

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference #242,  
Aboard the U.S.S. HOUSTON at  
Charleston Navy Yard, Charleston, S.C.,  
October 23, 1935, 2.15 P.M.

(Postmaster General Farley was present.)

THE PRESIDENT: I have not seen the morning papers and I do not know anything that has happened.

Q (Mr. Stephenson, representative of the A.P.) Several good A.P. stories in them, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course. You were on board. We were perfectly furious on this ship the night before last. One of those damned radio announcers came over the air. The radio announcer said that the President's ship is in a very heavy sea, that the HOUSTON is wallowing in the trough of the sea and the U.S.S. PORTLAND is standing by. On the ship they were wild. Did you hear that?

Q (Mr. Storm) No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Some of our crowd picked it up. We were wallowing in the trough of the sea and the PORTLAND was standing by.

Q Just about ready to shoot you alive.

Q You know, last year they asked us to edit the ship's paper and we did such a good job that I think there was a lot of inter-ship communication about it. We had the PORTLAND -- the HOUSTON being towed by the NEW ORLEANS.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

Q What are you going to do when you get to Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: Go through mail, chiefly, tomorrow, and see a few people, principally the Secretary of State. That is to bring me up to

date on everything that I have not got by radio. And then, in the evening, I have a five-minute broadcast.

Q Tomorrow evening?

MR. McINTYRE: Seven minutes -- Mobilization for Human Needs.

THE PRESIDENT: I have done one thing for them already, made them a speech, and now I have to give them a broadcast.

MR. McINTYRE: It is 9:30 (P.M.)

Q How about this talk here today? We are going to be very crowded for time.

THE PRESIDENT: I am going to say that I am glad I am back -- a long time since I have been here -- a great many things happening in Charleston the last seventeen years since I was here. I think I was here in 1917.

Q The local paper says you were here during the war.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was 1918.

Q There is one thing in which we are tremendously interested down here and we were wondering if you could give us a word?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, as far as I know, it is going through. The money has been allocated for the first year's work.

Q Have you been following the course of the Works program by radio?

THE PRESIDENT: Only through whatever Press Association stories went out.

Q November first is about nine days away and they are still about 2,300,000 short of the goal.

THE PRESIDENT: And the thirtieth of November is thirty days away.

Q I thought it was the first.

THE PRESIDENT: I was only expressing the hope it would be the first. I said it was November all along.

Q You still hope by November to put 3,000,000?

THE PRESIDENT: Again, there, do not go off half cocked on that. I was very, very careful in all the Press Conferences to use substantially the figure which was estimated last year, 3½ million. That does not mean we fall down if we get 3 million. I think those were the exact words I used over a month ago in the Press Conference, so that is not news.

Q Have you received reports from private business on the suggestion that they take over the principal responsibility in putting them back to work?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a peep on that although there may be some in the office.

Q Better look into that.

THE PRESIDENT: If there is something there.

Q Have complaints of the exporters been forwarded to you in connection with the embargo on Italy?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think I got that. I think it went to Washington. I saw all of the dispatches that came to us aboard ship but I did not get that.

MR. McINTYRE: What was that?

THE PRESIDENT: The protest of the export group on the Neutrality Proclamation.

MR. McINTYRE: I do not think it was forwarded to you.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think it was forwarded to me.

Q There was a direct statement from the State Department that if anything was said, you would say it.

Q Is there to be a big political discussion on the way north? (Referring

to the President and Postmaster General Farley)

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. I doubt very much if we will have a big political discussion.

Q Is there any need for one?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q You said you would talk principally with Secretary Hull. Any new move?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no, just to bring me up to date.

Q Have we been sounded out by the League of Nations yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q On economic sanctions?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q The State Department has some letter for you.

THE PRESIDENT: When did it come?

Q Yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not got it.

Q They say we should act in the Kellogg Pact because we got under it in Manchukuo.

THE PRESIDENT: We have acted, all right, under the Kellogg Pact, about two months ago.

Q Any hint of what our policy is?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we did it twice.

Q You mean by the declaration of the Secretary of State suggesting that the world --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes. I think I said something about it too. Didn't I? I don't know whether I did or not.

Q You said that it should be preserved.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q When are you going to Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: Sometime next week. It depends on how much stuff piles up. I have got to go as soon as I can get away. There are only three rooms in the White House ready.

Q And Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: Toward the end of the month.

Q In view of this close association between Ickes and Hopkins, have there grown any changes or developments in the Works program?

THE PRESIDENT: Just as it was. I taught them how to catch fish.

Q Any discussion of next year's program?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, how big was that fish you caught?

THE PRESIDENT: After all, you saw the thing being caught; you ought to know.

Q We heard about it. We were trying to catch some ourselves.

THE PRESIDENT: You were crossing the Island that day. It was 134 pounds -- the second one -- and 9'6" long and a perfect specimen because the sail was not damaged at all. On the first one I caught, the sail was quite badly damaged by the line. The fish is now frozen in ice and is in an hermetically sealed coffin. Is on its way to the Smithsonian for them to mount it, if it still is in condition to mount, as a present from me.

Q That was caught off the Cocos Islands?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and the point we got the fish in the boat was exactly four miles from the place we hooked it. It was four miles out to sea and it was a rough sea, too. I had 400 yards of line out.

Q How long did it take?

THE PRESIDENT: Two hours and twenty minutes by the clock.

Q They told me you did not get up to breakfast the next day. How about it?

THE PRESIDENT: I did, too, but I took it awfully easy the next day, I'll tell you that.

Q Do you remember the day?

Q It was Friday, October 11?

THE PRESIDENT: That is right. It was Mrs. Roosevelt's birthday, and I sent her a radio telling her that I caught the fish in her honor on her birthday.

Q That is a new one, getting a fish story for her birthday.

Q Any other high points of the trip?

THE PRESIDENT: A good many of them; they could not be printed.

Q It was on Mrs. Roosevelt's birthday that you caught the fish?

THE PRESIDENT: She got something else but she got that too.

Q Did the low-cost housing projects on the San Blas Islands make any impression?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. We are going to duplicate them -- and remember that all the ladies have to be in by sundown.

Q I am not in favor of it.

Q They even made the President of the United States get down there at sundown.

Q Is it true you are going to adopt a policy of rings in the noses for women in the United States?

THE PRESIDENT: After you get accustomed to it, in about half an hour, it is very charming. (Laughter)

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #243,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
October 25, 1935, 10.40 A.M.

(Secretary Morgenthau was present at this Press Conference.)

Q Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning everybody. You look as if you have been out in the sunshine; you look fine. How do you think The Three Musketeers (referring to the three Press Association correspondents who had accompanied him on the trip to sea) look?

Q (Mr. Young) Fred (Mr. Storm) looks a little tired.

THE PRESIDENT: Quite rough the last few days.

Q (Mr. Durno) Did they weather it all right?

THE PRESIDENT: "Weather" it is a good word.

Q Did they weather Panama City?

Q We were not ashore long enough to really --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, he was a real sailor.

Q Get a lot of fish?

THE PRESIDENT: Got lots of fish.

Q Is this something new, Mr. President? (Referring to an article on the desk)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any particular news this morning. However, here is a statement that I drew up yesterday afternoon in regard to the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which is to be ready for you when you go out. There's no use my reading it because it is two pages long, but the gist of it, the object of it is to clarify

certain matters in regard to the adjustment program policy. I will read just one or two excerpts to give you the point of view.

