

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #279,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 3, 1936, 4.00 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you all had a lot of news today.

Q (Mr. Storm) We got a workout this morning on the Tax Message.

What became of that stuffed mackerel they had up there on the board? They did a lousy job on the sailfish.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it is so good.

Q I think they should have mounted it rising out of the water.

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't anybody in Washington ever saw a sailfish in the water.

Q Did you send it back?

THE PRESIDENT: I gave him some suggestions as to that sky blue on the sail.

Q Those spots should not be there, too.

THE PRESIDENT: They are too bright. There are spots there but they sort of come through, you know.

Q The belly is too white.

THE PRESIDENT: I told him to tone that down and make it sort of milky white instead of creamy white. That is the trouble. However, it is a damned goodlooking fish.

Q A nice big one, the biggest I ever saw.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you all got the news this morning. I don't think there is any more.

Q Did you revive N.R.A. at your luncheon conference today?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you tell us about that conference?

THE PRESIDENT: Just talked about the general facts -- I suppose you would call it facts -- in relation to unemployment, a very wide field, and whether it is possible for industry to take care of more people. It was just a general discussion.

Q What were the conclusions?

THE PRESIDENT: Just general discussion. We don't take a vote after these conferences.

Q In that connection, Mr. President, did the Labor Department figures bear out the Labor Federation's recent report showing a large increase in employment?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to get the Labor Department's figures. I do not know what they were but they showed that there were a great many more people employed than in January, 1935. It depends on your comparison. Of course there is always a drop between December and January, every year. Now, what the percentage is, I do not know, but the fact is that there are -- I would be afraid to give you the figures.

Q Does that mean the A.F. of L. figures were wrong?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't know. I have not compared them and do not know anything about that.

Q What are the prospects of a new Assistant Secretary of the Navy soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing at the present time.

Q Are you considering Captain Edward Macauley of San Francisco for that post?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not considered anybody.

Q Do you think it will come soon, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What about the appointment of the Commissioner of Reclamation?

THE PRESIDENT: Fairly soon on that, I think.

Q What about the last member on the Federal Reserve Board?

THE PRESIDENT: Still going over a lot of names.

Q Senator Copeland said this afternoon that the so-called compromise Merchant Marine Bill was an Administration measure. Can you tell us anything on that?

THE PRESIDENT: All I know is that the last I heard was that the Postmaster General and the Secretary of Commerce were huddled over the bill together. I have had no reports since that.

Q Mr. Copeland said you sent them up there. Is that correct? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it is correct in this sense: I said, "For heaven's sake, will you fellows go up there and see if you can straighten this out?" Those were the only instructions.

Q There are some reports that orders have gone out to the heads of the various Government departments, including the Army and Navy, rather a gag rule, when they appear before Congressional Committees in the future.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose we might just as well step on that with both feet. Those reports are made out of whole cloth and I think we can characterize it further by saying that I have noticed reports on that in the Hearst press, and that is sufficient evidence.

Q Where?

THE PRESIDENT: "Where?" says somebody in the front row.

Q Can you tell us anything about General Hagood?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q With respect to this tax program, what is your theory on the argument that this new tax will prevent corporations from building up reserves to meet another depression?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the easiest way to put it is to be careful of your terminology. There are two distinct things: One is reserves and the other is surplus. If you will look up the corporate definition of those two words you will see exactly what it is intended to do. Any corporation has a right to set aside a proper amount for reserves to carry on its business. Every corporation has a right to set aside a figure for reserves before you arrive at the figure for net earnings.

Q In a depreciation account?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, or working capital.

On the other hand, a surplus is a very different thing. That is undistributed earnings which are not necessary for the immediate conduct of the business.

Q Mr. President, reserves could not be used for dividends in a lean year?

THE PRESIDENT: Every corporation, on an accounting, has a right to set aside an adequate amount for reserves before they arrive at net earnings.

Q But could that be used for dividends later on?

THE PRESIDENT: That does not become taxable.

Q Could a reserve of that kind be used to meet dividends in a depression year when the company is not earning any money?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say so, if they did not need the reserves.

Q It could be used to pay wages, could it not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q How do you arrive at "adequate"?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the way they arrive at it today. They always have that problem on every corporate accounting.

Q It would increase the velocity of money. Wouldn't that be one of the objectives?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Some time ago the Budget Department sent around a memo which has been variously construed as a check on Government departments. Do you know about that memo?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not say it had been variously construed that way. I would say it would be construed by people who want to construe it that way.

Q The departments themselves.

THE PRESIDENT: It is the same rule that has been in effect the last three years. Nothing new. All it means is this: If some Congressman has a bright idea and he has a bill and he goes down to the department, well, before the department embraces the bill, they are supposed to check with somebody and find out whether it is within the Administration's spending policy or general policy. That is all. There is nothing new in that. They have always done that.

Q In estimating the amount of money you will need for relief, are you considering all the needy employees or the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ million on W.P.A.?

THE PRESIDENT: Only the employables.

Q All needy employables in the country?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as the money will go around.

Q In estimating, how much you will ask for?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as we can tell.

Q In your Budget Message you said in about two months you would be ready to give your relief estimate?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the relief estimate will go up somewhere -- what is today, the third? -- somewhere between now and the tenth of March, so there won't be much more delay. Actually, I am working on it at the present time.

Q Do you estimate there will be considerable unexpended balances from the present \$4,000,000,000. fund?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q There will be money not expended in this fiscal year carried over to next year?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, if we use any part of the \$4,000,000,000. fund on what might be called a permanent brick and mortar proposition that everybody has been talking so much about, obviously you cannot finish that project within one year. Take the simple example of the Triborough Bridge in New York: It takes three years to build that. Nobody ever thought that the whole \$4,000,000,000. would be actually spent out of the Treasury by the first of July of this year. I say, "nobody thought." Nobody in their right mind, that was.

Q Can you tell us about the Rural Electrification setup?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are working out a solution.

Q They have submitted it to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is it satisfactory?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Tomorrow is your third anniversary as President of the United States. Is there anything that you -- any special comment you care to make at this time?

THE PRESIDENT: Let us say it is the fourth. It is the fourth, and for the fourth time I am going to work all day.

