He never mentioned one.

MR. MCINTYRE: That is off the record.

THE PRESIDENT: This is off the record too. Old Doc pulled his usual stunt and he said he knew more about pure food and drugs than anybody else, and that he knew more about immigration than anybody else, and he handed me about five more speeches, and then he told me about this new Department of Arts and Sciences, about which he knew more than anybody else, and then he handed me volumes on that and then, after having made about six speeches to me, and having handed me literature about a foot high, he took his departure.

MR. MCINTYRE: He is the world's champion talker.

THE PRESIDENT: You know, as a matter of fact, if one did not know old Doc personally, the stuff in the Record (Congressional Record) is pretty good stuff. He has an amazing amount of information in it.

Did you ever read his stuff?

Q No.

THE PRESIDENT: He makes a great speech too.

Q He made a great study on the civil service thing.

THE PRESIDENT: I imagine so.

Q Didn't he give you a gold watch?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is there anything to add to the Works Relief program since we last talked to you?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, could you clear us up at all on General Johnson's statement yesterday at his press conference?

THE PRESIDENT: It has not been discussed at all. It was not discussed yesterday at all.

Q Mayor La Guardia had intimated that he was coming up to discuss it.

THE PRESIDENT: Mayor La Guardia mentioned it but it was not mentioned in the conference at all.

Q The prevailing wage scale?

THE PRESIDENT: Merely talked about the possibilities of employment in the State of New York and the amount of people we have to try to take off the rolls and put to work. We talked about the State as a whole.

Q The Government will do the same thing for all states as for New York?

THE PRESIDENT: Exactly the same thing; no difference.

Q Is it reasonable to suppose that there may be something on the prevailing wage scale from here soon, as General Johnson said?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. It would not be from here. It is a matter

to be handled strictly between Harry Hopkins and him.

Q You mentioned at the last Press Conference that Secretary Ickes during the week would send you some of his proposals?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know whether they will get here before I leave or I will pick them up on Monday morning. That is one reason for staying over in Washington. I will have a lot to go through.

Q Any of these visitors going to make news for us?

THE PRESIDENT: Who is coming?

Q Read the list (indicating list in front of the President).

THE PRESIDENT: They are all people who have been asking to see me for a long time.

Q Who is Frank Kelly?

THE PRESIDENT: Brooklyn leader. I am cleaning up all of these things -- people who have been trying to see me back in July and August and who were put off until after the session. I am just cleaning up.

Q Any observation on yesterday's election?

THE PRESIDENT: Yesterday's election? What happened?

Q I don't know.

Q I know there was one -- the primary.

MR. MCINTYRE: How did you happen to know -- the same way I did? The tap room was closed for six hours.

Q Nine hours. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: We did not have a contest in the Town of Hyde Park so I did not vote.

Q Any comment on the visit of Farley and Charlie Michelson?

THE PRESIDENT: A social visit.

Q You talked about the weather? (Laughter)



THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and growing crops. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, when could we expect something on the Guffey Coal Board?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I had hoped to have it today and I haven't. Perhaps this afternoon, tomorrow or the next day. It looks like that now. I am just doing some thinking on one or two names.

Q Benedum have anything to do with it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. He is oil, I think.

Q I know he is, but he is from Pittsburgh.

Q Will the Coal Board be named before your return?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so -- I hope so. I have got two names to check on. I am all set on three, and if I can check them in the next twenty-four hours.

Q You still have three to name besides that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the Coal Labor Board. I think there are three names. Technically, one is recommended by the miners and one by the operators, so I really only have to select one.

Q Is Hosford apt to be on it?

THE PRESIDENT: You should see the list -- there are sixty names. It wouldn't do you any good -- there are sixty people mentioned.

Q Then there will be fifty-five very sore fellows.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

Phelps wrote a story last night in the Sun (New York Sun) in which Phelps (Adams) was unusually accurate. (Laughter) This is all off the record. It made me think of telling you a story about the Constitutional Convention that was held at Poughkeepsie in 1788. It was an awfully interesting thing and very few people

have dug into it. The reason I know of it was because my great-great-grandfather was a member of it.