"There are people in this country who can see no room for further progress in agricultural adjustment. Of these, some would be content to continue the adjustment programs exactly as they are. There are even a few supporters of the A.A.A. so well satisfied with what has been done that they would like to call the job complete and finished.

"But it never was the idea of the men who framed the Act, of those in Congress who revised it, nor of Henry Wallace nor Chester Davis that the Agricultural Adjustment Administration should be either a mere emergency operation or a static agency.

"It was their intention -- as it is mine -- to pass from the purely emergency phases necessitated by a grave national crisis to a long time, more permanent plan for American agriculture."

That, in the last analysis, means a long-range objective, and then it goes on and points out various abuses and the erosion of the Nation's soil resources.

"Simplification of present programs, with a view to increased flexibility, would readily lend itself to the broad objectives outlined. Decentralization of machinery to get more efficient administration closer to the farmers already has begun, and will be vigorously continued. To simplify administration the AAA will work toward the objective of one contract per farm."

In other words, covering the various key crops raised on one farm.

"The modifications planned, in addition to making administration easier, will facilitate production adjustment either upward or downward.

"The time may come when the AAA will prove as important in stimulating certain kinds of production as it has been in removing recent burdensome surpluses. For example, an expanded production of hogs, to replace shortages caused by drought, is contemplated under the proposed new corn-hog program, which is put up to a decision of producers in a nationwide referendum tomorrow.

"Present and future production of supplies of food and fiber ample for this country's needs and for available export markets is a sound objective. However, there was nothing sound

in the situation in the past when, spurred by ruinously low prices, farmers have been compelled to mine their soil of its fertility by over-intensive cultivation in a race to make up in volume of units what they had lost in unit price. This has resulted in waste on a colossal scale. Dust storms and mud-laden streams have been symbols of this exploitation.

"Tens of millions of acres have been abandoned because of erosion. This jeopardizes both consumer and producer. Real damage to the consumer does not result from moderate increases in food prices, but from collapse of farm income so drastic as to compel ruthless depletion of soil. That is the real menace to the nation's future food supply. That has caused farmers to lose their homes. It has hastened the spread of tenancy. It lies at the root of many serious economic and social problems besetting agriculture.

"Already the adjustment programs have made important gains in conservation and restoration of soil fertility. Many millions of acres which farmers have signed contracts to divert from surplus production are being devoted to legumes, pastures, hay and other crops which fertilize the soil and protect it from blowing and washing.

"The long-time and more permanent adjustment program will provide positive incentives for soil conservation. The benefit payments can be made on a basis that will encourage individual farmers to adopt sound farm management, crop rotation and soil conservation methods. The crop insurance feature afforded by benefit payments will help farmers to maintain these beneficial systems of farming without interruption in poor crop years. Long-time adjustments can be adapted to natural soil advantages of regions and localities. Already the Adjustment Administration has under way local studies to help in working out farm programs on a county basis, so as to fit the best permanent use of the varying soil resources of the county, up to that county's share of available domestic and foreign markets. Thus, plans are being worked out that should encourage widespread cooperation of farmers in a permanent national soil maintenance program.

"The simplified and more flexible adjustment program of the future can be made to serve the permanent advantage of producer and consumer. It can iron out the succession of extreme market gluts and extreme shortages which in the past have alternately wrecked farm income and penalized city people with too high prices. It can protect the nation's heritage of soil, help farmers to produce up to the full possibilities of profitable export, and give this country the safest possible assurance of abundant food in the years to come."

Well, Steve will give you a copy of it on the way out.

Q Is that being put out in your name?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And I hope everybody will read it and I hope very much that the managing editors will read it because the average managing editor in the East knows no more about farming -- I was going to say a good deal less than a chicken. That is off the record. That is just a delicate hint. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, is it your intention, is the intention of the Administration, to abandon the control of corn and hogs if the referendum goes against them?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot see how we can go ahead with the corn-hog program if the farmers don't want it.

Q Do you think that the farm program is having any effect on our foreign markets abroad, cutting down our exports?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a pretty general question. Let me put it this way for background. We would sell more cotton abroad if we sold it at 6¢, some more, but what would happen to the cotton growers of this country? We would not sell anything like enough to make up the difference between 6¢ and 12¢. Therefore, the purchasing power of the Southern-cotton farmers would be so drastically cut that we would have the same troubles in the South we had before. That is the simple example. Now you can multiply that ten times. If we would sell below the cost of production in this country, of course we will increase our markets. That is another way of putting it.

Q This program isn't stimulating production in competitive countries?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a very definite world trend, and was a definite world trend before we did anything. You will find that Brazil was

raising more cotton starting back in 1921 and 1922 with a fairly constant increase up to 1929 and 1930 and a comparatively small increase since then. Germany started ten years ago to increase their food production so as to become self-sustaining. France the same way. The British on their Islands, raise more and more of their own foodstuffs. That goes on all over the world. That has been a nationalistic tendency in every country, so far as I know. And that is what the Eastern managing editors do not understand. That is off the record, too.

Q Is that statement to be connected with the corn-hog program or not?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. That has been preparing for a long time.

Q Are you planning any new statements on neutrality in connection with our reply to the League?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think there will be something soon -- not from me -- that would be just the reply.

Q Could you tell us, if the League actually should impose economic sanctions against Italy, would you do what you could to restrain American trade from interfering with the effectiveness of the sanctions?

THE PRESIDENT: All you could do is read the law.

Q Could you give us your interpretation of that law? Is it such that it would be possible to extend such embargoes to oil or copper?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that question would have to be taken up when it arose. It has not arisen up to the present time.

Q Wasn't there a Standard Oil announcement saying they would send oil to Italy regardless of the law?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. They have a subsidiary over there

which is conducting its normal business and nothing more, so far as I know.

Q Do you expect to see Mr. Beagle about that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Could you tell us whether Admiral Standley will be the chief American delegate to the Naval Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't got as far as that. We haven't done more than say that we would send some people over there.

Q What time do you expect to go away tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: I think a quarter before ten.

Q Get back Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: Get back sometime Sunday.

Q When are you going to Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. About the middle of the week. As soon as I can because the White House has only three rooms in commission.

Q Is it a safe guess that our reply to the League would be confined to a recapitulation of what we have already done?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not guess. (Laughter)

Q Have you fixed your Atlanta engagement?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not got my dates for that yet. It will be substantially a week before Thanksgiving, as far as I know now.

Q A week before the Thanksgiving week?

THE PRESIDENT: If I can get off as soon as that. What I ought to do is to have a couple of weeks back here -- what I ought to do is get back the week after Thanksgiving in order to get to work on the Budget.

Q When will this general farm contract plan be put into effect?

THE PRESIDENT: As rapidly as the machinery can be put into effect.

Q Mr. President, have you given any thought as to whether a provision should be made in the new Budget for building a battleship?

THE PRESIDENT: Only in general terms that we have a replacement battleship which it is possible to build, starting, I think, in 1937.

Q The end of the year, I think.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, after the beginning of 1937, and they have been studying plans. That is as far as it has got. I don't know yet whether it will be included in the Budget or not.

Q Can the general farm contract be used under existing law?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it can.