Q Mrs. Roosevelt said, when the Press asked her, that she had found her three years or four years very educational. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That is all right; that goes for me, too.

Q But she outlined several educational aspects of it.

THE PRESIDENT: Swell. I would outline them all.

Q Getting back to relief, has any money been transferred from any relief agencies back to W.P.A. lately? I think you were considering something of that kind?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there have been any transfers lately.

Q W.P.A. is about to run out of funds, isn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: That is one of our problems, to tide W.P.A. over during the months of May and June. We are scraping the barrel.

Q Secretary Hull is going to make a big speech over in Baltimore on the fifth. Will he be speaking for the Administration?

THE PRESIDENT: All I know is the general subject of his speech and I think it is fairly important. I have not read the speech but I have full confidence that what he says will be of some interest and importance.

Q In this new tax on corporation undivided profits, will there be

any allowance made under that plan for railroads to use part of their undivided profits for retirement of debt before it would be taxed?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. In other words, those are details that have to be worked out in the drafting of the bill. It is just like the question as to whether bank net earnings would be subject to the tax.

Q Is Senator Norris going to take part in the Norris Dam dedicatory exercises tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we are going to push the button twice and a large siren will blow each time and each time another gate will be closed, or a series of gates.

Q Going back to this tax action, will it be possible for a man to make capital investment of surplus without taxation?

THE PRESIDENT: What is that?

Q A capital investment?

THE PRESIDENT: On that question, I am glad you asked that point because I think that is one reason for the bill. Here has been one of the corporate troubles in the past: Suppose -- let us take some kind of a concrete case. Suppose you (Fred Storm) and I have got a nice little corporation that is making good money and you and I, between us, control 51% of the stock and all of the rest here present are also stockholders. In other words, there are another 150 stockholders but you and I control 51% of the corporation. The corporation makes a nice profit this year of \$100,000. You and I control it and we say to ourselves, "We can get along without any dividends this year because

we have outside sources of income." But the other members of the Press really need the dividends. But you and I, because we have outside sources of income, we decide we won't distribute that \$100,000. but we will take that \$100,000. and put an addition to the plant with it, with the idea that eventually we will make more money. Thereupon all the others, the 150 stockholders, come in and protest. We say, "Awfully sorry, but we think this is the best policy," and so we make no distribution, but we put that money into additional plant.

Now, that is not exactly fair. What is the right method of adding to the plant in the last analysis? It would be this: that you and I, in control of the corporation, would pay out this \$100,000. to the other members of the Press, all the other stockholders, so that there would be a complete distribution of the \$100,000. At the same time, we send an offer to all of these stockholders. You and I have got \$51,000. between us and they have got \$49,000. We send out an offer to them, "Would you like to subscribe your share of the \$100,000. to new stock with which to put up an addition to the plant?" You and I believe in the thing and you and I will subscribe. We will receive, in dividends, \$51,000. and we will put it back into the company. We buy new stock. But there are some stockholders who want to spend their share of the \$49,000. some other way and therefore they do not subscribe to the new stock. Well, we go out and try to find somebody that will take up the stock they did not subscribe to.

There is a perfectly clean deal. If the stockholders do

not need to use their dividends and they believe in the company, why they will come in and we will get our \$100,000. to put in the new plant.

Q Minus taxes --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Now, that is one of the things that this proposed Message will help to bring about more largely than at the present time. You and I know that there are a good many corporations in this country which have been in position, in the last ten or fifteen years, to declare dividends practically every year and so far have completely failed to declare a single dividend, and that is because of the fact that they are controlled by a very small number of people who prefer not to have the disbursement made to them in the form of dividends and prefer that it be reinvested. Through control they have prevented the other stockholders from getting anything out of the company and have forced through their own policy of using all profits for the expansion of the business instead of distribution of the earnings.

That is a point of view which cannot be emphasized too strongly.

Q Won't that tend to retard expansion of the country?

THE PRESIDENT: On the contrary, I think it will extend expansion. I think it will also tend to prevent unnecessary expansion because it will be out in the open and everybody will know what this money is going for and why it is being spent.

Q You did not have in mind the idea that this might be made retro-active to cause distribution of moneys --

(interposing)

THE PRESIDENT: / This does not go back to existing surpluses.

Q There have been ideas in the past to prevent their getting rid of the taxable surpluses before this bill becomes an act?

THE PRESIDENT: It is not my thought that they are taxing existing surpluses.

Q It would be all on the 1936 income?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the calendar year 1936.

Q In putting back this surplus in plant expansion, they also avoid paying income taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

Q Do you believe this plan will increase the revenue from income taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: That is the point. Take a simple illustration: Suppose there are \$3,000,000,000. this year of undistributed earnings. Now, this tax would not apply at all if the \$3,000,000,000. were distributed, but the Government would get exactly the same amount of money through the personal income tax returns, if it were distributed.

Q There must be a point in your percentage as to how much you recover. Has that been discussed, or will it be necessary to increase the individual income tax returns other than the exemption of stock dividends?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think not.

Q No increase on individual incomes necessary?

THE PRESIDENT: No increase on individual incomes necessary, except that surtax on dividends, which is a replacement. The theory of dividends not being taxable is on the theory that already the corporation has paid all the tax.

Q Can you make known your Treasury Department figures on what the exact amount of undistributed surplus or reserve was at the end of February?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean up to now? I don't know.

Q It would be over \$3,000,000,000., wouldn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: What figure did I give in the Message?

Q Over $4\frac{1}{2}$.

THE PRESIDENT: It is estimated that the way it is running in the last half of 1935 and beginning of 1936, that undistributed earnings will amount to $4\frac{1}{2}$ billion dollars in this calendar year 1936.

Q What is to prevent a corporation from placing its surplus in excessive depreciation reserves?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing to prevent them any more than at the present time. There is supposed to be a method in the Treasury Department and in the accounting and in various decisions made as to where the line is drawn between reserve and surplus.

Q If you collect \$1,600,000,000. out of this expected $4\frac{1}{2}$ billion, that works out about 30 per cent or 35 per cent. Have you given any thought to the range of these taxes in percentages?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q It will have to be based on some sort of capitalization, will it not? because A.T. & T. (American Telephone & Telegraph Company) has tremendous reserves and yet they are not large when compared to their capitalization?

