CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #306,
Executive Offices of the White House,
July 7, 1936, 4.05 P.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Let us talk agriculture. I have got here some pretty well up-to-date charts which I think Steve (Mr. Early) can take out to the Press Room and pin them up so that you can see them.

They show pasture conditions on June 1. The black belt is the extreme drought, and the conditions on July 1 -- see what a difference there is? -- and this here (indicating) is the statement of rains from July 1 to 6, so that the three of them, between them, give you a pretty good idea.

The general situation is that while there are still drought conditions in the Southeast, that is to say southern Kentucky, northern Tennessee and Georgia, NorthCarolina and South Carolina, that is not our principal problem. There are also drought conditions, as I said before, in eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas, which have been slightly relieved in the last two or three days.

The principal problem is, of course, in the Northwest, especially in the Dakotas and eastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming and extending now into northeastern Minnesota.

There are about, all told, in all of these drought areas, including the Southeast and Southwest, about 204,000 families who need some form of immediate cash relief. The bulk of them are, of course, in the Northwest.

We have worked out a fairly comprehensive plan by which we are putting to work at the present time, on W.P.A. jobs, 50,000.

These 50,000 are doing useful work, chiefly in the following forms: digging wells, in other words going down to water and, secondly, building earth dams so that when rains do come they won't all run off all of a sudden. Third, they are building farm-to-market roads. Those are the three principal forms of actual relief work. Those workers are being paid weekly wages and will continue until snow flies. In other words, they will be taken care of with actual work until it is impossible to work outdoors in that area.

Q May I interrupt to ask you what the weekly wage is?

MR. AUBREY WILLIAMS: About $15. a week.

THE PRESIDENT: About $15. a week. That will keep them going and, in a good many cases, will take care of some of their needs into the winter. I won't say through the winter, but into the winter.

Q Has that payment started?

THE PRESIDENT: They are going to work at the present rate in Minnesota of 800 new workers a day. In North Dakota it is 2,000 new workers a day, in South Dakota 2800 new workers a day and in Montana, eastern Montana, 400 new workers a day.

Q Does your chart show a breakdown for the Southeast as against the Northwest in the number of sufferers?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so. The great bulk is, of course, in the Northwest.

Q Mr. President, those are chiefly wheat states, are they not?

THE PRESIDENT: Mostly wheat, yes.

Q Isn't the wheat ready for harvest?

THE PRESIDENT: No, there isn't any to harvest. It just isn't there

to harvest.

MR. WILLIAMS: The spring wheat crop has been hit so hard that very little of it will be harvested in this area.

THE PRESIDENT: The wheat crop will be about 15 per cent of normal.

Then, number two, we are taking care of 50,000 families with subsistence loans and subsistence grants. That is part of the regular resettlement work, but that is in addition -- in other words, those are new people. Then of the 200,000 that are already on subsistence loans and grants, there are 70,000 there, so that gives you a total of 150,000 who are either being taken care of or are going to be taken care of in the course of the next few days at this rate of putting them on. The program will be actually under way probably in a couple of weeks.

That leaves a gap of about 34,000 families which still has to be filled and we are working towards that end.

Now, the cattle problem. I will take that up first. Cattle are going out of that area, as a private enterprise, in fairly large volume but the price is holding up. Individual cattle raisers who have fair-sized herds are able to move their cattle out quite satisfactorily at the present time, to move them out to market or to feeding, one or the other. The people who find it difficult to handle the situation are chiefly the small cattlemen, the individual fellow who has only eight or ten or fifteen or twenty cows and with him it is principally a problem not only of getting them out but of keeping some title in [them] him. In other words, we don't want him to lose all of his breeding cattle for next year or lose his immediate title. That is why we are going

to use every effort and not to buy cattle ourselves and process them for food. We prefer to loan the money to those individuals and let them ship the cattle out as feeders. They would retain the title to them. You know the process: You send the cows out to somebody else that has grass, for instance in western Montana and Idaho, and you pay that man so much a month a head. I think the usual price is a dollar a head a month or something along that line. You retain the title to the cattle you ship out and they are not immediately processed and also it gives you an opportunity of retaining breeder stock for next year.

Then on the question of wheat -- I am going rather into detail because I don't suppose there are more than three people in the room that know a damn thing about the subject, with all due deference.

Q Who are they, for instance?

THE PRESIDENT: Earl Godwin, for instance, he is an honest farmer. There you are. (Laughter)

The wheat acreage this year -- the wheat acreage, mind you -- is nearly 10 per cent higher than the average wheat acreage from 1928 to 1932. Now, that explodes a great many stories, doesn't it? It explodes lots and lots of stories, especially the ones written for political effect. Ten per cent more wheat acreage in the country this year than for the average of 1928 to 1932. Of course the yield is going to be away below the average and that is caused by the drought, but the actual acreage planted to wheat is nearly 10 per cent higher than the average of those years.

Q What were those years?

THE PRESIDENT: 1928 to 1932. The same thing is true of corn acreage. It is up over last year and so is the wheat acreage. In other words, the shortage is not due to any decrease in acreage. Write that down. It is due to drought.

Q What are the payments for crop curtailment?

THE PRESIDENT: Soil conservation, in other words, putting in a rotation of crops.

Q I meant how much will go to those states in these payments?

THE PRESIDENT: Turning it into pasture land and vice versa. I cannot tell you the actual figure.

MR. TUGWELL: We would have to look it up.

Q These farmers will get money?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes. Crop curtailment works both ways. If you curtail wheat, for example, you put in pasture and pasture land does not get hit by drought to the same extent as crop land, which gets burned up. For example, in 1934, Nebraska produced only seven-twentieths as much corn as they produced in 1933, but they produced more than half as much sorghum and other hay and forage crops and of course, as I say, in a drought the hay and forage crops do not suffer to anything like the same extent as corn, wheat, oats, etc.

Now, we also have, as part of the program, to encourage the harvesting of forage crops in order to take care of these cattle which have not enough feed in the drought area. We do that without any decrease in benefits for the people who did not plow their land but turned it into a feed crop.

Q Is that a monetary encouragement?

THE PRESIDENT: No, they have their contract -- they have their benefit contract. It is not a contract -- you know if they go in for diversified farming, they get so much of a bonus. They get the same bonus if they cut their forage crop and ship it into the drought area, no more.

Q Will that be enough feed for the cattle?

THE PRESIDENT: We hope so.

Q Tell us about Mr. Farley. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Then, there is another thing we might as well explode. I'm afraid somebody back there is not interested in farming. I will come to the other feature, it is all right.

Q Before we get into this, can you tell me in dollars what this is going to amount to?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. That is too much spot news. Let us look at this thing from the immediate angle.

Q Does this fund come from W.P.A. money?