Q Mr. President, sometime ago your Fish (?) Advisory Committee recommended that you make the last Tuesday in November Thanksgiving Day instead of Thursday because it found people had so much turkey on Thursday that they had no appetite for fish on Friday. Your Proclamation is about due now and I wondered if we might have an answer to it.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the answer on that is that I will take the people who featured that on the next cruise and they will catch so darned much fish that it will be all right.

Q Mr. President, will you add anything to what Chester Davis said the other day as to what is being tried on the boosting of exports by the use of tariff revenues under the present Agricultural Act?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not see it.

Q He spoke of the difficulties in selling --

THE PRESIDENT: Of course the situation on that is very different from what it was, even when the old McNary-Haugen Bill was passed and

vetoed, as I remember it, by President Coolidge, largely on the recommendation of Secretary of Commerce Hoover. It was vetoed at that time, but the conditions then were very different from what they are today. Foreign countries, away back in President Coolidge's Administration, did not have the same kind of embargoes on agricultural imports into those countries as they have today. For example, today Great Britain gives a very, very strong preference to British colonies. On wheat, Great Britain prefers to buy from Canada and Australia and not from us. France has a strong embargo on the importation of foodstuffs. Germany has certain embargoes and also great difficulty in paying in cash for what she does import.

Almost every country today has embargoes on the importation of foodstuffs. There has been a great change in the last six years, since 1929.

Q And all of those things operate against the effectiveness of any exports?

THE PRESIDENT: One of the great difficulties is to get those people to tear down their barriers so as to permit us to export more foodstuffs of all kinds.

Q Has Secretary Morgenthau made any report?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had a chance to more than shake him by the hand yesterday at the train.

Q What is he going to do with all the gold coming in here?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a great problem. Like some other things, we cannot eat it.

Q In your admonition to American citizens not to trade with belligerents,

you advised them if they did trade or attempt to trade, they did so at their own risk. What about American ships that call at Italian ports, particularly where the American Government has a mortgage and holds the investment?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a nice one. I cannot give you an offhand reply to that.

Q Do you go to Cambridge (Maryland) on your week end?

THE PRESIDENT: We go across the Bay at Cambridge, turn around and pass through the drawbridge, and then head up the Potomac. No speeches -- just wave.

Q All we need to do is go to Annapolis?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, unless you want to see me wave.

Q We would like to see you wave but there is a football game in Baltimore. (Laughter)

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #244,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
October 30, 1935, 4.05 P.M.

Q How do you do, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: How do you do, everybody? How many people are coming up to Hyde Park? Are you coming, Russell (Mr. Young)?

Q (Mr. Young) Yes, sir. About eight or nine coming.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you will have a good chance to play golf.

Q Hallowe'en Party tomorrow night?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I suppose so. I don't know if there are any children up there or not.

You are losing your ten.

Q (Mr. Storm) Going strong, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Stevie (Mr. Stephenson) still has his.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) Yes, sir; and keeping it.

Q (Mr. Storm) Big gate today.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I got a nice present today, a present that comes every autumn. The Director of the Budget came in and solemnly handed it to me. There it is, a whole blue pencil.

Q Not a red pencil? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: And it has been working all right.

Q What can you tell us about the budget?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the time has come around, as it does every autumn, when I will have to read what I said last year at the end of October and the year before, and that is that the budget won't

be made up until the first day of January, and when it is made up, we will have our sit-around-the-floor conference upstairs in the Oval Room, with the financial brothers of the Press. Until that time I won't know anything about the budget and you will know less, a great deal less. Also, as usual about this time, there are all kinds of perfectly crazy stories written that nobody pays any attention to because they are all of them made out of the whole cloth, since there isn't any budget. This is just my annual warning on budget stories.

Q Dr. Tugwell, speaking at Los Angeles a couple of days ago, intimated that the lending agencies will be liquidated and five billion dollars applied to the public debt through recoverable assets.

THE PRESIDENT: And I should say that probably his story was almost as silly as the average press story. Not quite, because he does know more about the Budget than the press. Now, go to it from there.

Q Mr. President, Mr. Bell said he did not think they would be able to cut on the old, established departments. He thought it would have to come out of emergency relief.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, broadly speaking, the old departments will be held. Of course we did make, as you know, very, very drastic cuts, something like a billion dollars in the regular departments of the Government. I don't remember whether it was eight hundred million or a billion dollars, but back in 1933 we made tremendous cuts in the regular departments which we have substantially maintained since then. They will be maintained with the exception of certain additions for the regular departments that are caused by

the growth of certain types of business. Well, just for a very simple example, we are going to have about three thousand more Federal prisoners that we have to feed and clothe in the coming year than last year. Now, we cannot keep the cost of maintaining Federal prisoners down to what it was last year. Then we have to allow an additional amount for the War Department because of the Act of Congress last year which added 25 or 30 thousand more men to the Army. They have to be fed and clothed. But, outside of items of that kind, the regular departments will not show any increase.

Q May we interpret on this blue pencil?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q May we do a little interpreting on this blue pencil?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because it is the usual custom to wield it.

Q You were doing very good on the old established departments. Would you care to continue on the emergency?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have not got to it as yet. At the present time -- well, I did two departments today and two independent agencies.

Q When you say you "did" them, what do you mean by that? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Just that.

Q Mr. President, Secretary Hull, in his statement on neutrality today, said it is now the definite policy of the Government to discourage trade with belligerents. Does that mean that you are contemplating possibly stronger measures to restrain trade?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought you were going to ask that question. Since it relates to foreign affairs, I dictated something in reply to that question and Steve (Early) will have it for you. This is not --

don't use it as a statement by the President. I have to be very careful to use correct language on foreign affairs. It is just headed as a statement because we want to be sure to use the proper language. (Reading)

"In dealing with the conflict between Ethiopia and Italy, I have carried into effect the will and intent of the Neutrality Resolution recently enacted by Congress. We have prohibited all shipments of arms, ammunition, and implements of war to the belligerent governments. By my public statement of October fifth, which was emphasized by the Secretary of State on October tenth, we have warned American citizens against transactions of any character with either of the belligerent nations except at their own risk.

"This Government is determined not to become involved in the controversy and is anxious for the restoration and maintenance of peace.

"However, in the course of war, tempting trade opportunities may be offered to our people to supply materials which would prolong the war. I do not believe that the American people will wish for abnormally increased profits that temporarily might be secured by greatly extending our trade in such materials; nor would they wish the struggles on the battlefield to be prolonged because of profits accruing to a comparatively small number of American citizens.

"Accordingly, the American Government is keeping informed as to all shipments consigned for export to both belligerents."

MR. EARLY: I think, Mr. President, you will have to make that a statement.

THE PRESIDENT: That is all right, you can use it as a statement, if you want.

Q That statement is not to be quoted?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that can be quoted.

Q This Government is keeping informed, sir, to what end? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That is all for today.

Q Mr. President, is any liberalization of the regulations governing information as to exports to be made? At present the Treasury

regulations do not allow the name of the exporters to be made public.

THE PRESIDENT: That is putting, in other language, what Fred (Mr. Essary) just asked. (Laughter)

Q I was just going to ask, in connection with the plans for the new permanent N.R.A., of which you spoke last Friday, if those plans involve anything new or additional for the protection of consumers?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have not discussed it at all since I got back. I have not thought of it.