Q Isaac Roosevelt?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It took nine states to ratify. Seven states had ratified. New York and Virginia were holding their conventions. Obviously New York was the key state because if New York did not ratify you would have had New England on the one side and Pennsylvania and the South on the other side, with this split right across the middle of the colonies, so it was literally a critical thing.

So the New York delegates were divided -- there were 47 or 48 of them -- and they were divided into two groups, one led by old man Clinton, Governor of the State from the formation of the state government, and the other was led by Hamilton. In other words, there was a Clinton crowd and a Hamilton crowd. All the delegates were for a Constitution. But the Clinton crowd were in the majority, a very definite majority, and they would not ratify the Constitution without a Bill of Rights, and there was no Bill of Rights in it.

So they met in Poughkeepsie, at the site of the present Court House, and they sat there week after week, and there were some very interesting speeches and debates. The Clinton crowd would not vote to ratify it. The Hamilton crowd, and my great-great-grandfather was a member of it -- I think they only had about 20 or 22 votes -- and they had a complete deadlock. The Clinton people said that they would not ratify without a Bill of Rights and the Hamilton people said, "We are all for a Bill of Rights. Now, there is a clause in the Constitution that allows it to be amended. Let us ratify it and then seek an amendment afterwards."

Well, the thing dragged on and the Clinton crowd would not yield, and finally a fellow named Malark Fond Smith who was a delegate from Dutchess County --

Q This isn't off the record, is it?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, sure. I am not going into the Constitutional history, but if anybody wants to write up a story, or a magazine article, it's all right.

Well, Malark Fond Smith personally made a speech, "We are all agreed that there should be a Bill of Rights but, after all, if we do not ratify the Constitution there won't be any Union." Meanwhile, they had not heard from Virginia. And he said, "I propose a formula and that is that we, the delegates here, ratify the Constitution in full faith and confidence that an amendment or a series of amendments will be immediately adopted providing for a Bill of Rights." On that, the Hamilton people swung over enough Clintonian delegates to ratify the Constitution, and they were all set. That was done right after the speech and at that moment in came the horseback rider saying that Virginia had ratified. So Virginia beat us to it by about three days. New York, having been straightened out on the Bill of Rights, ratified by a close vote, ratified in full faith and confidence that the Bill of Rights would be added to the Constitution."

Q His amendment was won by a vote of 21 to 39. The actual ratification was 30 to 27.

THE PRESIDENT: He found the formula and after the very first session of the Congress the Bill of Rights bills were introduced, the ten amendments.

Q Which crowd was Livingston with, the Hamiltonians?



THE PRESIDENT: I don't remember.

Q Old John Jay.

Q He came afterwards.

THE PRESIDENT: Was John Jay a member?

Q (Phelps Adams) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Did he take part?

Q His name was mentioned.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether John Jay took part in the debates.

He may have been on a trip. I think Robert R. Livingston was with the Clintonians at that time. That was a very nice formula -- "in full faith and confidence".

Q That is a common legal phrase as a result of that.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And we can't use any of this?

THE PRESIDENT: No, go and dig it up yourself.

Q If you really want it, there is a Clerk of the County down here who has a nice old history book. He has been digging into it. It says Poughkeepsie is noted for one thing and then --

Q (interposing) It does not have President Livingston's remark about "full faith and confidence."

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is anything else pending today or tomorrow or the next day.

Q Can we tell Lowell Thomas he may expect you Saturday?

THE PRESIDENT: I will come if I can. Mrs. Roosevelt is speaking down in Newburgh this morning.

MR. McINTYRE: She told us last night, after we had stayed into the wee small hours, that she was going away at seven this morning.

Q Is Mr. Farley leaving today?

THE PRESIDENT: He left this morning early. I did not see them off.

Q You say the western trip will be somewhere toward the end of next week?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Have you a nice cruiser picked for us?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard who is escort.

