

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #344,
Executive Offices of the White House,
February 12, 1937, 10.47 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: As they used to say when we had a joint session of the Legislature in Albany twenty-five years ago, the old Lieutenant Governor would be there on the rostrum and in would come the Senate -- "The Senate will take their accustomed seats on the floor." (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any important news except that I am about to sign the Joint Resolution authorizing the President to invite the Pan-American republics and the Dominion of Canada to participate in the proposed Greater Texas-Pan-American Exposition. I think that is all.

Q Where is that to be held?

THE PRESIDENT: In Texas.

Q I mean, what point?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't say that.

Q Have you received a report from the committee on farm tenancy?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, there is going to be a message to Congress on that.

Q Have you signed Senator Robinson's resolution appointing a committee to study the location of an auditorium?

THE PRESIDENT: That has not come. Has it passed?

Q I think it is at the White House. Can you explain about that? There seems to be a bit of confusion after talking to the other members yesterday. They have no objection to the

auditorium.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that would be all right.

Q Get the auditorium first?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh -- (laughter) careful, Russ (Young), you are leading me on.

Q Can you explain where they are in your mind as to their importance?

THE PRESIDENT: That is what the committee is to give us a recommendation on. As a matter of fact, on the Thomas Jefferson one I always thought it was pretty clear that the Congress would want to have a specific and special memorial to Thomas Jefferson. Of course, if we want at some later date, if we have a nice auditorium here, to call it a Jefferson Memorial, that is so much to the good.

Q Can you tell us when the message will go up on the farm tenancy bill?

THE PRESIDENT: As soon as I write it. I will write it over the week end. I have two messages, crop insurance and farm tenancy.

Q What do you think of the strike settlement?

THE PRESIDENT: I am very, very happy that Governor Murphy did such a perfectly splendid job.

Q Would you like to give your comment to America on the sit-down strike in labor controversies?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you tell us what the Senators have been telling you about your Judiciary reform bill?

THE PRESIDENT: You don't want to be here all day, do you? (Laughter)

Q Are you surprised at the reaction to your Judiciary bill?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on which paper you read. (Laughter)

No, the only thing that I think it would be proper to talk about at this time -- of course, I naturally cannot talk and won't talk about current developments here or on the Hill, that is obvious -- but just as background for you and only as background, I think it might be useful to tell you that this particular message, which I think a week ago today took most people by surprise, dates back over about a year and a half, a little over a year and a half, in fact, since the NRA decision, because at that time it became perfectly clear that there were certain social economic things that had to be done in the nation and a sincere attempt was made by the Congress to carry out social economic legislation in the belief that the results could not be obtained merely by different state enactments, and that those subjects were not only national in their scope but were within the contemplation of the Constitution. From that time on most of you have written stories and everybody in Washington has had a happy thought, and the happy thoughts of what to do, starting after May, 1935, ran literally into the thousands.

This past summer -- going further back than that, for at least a year, there have been a lot of people sorting all those different suggestions and trying to formulate some practical way, in view of the decisions, of arriving at results that seemed not only necessary for the country but very much demanded by the country. Last spring those studies began to take rather definite

form.

The studies were continued during the summer and autumn. Right after the election -- I think I came back here the Friday after election -- I think it was within the next two or three days and before I left for South America, I asked two people to put down the result of these studies in black and white. The two people were the Attorney General and the Solicitor General and nobody else. When I got back from the South American cruise -- the easiest way of putting it is this: They had listed all of the suggestions that had been made over a period of a year and a half into several categories. The more we studied the categories between the fifteenth of December and about two weeks ago, the more we came to the conclusion that a process of elimination had to be applied on two grounds. The first ground was the question of time and, on the question of time, we eliminated consideration of constitutional amendments, particularly because there were so many different kinds of constitutional amendments that were possible that it would have been extremely difficult, even for people who had the same objective in mind, to arrive at an agreement on the actual language.

Then, on constitutional amendments, the second consideration was that not only in history but from the practical present day point of view it is not a very difficult trick, over a period of three or four years, to present ratification in thirteen states. It is a comparatively simple thing to do if there is thoroughly skilled and organized opposition directed at the point of least resistance.