THE PRESIDENT: Now, it is getting over my head.

Q I think a \$100,000. corporation could have a very small amount of income undistributed, whereas the A.T. & T., if they had a good

year, might have \$100,000,000. Would there be the same rate on those?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I frankly do not know.

Q Will one effect of having the stockholders given a chance to say whether they want to invest or not -- would one effect be to strengthen the operation of the Securities Act?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think it strengthens it or weakens it. I suppose any new stock offering has to come to them to get their approval, and, of course, the theory there is merely to tell the truth about it.

Q Would any kind of reserves except depreciation reserves be exempt from the taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know enough about the accounting end of it. I do not know how many different kinds of reserves they have in the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Q Mr. President, does this same thing apply to partnerships as well as corporations?

THE PRESIDENT: The idea is -- I do not know enough about the technicalities. The thought is it would put partnerships and corporations on the same basis.

Q Doesn't it more or less add to the need for the elimination of tax-exempt securities?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course we have always had the problem of the need but nobody has shown us the way out.

Q Won't your need be greater?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. I have always been in favor of eliminating tax-exempt securities.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q That was a nice little corporation you fixed up for us. (Laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #280,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 6, 1936, 10.40 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we are going to have a nice quiet week end.

Q Going to put the lid on tomorrow? 4

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. Do it this afternoon, late.

Q (Mr. Storm) I have to prepare my inaugural this afternoon. I am going to give the Senator's (Mr. Young's) 32-B.

Q (Mr. Young) I will get you later.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought we might as well put the lid on this afternoon so as to let Fred (Mr. Storm) prepare his inaugural, and between now and then I do not think there is any news anyway.

Q I have two questions, one of local interest and of great national interest.

(Laughter) The first one was that I understand you have suggested to Mr. Farley -- I do not know whether it is a suggestion or recommendation -- to put out a new series of stamps to pay homage to Navy and military heroes and old forts.

THE PRESIDENT: We have been talking about it and have not come to any definite decision yet. It has been talked about for twenty years and it was started when T. R. (President Theodore Roosevelt) was here.

Q Battle sites, or just individuals?

THE PRESIDENT: Army and Navy officers.

Q Wasn't the purpose to educate people to the traditions of the Army and Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: We hoped we would have something else this year.

Q How far has that progressed?

THE PRESIDENT: Just to the discussion stage. They have even gotten to the point of deciding which heroes would go on the stamps and it is a difficult problem.

Q Would it go as far back as the Revolution?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

Q How many stamps would there be?

THE PRESIDENT: Small series, about five.

Q The other question was: Do you think that the \$2,700,000. is a fair contribution of the Federal Government to the District of Columbia? It was cut down that much, if you will notice in the papers?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not talking about it out loud except to call your attention to the Budget figures at this stage.

Q You approved the Budget figures on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you tell us anything about the relief conference held last night at the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: Just another one, that is all. We will have still another one in the next few days.

Q Has the button industry shown any activity in sending you buttons for your white weskit?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I have had suggestions from what they call the P.P. to substitute zippers. (Laughter)

Q That is a good one.

Q Have you found the other ones?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, they are all right. I think they probably turned up in the wash. That is what generally happens.

Q Can you tell us anything about the tax bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There isn't any more news at this end.

Q Have the conferences with the spending agencies been completed?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they will continue right along, once a month.

Q Have you reached any conclusion on any money that can be saved in the
- spending agencies?

THE PRESIDENT: We keep on reaching conclusions almost every week. We take a
little here and a little there. We are getting down awfully close to
the bottom of the barrel.

Q Any figure set?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I cannot give you any total. Still scraping.

Q Any news on the funds for W.P.A. during the two months?

THE PRESIDENT: That is what we are trying to scrape for.

Q Are you contemplating any action in connection with the Hagood case?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I think everything else is all quiet.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #281,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 10, 1936, 4.00 P.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Completely flat day; no news.

Q No questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Spring fever has attacked most of us.

Q Mr. President, --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What is this, fudge? (The President was jibing the correspondents about the omission of dessert, presumably icecream, from the dinner given by the White House Correspondents' Association the previous Saturday evening.)

Q Can you tell us anything --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, I like icecream but -- but it is bad for me.

Q We are going to have a dinner for the Vice President and we promise to serve icecream at that one.

Q Beginning with icecream. (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us anything of your discussion today with Ambassador Bingham?

THE PRESIDENT: Chiefly about Georgia quail.

Q I started writing here very fast.

THE PRESIDENT: No, that was all. Just pleasant talk.

Q When do you think you will be able to send up the relief budget estimates?

THE PRESIDENT: Before the nineteenth -- before 3.00 P.M. on the nineteenth.

Q Anything to say about a housing program?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. I wish you could help me.

Q Did you say, sir, on the nineteenth?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Why the nineteenth?

THE PRESIDENT: Because, Fred (Mr. Essary), I think that after 3.00 P.M. on the nineteenth it will be too late. I will be on the train.

Q Oh! (Laughter) I did not know you were going away. (Laughter)

Q How much of a head start do you expect to have, Mr. President?

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I may drop it in, in the Capitol, on my way to the train; I don't know. (Laughter)

Q There is a rumor around town -- I do not know where it started -- that the Message may go up this week?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a chance this week. We haven't even decided what it is going to contain, let alone writing it.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your conference yesterday with the Labor Housing Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't any news on that. The only tip I can give you is that nobody is agreed what form a Housing Bill will take. I cannot find any two experts that agree. I cannot find any two real estate men that agree, or any two contractors, or any two builders, or financiers. They do not, any to them, agree. It is an awful mess. We are still trying to put it together and I don't know whether I will be able to get it together before I leave or not. We are all working on it and that is really the

beginning and end of the news on housing.

Q What are the principal points of disagreement on housing?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, there are two phases on housing. One is low cost, individual family or two-family house, to which the Government would not make any contribution. That becomes, primarily, a method of financing. That is a case for private capital, not for any Government contribution.

