

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #288,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
April 15, 1936, 10.55 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Missed a lot of you down there. Had a very good time.

Q (Mr. Storm) We are ready to go back, too.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we ought to do it this lovely weather.

Q (Mr. Storm) We need some more baseball.

Q What did you think of the (baseball) game yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: What a game! Wasn't it grand?

Q Marvelous. Best one I have seen.

THE PRESIDENT: That's the kind of a game worth going to.

Q Certainly a horse, that fellow who was pitching, after that crack  
in the ear.

THE PRESIDENT: We thought he had broken his jaw. And, of course, he  
thought so too, at first.

Q Have you talked to General (inaudible) about that flood control  
situation in Binghamton and Pennsylvania?

THE PRESIDENT: General who?

Q Markham.

THE PRESIDENT: Not since I got back.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Somebody in the front row wanted to know whether I  
had talked about the flood situation in Pennsylvania and New  
York since I got back and I said "No."

Q Do you care to make any comment on the Illinois primary?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you give us the new Assistant Secretary of the Navy this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid not. I don't think I have any appointments ready to announce.

Q There is an Under Secretary of the Treasury to be appointed, too.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, quite a lot of vacancies.

Q The Federal Fire Council has given the White House a report on its investigation of the White House.

THE PRESIDENT: I have only had a verbal description of it and the engineers are now working on it.

Q Will it be given out? Is it a matter of news?

THE PRESIDENT: It will probably call for some small deficiency estimate because, from what I have been told verbally, it is a question of going ahead and building the renewal of the wiring. All the basement was done last year -- the kitchen and some of the main floor -- but the old wiring in the second and third floor, and that is the main fault that the engineers found.

Q Have you talked with Senator Wagner about his housing bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Any comment on the merchant marine legislative situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Would you care to comment on the favorable response of the Latin-American presidents to the conference proposal?

THE PRESIDENT: Except I am very happy it is so favorable.

Q Mr. President, have you made any arrangements to see railroad management and railroad organized labor in respect to this coordination?

THE PRESIDENT: Again not yet. I haven't had very much time since I got back to do those things.

Q Do you plan a conference on the tax bill with Congressmen and Senators?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Of course I kept in close touch with it. I had a talk with Chairman Doughton yesterday and I understand that when the bill comes out in the House the Senate Committee, Senator Harrison, will start hearings right away on the basis of the House bill. There won't be any formal conference.

Q Will you send a London Naval Treaty up to the Senate this session?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I am lunching with Norman Davis today.

Q Are you considering a visit to Canada at the time of the signing of the trade agreement?

THE PRESIDENT: I won't make any definite plans until after Congress goes home. The only thing I have which is definite -- and that has a string to it -- is to go down to Arkansas and Texas, to their Centennials, about the first of June.

Q That is on your way to Texas?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. But even that is dependent on Congress.

Q Anything you can tell us about your talk with Governor Curley yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: Talked about flood conditions in Massachusetts.

Q He did say you talked about politics. I was hoping you might tell us something about that.

THE PRESIDENT: Very little.

Q Have you talked to Jesse Jones about the terms of the flood loans?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The bill hasn't gone through yet, has it?

Q No.

Q There was a report from Canada that the Governor General had sent

you an invitation to come up.

THE PRESIDENT: No. The Governor General happens to be a gentleman I correspond with occasionally. We say lots of things to each other.

Q Was the invitation --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Nothing decided at all.

Q Just before you left, after a conference with the housing heads, you said at the time that by the time you got back you thought they should have a concrete plan ready to submit.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they haven't.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the flood control or the flood control bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. No, we are all working on the problem of flood control. Of course, flood control ties in, necessarily, with a general Government long-range program. As you know, I said more than a year ago that in my judgment the Federal Government should spend, considering the size and wealth of the country, perhaps five hundred million dollars a year on various projects. Of course flood control would be included among those public works. The objective is to get a program outlined each year for the expenditure of some similar sum to include all public works.

It is a case of working the thing up and planning ahead and not trying to spend all the money in one year and then not having a program for the next. In other words, we want to approach it in a perfectly orderly way. That program would include public buildings, highways, flood control, navigation and the various

things that go with flood control and navigation, such as building dams, and would include, in fact, everything except the CCC Camps which, nowadays, carries on a good deal of the Public Works objectives, such as a portion of soil erosion work, forestry, and so forth.

Q As long as it is an appropriation bill, if there was a billion dollars of worthy projects --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) If it puts people to work right away, that is all right. Anything that puts people to work right away.

Of course there is an awful lot of loose talk -- and I might add, awfully loose writing -- about P.W.A. and W.P.A. -- various kinds of projects. For instance, some of the papers this morning -- it is a careless job on the part of some of the writers -- said that the Interior Department showed a cost of \$741. per man and then one had to draw a comparison. Of course, that is such carelessness that there is almost no excuse for it. If you read the statement you will see it is an entirely different thing. In the first place, the statement referred to the first public works -- P.W.A. -- which was 30% of the total cost of the projects. Now, that is perfectly clear and it said so in the handout over there. The Federal Government put up 30% of the cost and, on the basis of 30%, it was \$741. per man, whatever it was, which would probably mean that if you added the other 70% to it that the total cost of the project ran to way over \$2,000. per man from the point of view of giving them direct employment.

Now, that was all perfectly clear to anybody that had read

it. Therefore, you can't make a comparison with a job in which the Government puts up 100% of the money.

Of course, P.W.A. projects, of necessity, cost at least twice as much, on the average, as Works Progress projects. Everybody has known that right along. When you build a Triborough Bridge, how much of it goes into steel and cement and condemnation of property? How much of it goes into highly skilled labor? Compare that to building a hundred rural schoolhouses or building a hundred or a thousand wooden bridges over small rivers. Of course the thing answers itself.

Q Mr. President, do you feel that states should pay the cost of land and damages in flood control programs?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't given that any consideration.

Q Mr. President, if the flood control bill seems too large, will there be any preference to states which have emergency --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) There is only one flood control bill. That is the 50 million dollar bill.

Q They are drawing up a new authorization bill now in the Senate Commerce Committee.

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

Q In view of the reported stand of Hopkins on the Passamaquoddy, where does that leave the projects?

THE PRESIDENT: It doesn't leave them.