Therefore, we came down to the other category, which was legislation. There again, a great many of the proposals that had been made were eliminated because of the fact that they were of doubtful constitutionality. Then, to use a simple example, the proposal for legislative action calling for a unanimous decision or an eight to two decision in the Supreme Court or a unanimous decision in a Circuit Court of Appeals, where there is more than one judge. In other words, going back to the fundamentals of the commonwealth, it is a great question as to whether any lawyers, no matter how much they may want very necessary and very immediate social and economic reforms, if they were on the Supreme Court themselves, as to whether they would hold constitutional a law providing for a unanimous decision or an eight to two decision or anything of that kind. In other words, they would go way back on the constitutional law and might very easily say, "What was in mind in 1787 in regard to a decision?" Obviously, there is the background of three or four hundred years of English common law, which was the only known body of precedents in 1787. From the days of Queen Elizabeth or Henry the Eighth, for all we know, the rule of the old English common law had been that the majority of a court could determine the action of that court.

So, by a process of elimination, we came down to an action which was of undoubted constitutionality.

At the same time, remembering all the progress of the studies during the past year, every approach to the problem of legislation and the constitutionality of laws brought in the

factor of other Federal courts besides the Supreme Court.

It became more and more a question of the Federal Judiciary as a whole.

Well, that is the easiest way of putting the background of the origin of the message of a week ago. There was nothing mysterious about it. The three people who worked on it were the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and myself.

Q Was it a composite? It was not one man's idea?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it was a process of evolution, arrived at over a long period of time.

Q In your message, you said something about the danger of serious consequences that might result from an amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I did not say so.

Q In the very last paragraph?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better get the paragraph. You haven't quoted quite right. You had better read it.

Q Is the plan for disposition of power at Bonneville Dam ready?

THE PRESIDENT: That will be ready after I have had a conference.

The report of that special committee, the informal committee, I have got that on my desk and I am having down, maybe over the week end and maybe at the beginning of the week, the Senators and, I think, the members of the House also, from Washington, Oregon and Idaho in relation to the proposed legislation which is, in general, in line with Senator McNary's bill of last year. There are some differences, but not a great many, and the legislation proposed would tie in very nicely with any subsequent legislation in relation to the regional power

districts that I talked about the other day.

Q Have you received any information about the coast air bases?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir, I have it.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve has it, I have not.

Q Senator George Norris told me yesterday that his State Supreme Court requires seven to two decisions. Does that have any relation to what you are talking about? His state court cannot declare a state law unconstitutional unless it is five out of seven.

THE PRESIDENT: Probably it is in the Constitution of Nebraska.

Q Yes, sir.

Q Does that have any bearing on the Supreme Court of the United States?

THE PRESIDENT: Only this: If it is constitutional in Nebraska, it is constitutional in Nebraska. It can be made constitutional with respect to the Supreme Court, but only by amendment.

Q Does the fact that you propose this plan for judiciary reform bar the way to the possibility of proposing a constitutional amendment later on?

THE PRESIDENT: -Now you are getting a little bit into the "iffy" realm.

Q Have you designated or are you going to designate soon an Under Secretary of State?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Are you considering transfers, sir, among the diplomats abroad? We have a number of them in town now with rather wistful expressions. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: The only trouble is that if I say "Yes" I am going to get deluged. Of course, actually at the end of a two or three year period with very few changes, it is obvious that there will be transfers and changes made. I have various papers in the basket making suggestions. Nothing further has been done. The Secretary of State is coming in in the course of the next week or two and we will work out quite a number of changes. I haven't any idea of what they will be.

Q Have you received from the Navy and Labor Departments the reports you requested on the Walsh-Healy Act? →

THE PRESIDENT: Have I, Steve?

MR. EARLY: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Not to my knowledge.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #345,
Executive Offices of the White House,
February 16, 1937, 4.10 P.M.

Q Mr. President, could we move Warm Springs up a little bit?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is time to do something. As a matter of fact, I think it would be a fine idea to get off around the eighth of March. We will have a late spring here.

Q Did the Foundation buy the MacPherson Cottage? Maybe we can get that.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but they are having a bad time. They can only provide one cottage for the Press.

Q That is a fine cottage.

THE PRESIDENT: If they can use that one, but I don't know.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news at all. Everything is very quiet and newsless.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about your conference today with former Governor McNutt?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked over old times. (Laughter)

Q Is there anything you can tell us about your conference today with Mr. Kent? (Mr. Fred I. Kent, of New York)

THE PRESIDENT: Which Mr. Kent?