Q You are going on the HOUSTON?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Have you got any (fishing) lines or poles or anything?

Q We thought we would get some after we got out there on the Coast.

THE PRESIDENT: You want some fairly heavy gear because where we are going there are pretty big fish. I had on one marlin last year and Franklin was on one and we lost both of them. Both gears carried away.

Q Big pole. I got a pole but it is not big enough.

THE PRESIDENT: You want a very heavy pole. We will have quite a lot of fishing probably, because I am trying to schedule the thing so that we will get to a place around two o'clock in the afternoon, fish until dark and then get back on board and then go on to another place.

Q Are you going to Pearl Island?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And go fishing?

THE PRESIDENT: I have got another place that no white man has ever gone to, not far from there.

Q You are going back to the Cocos too?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't have you miss that. And this time I am going to issue an order that all three (of the Press Association men) have

to go to a picnic on the beach, whether it is raining or not.

Q Did you understand why we did not go last year?

Q Can you imagine a Navy ship that could not answer where the President went until they asked him?

THE PRESIDENT: You came in, didn't you, Stevie (Mr. Stephenson)?

Q (Mr. Stephenson) That was to verify.

Q They had told us that you had turned back.

Q We were all ready to go off the boat -- we were standing on the gangway for an hour.

THE PRESIDENT: They said you were ready.

Q We stood in the rain for two hours. They couldn't make up their minds whether we were going to go ashore or stand at the beam or what.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think you will get the same boat you had last year.

Q Have you got a destroyer picked out for them?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think we will make them use a destroyer this time.

Q Where do you think you will land? Honduras?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- I have no idea. It depends on whether it is rough or not. I don't want to come around Honduras.

Q By the way, do you happen to have any tentative time in mind for this cruise -- the length of time?

THE PRESIDENT: It will be about twenty days on the water and about five days getting out there. Twenty-five or six days, the whole trip.

Q Can you give us any idea when you are likely to get your tentative schedule on this trip?

THE PRESIDENT: By Friday or maybe by tomorrow. But it will be fairly

hurried going across (the Continent) because I want to get as much time as I can at Washington.

MR. McINTYRE: And at sea.

THE PRESIDENT: And at sea.

Q Mr. President, it is definite then that you will not be able to go to the American Legion?

THE PRESIDENT: I probably won't be able to because I have all this stuff.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: See you Friday.



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #240,  
Held in the Study of the President's Home  
at Hyde Park, New York,  
September 20, 1935, 10.30 A.M.

(Secretary McIntyre and the official reporter, having been delayed at the office in Poughkeepsie, did not arrive until after the Press Conference had started.)

Q Mr. President, I noticed in the story the other day that the office tucked in a little paragraph to the effect that Ickes (Secretary Ickes) would accompany you out to Boulder Dam?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is right. Also Hopkins (Mr. Harry Hopkins) is going along too.

Q Are you ready with the Coal Board?

THE PRESIDENT: Where is Mac (Mr. McIntyre)? Did you get that clearance?

MR. MCINTYRE: No. I will have it soon, sir.

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

THE PRESIDENT: No. I have not heard anything from Washington since the day before yesterday. They did not have anything except what came out in the papers.

Q Mr. President, there are three governors on the list today, Governor Green, Governor McNutt and Governor Brann?

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Good.

Q Is there anything you can tell us beforehand what they are likely to talk about?

THE PRESIDENT: I will try to shoot them down to you, all of them.

Q We want to go to Green (Governor Green) for lunch. Do you remember last year?

THE PRESIDENT: Did he lunch with you?

Q He did not. (Laughter)

Q We were his guests.

Q We thought we were. (Laughter)

Q Just a little misunderstanding.

THE PRESIDENT: I guess he had the cotton strike on his mind.

Q But he took time to send word up, though.

MR. McINTYRE: Did you ever see the letter we wrote him?

THE PRESIDENT: You ought to get him to lunch with you.

Q If we get him, we will.

THE PRESIDENT: McNutt is lunching here, not he.

Q You tell him.