Q Are they out?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, eventually, unless we get money from Congress.

Q Stop work as soon as they finish the allotments thus far made?

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

Q Won't get any more allotments from Relief on it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not on their present basis. Perfectly all right for probably half a dozen other projects in the country that would require additional occasional action. If it is not given, can't go ahead with it. Some will be given and some probably won't be given.

Q Do you plan to recommend action in Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We are still studying the thing. There may be modifications made but we are not ready to talk about it yet because we don't know what the modifications would be, if any.

Q Perhaps in the amount of allotment passed?

THE PRESIDENT: Or the plan itself.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #289,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
April 17, 1936, 4.00 P.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't any news except a certain exhaustion on my part. I talked to 105 editors last night for hours and hours. Otherwise I am all right.

Q Will you tell us what you talked to them about?

THE PRESIDENT: Not by a jugful. I was much franker with them than I ever am with you. That is awful, isn't it?

Q Why, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any particular news, one way or the other.

Q Have you reached a decision whether to send up the Navy Treaty this session or not?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Assistant Secretary of the Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Anything you can tell us about the Navy Treaty?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. It speaks for itself pretty well.

Q Mr. President, anything further on your reported trip to Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I cannot make any plans until I know when Congress is going home.

Q When do you think it will be? What date have you in mind?

THE PRESIDENT: A lot of people make prognostications on that and are always wrong, so I guess I won't.

Q Any chance as far as recommending money to replace battleships at this session?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so.

Q Anything on housing?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet; same old story.

Q Do you, sir, still expect ship subsidy legislation this session?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The only thing on that is my recommendation on it last session, and it still holds good. Apparently it is in a sort of log jam up there. I would like to see some legislation.

Q Do you feel the so-called Copeland Bill satisfies your request?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It is up on the Hill. I think there are three or four of them.

Q Any choice?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it is up to them.

Q Are you ready for the Georgia primaries?

THE PRESIDENT: What happens to it?

Q They have invited you in for \$10,000. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Why put a limit on the game?

Q Mr. President, have you anything to say about the circulation of petitions for seven hundred million dollars of earmarked money for P.W.A. in the billion five hundred million dollars?

THE PRESIDENT: I think only the obvious thing, and that is that you have got X number of people to put to work and by using the type of project that can be put through within the year that you are providing for -- the greater part of the money to be spent for actual wages -- it will cost approximately a billion and a half dollars. The very minute you change the type of project, the cost per individual goes up and the time of

completion gets longer. Therefore, the more you earmark money for long-time projects that take three years to build, the more money you have to have. A billion and a half dollars won't put the same number of people to work. Well, that is just plain common sense and that is all that is necessary to say about it.

Q Mr. President, in connection with battleships, the Navy gave us the impression that they were going to ask for an appropriation, or at least part of the money to start construction at this session of Congress. Was their suggestion turned down?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard of it.

Q Does there seem to be any prospect of a new housing program going up? You say the situation was still the same?

THE PRESIDENT: Still the same; no change in it.

Q Any prospect of legislation this session?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I think if everybody could agree, there would be. It is one of those things we have not solved.

Q Does there seem to be some disagreement between several of the Federal agencies involved?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not say it is a question of disagreement but nobody yet has suggested a plan which seems to meet all the requirements.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Put the lid on tomorrow?

Q Fine.

THE PRESIDENT: Put the lid on tomorrow. I have got the Gridiron Dinner and everything.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #290,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
April 28, 1936, 4.15 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Wasn't it a shame we had to come down (from Hyde Park) last night?

Q Yes, it was tough.

THE PRESIDENT: Did you go up, Russ?

Q (Mr. Young) No, I had to be here with Steve (Mr. Early) to look out for things.

Q I could have stood about three days more of it. The weather was fine.

THE PRESIDENT: I was out yesterday in my car.

Q How did the new trees look?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. Perfectly grand.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: We are having an indignation meeting in the front row at having to come back to Washington from Hyde Park last night. It could not be helped.

Q What brought you back, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Congress. I don't think I have got any news at all. You have had even more than I have had.

Q Mr. President, do you join with Mr. Farley for the abrogation of the two-thirds rule?

THE PRESIDENT: It was recommended by the 1932 Convention.

Q The recommendation was to study it.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was recommended. I have forgotten the exact language.

Q You think it will be abrogated?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think so. I don't know why we should be tied up as we have in the past. We all have recollections of 1924, 1920 and 1912 and so on. They do not help in a political party.

The only interesting thing that happened at Hyde Park was that I talked to our Ambassador to Russia on the radio-telephone -- radio-telephone to Moscow. As I understood it, it was the first official message through. It was not a very official message. I asked how he was and the climate was in Moscow and he wanted to know where I was and whether the blossoms were out at Hyde Park and a few things like that. It was the first time on record.

Q Were the charges reversed?

THE PRESIDENT: My gosh, I never asked.

Q That was the first radio-telephone conversation between this country and that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, but it certainly was the first Government one.

Q That was Mr. Bullitt?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any plans for Quoddy or the ship canal?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't done anything more about it at all.

Q Have you an engagement to see Governor Brann? He arrived today.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not even know it. I suppose so. Ask Mac (Mr. McIntyre).

MR. MCINTYRE: No engagement.

Q Did anything occur at the Emergency Council this afternoon we ought to know about?

THE PRESIDENT: No, just the general reports from all the agencies and departments.

Q Your Texas trip, is that still tentative or very indefinite?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think so. I don't know why we should be tied up as we have in the past. We all have recollections of 1924, 1920 and 1912 and so on. They do not help in a political party.

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MR. McINTYRE: No engagement.

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Q Your Texas trip, is that still tentative or very indefinite?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, absolutely. I would like to go on the first of June but it is purely a tentative program.

Q It is not as promising as it was at first?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on who you talked to last.

Q If you should have to defer the trip until -- because of Congress, would you still go to Texas? Just push the arrival date there?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on how much I would have to defer it. I think possibly if I only had to defer it one week, I would go then. If I had to defer it more than a week, I probably could not go until some time later in the year. Of course any of you -- this is not derogatory to Houston, but were any of you there in 1924?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Enough said.

Q Have you had an opportunity to read the Warner Housing Bill and form an opinion of it?