At the other side of the picture is the slum clearance problem, which everybody is agreed cannot be carried on without some kind of Government financial aid, and that brings it to a question of how much financial aid from Government and what form it will take. It is the same old question. In these slums, you have an element of population that can afford to pay only a very, very small monthly rent and you cannot get private capital to go in and give them better living conditions for the same rent they are paying now, because the private capital cannot make a profit at it. It is perfectly obvious. Therefore, there must be a Government contribution, just so long as you have an element in the population that can only afford to pay this very, very low rental.

That states the whole problem.

Q Can you tell us whether your idea is turning toward a permanent setup or toward a continuation of handling this on an emergency basis?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think we have even got to a discussion of that. It is a question of what form immediate help would take through legislation passed this year. Whether it will be permanent or not, we have not got to that yet.

Q Does that mean you are opposed to a proposal for Federal loans for construction of low-cost homes?

THE PRESIDENT: Federal loans won't do it. Slum clearance --

Q (interposing) I am talking about low-cost homes.

THE PRESIDENT: Low-cost homes -- there are all kinds of methods of financing. That is a different thing.

Q You said a moment ago it was a field for private capital?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Of course there might be some kind of Government assistance by way of guarantees, but that is only one of the many suggestions made.

Q When you started out on slum clearance before, a good many of those projects, or some of them at least, became developments instead of cleared areas, and the slums still stay. Is there going to be any assurance, if there is another slum clearance program, that it will really be a slum clearance program?

THE PRESIDENT: Where, for instance?

Q In Buffalo, for instance, there was a slum clearance proposition and the houses are now being built on a farm.

THE PRESIDENT: The houses are being built elsewhere?

Q Yes, not in the slum area at all and, in the slum area, the houses there still stand. This throws it directly in competition with the men who finance their own homes.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you about that Buffalo proposition. I do not think there are many like that.

Q Those labor leaders who were here yesterday, I think it was, gave me the impression that in their proposition there was either no slum clearance or they were opposed to a slum clearance program

as far as they were concerned.

THE PRESIDENT: They were very much in favor of slum clearance.

Q Then I got entirely the wrong slant.

THE PRESIDENT: We are all agreed that you have to separate slum clearance from ordinary home building. They are different propositions and one can be done essentially with private capital.

Q A number of organizations in the building industry have said that they were opposed to Government activity in housing except for slum clearance, that any other housing is a matter of private enterprise.

THE PRESIDENT: If they can produce cheap enough homes for the people that need it, that is fine. I cannot find any of them that will bring a home within the purse of those who get twelve or fifteen hundred dollars a year. They can offer plenty of houses for people with incomes of three thousand and five thousand dollars a year, but they are a small element in the total population. I am all for them doing it, but they haven't showed us the way.

Q Has the Government found the way?

THE PRESIDENT: No; that is what we are working on.

Q Can you tell us anything about the Captain Roberts report of the Secretary of Commerce on wages and hours in the N.R.A.?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell what it is.

Q It has become a mysterious report. There are several reports on it, on the increase in hours and decrease in wages in N.R.A., et cetera.

THE PRESIDENT: That is being checked.

MR. EARLY: The Department of Commerce is going to make a report, to

be released with the Department of Commerce study that they are now preparing, and they want a simultaneous release on it about the first of the month.

THE PRESIDENT: About the first of April.

Q That is the Captain Roberts report, I take it?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q Would you care to comment on the McAdoo Resolution for the establishment of another World War Debt Commission? Have you any views you care to express?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q The building service unions in New York are picketing and complaining that the landlords in Knickerbocker Village, largely built by R.F.C. funds, are refusing to mediate. Is there anything the R.F.C. can do about it?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard anything about it and cannot comment on it.

Q Are you ready to announce the appointment of a new Assistant Secretary of the Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q There is a report that Chester Davis is going abroad?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. There is a release on that when you go out and also a letter from me to him which he will give out.

Q Have you seen the United Press story of Mrs. Roosevelt's difficulty in Ohio?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Did Fred (Mr. Storm) do that? (Laughter)

Q The Women's Club of Cuyahoga County are going to refuse to attend her lecture unless certain arrangements are made for some poli-

ticians, and the story was that Under Secretary Charles West would arrange the matter with the Administration.

THE PRESIDENT: It does not sound like the United Press. (Laughter)
There must be something wrong.

Q Can you tell us about your conference with Frank Walsh of the St. Lawrence Waterway Power Authority?

THE PRESIDENT: No, although there is going to be something, a little later on, on that.

Q When we were in Warm Springs, there was something called the Pure Food and Drug Bill. We have not heard anything more about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Ask Senator Copeland. (Laughter)

Q He won't know anything about it.

THE PRESIDENT: I sent a Message to this Congress -- not this session but this Congress.

Q Are you going to be back in time to see John Roosevelt be initiated in the Hasty Pudding Club?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think not.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #282,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 13, 1936, 10.40 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: We have been trying to devise some news in the front row but we have not got anything.

Q Any comment today on housing? There have been some more housing conferences. Anything hopeful to it?

THE PRESIDENT: We are going to have one today.

Q Any reaction to your letter to the royal heads?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had anything yet.

Q The conference on housing was postponed from yesterday until today. Any reason for that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think it was because I hadn't read some of the last reports. I have now.

Q Is there anyway in which the St. Lawrence can be handled, either as a power or navigation project, without ratification of a treaty with Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: I had never thought of it. I do not believe there is, offhand.

Q The reason I asked was that Frank Walsh said in Detroit that we should not overlook the fact that a majority of Congress voted for the St. Lawrence Treaty, but that, lacking two-thirds, the Treaty was defeated. I thought perhaps that was a hint that you might do this on a majority.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I had not thought of it. That is a new one to me.

Q There was some indication in your Message, read at that meeting, that conveyed the same idea. I have not got it with me but I know several people got the same impression.

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid it is just fine imagination. I never thought of it.

Q Are you going to seek a new treaty with Canada on the St. Lawrence?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes. That is not news. You have known it for a long time. There will be negotiations undertaken sometime, but I do not know when.

Q Does this contemplate the Niagara Falls thing at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it would be better to clean up the whole thing at one time, as far as we can go.

Q When will the Relief Message go up?

THE PRESIDENT: 4.00 P.M. Thursday, the nineteenth.

Q Did you see the story that your Relief Message would ask for relief needs for only the seven months and not for the year?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that has been running every week.