Q Mr. President, have you asked the Governor of Maine to call a special session to consider a Quoddy Authority?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard of Quoddy since I got back. I don't know what has happened there.

Q Will you require any special session?

THE PRESIDENT: That depends on the Governor of Maine. I haven't heard a thing.

Q Can you tell me whether you think a State Authority is necessary to the continuance of Quoddy?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know enough about it.

Q On the neutrality thing, would it be a correct statement to say, on our authority, that it is the policy of the Government to discourage extraordinary trade with the belligerents?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I am not saying anything about that further than the statement.

Q Is the Government interested in shipments of such things as oil to neutral powers for trans-shipment to belligerents? I understand that Germany is being --

**THE PRESIDENT:** (interposing) I take it that that would be taken into consideration in exactly the same way that I said that anything going to belligerent governments would be checked up on. Of course, in the case of proscribed articles -- arms, implements of war, munitions -- it prohibits their shipments either to belligerent countries or to a neutral country for trans-shipment.

Q Can you tell us anything about some of the temptations that have been presented so far? (Laughter)

**THE PRESIDENT:** Well, yes. I will tell you a story on that and it is rather an interesting one. I see no reason why you should not use it. When I was at Hyde Park a very splendid old gentleman came to see me, Mr. Johnson of the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company. Mind you, that was before hostilities had started. It was about the 19th or 20th of September. Mr. Johnson said to me at length, "I would like to ask your advice. I have had an order from the Italian Government for a very large number of pairs of shoes." I said, "What are they, ladies' slippers?" He said, "No, they were heavy shoes." I said, "Shoes that could have been worn by soldiers?" He said, "Yes, I'd say so." I said, "Well, what is the question?" He said, "Would you fill the order if you were the Endicott-Johnson Company?" I said, "No, I would not." He said, "All right, I won't."

Q Hasn't that order been filled? (Laughter) Hasn't some other American firm filled that order?

**THE PRESIDENT:** I don't know. All I know is this story I told you. I have been away over a month since then, but that is what Mr. Johnson told me.

Q Would your prohibitions include such commodities as wheat or cotton,

or just those implements of war?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing further than stated.

Q Have you had an opportunity to read over the replies from the clergy sufficiently to comment on them?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I am in the process of reading them. They are, most of them, extremely interesting and very responsive to the questions I asked and I am continuing to read them.

Q Has the Reverend Dr. Eaton, a Member of Congress, replied?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Is there a clergyman?

Q He used to be Rockefeller's clergyman but he has not been for a long time. He announced he received one of your letters as a clergyman.

Q Mr. President, in the spring you had a formula for unemployment relief which was about three and a half million to be employed in private industry and three and a half million to go into state and local agencies. Has that formula been worked out?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as the Government figures are concerned, pretty well.

Q The latest figures of unemployment have not gone down in the same proportion as the formula would indicate.

THE PRESIDENT: All I can tell you is that the Government figures are coming through true to form.

Q You expect to have the great majority employed by November?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You haven't any figures on private industry?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only the general index got out by the statistical services, and of course that is a problem, that industry hasn't come forward with any kind of an answer to. One of the charts, for

example, -- I have forgotten which service it is -- showed that on the '29 basis three separate lines, all at the 100% level, taking them as of that date. Production 100%, number of people employed 100%, taking whatever the number was, and payrolls 100%.

Between that time and today, of course, all three of those lines went way, way down. The total production line, that is to say the goods manufactured, went down a great deal less than the number of people employed and, as I remember it, still less than the payrolls, weekly payrolls. The result was that at the peak of the depression you had those three lines down to the center of the depression. Production was around 60%, number of people employed 40%, and payrolls 40%. Now, since 1933, these three lines have come back. But the problem is illustrated by the fact that while production is back to about 90%, the number of people employed --

Q Around 82%, I think.

THE PRESIDENT: -- around 82%, and payrolls about 74%. Now, of course, the problem is to find out why, with production back to 90%, the number of people employed are only 82% and the volume of wages is only 74%. I am asking industry for suggestions about bringing those two lower lines up to meet the 90% figure.

Q That there has been technological improvement in the last five years is one and increased profits is another.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and of course if those lines continue to be far apart, where do we get off?

Q Isn't employment much less than statistics indicate, any statistics we have?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, undoubtedly. Of course, here is one of the problems

that we have. I always love to go back to the managing editor. The all-wise managing editor will print one week a story that there are twenty million people out of work, meaning, of course, not only the working people, the wage-earners out of work, but also their wives and children. Then, of course, the next week they will come along and say ten million, because the American Federation of Labor gave that figure. Then the next week they will say, "Why hasn't the Government got statistics on unemployment?"

I have been trying for two years to get definite statistics on unemployment and the difficulty is this: No two people will agree on how a person should be listed. Well, for instance, I have a great illustration in mind. It is a family I happen to know. The father, mother and two daughters. The father is a man of about 55. He gets occasional work. He is a good workman and he has, through ~~think~~ and thin, supported his family. He is a journeyman carpenter in a small community. If the fellow with a card happens to ring his doorbell next Monday, he may not be on a job that particular day. The man ringing the doorbell lists him as unemployed and yet he has supported his wife and two daughters through the depression without going on the relief rolls. But, because he might happen to be out of a job that minute, he might be counted as unemployed.

Now, let us take the next step. The oldest daughter is a girl about 27 or 28 who gives piano lessons. Now, she only gives piano lessons for what you and I call "pin money". She knows she will be supported at home. She earns, some years, a couple of hundred dollars, in some years perhaps three hundred. She gives occasional piano lessons and whatever she makes provides dresses and

perhaps contributes a little to the family purse. Is she unemployed or not? I don't know. No two of us would agree whether she is employed or unemployed. She probably would be included in the American Federation of Labor figures.

Now the other girl. She is a second grade teacher. You might almost say she has only had a high school and one year in normal school and is about 24 years old. She also gets occasional teaching jobs when they need a replacement teacher in the local schools because one of the regular teachers has been taken sick. She also works a total of anywhere from a month or two or three months a year as a relief teacher. That is her pin money. She lives at home with her father and mother. Is she unemployed? Will she be listed as unemployed when the census-taker comes around? I don't know. It is almost impossible to get figures on unemployment that will stick unless you lay down absolutely hard and fast rules, and then you have questions, one way or the other, on the figures.

Q You would have a standard though. You could have an index, the same as you have on commodities and other things, just as the A. F. of L. has a standard and shows whether it goes up or down.

THE PRESIDENT: But, after all, the A. F. of L. is only based on a very small percentage of actual figures. It is not a census. If they check, let us say, on forty million people, they only get actual figures on perhaps four million, and from those they estimate the other thirty-six million. Now, what is that worth? I don't know. It is awfully difficult.

Q Did you say you are asking industry for suggestions on how to bring up the ratio of employment and payrolls?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you tell us in what way?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I cannot give you any details, except I am asking the opinions of various people individually.

Q Is it possible that the divergence in the three lines might be explained by stretchout and work spreading?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean the question of reducing the hours per day? Oh, I see what you mean. It may have been increased by that.

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: It was increased by that in certain industries. It depends on the industry.

Q On this conference you are calling, will the question of N.R.A. be the main one?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not calling a conference.

Q The industrial people?

THE PRESIDENT: I have them in one at a time.

Q Is that apart from Major Berry?

THE PRESIDENT: Entirely.