THE PRESIDENT: No; just conferring about it.

Q Mr. President, what are your present views on the financing of all these flood projects -- the flood control projects?

THE PRESIDENT: The what?

Q The flood control projects, can you give us your views on that, whether it would be by Federal or state financing?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it depends entirely on the local problem.

Q Can you draw a line between those?

THE PRESIDENT: Just for example, the Federal Government in the past has had a rather clear line of demarcation on it. They have done the rivers and harbors. That seems to be wholly a Federal Government function. They have done certain rivers primarily for navigation purposes and

incidentally flood control goes along with it. That would apply, for example, to the main stem of the Mississippi. Now, how far upstream you want to carry that is a question depending a little bit on the stream itself.

Q It seems then that you think there are certain flood control projects that should have Federal financing exclusively?

THE PRESIDENT: Again, it depends on the individual case.

Q May I give a specific case?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q On the headwaters of the Ohio there are fourteen flood control projects planned which would affect the entire Ohio Valley including the City of Pittsburgh and all down the river. Would you think that a project that should have Federal financing exclusively?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think probably there the municipalities ought to certainly pay a share of it when you get way, way up. For example, who built the Johnstown Dam? That was not Federal, was it?

Q I don't know; that one bust, didn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: I mean the one built after the one which broke. I mean the one that is still there because the C.C.C. fellow sat on top of it.

(Laughter) It did not go out. That was built by private funds.

You take, for example, in the State of New York, on the upper Hudson, there was a combination in that case between the power companies and the communities of the State. The State actually raised the money which, however, was paid back by the power companies and the municipalities that were saved from floods as a result of the construction of this very, very large reservoir at the headwaters of the Hudson. There was no Federal financing in that case.

It is very difficult to draw a hard and fast line. Then, of course, there is another thing to be said about it. I think there is a tendency perhaps in the Senate Bill to think of flood control in terms of what might be called "Army engineering", which means that you think of flood waters control as the building of sluiceways all the way down the rivers. Well, if you build a high enough wall on each side of the sluiceway, obviously the surrounding country is saved from floods but, at the same time, there is damage going on up in the headwaters above that sluiceway and millions of dollars of soil is being carried down through the sluiceway to the ocean. Therefore, you cannot think of it merely from the point of view of saving the cities and communities on the banks of the river from flood waters. You have got to think of it also from the point of view of the damage to the farmer's field up in the creek. There are some very interesting figures which you people can dig out. I think the Department of Agriculture has them. I might tell you where most of the tests were made; they were made up at Cornell. I cannot give them to you and you cannot use these figures because they are not accurate, only approximately correct.

What they did there was to take a field and a piece of woods right next to that field. The two of them were on exactly the same slope and right side by side, with the same soil, the same slope, and the same run-off.

If, let us say, an inch of rain fell simultaneously on the woods and on the field, seven-eighths of that inch of rain that fell on the field ran off into the creek within an hour. In the case of the woods, next door, seven-eighths of that inch of rain stayed in the woods and

only one-eighth ran off into the creek.

They have got some very interesting figures and if any of you are interested in getting the story out on it, it would be of very great value. In other words, they have definitely proven two things: The first is that a plowed field, a cultivated field, furnishes the greatest immediate run-off. Next, the pasture or field with grass on it holds two or three times as much moisture as the plowed field does. Third, the woods hold seven or eight times as much moisture as the field does and at least twice as much as the pasture does.

Now, on the whole question of flood control, you cannot think of it in terms of a sluiceway. You have to go back and stop the waters from running off at the headwaters of every stream.

Q What about the case in which the flood benefits occur in a state other than the state in which the construction must be done?

THE PRESIDENT: What do you mean by flood benefits?

Q I mean if the construction work is done away up at the headwaters in the little streams of New Hampshire to give flood control in Massachusetts. New Hampshire might not want to pay the bill.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose eventually we will work out a pro rata system. That is the logical way of doing it. It has never been done but I hope we are all tending toward that sort of thing, trying to distribute the costs in proportion to the benefits received.

Q Relating to the case which Mr. Perkins took up, the Army engineers said, broadly, that probably the simplest way to handle it would be for the states involved to furnish the right-of-way, to purchase whatever land is necessary for the Government to undertake the work, that is, the engineering work. Do you approve of that, or is that according to

your position?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not; that is too much rule of thumb. We are not ready for that yet.

Q (Mr. Essary) Have you approved, sir, the project of the Navy to lay down two new battleships without going to Congress for authorization?

THE PRESIDENT: No, the bill, Fred, is not quite ready in that particular language. I cannot tell you anything except off the record because it is not my function. You will have to go to the Committee. But I can tell you, off the record, that what they are working on now is a clause which would authorize the starting of two battleships only if, in the determination of the President, other nations started battleships ahead of us; in other words, making our construction wholly dependent on what the other people do. That is what they are working on at the present time. ✓

Q You know, it is going to be printed. Can't we write it?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what the language is and it has not been decided yet. That is the thing we are working on.

Q Did that suggestion originate with you that it be made more or less dependent?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Do you mean that if we can get a story on the Hill it is all right?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

(Mr. Early spoke to the President.)

THE PRESIDENT: You can use it as long as you do not attribute it to me.

But, just as a matter of form, you might call Chairman Buchanan or the Acting Chairman, Umstead, and they will be perfectly willing to tell you.

Q Has this question of safety at sea been brought to your attention? The

seamen came down last week and talked to Secretary Roper about safety at sea.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had a chance to talk to Secretary Roper since we got back. I am going to do it.

Q Did you send up a Navy treaty?

THE PRESIDENT: That I do not know yet.

Q Are you considering Governor Green of Rhode Island in the appointment of the Assistant Secretary?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not considered anybody.

Q On this Copeland Bill on flood control, have you taken any position on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not been consulted on it at all. All I know is what I read in the paper.

Q Have you been advised that the British Government has made plans to lay down the keels of two new battleships the first of next year?

THE PRESIDENT: All I know is what was said in the Parliament.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #291,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
May 1, 1936, 10.35 A.M.

Q (Mr. Storm) I have been deputized to introduce the foreign correspondents.

THE PRESIDENT: What is Russell (Mr. Young) doing, breaking you in?

Q (Mr. Storm) I have to pinch-hit for him once in a while.