Q Have you made any estimates or surveys to show how much the cost of your work relief program will be increased as the result of the shortening of hours under the agreement announced yesterday by Hopkins and others?

THE PRESIDENT: No information on it at all.

Q Mr. President, you did approve that order on hours?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q You did not?

THE PRESIDENT: I told you before that that is a matter being handled by Hopkins. That does not mean I disapproved it. It never came this way, that is all.

MR. McINTYRE: One or two of the boys have an inquiry and, if you want to answer it, it ought not to be for morning paper release but for immediate release. The news is that Joe Kennedy --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, I think that can be announced. The

only thing is this: I have his letter and I have not written my letter. I do not want to kill the story for Joe. That has been in the cards for about six weeks.

MR. MCINTYRE: The rest of the Conference is for morning, paper release, but this is for immediate release.

THE PRESIDENT: I told you six weeks ago he was getting out this fall.

Q Does he give any reason?

THE PRESIDENT: That is the trouble about making it -- there are going to be two very nice letters.

Q Can't we get that after the Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because mine isn't written yet.

Q We can say it will be coming along later?

MR. MCINTYRE: The afternoons feel they are entitled to it because the story is breaking in Washington.

THE PRESIDENT: All right -- letters for the morning.

Q Can you tell us why he is getting out now?

THE PRESIDENT: Because he has been hoping to get out for some time and he stayed a great deal longer than he expected to stay. He has to get back to his private work.

Q Have you anyone in mind to succeed him?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q I have seen his name mentioned as the next Postmaster General by political writers in Washington? (Laughter)

Q Is there going to be a new Postmaster General?

THE PRESIDENT: Only in the minds of the political writers from Washington, as Mr. Russell Young says.

Q (Mr. Young) We haven't any up here.

Q You can go further and do worse.

Q Anybody on this list, like Dr. Studebaker?

THE PRESIDENT: Who else?

Q George Johnson and Hecox, of Binghamton (New York).

THE PRESIDENT: They are old friends of mine.

Q Lester Herzog, he is the State W.P.A. Administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

That will be all, I think, until we get back to Washington.

I am cleaning up tomorrow and Sunday. I do not think anybody is coming. Is anybody coming tomorrow?

MR. McINTYRE: No, sir.

Q Did you say my itinerary was wrong?

THE PRESIDENT: Only your geography is wrong. In other words, the U. P. goes straight from Omaha to Cheyenne.

Q The U. P. never went straight in its life. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it is still in the black.

Q I am talking about the United Press.

Q (Mr. Storm, representative of the United Press) It is also in the black. It is about time they were giving back that 10 per cent pay cut.

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't you been given that back?

Q No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to speak about that.

Q You might send him (Roy Howard) a cable beginning, "As suggested by Storm--"

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

Q May we write about the ball game for the morning papers tomorrow?



THE PRESIDENT: Yes and that I hope to be able to go.

Q We hope you will.

THE PRESIDENT: After lunch I have got some kind of a show that Sistie and Buzzie are putting on.

Q Tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: Tomorrow.

MR. MCINTYRE: I think we will arrange with Sistie to put the time up a few minutes.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it will be a quarter to three and that will get me over about a quarter past four.

MR. MCINTYRE: Why can't you bribe Sistie by telling her you will take her with you?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a question of her nap. Sistie will go any time.

Q That is fine; thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I can give you the itinerary now. It is Washington, Omaha, Cheyenne, Salt Lake City, Boulder Dam, Los Angeles, San Diego, cruiser, Cocos Islands and Pearl Islands. By the way, I was talking to somebody about the Pearl Islands and he had fished there and says it is awfully good fishing.

Q Where do the Pearl Islands lie?

THE PRESIDENT: Off Panama and a little southwest of Panama. In other words, going from Panama to Cocos, we went just about due west and if we had gone a little more to the south of that we would have seen the Pearl Islands.