THE PRESIDENT: Comes from all kinds -- W.P.A., Resettlement, etc., Surplus Commodity Corporation. Now, what I do want to point out is this: Up there in the northwestern area there have been stories, as usual, that we are going to take everybody away and depopulate the country.

Q You would not take them away, would you?

THE PRESIDENT: We are not going to take them away at all and nobody ever had any idea in their sane senses of depopulating the country. What we are going to change is what might be called the economy of the country. The country is going to support a population. As wheat land, no; it is not working because the water table drops

down 8' a year. The result is the water runs off and the surface blows away.

We figure under a proper use of this country it will support perhaps not quite as many people but very nearly. There are lots of human beings today who can remain there if they will do the right thing. For instance, if we can get grass back there, it means that the acreage will be used more and more for cattle. People have to look after cattle. There are certain places out there, certain valleys, where the water table has not disappeared, where you can grow vegetables, truck and small crops that take human beings to look after them. There are certain areas which can be and should be forested. It will take human beings to look after that.

What we are working on is a plan to avoid a continuation of what we have been through now for the last three or four years. We have spent somewhere around $300,000,000., the Federal Government, and, just so long as we do not change the economy, we are going to have to spend money year after year unless the cycles change. We are going to have to take care of people on relief if they keep on with their present economy.

What we are trying to do is to work out a program that will keep the great bulk of the population out in the same area and at the same time make it unnecessary to spend each year millions of dollars to keep them from starving.

Q For how long a period did you say that $300,000,000. has been spent?

THE PRESIDENT: In the last three or four years, 1933, '34, '35 and

'36, four years.

Let me put it this way: Admiral Grayson was lunching with me and I said, "Have you had any appeals for the Red Cross?" He said, "No."

I said, "Do you liken a drought to a fire or earthquake?" He said, "No, it is not a sudden emergency disaster of that kind. It is a long-range disaster."

I considered going out there this week but what I wanted to do was to get this program actually under way. It will take another three or four weeks before it is under way.

The chief need will come, of course, in the winter and what we are working at now is to give these people work and to provide for fall planting and to provide for taking care of their cattle. It is a program that will take a month or six weeks to get under way.

That is why I am planning sometime in August to go out to this northwest dust bowl to look over the situation and see how these plans now adopted are working out, to take a look-see trip to see how it is going, because it is a very important national question.

If this drought area spreads or is allowed to spread, it will necessarily move around. It will move east and south into Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and we have to stop it from coming east and south and west.

Q Mr. President, what states do we understand you will visit, personally visit?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, probably the Dakotas and possibly Minnesota.

Q Any political speeches on this trip?

THE PRESIDENT: No, certainly not.

Q Any historical speeches?

THE PRESIDENT: I might make one because the Dakota territories -- the Dakotas rather -- are having their Seventy-fifth Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Dakota Territory.

Q Any agricultural speeches?

THE PRESIDENT: No, certainly not.

Q Mr. President, will you make any stops en route?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe so. I may look at some of the Federal Works out there while I am out there. This is too serious a thing to get it mixed up in politics.

Q There have been reports that the drought has been so serious, so extensive, that it is now a menace to the Nation's food supply.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that is not so. Of course we cannot give any final figures on surplus, but there is enough carryover to be certain of food next year. It will probably be around six hundred million bushels of wheat.

Q Surplus?

THE PRESIDENT: That is total crop. The consumption of the country is running around six hundred and twenty-five and we have a carryover of a hundred and fifty, so you see there is no danger of starving. The wheat estimate should be out shortly.

Q Have you any idea when you will start that trip, whether it will be the first or the latter part of August?

THE PRESIDENT: From the middle to the end of August, the latter half. That, of course, depends a little bit on conditions in the meantime.

Q Will you go to the Coast, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q How many days will you take?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea. I am going out for a "look-see." I probably will not decide until two or three days before I leave.

Q Tell us about Farley's conversation.

THE PRESIDENT: George (Mr. Durno) can hardly contain himself. I have forgotten who it was -- I guess it was Russ Young -- guessed right yesterday. Jim is taking a leave of absence from the first of August on, without pay. It goes without saying that the reason he is staying until the first of August is that he wants to clear up all of the end-of-the-year financial -- what do they call the statements they put out every year?

Q Surplus?

THE PRESIDENT: Surplus is right.

Q How long a leave?

THE PRESIDENT: Until after election.

Q Who will take his place?

THE PRESIDENT: Bill Howes will act in his place.

Q Mr. President, have you written a letter to the Department heads suggesting that a reserve be set up in the future out of regular appropriations?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That is a thing that I am making a little stronger this year than last. This is to all department heads, independent agencies, etc., asking them during this fiscal year, in preparing their apportionments of the appropriated funds, instead of dividing them into twelfths, which is the normal way

of doing it -- this is not down there in the letter but in effect it means this -- to divide it up with a surplus left over in the hope that they won't use all of the appropriation. The idea is to carry out what I did in Albany for four years and it works pretty well.

In the spring of the year, as you all know, in running any Government department you find in a given item that you have so many dollars left over, say on the first of June, and your tendency is to try to devise ways and means of spending that balance during the month of June, otherwise it reverts to the Treasury. What I am trying to get them to do now is to divide up their money so that they do not divide the whole of it but do have some kitty left over and then in the spring of the year I will issue an order to show cause as to why the kitty should be spent, thereby returning to the Treasury, out of these appropriations, as much as we possibly can. In other words, save the saving instead of spending it at the last minute.

Q How much saving do you expect?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any idea.

Q No figures at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No. And then, at the same time, the Director of the Budget sent out another one in regard to the 1938 estimates which have to come in this fall asking them whether it is possible to bring the amount below the corresponding appropriation for the fiscal year 1937.

Q Have you asked that of the Director of the Budget?

THE PRESIDENT: The Budget Director has asked all agencies to try to

make them lower for the fiscal year 1938 than the actual appropriations for the fiscal year 1937 .

Q Mr. President, did you suggest any percentage?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can we get a copy of the letter?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Steve (Mr. Early), will you stick it up on the board?

Q How much of a surplus did the departments turn in last year under this setup?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't got those figures. They were fairly large.

MR. EARLY: They were announced by the Treasury.

Q Do you have any plans for Quoddy after the present money has run out?

THE PRESIDENT: Only that I am working very hard in the case of Quoddy and the Florida Ship Canal to use the existing plant so that it won't lay idle.

Q The existing plant?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the existing plant. In the case of the Florida Ship Canal we are negotiating with the University of Florida for the use of the buildings down there for -- I think they call it an Extension Service Course.

Q That would be a short-term lease?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Does that mean that you are abandoning the Ship Canal?

THE PRESIDENT: Have to. The same way with Quoddy.

Q How about Quoddy? Do you think you can use the buildings up there?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you yet, but I am working very hard to find a useful occupation for the buildings.

Q We will probably have to rent them.

THE PRESIDENT: There is a very good hotel in Eastport.

Q I did not see one.