THE PRESIDENT: Trying to make him a chief de protocol?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: That is it, head of the Social Department. You know, a sailor man can do almost anything.

Q (Mr. Storm) I am going to surrender my chair to the Senator (Mr. Young) for the next two weeks. I am going down to Jamaica on a vacation.

THE PRESIDENT: Grand.

Q Getting rested up for the campaign.

THE PRESIDENT: Good idea; it is all right.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: We are glad to greet, as our guests today, the representatives of the foreign newspapers. At the end of the Conference, if they will come up this way and say "How de do". Otherwise I do not think there is any news at all.

Q Did you suggest a conference between Ickes and Hopkins about earmarking some money for P.W.A.?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know what you are talking about. What conference?

Q Congressman Beiter, after the conference here yesterday with you -- he had had a conference scheduled for ten o'clock this morning and he called off the conference this morning.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. It is beyond me.

Q What are your plans for the week end?

THE PRESIDENT: I am going down the river tomorrow sometime. I am going down the river and coming back Sunday evening sometime.

Q If they should agree on earmarking a certain amount of money, say \$300,000,000. out of the \$1,500,000,000., would you support the action?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is very much an "if" question.

Q Are you going to leave from the Navy Yard?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not decided whether I will leave from the Navy Yard or Annapolis.

Q How about a guest list?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Is there any action yet on the appointment of a new Assistant Secretary of the Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No appointments now at all for any of the vacant positions.

Q Have you reached any understanding on housing?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet; just where it was.

Q Mr. President, do you still hope for passage of the Food and Drug Bill this session?

THE PRESIDENT: Hope springs eternal. I have been hoping for three long years.

Q Does that go for the Ship Subsidy Bill also?

THE PRESIDENT: Same thing.

Q Mr. President, do you think there are any politics in W.P.A. in Pennsylvania? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That is another "if" question.

Q Mr. President, have you decided yet whether to send up the Navy Treaty?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. Possibly.

Q Impossible?

THE PRESIDENT: Possibly.

Q Have you had any talk with Jesse Jones on leniency in security for flood loans?

THE PRESIDENT: No. What kind of leniency?

Q He says he is running a banking business only.

THE PRESIDENT: Under the Act, of course he has to get adequate security.

I am not as financially competent to pass on that question as Jesse Jones is.

Q Have you any comment on the Chamber of Commerce report of the reemployment survey?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course -- only this, that I am delighted they are going to make a survey.

Q How about their resolutions, Mr. President? Did you see those?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Are they still sitting or have they gone home?

Q Yesterday was the concluding session.

Q It was not very complimentary.

Q Any comments on the appointment of the Commissioner of Reclamation?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. I do not think there will be for a little while.

That is not an appointment that has to be sent to the Senate, so there is no great rush.

Q Do you contemplate any more of those meetings of the spending and lending agencies?

THE PRESIDENT: Only the ones that go on about once a week. They continue right along.

Q You said some time ago every month.

THE PRESIDENT: We are conferring right along. I have talked to several of them in the past week.

Q Your Texas trip still indefinite?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends entirely on Congress. Of course the situation on the Texas trip, just for your own information, is a perfectly simple one: If I can get off the first part of June -- if I go through either with the plan to leave -- I think the original plan was the first of June -- and if Congress has not adjourned then, and if they adjourn before the eighth of June, I will put it off one week. But, of course, beyond the middle of June you get into conflict with all sorts of other things. So it depends entirely on when the Congress goes home. It would mean going down sometime later in the year.

Q Assuming there was not more than a week's delay, would you still go to Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: It all depends on when it is. Of course, again, going to Canada is a comparatively short distance from Hyde Park.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #292,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
May 5, 1936, 4.12 P.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any particular news today.

I suppose you have all been in touch with this Ethiopian situation. It is one of the most dramatic things, I think, that has happened in most recent history. Here were two Legations, four and a half or five miles apart, with this whole mob in the middle, between, and they cannot communicate with each other. Our Naval radio people in our location got a radio through to Washington, D.C., saying that they are in need of help but they are holding out all right but they would very much like to have some of their people evacuated by the British who have a large force of Sikhs. The State Department telephoned it to London and the relief takes place. The messages had to travel about fifteen thousand miles in order to get help from five miles away. I think it is a perfectly amazing story.

I just got the last dispatch. The Italian forces have entered Addis Ababa about four o'clock and we have re-occupied the American Legation. We evacuated it at nine o'clock this morning and re-occupied it at five o'clock. So it looks as though the danger to the lives of Americans there is pretty well over.

Q How will our policy of non-recognition of territory occupied by force take place?

(The President did not answer.)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the series of historic stamps released by the Post Office?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the Postmaster General showed me preliminary, very preliminary designs for the Army issue.

We are getting out this fall an Army commemorative issue of five stamps and a Navy commemorative issue of five stamps. The idea is that the Army stamps would come first and then the Navy stamps, first one and then the other, through the whole series of ten.

The general thought I have had in mind is that, because commemorative stamps are so popular, not only with myself but also with the general public, each year we would get out a special series of stamps. Last year we got out the National Parks and this year the Army and Navy series. My thought is that next year perhaps we would take up some other phase, perhaps famous writers or perhaps a series of famous inventors, something along that line, so as to commemorate Americans who have not just been President and things like that. The idea is to take in some other Americans who have distinguished themselves in a great many lines of human endeavor, including perhaps some famous women.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us about your housing conference this afternoon with Senator Wagner?

THE PRESIDENT: We have got to the point where we are all in substantial agreement on the principles and objectives of the Wagner Slum Clearance Bill. I think it should be made clear that the bill relates, primarily, to slum clearance. I think that is the

best word. It is not primarily a bill intended for low-cost housing.

One of the objections that has been raised to the work of the Housing Division of PWA is that while they put up some excellent buildings in a great many cities -- as I remember it, they have about a hundred and twenty-eight million dollars worth of buildings, a few of them completed and most of them being erected -- they do not primarily benefit the lowest income groups in the community. The Wagner Bill is intended for the benefit of the lowest income groups in the community, carrying out, at the same time, the elimination of present slums.

When I say that we are all agreed substantially on the principles and the objectives of this bill of Bob Wagner's, I must also say that there are a number of what might be called details which are now being worked out.