Q You say that rather contemptuously. You do not think much of it?

(Laughter)

Q Did you see Mayor LaGuardia's request for \$3,040,000,000.?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we did not discuss that. We left the memorandum open and discussed an entirely different subject.

Q Is there anything new to say on the Pan-American Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I suppose the State Department will be ready with some kind of a statement pretty soon. I think all the replies, except one, have come in.

Q Are you inclined to recognize the new fascist Government of Paraguay?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to ask the State Department.

Q Will you comment on the charge of politics against W.P.A. in some state?

THE PRESIDENT: "Politics" is the answer.

Q Anything on taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The Hill is the source.

Q Do you plan a conference with the Democratic leaders in connection with taxes in the next few days?

THE PRESIDENT: Not any formal conference. Of course I am keeping in touch all the time.

Q Will there be an appointment of a Reclamation Commissioner before you leave?

THE PRESIDENT: I really do not know. Perhaps, and perhaps not.

Q Getting back to the St. Lawrence, do your remarks indicate that a treaty will be sent to the Senate for ratification this session?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my, ^{so} no; not a chance.

Q Are you ready to announce the last member of the Federal Reserve Board?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. Again I do not know whether it will be before I go or after.

Q How about a new Assistant Secretary of the Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: Same thing.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #283,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 17, 1936, 4.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Russ (Mr. Young), are you coming with us?

Q (Mr. Young) No, they did not think I needed a vacation.

THE PRESIDENT: That is not the real reason?

Q (Mr. Young) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: The crowd left behind does need to be chaperoned. Those that go down there do not need it. They might break loose if the Senator were taken down there.

Q You look like a very friendly son of Saint Patrick.

THE PRESIDENT: This is the real thing (pointing to his tie).

Q You even have an Irish setter.

Q I hope that dog only bites Republicans.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Mr. Early) has a memorandum for you afterwards on the Pan-American Conference that will be held some time in Buenos Aires. It explains itself and shows that we have had letters of acceptance and replies from all the American Republics except Paraguay, and that is on its way. There was a change of government down there while my letter was on its way to the President of Paraguay and the new President will reply as soon as he gets my invitation. The important thing is that the substantial accord of every one of the American Republics to this suggestion and the real hope we have is that it is going to be not only of practical use but will also cement the real friendship existing between the Republics at the present time.

Every reply goes along with the suggestion of Buenos Aires as the

place of meeting and the President of Argentina says, "I take pleasure in offering Buenos Aires as the seat of the proposed conference, accepting the suggestion which your Excellency formulated of holding the conference in its midst. I esteem it as a great honor, for which I am deeply grateful."

As to the date of the conference, that has to be talked over the next two or three weeks through diplomatic channels and I won't know until we have had those conversations.

Q It has been definitely decided that it will be held in Buenos Aires?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Has the agenda been worked out for the conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that also has to be discussed.

Q Recently there has been considerable dissatisfaction with the Government in Puerto Rico. Is there any disposition on your part or the part of the Administration to give them a more autonomous form of government, or to establish a commonwealth such as there has been established in the Philippines?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. What do you mean by "a more autonomous form of government"?

Q Their own government.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard of anything.

Q Is Major Berry's Council to be continued? I understand it expires on April first. I wondered if there is any appropriation, or does it go out of existence without some measure being taken for its continuance?

THE PRESIDENT: That we have been studying for some time. It is a question of funds. As I understand it, they adjourned subject to call. I don't know whether we will pay any of their expenses if they come back.

Anyway, it has been a very useful thing and will probably continue in one form or another.

Q Any idea of when the Relief Message is going up?

THE PRESIDENT: I think tomorrow but I cannot swear to it. I won't know until sometime late this evening.

Q Have the railroad conferees asked you to meet with them today or tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q I believe, sir, you are having a relief conference this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: Another one.

Q Do you think there would be any announcement after that conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No, unless you can get it through the usual sources.

Q It has been done, sir. (Referring to the fact that conferees from the Hill had been known to divulge what had transpired at secret meetings.)

Q Don't discourage him.

Q Have you arrived at any tentative figure, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Are you going to take the Message up personally?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Will your Relief Message take care of the situation developing in the District (of Columbia)? There are 30,000 people scheduled to be dropped.

THE PRESIDENT: Referring only to the whole thing on a national scale.

Q Will there be mentioned any specific projects?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What is the next step in the Florida Ship Canal proposition? The Senate has turned down a proposal of \$20,000,000.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q There has been a great deal of talk of Congressman (James G.) Scrugham

of Nevada being in line. Will these revelations on Senator Black have any bearing?

THE PRESIDENT: There has been no revelation in the last month on the fifty some odd names before me.

Q How about the Assistant Secretary of Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing before I go.

Q Has there been any consideration of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There won't be any new appointments before I go.

Q Save a couple of those for down in Florida. We will be hard pushed for a story.

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you some space filler. I am taking with me a scientific book on fishes, and I will send you the Latin names every day.

Q That will require too much research.

Q Is Peter Grimm going back to private business soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Very soon. I think he has gone, in fact. You know he came for three months and stayed eight, which is pretty good.

Q Is that a holiday, or resignation?

THE PRESIDENT: It is neither. He came for three months and stayed eight.

Q Did he make recommendations on housing?

THE PRESIDENT: He made recommendations as far as one could make recommendations to the point we got.

Q Have you reached any point where you could give us some idea on housing?

THE PRESIDENT: I wish I could.

Q Are they still working on it?

THE PRESIDENT: They are still working on it and will continue until I get back, when I hope we will have something more concrete.

Q Can you give us your view on the size of the American delegation that

would be desirable to send to the Peace Conference at Buenos Aires?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, heavens! We haven't got to it. That won't be done for several months now. I don't know.

Q Can you tell us at this time just who will make up your fishing party when you get down to Florida?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think I can tell you. There will be Pa Watson and Captain Brown and Dr. McIntire and my uncle, Fred Delano, and my boy, Jimmy.

Q What kind of fish do you expect to get?

THE PRESIDENT: I can make a collection of the fish stories written by newspapermen and I would hate to spoil them. It is all right, though. You (Mr. Stephenson) and Fred (Storm) and Eadie (Roddan) never got in wrong because I edited your stories for you. (Laughter)

Q They were not hard to edit, however. (Laughter)

Q Is Secretary Hull likely to head the American delegation to Buenos Aires?