Q Do you mean the Quoddy power project is abandoned?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot devote any money to it. How can I? I don't know.

Q Will Mr. Farley be able to accept contributions from office holders under the law, if he resigns?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I should not think so. Do you mean, can he, as Postmaster General, receive --

Q (interposing) If he retains his title as Postmaster General on leave, can he receive contributions under the law?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not as good a lawyer as you are.

Q I mean about asking contributions from office holders.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; you had better ask him.

Q What progress is being made on selecting McCarl's successor?

THE PRESIDENT: None.

Q Has Mr. Howes' status changed? Does he become Acting Postmaster General?

THE PRESIDENT: He does.

Q Does he take the salary of the Postmaster General?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to ask the Comptroller General. I don't know.

MR. EARLY: Bill Howes will get his own salary.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Howes will get his regular salary.

Q Doesn't he move up as First Assistant?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Does your northwestern trip affect the Campobello trip?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #307,
Executive Offices of the White House,
July 10, 1936, 10.30 A.M.

Q We have a bridegroom in our midst. Tommy Edmonds went and got married ten days ago.

THE PRESIDENT: Never told me about it. I am very happy to hear about it.

Q (Mr. Edmonds) Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you going, Charles?

Q (Mr. Hurd) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Number one, there is no news on appointments and there won't be any until I get back.

Q In that connection, isn't it required that you appoint within thirty days this Maritime Commission?

MR. EARLY: It is not required.

THE PRESIDENT: Number two, on the drought: You have had most of this before, but this is this morning's summary. We have authorized for the five Northwestern states, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming, a total of 55,000 WPA jobs. Up to this morning there were 16,500 at work in that area. In the Southern and Southwestern states 20,000 additional jobs were authorized.

Q Is that Western or Southwestern?

THE PRESIDENT: Southern and Southwestern. Southern means certain portions of North and South Carolina, as I remember it, speaking from memory, Tennessee and Kentucky, and the Southwestern area is, principally, Eastern Oklahoma and Northwestern Arkansas. I think I am right on that.

We are told that North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wyoming are also giving direct relief grants out of state funds. Rural Resettlement is making loans to small cattle owners for movement of cattle, the idea being to aid the small cattle owner to keep the title. The larger ranchers will be aided through arrangements to be set up today, through loans for the purpose of moving cattle.

The U. S. Children's Bureau has sent representatives into these areas to investigate the special needs of children and mothers.

We are also watching the water supply and making arrangements to move families, where the water gives out, into other areas. The Public Health Service is looking after the problem of contamination of water and is in general touch with situations affecting the health of the people.

On the weather report, there have been a few light showers over the worst part of the drought area and quite a heavy rain at Devil's Lake. However, those rains have not changed the situation materially and the temperature continues to be extremely high. Incidentally, that is not the only part of the country.

Resettlement, in addition to the loans, is making grants to some of those farm families. It is proceeding satisfactorily and, as you know, yesterday they declared a moratorium of one year on all loans of the Government in specified drought areas on a specific showing of lack of cash resources by the applicant.

Today the Resettlement Administration will declare nine additional counties in Minnesota in the drought area which, added to those originally designated, makes a total of 277 counties in the

various states affected.

We have bad reports from Iowa. The corn crops seem to be in pretty bad shape -- burning up.

The number of farms in the counties in the area -- one figure says 277 counties -- oh, yes, in the 268 counties before the nine that were added to it -- is 570,000 farms, and the number of strictly farm population of those counties is 2,718,000.

Q Is that Northwest or all the area?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is only the Northwest. Of course that does not mean that every one of the 570,000 farm families have to be helped. That is the total number of farms in there and the total number of population.

Q This 55,000, is that in addition to the figure announced several days ago?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that is included in it.

Q That is a total of 75,000 jobs for the whole area, 55,000 in the Northwest and 20,000 in the South and Southwest?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Have you any figures on how many have gone to work in the South and Southwest?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

I don't think there is any news I know of. I have signed the leave orders under that new Act of Congress and you had better read them over because they are highly technical. The Executive Order itself runs to seven pages and then the regulations run to another seven pages.

Q Will you leave that with Mr. Early?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Did you discuss the steel situation with Green or Lewis?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Did you discuss this situation which has developed within the Federation of Labor?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you made arrangements for the starting of the public works program -- for an Executive Order that makes this money available for Mr. Ickes?

THE PRESIDENT: We started on bridges. General Hackett was in yesterday with a large list of projects which, however, had to be checked back to find out, out of a grant to any municipality, how many people would be taken off the relief rolls. It will probably be another week before the first batch of those projects are approved.

Q That is being checked with local relief rolls as to the municipalities involved?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. In other words, the objective -- so you will all get this clear about the Public Works program -- I suppose the simplest way to put it is that we have cut down the number of people on the relief rolls in the last four or five months. However, we still have on the relief rolls more people than can be taken care of through the fiscal year with $1,425,000,000., which is all the appropriation we have got. Therefore, we are trying to use the Public Works money, as far as we possibly can, to take people off the relief rolls, and the practical way of working it out will be somewhat along this line: Let us say that the city of X wants to build a new sewer or water supply system costing

a million dollars. They either finance 55% of it themselves through doing their own borrowing, or they borrow it from us, whichever is most advantageous to them. Then the other 45% is what we call a grant. Now what we are trying to do at the present time is to check up with the municipal authorities and ask them, out of this 45%, or in this particular case $450,000., out of that how many people would they take off the work relief rolls? The more people they take off the relief rolls with this grant, the better chance they have of getting their project approved. In other words, if out of this P.W.A. money we can take several hundred thousand people off the relief rolls, it means there is just that much more chance of having the $1,425,000,000. appropriated for relief last through the year.

Then, of course, added to that is the other hope we have expressed, that industry will more and more take people off relief rolls during the course of the year.

Q What money is the Public Works Administration going to use for those loans and grants if it does not come out of the $1,425,000,000.?

THE PRESIDENT: They can get it from the revolving grant.

Q They haven't an awful lot there.

THE PRESIDENT: It is a terribly complicated thing -- algebra. In other words, if they get $300,000,000. from Jones, they can loan, roughly, half of it and grant, roughly, half of it. As to the loan part, they can resell the bonds and again take half of that for loan and half for grant. Then they resell the loan part again and so on, ad infinitum. That is the theory of it.

Q How many projects did Colonel Hackett bring in?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. There it is (pointing to large stack).

Q Do you know the amount of money involved?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, this preliminary list is fifty million dollars.

Q Does that take into account the 45% grant, or is that the total?

THE PRESIDENT: The total.

Q Is there any per-man cost yardstick, Mr. President? That is, do you have any figure in mind --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Approximately what is being paid at the present time. It depends a good deal on the locality and also a great deal on the nature of the work.

Q Mr. President, how long do you expect it will take to check up on the employment producing capacity of these projects?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't catch your question.