Q Were some of them in today?

THE PRESIDENT: They are in every day.

By the way, I have got here the corn-hog figures. I thought you would all be thrilled by them. (Laughter)

Here is something you all ought to know: (Reading)

"In connection with the number of commercial corn and hog farms, the 1930 census reported 1,686,000 farms on which sows were farrowed in the spring of 1930. The number of farms farrowing only fall pigs is negligible. Practically 30 percent of the farms on which pigs were farrowed in the

spring of 1930 farrowed only one sow. Very few, if any, of these one-sow farms raised pigs for the commercial market. The number of farms farrowing two or more sows in 1930 was less than 1,200,000. Probably some of the two-sow farms were not commercial producers. It appears unlikely that more than 200,000 farms raised more than ten acres of corn for grain without also having two or more sows farrow."

Now, there you have it. I will have Steve (Mr. Early) write it out for you if you want it.

Q Do you care to make any comment on the letter of Mr. Carmody about the Catholic situation in Mexico?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have it in my basket. I am about two days behind in my mail and I expect to work on it tonight.

The total vote by states is here. Do you want, Steve (Mr. Early), to give it out?

MR. EARLY: I suppose so.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve will give it to you.

Q What is the total?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose it is down in this story about the sows farrowing.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference #245,  
Held in the Study of the President's Home,  
at Hyde Park, New York,  
November 1, 1935, 11.00 A.M.

Q. Good morning, Mr. President; we expected to see your house all tumbled in.

THE PRESIDENT: Did you people feel it? (Referring to the earth tremors the preceding evening.)

Q We were all asleep.

THE PRESIDENT: At ten minutes past one?

MR. EARLY: They were not, sir; not even at ten minutes past two.

Q The tap room was solidly constructed.

THE PRESIDENT: That is good.

Q Did you feel it?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure; it woke me up. I realized what it was as soon as I woke up. There was a very definite shock here.

Q Did you recognize what it was?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, by process of elimination I knew it couldn't be anything else.

Q Do you ever recall any other up here?

THE PRESIDENT: I remember one when I was a small boy.

Q How long did it last here?

THE PRESIDENT: I'd say fifteen seconds but that is pure guess; might have been thirty.

Q What woke you up, a noise or a trembling?

THE PRESIDENT: The whole house going sideways.

Q There wasn't any noise, was there?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Any damage done anywhere?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of, not around here. Quite a number of people were awakened. The lights went on and the troopers ran around the house.

Q We just got through writing a story about you directing some earthquake relief down in Montana.

THE PRESIDENT: I did that last night by telegraph. Of course it is just a continuation of what we have been doing out there ever since they had those things. I sent word to the senior Army officer in the Red Cross and the senior relief man to get together on the thing and pool their efforts for relief. I think that is about all.

Q McDuffie (the President's valet) gave you kind of a close (hair) cut this time, Mr. President? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Off the record, poor McDuffie had a bad time because my mother and Miss LeHand were standing over him, telling him how to cut my hair.

MISS LeHAND: That is why it is so successful.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have not looked in my glass. McDuffie had a bad time.

Oh, I got my first pictures of the sailfish from the Smithsonian. This is the way the thing arrived -- there is the corpse (indicating) and there are the photographs -- they are all the same.

Q Are they going to keep it in the institution?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q How much did it weigh?

THE PRESIDENT: 134 pounds.

Q How long did it take you to land it?

THE PRESIDENT: Two hours and twenty minutes.

Q Here is a story -- he is sticking to the same story. He hasn't changed it at all. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: But the chief reason is that the Pacific sailfish is a good deal bigger than the Florida Key sailfish and I did not know whether the Smithsonian had any specimen or not. I took it up on the chance and they telegraphed me and said they would be delighted.

Q Is this the biggest sailfish?

THE PRESIDENT: No, the biggest one was caught off the Pearl Islands by Zane Gray about eight or ten years ago and it weighed, I think, about 180 pounds. We did not see any when we were in the Pearl Islands. We got all of ours at the Cocos. Gus (Gennerich, the President's bodyguard) got the biggest but it didn't come on board in quite such good condition as mine. You see, when the fish takes the hook, it jumps and it is very apt -- my first fish jumped fourteen times -- and they are apt to get the line caught on the sail and it is busted.

Q I got one in Miami that weighed 49½ pounds, supposed to be a pretty good fish for those waters. It was big enough for me.

THE PRESIDENT: How long did it take?

Q About forty minutes, forty to fifty. Of course, in my case, the skipper of the boat did all the maneuvering. The way they handle those boats all you have to do is to keep reeling and giving them the line.

THE PRESIDENT: I had the Chief Machinist's Mate go in the launch. He handled it pretty well.

Q I did conform to the rules.

THE PRESIDENT: That is the reason we outlawed Gus, who caught the biggest fish, because he got a cramp in his forearms and, of course, in that motor sailer it was terribly hard to maneuver it and they had a bad time.

Q Any callers scheduled?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Anything on the foreign situation today, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had a peep. I have not heard from Washington since I left. I am not doing anything on the Budget. This has got to be a negative day. I know the bad time The Three Musketeers had on the trip for several days when there was no news except compass reports and what the weather report said, and they are so well trained now that they only send the news.

Q Unless they give us twenty cents a word. (Laughter)

Q I saw a story this morning that you had arrived to take personal charge of electing a Democratic Assembly in New York State?

THE PRESIDENT: That is another one. Well, knowing the source, that is all right.

Q Who wrote that? (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Lindley) I read a story about Jim Farley sending out 240,000 personal letters?

THE PRESIDENT: That may be true. I don't know. Now, we are changing the subject.

Q (Mr. Lindley) I still cannot find the story about Mr. Roosevelt assuming personal charge.

Q Will Governor Lehman be here this week end at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I do not think there is anybody coming.

Q What did you do to celebrate Hallowe'en?

THE PRESIDENT: I went to bed and got awakened by the earthquake.

It is going to be a very dull day. I am going to take a drive this afternoon, rain or shine.

Q Hear what happened to Steve Early yesterday afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q It cost him three bucks playing golf.

Q What did he do, give everybody two strokes a hole?

MR. EARLY: No, sir; I gave them the handicap they needed and Fred

Storm was twenty-one strokes under the handicap he got, which was 125.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a big handicap.

Q Steve took the boys out for exercise and made them play golf. They sent Mac (Mr. McIntyre) a telegram last night and said that a special leader is badly needed.

MR. EARLY: They told him not to come until he finished his inventory and found out whether he was in the black or red.

Q Did we get an answer today?

MR. EARLY: No.

Q Maybe he is coming?

MR. EARLY: Do you know who played golf with Mac yesterday afternoon?

None other than Walter Hogan.

THE PRESIDENT: He has taken to heart what I said about improving his game. He will get under a hundred yet.

Q Yes, if he gets a course large enough.

Q Any more news?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot think of a thing. I am going on a picnic Sun-

day after church.

Q Val Kill?

THE PRESIDENT: No, off in the hills somewhere.

Q Just a family picnic?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will the children be here?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, some of them will.

MR. EARLY: Automobile ride and then lunch in the country, on the mountain top, instead of a Sunday picnic.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, after church.

Q Whereabouts?

THE PRESIDENT: Back in the county.