MR. MCINTYRE: Where is this place that no white man has ever been before? Is that a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is a secret.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #241,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
September 25, 1935, 10:40 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I hope you will all have a very pleasant vacation. I believe there is quite a gang going on the train. I think it is going to be a peaceful trip going across.

Q Quite a crowd signed up.

THE PRESIDENT: I have been digging out the reels and rods and lines and leads this morning. I will be all packed by tonight.

Q How many days do you think you will devote to your fishing -- a couple of days?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, probably more than that. I think I will probably stay on the Coast of Lower California and visit a couple of places for a couple of hours each. Then I hope I can get two days at the Cocos Islands. If I find any treasure I will share it all with you, and then maybe a couple of afternoons in the Bay of Panama.

Q That island you were going ashore, where no white man had ever trod before, where is that?

THE PRESIDENT: That is down in that direction. If I told where it was, there would be some white man who would go there.

Q Mr. President, are you thinking of going to Northern California, any place north of Frisco?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not going to Frisco, only to Los Angeles and San Diego.

Q What is the status of the farm-to-market roads program?

THE PRESIDENT: What about it?

Q Anything on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Only that we are building a number of them under WPA.

Almost every state, I think, is down on the list.

Q Some talk of some four hundred or five hundred million being set aside for that purpose.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. But out of the WPA list of projects there will be a great many farm-to-market roads built. It depends a little on the state, the availability of labor, et cetera.

Q What has become of your grade crossing elimination program?

THE PRESIDENT: That is going ahead.

Q Two hundred million?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't talked to McDonald about it.

Q There is only one eliminated so far.

THE PRESIDENT: On grade crossings it takes a long time to get going. You have to get the land and do the engineering on it. It is slow to get started.

Q These details apply to grade crossings?

THE PRESIDENT: They have the list already.

Q Contracts must be let by December?

THE PRESIDENT: If possible.

Q Any allotment been made to Rural Resettlement?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my, yes. How much, I don't know. That is going right ahead.

Q I was told that they were rather waiting before starting their new projects until they had another allotment.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I think, offhand, they have an allotment of about thirty million already.

Q Mr. President, Mr. Fechner left here the other day and he indicated that about 9000 men a month were being taken out of CCC Camps by private industry.



THE PRESIDENT: I got his report about two weeks ago and it shows -- this is dated September 7th -- that in the first six-months period of the CCC 19.2% of the men had found employment and had left the CCC. The second survey covered the second six-months period and shows 36.4% of the men have found employment. The third six-months period showed 22.8% finding employment and the last, the fourth survey, showed 39.4% of the former enrollees finding employment.

On the report of the families of these men, it was found that over 40% of the total resulted in closing out the relief case, and another 20% resulted in materially reducing relief allowances, although the CCC allotments were not sufficient to completely close the cases.

I told Mr. Fechner the other day to proceed from now on on a fairly definite schedule. On October first he will fill up the vacant places -- you see, that is the end of the period -- to the full number of 500,000, not including 12,500 Indians and 4,500 in the territories. From then on, having reached that 500,000 schedule, he is to make no more enrollments during the Winter, which means that the 500,000 by next April will be reduced to approximately 400,000. He is to reduce from then on -- that is to take only a sufficient number of new enrollees -- so that by the first of July we will be down to the 300,000 level that we have more or less set as a goal for the following fiscal year, as the permanent policy. That, of course, depends on action by the Congress, that 300,000. You had better check these figures because I am not sure they are absolutely correct, but the theory is going to be this: There are about, roughly, 750,000 young men each year who finish their education. You cannot take the age of eighteen or some specific age because some of them would be in college,



some of them would be finishing high school or would have finished high school the year before, so what I am trying to do is to find the number of young men that have finished their education in any given year and that runs about 750,000.

Of that 750,000 there are, roughly, about 150,000 who, for physical reasons or other reasons, are not qualified for the CCC work. That leaves a total of about 600,000 young men in the Nation each year who will complete their education and who will be eligible for CCC work.

This plan of making it a permanent policy to take in 300,000 of them for a year's work -- not six months enrollment but a whole year's enrollment -- will give opportunity to about half the available young men in the country to go into CCC Camps. Of course preference will be given to those financially most in need of the work.