Q The employment producing capacity of these projects? You know --

THE PRESIDENT: It depends a little on the character. It is an awfully difficult thing to guess. We are going to try to get the bulk of them under way this fall.

Of course, on P.W.A., it is slower, necessarily, than W.P.A. But this list is a very good list because a great many of these, in fact the great majority, are comparatively small projects which do not take long to get people to work on. Just take this page (at random), there are twenty projects and I suppose they average about $30,000. apiece. Now, that is a good project because on a $30,000. project you can put people to work fast.

Q How soon will the money be released?

THE PRESIDENT: As fast as the projects are approved.

Q And how long is that?

THE PRESIDENT: That depends on what news we get from the locality on taking people off the relief rolls.

Q What is your hope on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I won't until we find out.

Q Did I understand you to say you would start approving them in a week?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Did you notice whether there are any flood control projects in that list?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not in this list.

Q I'd like to ask a question on your trip. Can you tell us what date you are going to sail and what date you figure to be back?

THE PRESIDENT: I expect to sail on Tuesday next and then I am going to -- I don't know whether it has been announced but the present plan is to go to Quebec and be there on Friday, the 31st of July.

Q Did you notice his Lordship is calling?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. When I leave Quebec that night I don't know where I am going. I have no idea.

Q Mr. Farley indicated he had talked over with you his part in the campaign. Can you give us any idea?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose probably about the time I get back from Quebec I can tell you something about August and I take it the chances are there won't be much campaigning in August. At the end of August I will tell you the plans for September.

Q Are you considering a trip to the Coast?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

Q Have you anything to say about the labor situation?

THE PRESIDENT: In the Federation?

Q Or any other angle of it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Was the purpose of Governor Earle's visit to you yesterday to ask you to appoint Tony Biddle Ambassador to Spain?

THE PRESIDENT: No, never mentioned it. No, we had a bit of a talk on Pennsylvania.

Q Are you going to have a similar talk on Massachusetts today?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know what we are going to talk about.

Q The Governor is in town.

THE PRESIDENT: He is due here six minutes ago.

Q Is it going to be possible for you to do anything on the shelter belt proposition?

THE PRESIDENT: They are going ahead.

Q They have very little money?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Most of the money this year is going to be put into growing young trees from seed because there is a real shortage of young trees.

Q The appropriation was for liquidating the project in the bill. As I understood it, the money was appropriated to liquidate the project during this year.

THE PRESIDENT: Did it say that?

Q That is what I understood.

Q What are you going to talk to the Governor General about?

THE PRESIDENT: What am I going to talk to him about?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, lots of things. Ships and kings and sealing wax.

Q And cabbages?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Does that mean the new St. Lawrence Treaty?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Have you decided how you are going from Campobello to Quebec?

THE PRESIDENT: By rail. Depending on how things are, I will either go to Hyde Park or back here.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #308,
Aboard the POTOMAC in Rockland Harbor, Maine,
July 14, 1936, 10.30 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Gather around. I am going to tell you a fish story.

Q We will tell you one before we get off the LIBERTY.

THE PRESIDENT: Does she look all right?

Q Yes, sir; plenty of room.

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are going to have a grand time, except, of course, for the fellows from inland -- not Fred Storm. They think we are going fishing and the object is to catch fish but, of course, you know better. The object is to loaf and have a good time.

Q Will you have Henry Kannee rehearse that "loud scream"? (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Kannee) I am going to hold that against you. (Referring to John O'Donnell's story about thefts from the Nelson House rooms.)

THE PRESIDENT: Henry was the maddest white man after reading that. He only yelled for about ten minutes. (Laughter)

I think everything is all quiet.

Q Anything you want to say before leaving?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q Do you have anything to add to the action down in Washington on the payments on the railroad retirement fund?

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't Mac (Mr. McIntyre) give you the memo?

MR. McINTYRE: It was released in Washington the same day.

THE PRESIDENT: That was going to be the basis of what I was going to tell you.

Q That covered everything?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will you visit the Quoddy development?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea of where I am going or when, except to work to the eastward.

Q Have you anything to say on Quoddy?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q (Mr. Trohan) I haven't got that commission yet.

THE PRESIDENT: It's all right.

MR. McINTYRE: He is the Katzenjammer Kid.

THE PRESIDENT: Walter is going to get his commission. I am going to radio for one. It won't necessarily be on parchment though.

Q (Mr. Trohan) You promised parchment. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: He is growing up and especially since going to school.

Q He can't take any notes.

THE PRESIDENT: You know, we will make a newspaperman out of Walter yet.

Q Pretty hard.

THE PRESIDENT: We have all got to help and cooperate on it.

Q Is it out of place to ask your plans when you get back to Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any plans beyond getting out of this harbor.

Q I am a little selfish because I am starting on my vacation.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we will go to Hyde Park unless something breaks in Washington but I don't know how long I will stay there; it might be over Sunday or a whole week.

Q You won't make this swing in the Connecticut Valley and through the flood region on your way back?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

MR. McINTYRE: They were told yesterday that you hoped as soon as

possible after your return to make a visit.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, I hope to get to the three main flood areas -- New England, southern New York and northern Pennsylvania, Susquehanna and Delaware (Rivers) and then the upper Ohio (River).

Q That would be Columbus?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing further up than around the Pittsburgh region.

Q In the absence of Senator Young, and being delegated to do his work while he is gone, what do you think of the District of Columbia tax bill?

THE PRESIDENT: What is it?

Q I don't know. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Neither do I.

Q I was asked to ask you about it.

THE PRESIDENT: Tell Russ "Hello."

I will be going probably from either Eastport or St. Andrews straight to Quebec.

Q Overland?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, overland. It is only overnight.

Q Mr. President, have you seen anything of a pouch that required action?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen a pouch this morning. I haven't a paper left except one box.

Just to show you what this life is like, when I got to Hyde Park everything was all clear and just two days ago I was given, I think, sixteen or seventeen documents and there isn't one of them less than a hundred pages. People say, "Please take this on your trip and read it when you have nothing else to do." Most

of them are the most highly complex problems. So I have them in a large wooden box and it is a great question mark as to whether I open the box.

MR. McINTYRE: All of this is off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: No, you can use this for background.

Q There is a State Department question: Joe Smith is going to London to take over the London Bureau. And, Mr. President, would it be remiss if I were to assume that an agrément has gone forward to the Irish Free State? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I love it.

Q Would you be willing to disclose what your conference was with Governor Brann? I am from Maine.

THE PRESIDENT: We just talked about everything there was.

Q No politics?

THE PRESIDENT: No. One of the things we talked about was cooperatives.

Q They have some of them up here in marketing some of their crops.

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

Q I think they market the potato crop through cooperatives.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there has been much done about it.

Q It has been done in a very limited manner.