Q Can you tell us what you are working on -- anything that would make news?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any. I have to go into these pamphlet cases, which got terribly scrambled and have to be resorted. All those underneath you have to be resorted out. I was absolutely up to date last night.

Q Anything you can tell us off the record about this foreign situation? We are still puzzled about that last statement a little bit.

THE PRESIDENT: I hear the U.P. has a story on it.

Q (Mr. Storm) New York told me last night that the Pope had suggested that the League of Nations grant Italy a mandate over Ethiopia and they also gave us the direct quotes.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) That is a U.P. story.

Q (Mr. Storm) You see, we have a weakness for Popes.

Q Be careful of Eddie's (Mr. Roddan's) feelings.

THE PRESIDENT: You had nothing like that.

MR. EARLY: A.P. on the Pope and U.P. on the rumors.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) Every Press Association, at one time or another kills the Pope.

Q There is still Eddie's question.

THE PRESIDENT: I was asking Fred (Mr. Storm) about it.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) That's this U.P. information.

Q (Mr. Storm) Always reliable, I might add.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) May I quote you on that?

Q (Mr. Storm) Absolutely.

Q Speaking about the Pope, have you written to Mr. Carmody of the Knights of Columbus?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q (Mr. Stephenson) I went out and put some soap on some Catholic windows last night. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Storm) You remember old George Danver up in Albany? There was a fire in a big Methodist church and George was looking out of the window and Eddie Bates (?) was standing next to him. George with a satisfied look said, "Well, another Methodist church gone to hell," and Eddie registered a formal protest. (Laughter)

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #246,  
Held in the Study of the President's Home,  
at Hyde Park, New York,  
November 6, 1935, 11.00 A.M.

(Reverend Frank Wilson of St. James Church at Hyde Park was present at this Conference.)

Q Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Russ (Mr. Young), how are you feeling?

Q (Mr. Young) Fine, Mr. President. In my story yesterday about the voting, I mentioned the fact that Mrs. Helm and Mr. Early were two voters who had never had the privilege of voting by reason of their Washington residence. They never even mentioned the fact that you had voted.

THE PRESIDENT: It would be awfully easy to give them a vote in Hyde Park instead of a vote in the District. All they would have to do is vote right here.

MR. EARLY: And pay taxes.

Q Anything on the voting yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: As usual, off the record and not for attribution. Poor old Ernest's (Mr. Lindley's) face goes down like that (indicating). In other words, the same as when I was Governor and last year and the year before, I will not talk for publication or for attribution.

Q That will be for background?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q "Close friends represent you as feeling that way or this"?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that will be all right. This will be a case -- and it is really true -- of using that phrase. (Laughter)

It is great fun to razz him -- to put George (Durno) on the spot.

MR. EARLY: How about that one in the corner? (Indicating Mr. Trohan)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Let us go around the circle. (Turning to Mr. Roddan)

I don't know -- the Universal Service said last night I was opposed to Pecora's election.

Q (Mr. Roddan, representing Universal Service) I did not see that.

MR. EARLY: Pecora was defeated but the candidate was a friend of yours.

Q (Mr. Roddan) That is a libel, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: That is all right; I have not picked on you in years.

Q (Mr. Roddan) You haven't had any occasion for it. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Trohan) He is a little hurt about a note he got the other day.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It has always been Stevie who has been picked on and now it is Eddie's turn.

Q (Mr. Roddan) You certainly did a thorough job. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what do you want to know? We elected a Supervisor in the Town of Hyde Park the first time in thirty-five years, which is going some.

Q One of the bulletins last night said you took the defeat very philosophically.

THE PRESIDENT: Whose defeat?

Q The New Deal's.

THE PRESIDENT: Let's take the State (of New York) to analyze first. Let's take the State.

Q What does it mean?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a damned thing. Ernest (Mr. Lindley) can check this: First take the State in 1928. I won by 25,000 in the State and the

total popular vote for Assemblymen that year, as I remember it, we got 62 Assemblymen, and the total vote showed a Democratic majority or plurality over the Republican vote for Assemblymen of about 50,000. In 1930 I won by 725,000 and that year the Democratic majority for Assemblymen was about 500,000 -- a little less than 500,000. Of course we did not carry the Assembly -- we got 66, I think, that year.

In 1931 it ran about the same, about 450 to 500,000 and we did not carry the Assembly. That was my third year in Albany and I think we had 66, something like that. I have forgotten the 1929 figures but they are all substantially the same.

In 1932 I carried the State by 550,000, about, and I think there were 68 Democrats elected and the total vote on Assemblymen was about 450 to 500,000 Democrats.

In 1933 we had approximately the same result -- nobody running for State office.

In 1934, last year, we got 77 and the total vote ran to about 525,000 for the Assemblymen and Lehman (Governor Lehman) won by a great deal more. That is the majority total. Lehman won by 817,000.

This year we are back to about 1930, 1, 2, 3 and 4 totals, and you will find, when you check up, that the total majority is 450 to 500,000 Democratic.

Q This year? You think so?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q In other words, you think this is --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) In other words, about the same thing.

Just compare the up-State results this year with the up-State results in 1933. You will find a great many more very close districts than there were in 1933, and that is why Farley thought he was going to do better than he did.

MR. EARLY: That would be true of 1934 too, would it not?

THE PRESIDENT: You very nearly had the up-State vote except in one or two places.

Q (Mr. Storm) There have been a lot of reports that this Assembly vote has been a repudiation of the New Deal, inasmuch as the Republican Party made the New Deal the issue. Do you regard the 400,000 majority of the Democrats as a reply to those charges?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not a bit, one way or the other. In some cases a few voters were fooled by it, but a mighty few.

Q Do you regard this as a violation of the constitutional rule that the majority shall rule?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because it is under the Constitution.

Q Under the State Constitution?

THE PRESIDENT: It follows the State Constitution.

Q The makeup of the Assembly in this State is on the same principle as the United States Senate -- geographical representation.

THE PRESIDENT: It provides that more than half of the Assembly shall come from outside the City (of New York). So, it is a perfectly normal thing, which still leaves the total Democratic vote somewhere around between 450 to 500,000 -- I haven't checked the figures and I am guessing at them -- Democrats on the total State vote.

Well, just to show that the local issues amounted to a whole

lot more, the popular mayors in up-State cities won, or mayors who had done something that was not liked were defeated. There were quite a lot of Democratic mayors elected. About, I should say, a normal number. In some cases they carried towns and cities where they had previously lost. Just like this vote in Hyde Park, that was a personal thing in this town. There wasn't anything New Deal; it was not that; it was because one man was unpopular and the other fellow was popular. It was just the same in Poughkeepsie. Spratt ran ahead of his opponent because he was popular. Poughkeepsie is normally Republican but Spratty was liked.

So much for the dopesters.

Q This is quite a lot of dope.

THE PRESIDENT: This human equation, in this kind of an election, counts for an awful lot.

Q It does in national elections too, Mr. President. (Laughter)

Q What about Philadelphia?

THE PRESIDENT: A great victory; an enormous victory. Again, go back five or six years and see what the vote has been in Philadelphia in five or six years. What was it, 200,000 in 1928? More than that.

Q The Philadelphia Bulletin might be able to give you data on that.

Q About 240,000 in 1928.

THE PRESIDENT: What was it in 1930?

Q Approximately the same.

THE PRESIDENT: In 1932 I lost Philadelphia by 150,000.