Q Financial details?

THE PRESIDENT: Questions of finance and questions of administration.

I hope within the next four or five days we will all be in agreement on those details and I hope that the bill will go through.

Q Can you tell us how much is needed for the bill, the appropriation?

THE PRESIDENT: That is the thing they are working on at the present time. In other words, one of the things they are checking on is to try to work out how much demand there will be during the coming fiscal year.

(Mr. Storm)

Q /Did you say you expect it to go through at this session?

THE PRESIDENT: Now, Fred (Mr. Storm), I will answer your question:

Do not say this is a "must" bill, because I made it clear three

months ago that I had only two "must" bills, one the Tax Bill and the other the Relief Bill.

Q For instance, the Navy Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: There is lots of desirable legislation I will give my blessing to, but don't call it a "must" bill.

Q Any truth in the report that you told Congressional leaders that you would like to have adjournment by June one, provided they get the Tax and Relief Bills out of the way?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I will tell you exactly what I did there. If Congress, in its wisdom, goes home before the first of June, I will go to Texas. If they do not go home by the first of June, but do go home by the sixth of June, then I will go to Texas. If we do not go home by the sixth of June, then we will be complicated by the Republican convention, because then they cannot stay here and complete their work. It throws it over two weeks.

Q Did they tell you they could get through their work by June one?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What class of "must" or "semi-must" do you have?

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't even an agreement on that yet.

Q Do you think that is desirable this year?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on what you mean. If you mean a big, new appropriation for floods, no.

Q I mean the one that is coming out of the Senate and Commerce Committee, appropriating \$400,000,000.?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know what form it is coming out in. I was not for it in the form it was introduced.

Q Have you seen the bill in its present form?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I imagine there are a lot of amendments pending. For instance, one Senator was in today, Carl Hayden, and he had some amendments to it. It is still in a form where I cannot comment on it.

Q Are you for the Overton Bill, which is now on the House Calendar?

THE PRESIDENT: What is that bill?

Q \$272,000,000. for the completion of the Lower Mississippi?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I have not seen it.

Q It passed the Senate and is waiting on the House Calendar?

THE PRESIDENT: That is an authorization bill.

Q Can you return to the stamps? Can you say what military heroes you picked out for these stamps? You mentioned five?

THE PRESIDENT: I could not do it offhand. I might make a mistake. You had better get that from Jim (Mr. Farley). There will be two heroes on each of the one-cent, two-cent, three-cent and four-cent stamps, except in the Navy series when, on the four-cent stamp, there will be three heroes and then, the five-cent stamp, the Army one will be West Point and the Navy one will be Annapolis.

You had better get the names of the heroes.

Q Can you tell us anything about Mr. Green's (A.F. of L.) visit today and his recommendations in the way of getting money for the continuation of P.W.A.?

THE PRESIDENT: No, nothing more than we talked about last week, that certain forms of municipal work can probably be done under the Relief Bill through the lending of funds by the R.F.C. and the providing of the work by W.P.A. It comes to substantially the

same thing, but a slightly different change in method.

Q Mr. President, would you have any objection to earmarking the \$400,000,000. to P.W.A. projects?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You would?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q How about \$200,000,000.?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- you all know we talked about this before. You know the problem involved, too. If you take any of the billion and a half for loans to municipalities, you decrease the number of people you can give relief to by that amount.

Q Can you tell us anything about your talk with Mr. Young (Mr. Owen D. Young) at luncheon?

THE PRESIDENT: Just everything.

Q Everything?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about everything.

Q How about Mr. Baruch?

THE PRESIDENT: Same thing.

Q Anything to say about the anthracite wage conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard anything the last couple of days.

You probably know more about it than I do.

Q Is this Government taking any steps to fore-arm itself against possible monetary action in Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, on a 24-hour basis. We re-arm ourselves every morning.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #293,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
May 8, 1936, 10.40 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know what you are taking out your pads and pencils for. There is no news.

Q (Mr. Young) You will have a big day today, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Where is Fred -- oh, there you are.

The only trouble with me is lack of sleep. I have been sitting up late, talking to people that I ought to have sent to bed.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any news at all. What will we do, put the lid on tomorrow?

Q Why not today?

THE PRESIDENT: All right; let's do it today.

Q You are not going away between now and the Press Club affair?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will go down the river just for the day on Sunday and come back Sunday evening.

Q Will you consider a tax plan such as outlined in the leading editorial of the New York Times on Monday morning as within the spirit of your recommendation to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, I have to make an awful confession: I did not read it.

Q You did not read it yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Mr. Early) told me to, but I did not.

Q I hope you have a copy. If not, I will supply you. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, there is a very interesting situation developing

in some states, mostly out West, where state troopers are preventing the admission of citizens over the border on grounds that they are seemingly indigent. Now, it would seem that under the Constitution an American citizen has the right of free movement from one state to another. What are your views? Does it seem to be a violation of the Constitution?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about the Constitutional aspect of it. Of course it does raise a question with respect to transients, not only in California or Florida but in a number of other states. It raises a problem of American government and it is a thing, I think, a lot of people, regardless of politics and regardless of where they come from, are giving a lot of study to.

Of course the only thing you can say about the Constitutional aspect is this, that in the old days when the Constitution was being written, there was no such thing as a transient problem and almost everybody in the country had a domicile. There is a distinction in the law, as you know, between the words "domicile" and "residence." In those days there was no particular unemployment problem. Charity cases were taken care of locally. The problem of taking care of transients was a non-existent problem, whereas today it is a very serious problem, and a good many people are approaching the problem from what might be called the original common law point of view, which dates back to the early English common law in England when everybody was supposed to have a domicile. There was no such thing in the common law as a transient. They were all supposed

to have a community that was more or less responsible for them. I am just talking now from reading and from recollection. The problem of the tramp, what we would call the tramp, originated in England in its most serious form at the time of the Black Plague in London. A lot of people left London to escape the Plague and wandered all over England. The way they handled it at that time was to try to get those people settled in one place or another and they finally succeeded -- again on the theory of a domicile.

What most people are trying to do is to locate those transients permanently in some one community, to try to establish a principle that eventually everybody will have some place they belong to and that that place is responsible for them.