THE PRESIDENT: It won't be brought up for three months.

Q Will you go on the POTOMAC on this trip?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, unless it is very rough.

Q I don't wish you any hard luck.

THE PRESIDENT: If it is very, very rough, I will probably transfer to a destroyer.

Q There will be destroyers?

Q Transfer from the POTOMAC to a destroyer for heavy weather?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

Q Will there be any change in your order for reduction of C.C.C. personnel on April 1st?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't see how anything is possible without boosting the

Budget. That is about the size of it. Then, of course, there is another factor on the C.C.C. Camps that is worth noting, and that is on the present basis of applications from families on relief, we will not have many more applications than the three hundred thousand boys we have estimated for. Of course, the difficulty about changing the rule and letting other boys apply is that there is no place you can draw a line. Lots of you people and I would like to get my boy into the C.C.C. Camp. It would be a fine thing for any boy. If we did not draw the line there would be a lot of people who would probably try to get by with some kind of a hard luck story and it would help them financially if they could get their boys into the C.C.C. at \$25 a month for a whole year. It represents a very hard problem. There are a good many people in this country who are not on relief and whose sons cannot get some kind of a job. We have to draw a line where destitution or threat of destitution begins and if we open the C.C.C. Camps to boys whose families are not on relief, it would be a terribly hard thing to keep away from favoritism and all kinds of schemes that people will have to get their boys in. Where people are on relief, there is a definite rule to follow and probably the applications for those boys will not exceed the three hundred thousand.

Q Will you abandon as many Camps as you thought at first would be necessary?

THE PRESIDENT: On the question of Camp abandonment, it is not really abandonment. In other words, we have to temporarily close -- I don't know what the figure is -- perhaps eight hundred Camps but, of the remaining some fifteen hundred, every month there will be some of them where the work in that particular area is finished and the Camp would be closed anyway and torn down or turned over to the county or the

locality and would not be used again by the C.C.C. because the work in that vicinity would have been finished.

Now, just as fast as one of those Camps is abandoned -- that is where the word "abandoned" comes in -- because the work is finished, we will move the personnel from that Camp to one of the Camps that has been temporarily closed but where there still remains work to be done. In other words, no locality that has a Camp temporarily closed this spring need fear that the Camp is permanently closed if there is still work to be done, because just as fast as one of the other Camps finishes its work we move the personnel back and finish the work in the Camp temporarily closed. It is not as bad as it sounds.

Q How about maintenance? Will the Camps be kept up?

THE PRESIDENT: No, in most cases not.

Q The local agencies would do it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you take, for instance, a Camp that is put in to build a recreation center or a new lake or camping place for the public. When that work is done, it is done and won't have to be done again. It will never be reopened as a Camp. Just maintenance -- the whole place being maintained by two or three local people.

Q (Mr. Russell Young) Mr. President, your wedding anniversary today affords a nice opportunity for our new president (of the White House Correspondents' Association) to make his first official speech.

THE PRESIDENT: Very good.

Q (Mr. Frederick A. Storm) I did not think I'd have to make another one so soon but I just want to offer you the congratulations of the White House correspondents on your Thirty-first Wedding Anniversary.

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks ever so much.

Q Good fishing, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #284,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 19, 1936, 11.45 A.M.

(This special Press Conference was called by the President subsequent to a conference held by him with Admiral Grayson, the Secretary of War, Acting Secretary Taylor, Admiral Andrews, Harry Hopkins and Robert Fechner, to discuss emergency measures being taken in connection with flood relief.)

THE PRESIDENT: This is the latest information, not for quotation.

We have had this meeting, the Secretary of War is the Chairman, and all Government departments are completely coordinated in this relief situation. The important thing to stress is, I think, that the Red Cross is principally concerned. I have issued a Proclamation, of which I think you have copies, asking for contributions to the Red Cross in accordance with the usual custom.

This money is absolutely essential to the Red Cross because they handle the problems of clothing, food and lodging and furniture -- providing temporary shelter for people and things like that, and medicine, and also cooperate with the municipalities in repairing private houses so that they can be made habitable. There are, of course, a very large number of houses in which the cellars and ground floors have been under water for a day or two.

The second agency is the CCC and they have been doing extraordinarily good work. In that connection there is a rather good human interest feature with respect to this particular flood, which is rather new. The Chief of Staff says that one of the

outstanding things that has happened in the last 48 hours is the information as to exact situations that has been furnished by the CCC amateur radio sets. For instance, on the dam above Johnstown, after the papers had come out with large headlines as to the dam going out, the Army picked up a message from one of the CCC boys who said, "I am sitting on top of the dam and it has not gone out because I am still sitting on it." (Laughter) "And it is not going to go out." Of course it did not go out. Now, that kind of information is extremely valuable.

The CCC in every locality where we have Camps are providing labor to rescue people, to do patrol work pending the arrival of the militia. They are guarding property and clearing away the worst part of the debris.

The third agency, the relief workers under Mr. Hopkins, are being used in practically every community. Their task is to clean up, building dikes, as they are doing right here in Washington, and then, as soon as the waters go down, the Works Progress workers will assist the municipalities and counties and towns in restoring the water supply, restoring the flooded sewers, so that they will work, helping to put the light lines and the telephone lines back into commission, making the highways passable and assisting in building temporary bridge structures, where the bridges have gone out.

And then the fourth phase of it relates to actual rescue work. Of course there is not, at the present time, a very great deal of that. That is being handled by the Coast Guard and more or less under the general direction of the Army, the Chief of

Staff. Both the Army and the Coast Guard are participating in that work. The Navy hasn't sent in boats yet because we apparently have enough floating equipment from other sources. They are bringing medical supplies in, cooperating with the health authorities and the Army.

General Markham reports that at Pittsburgh the situation was that the flood reached its crest last night at 9.00 P.M. at a stage of 46 feet; that at 10.30 this morning it had receded to 39.4 feet and is dropping rapidly.

The power, light and telephone service is out; the water supply south of the Monongahela River is cut off and that the central heating is off, but that the lights will be resumed tonight; that the police and the National Guard are in good and effective control and that the thing seems to be well in hand.