Q Less than that; 125,000, I think.

THE PRESIDENT: And in 1934 how did it go with George Earle and Guffey? They lost it by about 100,000?

Q Less than 100,000 -- 75,000.

THE PRESIDENT: What has Wilson won by?

Q 30,000 on the outside.

THE PRESIDENT: No kick about that.

Q The personal equation is there, on Philadelphia.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think the personal equation comes in less in Philadelphia, but there has been a complete political change compared to five or six years ago. The old machine busted up for various reasons and now we are getting a re-alignment on both sides.

Q Both sides.

MR. EARLY: Your younger vote, too, has something to do with it.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so. It is all over.

Q It has, especially in Philadelphia.

THE PRESIDENT: It has up here. You are getting more and more of an independent vote. The younger voters are less bound by party ties all the way through.

Q There was a religious issue there too. The Republican was a Catholic and they never had a Catholic in Philadelphia. Mr. Kelly's supporters said, "That is all right; he has been excommunicated."

(Laughter)

Q If he is reelected, they (the Catholics) will get him back in.

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Of course we haven't heard from Kentucky. Nobody has any idea.

Q We should be getting some word soon.

MR. EARLY: They don't begin to count until ten o'clock in the morning.

THE PRESIDENT: They don't wait for the evening to count it.

Q Did they kill anybody down there?

THE PRESIDENT: Remarkably few.

MR. EARLY: McIntyre was an absentee voter.

Q What did you make out of the revival of the Democratic Party in New York City?

THE PRESIDENT: How much of a revival was it?

Q They swept out the Fusion people pretty well in the Board of Aldermen.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, it is running true, again, to past performances. I don't think there is anything significant about it and I don't think McGoldrick handled his campaign particularly well. There was too much mudslinging and it doesn't pay. That is what the Brooklyn people said. Quite a lot of independents in Brooklyn told me he was making a mistake.

Q He wasn't a strong candidate anyway.

THE PRESIDENT: He made a personal issue of it. I remember my campaigns for Governor. I never mentioned the other fellow and he would get awfully sore.

Q You are going to see Mr. Young today, Mr. Owen Young?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q On what?

THE PRESIDENT: Education.

Q Is he the director of the youth movement?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q He has some special job in New York State?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, he has some job in New York State.

Q What is it, do you know?

Q I think, 4 or 5 hundred thousand dollars was given to make a complete

survey of education in New York State. He is one of the members of that.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Of course we are working ahead in this State towards the consolidation of school districts and things of that kind and increasing the standard of teacher qualifications. Those things are tremendously important.

Q And that is what you are going to discuss with Mr. Young?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And also, probably we will talk about the problem of vocational education for younger people because in a good many trades at the present time -- not a good many but some trades -- we have an actual shortage of skilled labor. Of course, perfectly naturally, during the last five or six years there have been very young people learning trades.

Q For instance, in what?

THE PRESIDENT: In the machine tool trade. It is hard to get sufficient qualified people that you can use. This is not off the record -- it is all right.

Q Anything else with respect to Mr. Young? The foreign situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe so.

Q Can you tell us any developments on the foreign situation with respect to the visit of Mr. Baruch yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: He was over there twice this summer and he told me about his general observations -- the difficulties in Europe. It is not encouraging. Nothing that comes over is particularly encouraging. That is why I am spending such an awful lot of time on the foreign situation. It is a good deal more worry to me personally than the domestic situation.

MR. EARLY: I think you can tell us all about your departure plans tomorrow -- the visit to the City (of New York).

THE PRESIDENT: We will leave about three o'clock tomorrow and motor down. It has been a couple of years since we have motored down.

Q Not since you have been President.

Q The last time was right before Inauguration.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is right. I want to see the river and go to 49 East 65th and dress. Then I will go down -- I don't know what the time of the dinner is -- to the Masonic Temple.

MR. EARLY: Will the dinner be at the Masonic Temple?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, just a very small dinner with the officers of the Grand Lodge.

Q The dinner at the Temple?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, only ten or fifteen at the dinner, and then the ceremonies after that. We will get through between ten and eleven and then I will go to the train and be back in Washington at 8.30 the next morning.

MR. EARLY: You omitted one very important thing: What time will the train leave?

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you a lot of time -- one o'clock.

Q Do you have an active part in the ceremonies, or are you merely going to be present?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q I saw something in the New York papers that you were going to induct.

THE PRESIDENT: Probably assist in it.

Q What degree is he taking, the Third Degree?

THE PRESIDENT: Third degrees -- Franklin and Jimmy. Elliott went in

before I went down to Washington.

Q Are you taking Jim Farley along with you, Mr. President? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I had him at the Shriners, you remember that? him and Joe Kennedy.

Did you ever hear of the hoax I pulled on Joe Kennedy?

MR. EARLY: At the Shriners? That is a good story.

THE PRESIDENT: This is off the record. I said to Joe before the Shriners' Parade, "You know, I am all alone. Why don't you come and join me at it?" He said, "My God! I go to the Shriners' Parade?"

I said, "Sure, Jim Farley is coming." I didn't know whether he was but he did. And he said, "Jim is coming? Is that a command?" And I said, "Sure."

And so Joe arrives and Jim Farley too. It was a terribly rainy night; it did not last very long, only about a quarter of a parade.

They went back -- Joe had been sliding behind the police all the time so that the photographer wouldn't get him -- and he went up to Hainesport. I waited about two and a half weeks and at the end of July I sent him a telegram. I picked any old name out of the telephone book, John Turner or something like that: "Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy. In accordance with our delightful conversation the night of the Shriners' Parade, will it be convenient for you to go through the ceremony the first week of September? A large and distinguished gathering will be here to welcome you. Please wire as quickly as possible to Admiral Cary T. Grayson." Cary did not know anything about this either. "We

count on your presence and the ceremonies will be made as easy for you as possible. John Turner."

I sent this off and Joe got it there and he had a fit because that night, when he was leaving the White House in the rain, after the Parade, one or two high-muck-a-mucks in the Shrine said, "Can't we give you a lift?" and so they gave him a lift and Joe said, "My heavens! what did I say that night? I know I was perfectly sober. What could I have said?"

And then said, "I wonder if this is a hoax." So he got hold of a secretary and said, "Run this thing down." They checked and found the telegram had been sent from the Willard Hotel. I did not let it go out of the White House. He told the wife and children and the whole Kennedy family went up through the roof and they remained up through the roof all of August. He tried to find out about it and he called Cary Grayson and Grayson said, "I don't know anything about it except that I got a message that I might get a telegram from you and that I would be called up later to find out if I had. I have had no call nor a telegram." "Well, said Joe, "are you a Shriner?" and Cary lied like a trooper and said, "Of course I am a Shriner."

About the twenty-fifth of August I was talking to Joe on the telephone from the White House -- he was still up on the Cape -- and at the end of the conversation I said, "By the way, Joe, are you going to be down here the first week in September?" Joe said, "You blankety blank blank." Just like that, and to the President of the United States. (Laughter)

Q He finally got wise?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. He had a bad month. So this Christmas I am sending him my red fez, all wrapped up with blue ribbon.

Q Anything more on the Chicago visit?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It is just that I promised to go for the last three years and I have to go this year.

Q When are we leaving for Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: The twentieth or twenty-first. We will get two weeks and two days down there, and then leave there probably on the eighth.