Now, on the question of the actual right of states to prevent people from coming in that will be a charge, that might be all right. Whether they can stop everybody from coming in on the bare possibility that they might become a charge, that is, frankly, a constitutional question and I don't know. I don't think anybody knows.

Q There is one other point on this: This situation affects a great number of workers, migratory workers, of which there are hundreds of thousands, that go to the wheat fields and so forth. You remember the report made last year on the wages paid those migratory workers put them in the class of vagrants practically.

THE PRESIDENT: The canning families start in Florida and work clear up to northern New York and work back again -- their children have practically no facilities for education, their living con-

ditions are of the lowest and the wages are far below standard.

The migratory worker is a bad thing for the country.

We are just beginning now to approach that problem. Nobody has ever thought of it until the last two or three years.

Q In this district, as I understand it, the transient problem was solved or attempted to be solved by simply cutting off relief any transient that came here. Does that have any bearing on what you are talking about?

THE PRESIDENT: We do not cut them off relief so much except that we try to send them back to the place of origin.

Q We don't welcome them.

THE PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact, in the District, as you know, almost all of the skilled workers, white collar workers, have jobs. They are people who live in the District. It is again a case of domicile. Our problem here is the people who come from other sections in the hope of getting a job. We take care of the actual population of the District very well.

Q Have you any ideas on the unemployment and relief problems from your talks with industrialists such as Chrysler and Young?

THE PRESIDENT: I have been asking them for ideas. Put it the other way around.

Q Did you get them?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't been given the final solution yet.

Q What lines were they talking about?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say the line we have been talking about mostly is the building up of certain industries that look as if they have a very large capacity for expansion. Just to give you

two examples, railroad equipment, which is being held back at the present time because of the capital structure of railroads, the railroads finding it so difficult to pay their fixed charges, and therefore they are unable to finance new equipment and new maintenance expenditures.

The other major field we have been talking about is our old friend housing, and again, there, I think they all realize that while housing is picking up very well, especially among the higher income groups, such as from \$5,000. up, it is the same old story that we have not yet invented -- I am talking about the North now -- the \$2500. house on a large scale. The demand for a house and lot that would cost around \$2500. is very large. The estimates run anywhere from half a million, as the immediate demand, up to a million.

Q In connection with railroad equipment, has your discussion raised the question of Government financing of railroad equipment loans?

THE PRESIDENT: No, the discussion was almost entirely confined to railroad capital structure.

Q If they cannot afford any large expenditures for new equipment, that would indicate that the Government might help them out?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it is not a question of lending them more money on the basis of their present capital structures, because they cannot pay it.

Q Your tax bill won't let them pay off their obligations either. You can't pile up surpluses against capital structure.

THE PRESIDENT: That is not settled yet. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, may I ask you another question about taxes? Would

you consider an undistributed profits tax, which was an additional corporate levy instead of a sole corporate levy, as coming within the meaning of the spirit of your recommendations?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot talk about it for the very good reason that I haven't talked to anybody on the Hill about it for the past two weeks. If they come down and talk to me, it is a different thing.

Q It is a question with them, so they say.

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on who you talk to.

Q Quite a few of them.

Q The capital structure won't support new expenditures. On that, do you suppose some plan might be evolved to change or straighten out their capital structures?

THE PRESIDENT: That is what I have been talking about with a good many of these gentlemen. It is a subject that is very much under study.

Q Mr. Young was talking about the possibility of mass production of homes and he says that they have been giving it a great deal of study.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and Gerard Swope has been doing a great deal of work on it.

Q He said the problem is still baffling.

THE PRESIDENT: That is perfectly true. It goes back to the same old illustration I used a little while ago. I was talking to Walter Chrysler yesterday and I said, "Suppose you were to give me the detail working blueprints of a Plymouth car that you sell for \$600. Suppose you were to give me all the working blueprints and I was to pick them up and take them to the best machine shop in

town and say to the machine shop, 'What can you turn out a car, such as on those blueprints, for?' Or suppose it was a thoroughly equipped, up-to-date, modern machine shop. What would it cost them?" "Oh," he said, "somewhere around \$3500."

I said, "There is your illustration. We are building our houses in this country by the local machine shop method."

Now, if we can get houses which are factory-built to a much larger extent on a volume basis, because those things have to be built on a volume basis to get your costs, we can reduce the cost of housing. We are all agreed on that.

Q Are you making any study of ship subsidy legislation in connection with the present proposals before the Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there are four of them up there. Four separate bills, something like that. I think you will have to ask them which one is going through; I don't know.

Q I am going to ask you an important question: Every newspaperman who is particular at social affairs is asking me what you are going to wear to your Lawn Party next week?

THE PRESIDENT: I think probably a palm beach suit, if it is a very warm evening and, if it is a cool evening, just a blue suit.

Q Some of them said you ran out on them one night.

THE PRESIDENT: That wasn't my fault.

Q The Guffey Bill, that was passed inside of a week.

THE PRESIDENT: What did they say?

Q They said if you would be for it (the Ship Subsidy Bill), it would go through in a week.

THE PRESIDENT: I am simply telling them up there I hope they will

pass a ship subsidy bill.

Q Can you tell us anything on whether the Navy Treaty will go up soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you can make a good guess that the Naval Treaty will go early next week.

Q I believe the appointments of Messrs. Morgan and Lilienthal (of the T.V.A.) expire this month. Are you going to reappoint them?

THE PRESIDENT: I believe it expires -- I haven't taken the matter up at all.

Q On Governor Green's visit yesterday, did you discuss that Assistant Secretary of the Navy job? He said he would not deny or affirm.

THE PRESIDENT: We did not even discuss it.

Q Has a successor been chosen yet for General McCarl?

THE PRESIDENT: No, and won't be for a long time.

Q Do you mean by that that he will carry over?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. The vacancy does not occur until July second, I think.

Q June thirtieth, in the law.

Q I thought you meant fifteen years by "a long time."

Q Will there be a nomination for the vacancy on the Federal Reserve Board?

THE PRESIDENT: There won't be any nominations in the near future for any of the vacancies.

Q Do you know whether the Acting or the Assistant to McCarl can act as Comptroller General after the Comptroller General's term expires?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I read somewhere in the paper that that

was the law. I have not checked.