At Sharpsburg, many people were marooned but all have been gotten out. Apparently twenty persons lost their lives, however, in and around Sharpsburg. The dam near there, which it was feared might go out because it is a dam under construction, is last reported to be O. K.

At Johnstown, an Army officer arrived there last night and said this morning that conditions are not as bad as reported. The big dam seems to be safe. There is about 17 feet of water in the downtown section but it is receding quickly. Loss of life has been from seven to sixteen. The Red Cross has its relief stations going. Medical supplies are adequate. Food is somewhat deficient but beginning to come in in quantity. Se-

lected men from the CCC are in control of policing and today two thousand WPA workers started to clean the town up. The worst of the crisis is over.

I think that is about all. You will do a service if you will point out that the chief thing we want now is contributions to the Red Cross fund. We will handle this as we have handled other emergencies, such as earthquakes and so forth, in the past. That is the principal task today.

Q They ought to put the bee on all the boys today. They collected their expense money. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: So far as my plans go, if things are definitely improved tomorrow, we will go tomorrow, and if not we will go the next day.

Q Will you have a Press Conference tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any other news. If the flood continues, we will all be pushed on that.

Q Have you any idea of how much the Red Cross will need for this flood work?

THE PRESIDENT: About three million dollars. Isn't that right, Cary. (Admiral Cary Grayson)?

ADMIRAL GRAYSON: Yes, sir.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #285,

Held on the wharf at Port Everglades, Florida,
as the President stood at the foot of the
gangplank prior to boarding the destroyer MONAGHAN,
March 23, 1936, 4.30 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I am feeling awfully bad leaving you behind. I don't know
what to do.

Q You look it. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am awfully sorry you are being left behind.

Q (Mr. Trohan) And so are we. (Laughter)

Q Is there anything you want to say before you go?

THE PRESIDENT: Only don't change the language on me. (Referring to a
previous trip on which his messages from the boat had been paraphrased
by the Press.) George (Durno), don't change the language on me when
you get it. Don't vary one word.

Q Well, Mr. President, happy trip.

THE PRESIDENT: I will send you the names of the fish in Latin.

Q We couldn't even spell MONAGHAN. (Laughter)

Q Could you send an appointment in Latin? (Laughter)

(At this point Mr. McIntyre spoke to the President about arrangements
for sending messages from the boat to the hotel at Coral Gables.)

THE PRESIDENT: I will send one in the morning one day, and one in the
afternoon the next day.

Q That is fair.

Q They brought along Mrs. McIntyre so that we can find Mac this trip.

MR. MCINTYRE: All right, poison.

THE PRESIDENT: We have one chief objective. Colonel Watson has wanted
to catch a rare fish. We hope so. He wants to catch one particular

fish.

Q What is that?

THE PRESIDENT: He does not know the exact name but he thinks it is called a "Denizen of the Deep." (Laughter) So, if we catch a denizen of the deep, I will send it by radio.

Q We would appreciate it if the afternoon dispatches were sent in by 4.30.

THE PRESIDENT: We don't generally get back on board until 5.30, so I will try to send them at lunch time.

Q Are you going to visit the Bahamas group?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we will go out through the easterly end of the Bahamas and fish on the way back.

Q If you can get in the vicinity of Nassau, I think it would be swell. It would give us a chance to go over and see the town.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think I will be there.

MR. McINTYRE: Couldn't we arrange a rendezvous?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Have you seen Dr. Townsend's endorsement of Borah (?) ?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not even know it.

Q When will you pick up the POTOMAC?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, late tomorrow or early Wednesday morning, away to the eastward.

Q How long do you expect to be gone?

THE PRESIDENT: As near two weeks as I can make it.

Q You can't make it three?

THE PRESIDENT: I think two weeks will be the outermost limit.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #286,
Held on the afterdeck of the POTOMAC,
at Nassau, B. I.,
March 31, 1936, at about noon.

THE PRESIDENT: His Excellency (the Governor-General of the Bahamas, who was a guest of the President on board the POTOMAC) desires to be interviewed. I have persuaded him. (Laughter) He is good at it, too. I interviewed him last year and the year before, so it is all right.

Q We will take him on right away.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no news except that sailfish and marlin do not grow in the waters we have been in.

Q (Mr. Trohan) Not me this time. Last year, but not this year.

MR. McINTYRE: Incidentally, that (story about catching marlin) was not carried. I am afraid they deleted that.

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I think it was grand. I congratulate you on what you did with Latin names. That was good.

Q We were running under wraps because we didn't have Eddie (Roddan), our old Latin scholar, down here.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought the Navy (referring to Fred Storm) could translate Latin.

Q Did you catch your "Denizen of the Deep" yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, no. We have caught a fish of the deep but we do not know what it is. We are taking it back to Washington for the Museum, if it lasts that long. It is now in the icebox.

Q Did you capture that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q What size?

THE PRESIDENT: It weighed twenty-seven pounds but the variety is completely unknown to me.

MR. McINTYRE: Are you serious about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I am serious about that. It is probably a very common fish but I never caught one before so I am going to find out.

Q We will give it a name. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You would. (Laughter) But you might make it perfectly clear that it is probably a very common fish but that I never caught one before just like it and I cannot find it in the book.

Q No use to the crew, is it?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is probably safe now. It has been with us for about a week.

Q What do you hear from Washington, any big news?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing except what Mac (Mr. McIntyre) lets get through.

Q He lets very little get through.

THE PRESIDENT: Both ways.

Q As far as our way goes, nothing.

Q When do you expect to be back?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; Saturday, Sunday or Monday.

Q Do you still intend to stop off at Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q For our information?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet.

Q That is, you will stay out at sea until Saturday?

MR. McIntyre: Sunday or Monday.

Q Are you having good luck at fishing?

THE PRESIDENT: Excellent. We have not had any cruise where we got as many

fish consistently as this trip and, of course, one reason was that we went to the further end of the Bahamas and then even one jump further, over to the Inagua Island, which is not in the Bahamas jurisdiction, but is under Jamaica.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL: It used to be under the Bahamas but is now under Jamaica.