Q That means that at the same time, in the near future, it will not be necessary to be on relief in the CCC Camps?

THE PRESIDENT: We hope so. But, as I say, the preference will be given to those who most need it. In other words, if there are 300,000 in the fiscal year 1937 whose families are on relief, we take them first, and if there are not enough to fill up from the families on relief, then we take the next group that are not families on relief but which really do need the money that comes in through the boy.

Q Can you tell us how widely the letters were sent by you to the clergymen of the country?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Sun story is substantially accurate. They went out to a substantial number of clergymen in various parts of the country. I am trying to find out from non-government officials what the problems are.

Q Do you remember sending any to the clergymen in the District of Columbia?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. I don't know whether they have actually been mailed or not.

Q Wouldn't be proper to find out from here?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better go and ask the clergymen.

Q Do you plan to carry that over the Nation, into every professional field, or just confine them?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. This was directed to certain clergymen. If you will read the letter, you will see the objective of it. It relates, of course, primarily to two very important things we need information about. One is on social security legislation and the other is on works program.

Q On your trip across the country, do you plan to make many brief stops for platform appearances?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Most of the "change-engine" stops will be outside of towns or in yards that people can't get down to. It will be just like last year. Of course, in some places there will be crowds and I will come out and say, "How do you do", exactly as I did last year.

Q Do you plan to give approval to the two hundred million PWA before you leave?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, before I leave.

Q Are you going to make various WPA and PWA allotments while you are away?

THE PRESIDENT: Most of them will be done before tomorrow night; nearly all.

Q Are you going to see Sec. Ickes on Housing?

THE PRESIDENT: This afternoon.

Q Is there going to be an increase in the appropriation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. The appropriation was made on the basis of the statement by Col. Hackett as to the housing-slum clearance projects

that are ready to go by February and it will just about cover the list of the projects that are ready to go by February. Of course, there are hundreds of other projects where they haven't the land or had to have some kind of a municipal election, so obviously we had to take the ones ready to shoot.

Q Sec. Morgenthau has requested the resignation of William J. O'Brien as Collector of Customs at Buffalo and Mr. O'Brien is down here with Rep. Mead today to see you.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know enough about it to give you an intelligent answer. I knew about the case, that is all.

Q I thought Sec. Morgenthau may have talked to you.

THE PRESIDENT: Only in general terms, that is all.

Q Do you have any plans for young women that finish school each year? Do you know how many do?

THE PRESIDENT: I wish we did, but it is an awfully difficult thing to work out. If you will head a committee to give me a useful, practical plan, I will be very grateful.

Q Do you think all the four billion will be allocated by tomorrow night, when you leave?

THE PRESIDENT: Substantially, yes.

Q Allocated or earmarked.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q There is a criticism been made against the housing program to the effect that the original idea of low-cost slum housing has been forgotten or set aside for some reason or other -- either difficulties or policy. Do you care to make any statement along that line?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it has not been changed. Depends a little on the locality.



Low cost housing of course can be put in in the south on a room rental basis far below the cost in New York City or at Chicago.

Our chief trouble, of course, is the price of the land and in big metropolitan areas, like New York and Chicago, the cost of the land inevitably raises the room rent per month. They will be, of course, substantially lower -- the rents -- than in almost any other type of similar building. They won't be as low a rent as in a slum that we are trying to eliminate.

Q You haven't sidetracked the idea, as has been charged?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no; no.

Q On housing, the time element just about precludes any project on which plans have not been begun or land acquired?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, of necessity because unless we set a deadline -- I took February, and, unless we get a project started by February, it is not going to do very much good until the following year.

Q There was a report on NRA to Senator King this week that showed that the NRA still had a payroll of some several million dollars with a vast number of six to eight thousand dollar jobs.

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are being cut off pretty fast. I think we are down to under three thousand.

Q About 2700.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will find that will be cut down pretty fast to about two thousand.