Q That is what we were told down there, but we are not sure.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Isn't there some move on the part of the members of the House to change that law so that McCarl can have a longer term?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a word about it from anybody.

Q Was there any significance in the visit of Mr. Glavis of the Interior Department the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. I had not seen him for a long time.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #294,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
May 12, 1936, 4.05 P.M.

Q (Mr. Young) Mr. President, how are you, sir?

Q Good afternoon, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: How is the gang?

Q Pretty quiet. Stevie's (Mr. Stephenson) away. Any bedside bulletins from Steve Early?

THE PRESIDENT: Sinus.

Q Is it serious?

THE PRESIDENT: It is very painful, but not serious. He had a bad sore throat.

Q Is he in bed?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. He has not any temperature today but it is about the most painful thing there is. I used to have it.

I do not think there is any particular news. I sent the Navy Treaty up about half an hour ago.

Q Any comment, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you tell us something about your conference this morning with Senator Robinson and other Senators?

THE PRESIDENT: Just to talk over the general legislative situation.

Q Taxes mentioned?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Any hint about adjournment day?

THE PRESIDENT: I understand that they hope to go home by the sixth.

Q Can you tell us anything about your talk with the Civil Service

Commission a few minutes ago?

THE PRESIDENT: There were a number of things that came up and I think there probably will be some stories but I haven't written the necessary letters yet. It would be a pity to break it until it is a good story.

Q Can you tell us something about your conference yesterday afternoon with the Senators from Washington, Senator McNary and the Power Commission and so forth?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think I can tell you in general terms. The question of power rates at the various projects of various kinds where the Government will have a certain amount of power to sell naturally brings up the general policy question from the national and regional point of view. It is precipitated at this particular time by the fact that the Bonneville power is the first of the new projects which will be ready and they will be ready to deliver power by the end of 1937 -- by the autumn of 1937. Of course that means that legislation should be had at this time to enable them to make contracts between now and next spring because, obviously, if the power is to be used, there will have to be many other preparations made before the actual delivery of the power.

The general discussion yesterday was as to the general power policy. Obviously, if we were to treat it simply from the point of view of Bonneville, it might conflict -- the contracts made there might conflict with a general power policy laid down at the next session and that particular power might be tied up in contracts for ten or fifteen or twenty years.

The general thought of all of these agencies, including, I

think, the Senators, was that it will be possible to work out some kind of language that will set down certain principles and would allow an agency, probably the Federal Power Commission itself, to be the final determining factor on the rates themselves -- the actual contracts.

They are working on that language now, the three Senators and the other people who were here, the Army Engineers and Rural Electrification, the Tennessee Valley and the Federal Power Commission. I hope in the course of the next two or three days they will have some kind of language which can be incorporated into a comparatively short bill which they ought not to have very much trouble getting through.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us the future status of Mr. Lilienthal, whether he will remain with the T.V.A. or go to some other agency?

THE PRESIDENT: His term has not expired.

Q It will expire the eighteenth.

THE PRESIDENT: You will have an announcement by the eighteenth.

Q Have you ironed out the details of the Wagner Housing Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had a report back yet. We ought to get it in a day or two. They are working very hard.

Q How liberal are the rules for dress Thursday night (referring to the Lawn Party)?

THE PRESIDENT: Very liberal. Come in anything you want.

Q Do you expect a Flood Control Bill this session, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose there will be some kind of flood legislation. I do not know what kind.

Q You talked to Senators Guffey and Glass about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Of course I believe we should have some flood legislation and, especially, to start work this coming year on the most emergent cases in those areas which lately have been seriously affected but, on the other hand, I am very keen, as I said before, to have the thing tied into a general program that will be put on a national basis after bringing in all the different interests that are affected.

Q Are you familiar with Senator Byrd's contention that under the proposed Tax Bill giant corporations will escape taxes? There are a great many of them.

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

Q Can you tell us whether that will affect the validity of the proposed taxes?

(The President did not answer.)

Q A.A.T.O.H. -- have you received an invitation to join the Association Against Taking Off Hats?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought it was a Greek Society out of the Associated Press. (Laughter)

Q You might also receive an invitation to join.

Q The A.A.T.O.H. -- that is a society for the protection of ladies who have had their eyes blacked by the elbows of gentlemen taking off their hats in elevators. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That is grand. I think you win.

Q (Mr. Young) You can't beat the girls.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course we will put them all under Government regulation. (Laughter) Some people will say that is the tendency of this Administration. You will be fully regimented; it is all right.

Q Don't you think this custom of taking off hats should be regulated?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I think everything is all quiet. I am going down the river, I think, on Friday night this time. That is, if everything is all quiet.

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #295,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
May 15, 1936, 10.35 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Senator Young says there is no news this morning. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Young) Thank you, Mr. President (indicating that conference was closed). (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am going down the river, over to Annapolis and into the Bay, and I will get back Sunday afternoon, late.

Q Do you expect to sign any important bills before you leave over the week end?

THE PRESIDENT: I will sign a few I have in the basket and I will act on the others over the week end.

Q Will you tellus about your conference with Allie Freed on Wednesday on housing?

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't very much. He has, of course, several plans and he showed me some special suburban developments that his people have worked out.

Q Mr. President, returning to the week-end trip, have you any destination at all?

THE PRESIDENT: Chesapeake Bay.

Q When will you be back in Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: Sunday night.

Q You will leave from Annapolis?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, from Annapolis.

Q How about the Lilienthal appointment?

THE PRESIDENT: It is not due yet.

Q Anything on the tax situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I haven't heard anything at all from the Hill.

Q The new French Premier, Leon Blum, was quoted in our dispatches this morning as saying that France considers their debt to this country was wiped out. Is there anything on that?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better ask the Secretary of State.

Q Mr. President, have you worked out the details of the Wagner Housing Bill yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think they are making very good progress. I think there ought to be something over the week end on it.

Q What about the future of the Resettlement Administration?

THE PRESIDENT: What part of it?

Q There is a story in the morning papers that it is going to be washed out?

THE PRESIDENT: No, there is a great deal of confusion of thought about the Resettlement Administration. For example, there are perfectly practical reasons for handling -- I have forgotten the exact numbers -- of handling 550,000 relief families who are being kept off the work relief rolls by both small grants to try to rehabilitate them on their own farms and by loans keeping them on their own farms. That form of relief is, of course, a great deal cheaper than if we were to take them off the farms and put them on work relief. I think there are 550,000 or 600,000 families in that category. Of course that work is going on.