THE PRESIDENT: The general thought is that they cannot be imposed from the top; they have to grow from the bottom. More and more people are talking about them because they seem perfectly practical if started from the bottom.

Q Have you received any last minute reports from the drought area, from Dr. Tugwell?

THE PRESIDENT: I have had nothing this morning. I heard last night

there were a few scattered loans but not enough.

Q Charlie West have any official business?

THE PRESIDENT: No; just stopped on the way through.

Q Any chance you will confer with Montague Norman? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think I will confer with anybody.

Q Will this be the only place you will stop except when you leave for Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Your conversations with Lord Tweedsmuir, any idea of what the subjects will be?

Q Can we borrow some books from the ship's library?

THE PRESIDENT: We ought to, you know. We ought to do it.

Q Henry is going to spend the next two weeks reading Blackstone. That is a fishhook story.

THE PRESIDENT: Perhaps if he were to put a line overboard and troll he might pick up something.

Q Did you hear about the police in Poughkeepsie?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q They fingerprinted one of the victim's pocketbooks and the only prints were those of the policeman.

THE PRESIDENT: Perfectly lovely; I love it.

Q They hunted for footprints and they found seven strange ones all of which belonged to the Western Union telegraph boys.

Q Two were from the tap room.

Q I hope you have a pleasant cruise.

THE PRESIDENT: I will see you this afternoon from the distance. You report the first casualty to me when we get into rough weather.

Fred keeps the log.

Q He will get sick.

THE PRESIDENT: Then you keep it. (Laughter)

MR. TROHAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #309,
Herring Beach, Campobello Island, N. B.,
July 29, 1936, about 4.00 P.M.

Q (Mr. Storm) Have you had any reports from Ambassador Bowers in Spain within the last twenty-four hours?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing this morning.— You have it all in the papers in the statement which the Secretary of State gave out.

Q Is he returning to this country?

THE PRESIDENT: He was planning to come back but I do not believe he will in the midst of this.

Q What are your plans after you leave Quebec? Are you going to the Connecticut Valley?

THE PRESIDENT: Cannot answer that without Mac. I am going to detrain somewhere up in Vermont near Winooskie Dam that the CCC Vermont camps have built and from there motor to Montpelier, have a talk with the Governor and all State officials and Federal officials who are in any way connected with Federal projects, and get Vermont problems in my mind. Motor from there, stop one or two places either at sites of dams or work in progress. In Hanover hope Governor of New Hampshire and people will come for same kind of conference, then get on the train and go down to Springfield for conference with all Massachusetts officials in relation to the Massachusetts end of it.

Q Will that include Governor Curley?

THE PRESIDENT: Include all State officials.

Get to Hyde Park late Saturday night. Will not get off train in Springfield -- get there about 5.30 for conference, no work to

see in Springfield in way of flood control. Get to Hyde Park 10.30 or 11.

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

THE PRESIDENT: Do not know; something less than a week, then go back to Washington. Beyond that nothing definite.

Q We haven't got any comment on Governor Landon's acceptance speech.

THE PRESIDENT: Off the record, if it would stay off the record, I might. But I will tell you what I told Mac -- the reception was poor! As a matter of fact the reception was poor.

Q Have you given any consideration of campaign swing to coast in early September?

THE PRESIDENT: Have nothing planned except what I talked about before. Later in August will go to Southern New York and Northern Pennsylvania flood areas, also Western Pennsylvania and Ohio flood areas. Do not know whether it will be the same trip or two different trips.

Q What plans have been submitted to you of work already done on Quoddy Village?

THE PRESIDENT: Cannot tell you now -- bound to be vague, can not give anything concrete. If any of you haven't seen it, go and see it.

The whole conception of it in the beginning was based on the simple fact that the use of power both in Canada and in the United States is increasing at the rate, let us say roughly, of ten to fifteen percent every year, and we think that it is going to continue to increase. Therefore, there can be more power developed of all kinds, coal, hydroelectric, and if we can find a new method, so much the better. This Passamaquoddy thought was

originated in 1921 when the Severn River in England was being considered for tidal power development, and on the coast of France, where they have forty-foot tides. In 1921 I talked with Owen Young of the General Electric about the possibilities of the Bay of Fundy. He was much interested and they made a preliminary survey -- rough survey. They found it was of interest and well worth while studying, but that the demand for power at that time did not justify anything further.

In 1926 or '27 Cooper came along with his survey, which was financed by General Electric, Aluminum Company of America and the Westinghouse. They found his plans were practical, but again there was the matter of demand. So, in '33 we had our first study made and they assured us that it was a good proposition. Government engineers held it entirely feasible. At that time it did not seem feasible to talk to Canada in regard to joining -- all too poor to take up program of dams across Deer Island LeTeat. We went ahead with plans of developing on our side of the line, experimentally on a smaller scale, according to the development of power that we could sell.

Even since that date the science of transmission of electricity has grown by leaps and bounds; private companies, like G. E. and Westinghouse, are working on direct current instead of alternating, which means much lower cost of production and much lower loss of power. If it succeeds as they think it will, that tidal power from the Bay of Fundy, both American and Canadian side, could be transmitted down New York areas. In other words, free power both ways across the boundary. We will come to it.

Q Will you talk about this in Quebec?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, without doubt, if Friday is a long enough day.

As to the next step, the first thing, when it is thoroughly understood that this is a useful experiment, is to put it through on a small preliminary scale, using relief money which would have to be used in any case. We have got to take care of these people. We have had them on road building and schoolhouses. Money has got to be spent, as approximately 5000 people are on relief in Eastern Maine.

You can make it clear that whether something is done by the next Congress or not these people who have been on the Quoddy project from relief rolls are going to remain on relief rolls doing something else. Obviously they have to.

As to what is going to be done with those buildings, that will be decided in the course of the next week. They will be usefully employed.

Q Did Harry Hopkins have any ideas?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we have been talking. Trying to get the best possible ideas.

Q Can you allocate any of the $1,425,000,000 to carry further this work?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I made that clear dozens of times.

Q Where are you to get the money?

THE PRESIDENT: I will use the buildings for something. Can not carry on the project without an Act of Congress.

Q Do you plan to make any inspection through the Quoddy Village?

THE PRESIDENT: I may go over on the Potomac; I can see almost everything

there is from the water.

Q Where does the Dust Bowl fit in?

THE PRESIDENT: Somewhere around the end of August.

Q Would you tell us anything about your conversation with General [Markham ?] Martin?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't said more than how-do-you-do to him.

Q Anything in the line of politics, for this is a campaign year, you know.

THE PRESIDENT: Is this the year, Fred? I have forgotten that.

Q Are you going to listen to Colonel Knox Saturday night?

THE PRESIDENT: I will be on the train.

Q Is there anything to the story around here that you might discuss with Lord Tweedsmuir about making Eastport a free port of entry?

THE PRESIDENT: New one on me.