Q What work are they doing at the present time that requires them?

THE PRESIDENT: They have nine hundred field people to collect the information and they need about one person each to prepare and collate the information. I think you will find that they will cut down to about



two thousand pretty fast.

Q What work do the field workers do?

THE PRESIDENT: They try to find out what has been the result in industry of the abandonment of the codes and substantially --- well, it is too early to give more than a general idea of what they are finding -- in most of the major industries the code standards are being lived up to; in some they have broken down pretty substantially, and in almost every industry there are chiselers.

What we want to find out is how far that breakdown is going and whether the chiselers are increasing. In some activities they have held the lines extraordinarily well.

Q Can you name them?

THE PRESIDENT: I think not. In others they have broken down pretty badly.

What we want is an actual check of all the major industries.

Q For what purpose?

THE PRESIDENT: As the basis of discussion as to what we should do, if anything, to prevent certain conditions which were inimical to the business life of the country, such as child labor and very long hours, that the average business man doesn't want to put into effect in his plant -- it all comes down to that -- and minimum wages. 90% of the manufacturers don't want to work their employees 72 hours a week. They don't want to pay them four dollars or six dollars a week, but they are confronted with some members of their own industry who seek to turn out goods at a lower price by working their people extra long hours or paying them below a reasonable minimum. The objective -- in the same way, collective bargaining, fair trade practices and the continuation of their sitting around a table and trying to prevent

unfair trade practices -- that is something we want to encourage, and it is much easier to encourage it if we have all the facts regarding each industry.

Q Do you expect NRA to be re-established?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea about NRA. We have, first, to get the results of the abolition of codes. If industry can go along substantially without codes, maintaining fair working conditions and maintaining fair trade practices, there is no need of codes. But if the chiseling element of industry breaks it down, then something is going to be done.

Q There are rumors that there will be some legislation sponsored by the Administration in the next session of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I have absolutely no idea. Depends on what the survey shows and what proposals are made by industry itself.

Q Does that go for the Walsh Government Contract Bill, which you recommended?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that again would depend very much on the actual practices in industry between now and January.

Q Assuming that the chiselers --  
(Interposing)

THE PRESIDENT:/ If industry does not chisel on Government contracts there is no need for a Walsh bill.

Q Assuming that chiselers do get back in the limelight --  
(Interposing)

THE PRESIDENT:/ The first thing to do then is to say to industry, "What do you propose to do about it?"

Q And then the second thing?

THE PRESIDENT: Now you are getting "iffy." We hope they will have a solution.

Q Have you any comment on the favorable business report of the Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Board, published in the morning papers?

THE PRESIDENT: Only this, that it is in line with what we have been rather looking forward to for about two years.

Q Mr. President, will Mr. Fechner's letter be made public?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't see why it should not.

(Mr. McIntyre spoke to the President.)

He will give it out over there.

Q What does the supplementary budget show?

THE PRESIDENT: Hasn't come to me yet. I haven't got it yet.

Q There has been some criticism of your NYA -- your Youth Administration procedure recently and I wonder if you have given particular attention to that?

THE PRESIDENT: I am giving a great deal of attention to it. The major part of the allotment for the National Youth Administration goes as a relief measure. We have to bear in mind that the whole of it is a relief measure and that the major part goes to help boys and girls attending school and college where they otherwise would not be able to do it. That sum will run to around \$27,000,000. Then, in addition to that, we have worked out -- and Dr. Studebaker will bring in the allotments before I leave tomorrow night -- four or five other projects which will, of course, employ people on relief but will be aimed at improving educational standards and will be handled largely by trained educators.

Q Would you prefer the present educational set-up?

THE PRESIDENT: That will be used on other projects. Of course the actual help to individual students, that is not an educational matter, it is a relief matter. Then of course, in addition to the National Youth Administration, I don't believe that Hopkins and Ickes are ready yet, but very soon they ought to be able to give us a list of the

schoolhouses that are being built with Government aid all through the country. It is a very large list and represents a great many millions of dollars.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.