Another phase of it is the moving of certain families from farms where they cannot possibly make a living, where they have proved that a living cannot be made, and trying to put them on better land. That is the second phase of the work and that is bound to go on because,

on any analysis it is cheaper than work relief.

Then, a third phase that really goes in with both of those is -- I have forgotten the term used -- it amounts to helping of those families either on the original farm or a new farm with advice because in a great many cases they haven't either the experience and, I am sorry to say, in some cases the education to make good. Therefore, we think in the long run it would be much cheaper if we can constantly visit those people and see that the lady of the house puts up vegetables and fruits, etc. and kills their own hogs for winter use and that the men of the family cultivate the land in the right way and try to put something back into the land, to avoid erosion and to alternate crops. In other words, the idea is to keep an educational system going with the expectation that after a year or two of that they will be able to run the thing themselves. The figures show that that work is extraordinarily effective. Just offhand, I think that something between 100,000 and 200,000 families that have been educated in the past two years to run their own show are now capable of doing it without any further Government aid. Now, that is quite a lot of human beings.

Then the fourth phase of the work relates to the rural settlements and semi-rural settlements and of course a fairly large program has been undertaken on that and it is bound to be carried through to completion. Whether we will start any more new ones, that we have not undertaken, I doubt that. They might be called "samples" dotted here and there around the country.

Q Those are the four Greenbelt projects?

THE PRESIDENT: No, those are the four out of a great many. They happened to be a certain type near cities. For example, the one between here

and Baltimore is very nearly halfway finished and that will not be a farm proposition. It is primarily for people who live in Washington and Baltimore. That is suburban. There are a great many others which are primarily rural.

Q Mr. President, how about the purchase of submarginal land? Isn't that another feature of their work?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that of course has been going ahead and I don't believe there will be very much more money spent on submarginal land because we are cleaning up existing funds. It does not mean the program is over. It means that the coming fiscal year we won't spend as much money on that as we have in the past fiscal year.

Q Does the first phase come under Hopkins' organization?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a separate thing. It is not under the bill. In other words, it does not make any difference as to who the money is appropriated to. I don't care who signs the check.

Q At any rate the Resettlement Administration will still handle the rural rehabilitation work?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Maybe Hopkins will turn over the money to do it, but they will handle the machinery.

Q One of the stories said that under the bill he could not turn over the money. It could not be transferred.

THE PRESIDENT: All he need do is appoint an agent and, in the last analysis, I will handle the money.

Q Administrator Tugwell was reported this morning as saying -- or, rather, the implication of the headlines was -- that there would be no more Resettlement Administration after July 1, that there would be no funds appropriated. Does the appropriation of a billion and a half take

care of it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that takes care of it, all except the question of carrying on the work of these rural settlements. I frankly don't know about it.

Q The Treasury statement today shows that about 129 million dollars is unspent of the Resettlement allocation. Of course that is to be spent --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It does not say whether it is obligated or not?

Q No; presumably it is all allocated.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what the obligated figure is.

Q Will you say anything about the Robinson resolution on Passamaquoddy and the Florida Ship Canal?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I haven't seen it.

Q There was some discussion on the Hill about the new Bankhead resolution under which the work of Resettlement would be taken over. I suppose that is out now?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know the status of the Bankhead Bill. Obviously, if we have special legislation relating to tenant farmers it would naturally tie in, in some way, administratively with a good part of the work of Resettlement, as long as we do not duplicate.

Q Any success in finding a successor to Comptroller General McCarl?

THE PRESIDENT: Those are all future appointments. In fact, I haven't any current appointments, except the ones you know.

Q Can you tell us anything about the earmarking of funds for the Public Works Administration from the billion and a half?

THE PRESIDENT: Under the Bill they can go ahead with certain forms of public work, the criterion being a perfectly simple one. If, let us

say, the City of X wants to build a million-dollar sewer, they would apply just as they have before for a loan and grant through the same machinery they have used before, the Public Works machinery. Thereupon the Public Works Administration, which still has quite a large sum which will be available for loans -- in other words, for the 55 per cent --

Q (interposing) You mean the revolving fund?

THE PRESIDENT: The revolving fund of the securities they have already taken in, which they have sold to Jesse Jones who, in turn, sold them to the public. Every week that goes by the RFC is selling more and more of those municipal securities to the public. He turns that money back to the revolving fund. It is out of that revolving fund that the 55 per cent loan is made.

That leaves 45 per cent. The project must conform to the requirements of taking people off the relief rolls. Well, in almost all cases at least 45 per cent of the total expenditure on the project would naturally go to labor. Most of them average a good deal higher than that, so, in most of these projects, the PWA will be able to certify that they will need so many work relief people to do the job. Thereupon, if the relief organization finds that there are that many people in the locality who can do this work and who are on the relief rolls, they okay it. In fact, the weekly payrolls are paid out of the billion and a half dollars.

Q Isn't there conflict there with respect to prevailing and subsistence wages?

THE PRESIDENT: No, practically none.

Q But if these projects on which there is a loan and grant is a local pro-

ject and not a Federal project --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes?

Q Will the WPA give the 45 per cent as a lump sum grant, or pay these people?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean who is going to draw the check or sign the check?

I am not interested.

Q They give the locality 45 per cent in a lump sum?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not interested. It does not make any difference who signs the check as long as I do not have to.

Q Do you mean the WPA would furnish labor up to the amount which would cost the project 45 per cent if they had to pay cash?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is right.

Q Any progress in extending the railway equipment business?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Does that policy eliminate the private contractor from PWA construction then?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not any more than it does at the present time.

Q He would be required to do it with relief labor?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, he is at the present time. Nearly all municipal contracts are let on the basis of the contractor agreeing to employ so many people from the relief rolls. There is no change.

Q In other words then, Mr. President, as I understand it, this billion and a half fund, less the 25 million dollars taken for CCC, is a bill for all of these emergency agencies and will be distributed that way?

THE PRESIDENT: We do not know until we have all the applications in what the total amount of money is that would go on loan and grant, but no loan comes out of the billion and a half. All of it goes to employing relief workers.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.