Q Have you talked with the Prime Minister of New Brunswick about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Passamaquoddy is Passamaquoddy, and includes both sides of the line. Off the record, wouldn't it be nice to have free ports on both sides? Quoddy is just one of those dreams of the future. Either country having extra power could send it without any duty. Seems to be one of the last things in the world to put duty on.

Q In your talk with the Prime Minister, will that embrace a proposition of Canada going into the proposal?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the first thing that should be done is experimenting in first tidal power in the world. Seems to be worth while trying, and it will be the largest in the world. It was a very good project in view of the fact that people were on relief.

There is one other factor which we much consider. When I was a little boy we used to have three steamers a week to Lubec, Eastport and St. John. Now you don't see any, showing the economic condition of Eastern Maine. Anything that can be done to raise up economic status is pretty good; otherwise we will have to look forward to relief for many years to come.

Q Joe Kennedy is writing a book on what is going to happen to children under Roosevelt.

THE PRESIDENT: Very good; he has nine children and should qualify.

Q (Mr. Hurd) Is there anything to be said on St. Lawrence Waterway when you talk in Quebec?

THE PRESIDENT: I imagine Mackenzie King and I will mention it. Just pure guesswork.

Q Do you expect to see Montague Norman?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #310,
Atop Wrightsville Dam, Vermont,
August 1, 1936, about 11.00 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Where is the Washington Press?

Q Right here, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: This Dam was finished before this spring's flood, and the water came up to within eight feet of the top, just below where we are. It actually demonstrates what we are after.

GENERAL MARKHAM: Yes, and the people up here all concede that these completed dams paid for themselves in the damage they prevented in this last flood.

Q That was this spring?

GENERAL MARKHAM: March, 1936.

Q How much did this Dam cost?

GENERAL MARKHAM: About a million or a million two hundred thousand dollars. It was built entirely by the CCC Corps under the supervision of the Engineering Department and in cooperation with the State of Vermont.

THE PRESIDENT: In the last flood they only used 73% of the capacity of the reservoir. They had 27% leeway on this particular flood.

Q When was this Dam started?

GENERAL MARKHAM: In 1933 and was completed October 1, 1935.

THE PRESIDENT: The State paid for the land and the Federal Government paid for the work.

GENERAL MARKHAM: The State assumed all land damages. Any damages or claims were handled by the State. The Federal Government paid for the construction.

THE PRESIDENT: Very excellent illustration of cooperation between the State and the Federal Government.

GENERAL MARKHAM: The Government has received splendid cooperation from the State of Vermont in this project.

Q The last flood was 1928?

GENERAL MARKHAM: November 4, 1927. It was the first in a hundred years of experience.

THE PRESIDENT: There was another flood between 1927 and 1936, a small flood.

GOVERNOR SMITH: Oh, yes; in 1931.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #311,
Aboard Presidential Special Train, en route
to Springfield, Massachusetts, from
Hanover, New Hampshire,
August 1, 1936.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, were you duly impressed this morning?

Q I am impressed the swell way they have gone along with the dams.

THE PRESIDENT: Two finished and one half finished.

Q The first you visited half finished?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and the other is finished, and there is another one which you did not see that they have finished. On the present plans they have five more in Vermont and two in New Hampshire. Of course further progress is dependent entirely on state legislation because, under the new Act, each state has to provide its own real estate. They have had, as I understand it -- you people from Boston know more about this than I do -- I think at least four states have appointed their members of the Interstate Compact Commission. The only meeting I have heard of was between New Hampshire and Massachusetts over the Merrimac Basin, but the Governor of Vermont, Governor Smith, was very optimistic about it. The principal objective of the Interstate Compact will be the allocation of the cost of land between the several states. In other words, it is the same old story. Eight dams out of the ten built in Vermont are for the benefit, not only of Vermont but of Massachusetts and Connecticut and New Hampshire. They have to decide on the allocation of cost of land in the Connecticut Basin. Then, when that is done, as I understand it, they have got to go to their State Legislatures for

approval of the Compact and then they have to go to Washington for approval down there. There probably won't be any trouble on that. Then, having done that, they have to get the appropriations through their State Legislatures to go ahead and buy the land. The Federal Government thereupon, having gotten the land, will probably go ahead on the same basis we are proceeding now, which is to use the CCC Camps on all the larger dams and possibly the WPA on some of the smaller dams, but probably nothing but CCC on the ten big projects.

The next step is really up to the four states concerned in the Connecticut Valley.

Q Will Connecticut be represented this afternoon at Springfield?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not this trip. You see, I couldn't put in three states in one day, but I am going over to Connecticut later, going to drive over.

MR. McINTYRE: There is a possibility that Governor Cross may be at Springfield.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is one phase of it; that is the reservoir phase of it.

In the meantime, between now and the time those legislatures act -- in other words, between now and the next spring -- we can probably find enough money to do a small number, I suppose not more than four or five, of W.P.A. projects under the Army Engineers' supervision for the cleaning out of some of these stream beds in those places where the stream bed is owned by the township or the municipality and where land acquisition -- new land acquisition -- is not involved.

I asked, both in Montpelier and in New Hampshire, about what the states were doing in regard to what I call "upstream engineering"; in other words, the putting back of steep upland pastures into trees and putting the lower agricultural sloping land into pastures to prevent or to slow up run-off. I was, frankly, a little disappointed because apparently neither state is spending very much or doing very much towards reforestation. Vermont is spending some money, but is spending it mostly for recreational parks and not for stopping run-off on the steep slopes. I think there is a real chance for both Vermont and New Hampshire to do a great deal more to retard run-off.

Then the W.P.A. is doing a great deal of work in both Vermont and New Hampshire on the country farm-to-market roads, repairing the damages caused by the floods of this past spring and putting in new bridges. The P.W.A. projects are well past the peak in both states and a few new projects were approved in that list of P.W.A. projects that I approved the other day when I was on the cruise. I don't know whether or not they have been released from Washington.

Q They were listed in that Boston paper the other day.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, on these P.W.A. projects we are being a great deal more hardboiled than we were before -- not on the 45%-55%, because the percentage remains the same -- but we are being more hardboiled in regard to the use of the Federal Government's 45% for the employment of people on the relief rolls. I asked about it in Vermont and was told that the P.W.A. projects there take 50% of their labor from the relief rolls but in New

Hampshire it is about 35% which, of course, is too low a percentage. That is why, as we add to the P.W.A. projects, we are going to insist a great deal more firmly than in the past on a high percentage of labor coming from work relief rolls.

I don't think there was anything else we talked about particularly except, especially in Vermont, there seems to be very good cooperation between the State and Federal authorities.

Q Are you going to take up anything in particular with Ambassador Bullitt?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen him for some time. I asked him to join up and ride down with us -- he lives right around here.