Q Instead of all this background, why can't we use just one sentence for attribution and not for quotes?

THE PRESIDENT: I won't, because it is a regular rule since 1928. The only statements I made in 1928, 1930 and 1932 -- I think I said the result speaks for itself, or something equally sententious.

Q I don't know how we can have Fred's (Mr. Storm's) filing that you don't think it means a damned thing and get away with it in the papers.

THE PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact, what I feel is that it is just about a carrying on of what happened since 1930. That is what it is. There has been no shift one way or the other. If you take popular majorities you find it just about the same as they have averaged since 1930.

Q On the foreign situation, is there any new move contemplated by you?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Anyone else today besides Mr. Young?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing. I will take a drive this afternoon around the place.

Q Cut your Christmas trees?

THE PRESIDENT: I had a man come up on the Christmas trees. I expected to sell the first batch this year but he advises me to let them grow a foot higher. Next spring I am putting in about eight acres in new Christmas trees, in April.

Q How many trees does that mean?

THE PRESIDENT: On the Christmas tree basis, it means about 1600 to the acre.

Q About 12,000?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, about 12,000.

Q Little fellows.

THE PRESIDENT: And it takes them between eight and ten years to come to maturity. This new farm of 72 acres that I bought last fall, with that I hope to get a full production of Christmas trees somewhere around six to eight acres a year. I think it pays, as a crop.

Q Once you get it started.

THE PRESIDENT: Once you get the rotation going, it is all right. We have a pretty good market around here without even going to New York City. There is Poughkeepsie and Peekskill and Yonkers and Newburgh, places within easy trucking distance, so you have no freight charges.

Q In your Christmas Proclamation will you mention the wider use of trees? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I only had one bad time about my Christmas Proclamation. I had to say, "Please don't put candles on trees -- put electric bulbs," and I hate an electrically lit tree. Every Christmas tree ought to have candles, but from the point of view of the

fire hazard, it is terrible.

Q There are too many drunks falling into them.

Q Isn't there a method of spraying them so as to retard the likelihood of spreading fire?

THE PRESIDENT: It is awfully difficult. It is not the tree itself; it is the tinsel on it.

Q Mr. President, how many acres have you in trees now?

THE PRESIDENT: At the present time I only have the original six acres and about fifteen more -- about twenty-one all told.

Q Not enough for the New Deal Santa Claus, is it?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. (Laughter)

Off the record, with this rotation coming along, if I am still in the White House eight years, I will be almost self-sustaining.

Q It will be good on the record.

Q Tell me to send that to Bert McCormick. (Laughter)

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #247,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
November 8, 1935, 4.18 P.M.

Q Good afternoon, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you missed it. We had a grand time. Eddie (Mr. Roddan) came through all right but it was against tremendous odds.

Q (Mr. Roddan) I always do.

Q (Mr. Young) But you don't look the same though. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (addressing Russell Young) You did a good job, damned good. They got on board the train at 1.00 A.M. (As though quoting from a news story:) "The President had an opportunity to handle the political situation in his overnight ride from New York." Say, you know I sleep sometime.

Q I went to bed at 11.00. Don't all brag.

THE PRESIDENT: He is making a hero out of me -- me and Farley -- we sat up all night.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: There is literally and absolutely no news at all.

Q I was given to understand that you were going to either junk or turn away our little SEQUOIA, the yacht. Is there any truth in that?

THE PRESIDENT: It is very much against my will but everybody insists I should be on a fireproof boat. Why, I don't know.

Q The SEQUOIA?

THE PRESIDENT: The SEQUOIA is built of wood so I am turning back the CUYAHOCA, which has to go along as a guard boat, to the Department of -- to the Treasury, to the Coast Guard, and I am turning back

the SEQUOIA to the Department of Commerce, from which it came, which releases two boats, and I am taking a Coast Guard patrol boat, which is big enough to carry the Secret Service men on board.

Q Have you the name of it, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what I am going to name it.

Q The KLECTRA, I think.

THE PRESIDENT: That is right, the KLECTRA. So we have a net saving in the number of people employed and a saving of fuel because there is one boat instead of two, and also we have a so-called President's Yacht, which, in case of war, would be turned into coast defense purposes. It would not be a yacht; she would be available for duty.

Q Would she have any Press quarters in her, sir? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I will take you along for a race some day.

Q Do you care to comment on the Judge's ruling yesterday on the Stock-yards Act?

THE PRESIDENT: I have only read the headlines. I have not talked to anybody about it.

Q He called it unconstitutional in toto.

THE PRESIDENT: He called it unconstitutional in toto.

Q Anything on Canadian negotiations?

THE PRESIDENT: I talked over with the State Department this morning the progress that had been made up to date in discussing the trade agreement.

Q Have they given you a list of the commodities you might talk about?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we have been talking about it -- how long has it been going? -- three months.

Q It started since last January?

THE PRESIDENT: They have had all that time a list of commodities as long as your arm -- both sides.

Q Have you agreed on any exchange?

THE PRESIDENT: Still in the discussion stage.

Q Is it likely that the discussion with Mr. (Mackenzie) King may also cover the St. Lawrence Waterway Project?

THE PRESIDENT: We may mention it; I don't know yet.

Q Have you decided on who will go to London for the Naval Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. The actual date of its opening is not yet definitely determined because the Japanese delegation can't get there on the second and I understand it will be postponed, probably only for a short time.

Q Even if it is for December fifth, those people will have to leave on November twenty-fifth.

THE PRESIDENT: That is plenty of time.

Q Can you tell us of your talk with Governor Brann?

THE PRESIDENT: We are still talking.

Q Can you tell us whether you asked him to call a special session?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you anything about it.

Q Have you any further moves on the neutrality question, particularly with regard to trade with belligerent countries?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had a chance to talk to the State Department about it.

Q Have you had any reports on exports for the month of October to Italy, on oil or any other commodities?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Department of Commerce and the Treasury have

those ready today. I have not seen them complete for the month of October yet.

Q Are they being put out publicly or privately?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I hope so.

Q Can we induce you to speak about the increased export of oil?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen that.

Q Would you make any comment on General Johnson's statement that Professor Frankfurter is the most influential person in the United States in the shaping of administrative policies?

Q (from the rear of the audience) Louder.

THE PRESIDENT: He wants to know about some kind of a statement about General Johnson.

Q What was the statement?

THE PRESIDENT: One of them.

Q What was the answer?

THE PRESIDENT: Why, you fellows gave the answer. (Laughter)

Q Do you expect to strike a bargain with Mackenzie King while he is here?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Do you expect to trade?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope these negotiations will result in a trade agreement. They have been under way for some time. I hope they will be concluded soon.

Q In that connection, is there any possibility of them being extended to include some of the articles covered by the so-called Ottawa Agreements?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know, for the reason that I do not know what articles are included in the Ottawa Agreements.

Q Some of the important ones are autos and motor machinery and some of the things we are particularly interested in.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course I should like to see the agreement as broad as it can be made. The whole purpose is to increase trade back and forth between Canada and the United States in as many articles as possible.

Q Mr. President, have the Canadian wheat reserves figured in the discussion?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. They may. I don't know; they haven't come up yet.

Q Are you going down the river over the week end?

THE PRESIDENT: No, staying right here. There really isn't any news, not a blessed thing. Everything is quiet.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.