THE PRESIDENT: It is an uninhabited island and the place was so full of fish that we are looking for other uninhabited islands.

Q Have you done any sailfishing?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, a little, not very much. We are going down, probably now, into the most interesting formation of land I know of, and that is the Tongue of the Ocean.

Q Tunnel, did you say? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Tongue, t-o-n-g-u-e, of the Ocean. It comes down about a hundred miles from here.

CAPTAIN BROWN: I should say seventy or eighty miles out.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Green Key is sixty-five miles and it goes a little further than that.

CAPTAIN BROWN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: It is completely surrounded -- shaped like a tongue, and completely surrounded by coral reefs. In the middle it is 1,000 fathoms deep, which is 6,000 feet. It goes right off, steep.

Q What do you hope to get there?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Have you ever been there before?

THE PRESIDENT: With Vincent Astor, about three years ago.

Q Gathering some sharp words for the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, delicate words.

Q We have referred to this trip of yours as your spring training.

THE PRESIDENT: A good idea.

Q The ball players all go to Florida.

Q Mr. Mac is in training, you will be glad to know. (Referring to the fact that Mrs. McIntyre had accompanied him to Florida.)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

Q Hasn't missed a thing yet.

Q According to the Miami papers you have never yet gotten out of Florida waters on this trip.

THE PRESIDENT: I know it.

Q Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Everything all quiet; very little news from Washington.

There are a certain number of papers to sign; nothing very exciting.

MR. MCINTYRE: As a matter of fact, we had what little there was.

THE PRESIDENT: You gave them a release yesterday on those things done on Sunday?

MR. MCINTYRE: Yes, sir.

Q How long a fish did you get?

THE PRESIDENT: That long (indicating with his hands about a foot and a half).

Q You couldn't make that a little longer?

THE PRESIDENT: Like George Washington, I don't want to exaggerate.

Q Colonel Watson said you got a 7-ft., 4-in. baracuda. It started off at 3 ft.

THE PRESIDENT: And it has been growing every minute.

Q (one of the photographers) Mr. President, do you want to show us how long that fish was?

THE PRESIDENT: Just that long (indicating). As a matter of fact, we had so many fish that everybody is sick of eating them.

Q Thank you, sir.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #287,
Held on the afterdeck of the POTOMAC,
moored to the dock at Port Everglades, Florida,
April 8, 1936.

THE PRESIDENT: Their complexions are pretty good. I think it is grand.

Q The Sun and Surf Club.

Q You are looking well, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I am fine. We had a grand trip.

I do not know any news except the real news to me that you
had written up and that is that the Tongue of the Ocean is 30,000 feet
deep.

Q We had four stories out there.

THE PRESIDENT: You had 30,000 feet.

Q 30,000 feet?

THE PRESIDENT: You had 30,000 feet.

Q It is 6,000 feet?

THE PRESIDENT: Charlie (Mr. Hurd), you had 30,000 feet two days running,
and that is 60,000 feet. I wish you could have seen the expression on
the faces of the officers on board when they discovered that the Tongue
of the Ocean was 30,000 feet deep.

Q It is 6,000?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q How about that sailfish?

THE PRESIDENT: We were just fooling. Nobody that I knew ever trolled over
the side of a boat going about ten knots. We had a sailfish on and he
did two beautiful jumps for me and then he went off and we pulled the
line up and the hook had straightened out. It did not hold.

Q That was this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Two hours ago. And then afterwards, at ten knots, we had a bonito and got him on board.

Q What size?

THE PRESIDENT: Quite small, six or eight pounds.

Q What do you consider your best catch of the whole trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; we have had several fish thirty or forty pounds.

Q Is this mystery fish standing up nicely (in the icebox)?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not looked at him. They say he is all right. I hope they will be able to do some taxidermy on him.

Q We hope they don't paint portholes on him.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we want a swell color job and have it mounted as if it were coming out of the water, with a curve to it like the tarpon at the White House.

Q We hear you have been playing politics?

MR. McINTYRE: Elliott (Roosevelt) said that they played politics one night.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; Pa Watson got elected.

Q May we use that?

MR. McINTYRE: That is a good story.

Q Elected to what?

THE PRESIDENT: Elected President. It is a game called "Politics." We played it one night till exactly midnight and Pa Watson got elected.

Q On what ticket?

THE PRESIDENT: We did not bother about that; all we wanted was to be sure to get elected.

Q What are your plans tomorrow at Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, look around the property in the morning and take a swim,

lunch with Dr. Hoke and drive around in the afternoon and leave about five.

MR. McINTYRE: Some of your roads are in bad shape. They had heavy rains.

Q Another thing, you may use some relief workers there, too.

THE PRESIDENT: I will just stop by.

Q Have you received any further reports from the storm areas today?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, got a full report this morning.

By the way, Kannee has got a copy of it, if you want anything on it. Got it just before we left.

The last three days I have been getting about three reports a day, from all the different agencies. Do not use it yet but I am -- I do not know yet -- but I may stop at Gainesville for half an hour. I will not get off the train but have the people come and talk to me. I have not heard from them yet.

Q Anything in particular to take up when you get back?

THE PRESIDENT: This is the quietest time we have ever had.

MR. McINTYRE: The only lull we have ever had.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Did you give any thought to your speech on Monday night?

THE PRESIDENT: My God! I have not thought of it.

Q Send a message to Russ Young and he will get it for you -- 17-B. (Laughter)

Q Will you be back in time to open the ball (baseball) season on Tuesday?

THE PRESIDENT: Is it Tuesday? Oh, sure, we will do that. Always do.

MR. McINTYRE: You might talk with Russ and tell him to have the speech ready?

THE PRESIDENT: Send him a wire; it is all right.

Q Any particularly exciting incidents since we saw you?

THE PRESIDENT: The funny thing is that for the last three days we have been

getting these weather reports of very definite storm warnings on the Gulf and storm warnings south of Hatteras. We have been expecting bad weather for three solid days, so I have been going from one lee to the other, with plenty of open ocean in case the thing struck.

MR. McINTYRE: Jimmy (Roosevelt) intimated it was a bit rough on the destroyer, going across the Gulf Stream Sunday night.

Q How did the POTOMAC behave?

THE PRESIDENT: Very well.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.