The only thing I talked about at all was H.O.L.C. and the State people in both Vermont and New Hampshire stressed not only the saving of the homes through H.O.L.C. but also the saving of the banks through H.O.L.C. It has been instrumental in pulling out and getting on their feet a very large number of the smaller country banks whose investments through this section are in a very large part in real estate mortgages.

Q Do you get that same report from other sections of the country?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, very much.

Q There must be something to that. All of your conferees today were largely Republicans.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, very largely.

Q Was there any discussion with these governors about straight relief?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I asked a question, both in Montpelier (Vermont) and down here with the New Hampshire people, as to the relief rolls and, according to their statements, the thing is going,

on the whole, very well.

I don't know about New Hampshire -- I didn't ask there -- but in Vermont the Town Board of Selectmen is taking care of, in each town, approximately the same number of people as they used to take care of -- of what you and I knew as the "town poor list" and, of course, if they do that it means that the total number that has to be taken care of out of Federal funds is cut materially. They think, on the whole, that that part has been taken care of very well.

The result is that because the town list is made up, as it always was in the old days, of people who are not as able to work as other people -- people who are feeble-minded, etc., -- the Federal lists are nearly all, a larger percentage than any place I heard of, composed of able-bodied men. In other words, the town is taking care of the people who should be on the poor list and as a result our list is composed of able-bodied people.

The total number of people has been cut from the peak about 50% on the Federal list in Vermont.

Q Did any of these governors give you a figure in dollars of how much their flood control program would cost?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but General Markham said that on these additional seven projects, of which three are under way, the total for real estate, and so forth, would cost the states only about six million dollars which, of course, is a very low figure and a small percentage of the total cost. That is why I hope they will be able to come to some agreement as to how that cost will be apportioned.

Q Do you recall what the Federal Government's figure would be, approx-

imately?

THE PRESIDENT: They have made preliminary estimates. You had better ask General Markham for the exact figures.

Q These would be appropriations to be made by Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, but there is no use until the states are ready to shoot. Of course the general picture, as I see it in the Connecticut Basin, is that we have a perfectly definite, perfectly simple flood control program. For example, we saved this year, because of those two completed dams, more money in damages from the 1936 flood, then the three dams, all three together, are costing, basing our figures on the damages caused by the 1927 flood. And that is only one year's flood. That is quite significant.

Q Paid for itself in one year.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

After seeing it and going over the plan, because I know this country pretty well anyway, I think the four states involved and the Federal Government, by adopting plans that are almost a hundred per cent foolproof -- in other words, we know they will work -- if they are carried out over a period of twenty or twenty-five years the whole problem will be solved. Instead of trying to do it in one fell swoop, we can do a little bit this year and some next year and the following year, doing it primarily, as far as possible, with relief labor. There will always be a number of unemployed at different times of the year.

A program of that kind involves not only the reservoir principle, but also reforestation, soil erosion and control, and

canalization in places like Hartford -- levees.

Then Governor Bridges also mentioned the Merrimac Basin. They have three proposed reservoirs there. It is a very short river and one of the reservoirs, I think it is the one which takes in Senaby Lake, that won't cost much in point of real estate, but the other two are likely to be very much more expensive in point of real estate. I suppose it is a very highly populated valley.

What is done with the Merrimac Basin depends, of course, on a compact between New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Q Thank you. This is very helpful indeed, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead and spread yourselves.

Q I'd rather have it in French.

THE PRESIDENT: You are an expert.

Q That speech went swell with the crowd yesterday (at Quebec).

THE PRESIDENT: Wasn't it funny when the Prime Minister of Quebec switched from English to French, how a roar of applause went up?

Q We saw King later in the Citadel and met the chap who writes King's French speeches. He said, "It is too bad we haven't Roosevelt running up here because he would carry Quebec any time."

THE PRESIDENT: It is amazing how proud they are of their French language. My Lord, some of their French is hard to understand when you get back in the back districts. They say it is the French of Molière.

Well, I am going to get down in Connecticut a little later. I couldn't get four states into one day and I hope Governor Cross will be up here and if he isn't I will drive across from Hyde Park

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part way and go over the situation from the Connecticut viewpoint.

Q I will report that. Very glad to have met you. This is the first opportunity I have had to strike anything big.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #312,
In the Library, Hyde Park, N.Y.,
August 4, 1936, 11.00 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Charles' (Hurd's) curl is getting more beautiful every day.

Q (Mr. Hurd) If I could just hold a little on top, I wouldn't mind the curl.

THE PRESIDENT: Did you ever know Charlie McCarthy who was my secretary during the Navy days? He had hair the color of yours when he was first with me -- just about your age. He had a part, way, way over on this side (indicating) but the part was almost on the side of his head, with this beautiful hair brushed right across his head, with a little tweak on the end of it. One day Charlie McCarthy went in swimming and I discovered he was completely bald on top. All his hair grew from here to here (indicating).

Genevieve, how are you? Welcome to our midst again.

Q (Mrs. Herrick) Thank you, kindly.

Q You seem to have quite a number of important officials.

THE PRESIDENT: Just our usual monthly conference on finances.

Q We saw Mr. Morgenthau, Mr. Bell, Mr. Tugwell and Mr. Williams. Was there anybody else?

THE PRESIDENT: A lot of people whose names I can't remember.

MR. EARLY: Aubrey Williams and Admiral Peoples.

THE PRESIDENT: A lot of expert accountants, mostly what they were.

Q What is the financial situation now, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

Q Did you discuss the drought?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Of course the drought is necessitating the spending of Federal funds in a certain number of states, slightly over the original allocations for those states. We didn't know there was going to be a drought but, on the other hand, the allocations in other parts of the country haven't run as high as we expected they would because of the pickup in employment.

Q It doesn't balance, does it?

THE PRESIDENT: It doesn't balance, of course, because the drought is still awfully serious. We talked about it yesterday. It is one thing that it is difficult for people in the East to visualize -- fields where at first the grass died and then the grasshoppers came along and ate up what was left of it, so that you haven't anything there but dirt. There is no vegetation on it. And that is true in a good many parts of the country.

Q We understood yesterday that, tentatively, your plans had been changed and that you might go to the drought area next week.

THE PRESIDENT: Tentatively, no plans have been made. Let me put it the other way around, which is no story at all. A lot of factors enter into it.

Q If you do go, will you visit Iowa and the corn belt?

THE PRESIDENT: It is entirely tentative; I don't know. The situation is changing from day to day. I can't make any plans.

Q Incidentally, some of my relatives, my family out in Iowa tell me there is a first-class drought in that corn region now. There is no need of relief because the people have bank accounts but, this year, the crops are gone.

THE PRESIDENT: And in certain other areas, like the Dakotas, things have been taken care of and we are through now, such as taking out the cattle. That has been done since about the time I left Washington. They were starting to take them out then and now they are all out.

Q Any politics on this trip, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Certainly not, and it is a very great disservice to Government, as a general proposition, to link up human misery with politics.

Q Can we quote you on that, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q It is --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It is a great disservice to the proper administration of any government to link up human misery with partisan politics.

Q Any reports from Spain, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't had any this morning. The only thing I got yesterday afternoon was what appeared in all papers -- same thing.

Q Any further Navy ships going?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q In that general connection, Mr. President, are you going to revive the European Squadron? There have been dispatches from Washington.

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea. Certainly not in connection with the present scene of trouble because practically all nations have got ships along those coasts. The ships are taking off the nationals of any country that want to go out and there is pretty good cooperation between them.

Q Mr. President, can you elaborate on Chairman Farley's statement yesterday that you had O.K'd plans for an aggressive campaign from now until the eighth of November?

THE PRESIDENT: Fred (Storm), I don't think they put it just that way. They told me yesterday of plans for an aggressive campaign.

Q He told us you had approved those plans. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, I was on the listening end of it; that is all.

Q He gave us the clear impression that while you were listening you apparently nodded. (Laughter).

Q Does the Federal Reserve Board have any connection with the drought or relief situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q I just wondered, Mr. Davis being a member of the Board.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, in the sense that a drought situation as widespread as this does cause a shift in demand for bank credit over a very large area. Well, just for example, in an ordinary and normal harvester year in the wheat area, all the banks of the country in all the Federal Reserve districts know that funds have to move into the wheat area to finance the harvesting of the crop. Now, of course, where you have only a half crop or a third of a crop, those movements from the other Federal Reserve districts do not take place to the same degree as they would in a normal year and the same thing is true in the corn belt. Of course, the corn belt is not going to be as large a percentage of failure, we hope, but in the next ten days or two weeks -- by the fifteenth of August -- we ought to know the final prospects on the corn crop. We don't know yet.

Q Do you expect to name the members of the Maritime Board shortly?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't done a thing about it. I will probably get down to the bottom of the wooden box in the course of the next two days.

Q Have you any other appointments coming up?

THE PRESIDENT: There will be various people coming from Washington all the time.

Q I mean appointments to Federal positions?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, George (Durno); I haven't even looked at the list.

MR. McINTYRE: You have a good many, sir.

Q Comptroller General, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and several Federal judges.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't looked at them at all.

Q Have you any callers this afternoon we ought to know about?

THE PRESIDENT: There will be people from Washington almost every day, and from other parts. Regular routine. In other words, I am spending the morning, every morning, as I do at the White House.

Q Are you receiving routine reports?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And European reports?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any new methods of relief in the drought section since you have ordered all this work done?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. There haven't been any new methods suggested.

Q There were reports from Washington yesterday that the Government

was considering lowering the tariff on wheat and corn?

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't the Secretary of Agriculture say anything on that?

Q He said it was not discussed yesterday.

Q When will the sailors bring the boat back to Boston?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. The kids left the other day and we haven't heard a peep from them. We don't know where they are.

Q Probably spanking the jib boom.

Q The crowd (from Washington) just left. We are the only ones in this morning, I take it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q To put a personal note into this Conference, every one up here found a wife waiting for him and we are wondering about our personal arrangements. Do you think there is any possibility of coming back here from Washington after your stay there?

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you off the record. George Dern is really sick; really awfully ill and we don't know his condition for the next two or three days. So, I am keeping things in more or less abeyance until we know something about poor old George. That is the first consideration.

The other relates to whether I would shift and go out West a little bit earlier and come back here a little later, or whether I would carry through the original plan of spending the beginning of next week in Washington and then going out to the flood area, and then coming back here for the week of Saturday ---- getting back here the fifteenth and staying for Franklin, Junior's birthday on the seventeenth, because we are going to have all the

pictures taken on the cruise shown up here by Ross McIntire and the rest of them, including the pictures of the whiskers, et cetera. Of course, if I go out West before then, it means the elimination of the birthday party.

I ought to know, I should think, by Thursday or Friday.

Q Of course that is plenty of time. With us it is a problem of whether to check the wives in New York, pending our return, and all that sort of thing.

Q (Mrs. Herrick) Or checking the husbands. (Laughter)

Q I am sorry.

Q Is the Secretary (Dern) in the hospital?

THE PRESIDENT: Walter Reed. He has been there for some time.

MR. EARLY: Would you consider this as a suggestion? The story of Dern's illness will be broken anyway. Let the newspapermen here check with their Washington offices and then they can write a little follow-up from here, if the President approves, saying that is another contingency the President is considering in connection with his future plans. Let the story come from Washington first.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q I wonder if you would talk for a few minutes on a long-term program for preventing this drought?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to until I get this Committee that Morris Cooke is the head of. It is starting in a week or ten days.

MR. EARLY: They are holding meetings now.

THE PRESIDENT: They are holding meetings now but are starting about the twelfth or fifteenth of August on an automobile trip that

will take them from Texas and up through the Panhandle and Kansas and Nebraska and up to the Dakotas and Minnesota, which is the line, starting in what we call the "southern dust bowl" and ending in the "northern dust bowl." And, of course, in a period like this, the two come pretty close to tying up together so that, instead of being a "bowl" it is a strip.

That is called "The Great Plains Drought Committee" and of course they are studying it from every angle, all based on the long-term approach. I am waiting for a report from them. If I defer the trip a little I will probably meet with them somewhere out there.

And, of course, on that Committee they have the benefit of all the researches that were made by the National Resources Committee, which has everybody connected with it. It is Soil Erosion, Army Engineers, Reforestation, Upstream Engineering, et cetera and so on -- Reclamation -- and this Committee has the benefit of all those studies.

MR. EARLY: A good many of the states in the Great Plains area are appointing committees to confer with the Federal Committee.

Q Would you like to say something for the local (Poughkeepsie) papers on relaxation, etc.?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think the only thing you could put is that I had this particular visit and during the balance of the summer, when I am here I will be carrying on the normal work just as if I was in the White House. And, in the meantime, the White House is in a very much torn-up condition. I wish you could see some of the photographs of what they found when they went in under

the floors. An awfully dangerous thing -- exposed wires without any piping or anything like that.

Q May I ask if you have any opinion or anything you would like to say concerning the (Dutchess) County ticket in the next --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't think so. Of course, as you know, there is a fairly definite rule which I have always observed and that is to take part in no primary -- no local contest, no state contest, except when it comes to my own State I am interested in the State ticket and when it comes to my own Congressional district, and only in my own, I am interested in my own county and township. They are the only exceptions to the general rule of non-participation.

Q I see that there is a plate on that chair.

THE PRESIDENT: That is the only graft that the Governor of the State of New York gets. He gets the chair that he sat in for two years. This (indicating) is the first two years and that (indicating another chair) is the second two years, only Miss LeHand has lost the plate for the second two years and we think it is in Washington. We are going to have it put on when found.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.