Q Frank?

Q This is Fred, not Frank.

THE PRESIDENT: No, he talked about various things, including hot money. I told him to go over and see Henry Morgenthau and Eccles.

Q What did he have to say on the subject?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he said it wasn't so. (Laughter) I said that is a question of fact, I did not know, I had never handled any of it. (Laughter)

Q Your reference to "hot" money, is that to the influx of foreign money?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Secretary Morgenthau said we should look to you for a story.

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are going on with those conversations at the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board for another week. Didn't he give you that impression?

Q He said something about a meeting tomorrow.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think they have gotten anywhere.

Q Can you tell us what you would do?

THE PRESIDENT: That is something I cannot tell you yet.

Q Any reports on the Walsh-Healey Act?

THE PRESIDENT: Still working on it. Something about s-t-e-a-l and s-t-e-c-l. (Laughter)

Q Will you tell us something about what you and the Vice President were pounding the table so much last night where you were sitting?

THE PRESIDENT: It was one of his stories.

Q You were pretty serious.

Q Will you go on the air with respect to your judiciary program?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not any plans for the air at all.

At about every fourth conference I have to announce that the crop insurance report is going up pretty soon.

(At this point Mrs. Roosevelt came into the President's office, through Miss LeHand's office, and said, "Goodbye.")

THE PRESIDENT: If you get stuck in a snowdrift, please telephone. Whereupon Mrs. Roosevelt said, "Thanks. I will telephone from the snowdrift," (laughter) and left the room.)

THE PRESIDENT: She would, too. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, have you received your report from the committee that studied European cooperatives yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. It has not come in yet, has it, Steve?

MR. EARLY: No, sir; I have not seen it or heard of it arriving.

THE PRESIDENT: Crop insurance, I think, is going up on Thursday.

Q Governor Earle was down here again today in connection with PWA funds for Pennsylvania. Are you going to be able to do anything for him, sir, on the hospital angle of that or any other phases of it?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. They are working on the list at the present time. They have quite a lot of projects. Didn't we talk about it the other day? Pennsylvania is way behind on the general list of PWA projects because they did not have the constitutional authority to go ahead until just recently, so we are going to do everything we can to help them out on it.

Q He said, sir, he would like an answer on that before Tuesday, when he is going to submit a budget. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have not heard from George (Governor Earle) since exactly a quarter before midnight last night when he called me up to tell me the result of the vote

in Harrisburg. He got me just as I was going to sleep.

It is a very dull day. It is going to be a quiet week,
I think.

Q Where is Mrs. Roosevelt going, to Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: No, she is going up to the Cornell Week. She does
every year.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, sir.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #346,
Executive Offices of the White House,
February 19, 1937, 10.50 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Subject to the regular release after it has actually been delivered to the Senate, and you cannot use it until then, I am withdrawing the nomination of Governor Winant for the Social Security Board and nominating Murray Latimer in his place, and Steve will have some letters for you outside about the time you get through. Governor Winant, I think, will be doing some very necessary personal things for a while and will be back in the Government service, I hope, fairly soon.

Q Same position, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No; that is a difficult question. As you know, Murray Latimer has been head of the Railroad Retirement Board. They expect to have some news for the press, I think, in a few days, and I think it will be very good news. It is an agreement between the railroads and the Labor Brotherhood but I cannot tell you anything more about it than that. I don't think there is anything else.

Q Have you reached any solution of the appointment to fill the two vacancies on the Circuit bench in the Chicago district?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Are you familiar with the recommendations made by the University of Pittsburgh recently for the appointment of a fact finding commission to study public policy with reference to the pricing practices in the steel industry?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q It is considerably broader, of course, than the Walsh-Healey Act. It goes into the whole question.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but I have not heard of that. Who was it that sent it?

Q It was a published report, published by the Business Research of this University.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not see it. See if you can dig it up, Steve.

Q Is the Government considering reopening the Government wartime arsenal at Charleston?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. That was started as an armor plate plant when I was Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and it is a very excellent location so far as any kind of steel goes and has excellent buildings on it. Of course, during the ten or twelve years after the war a good part of the machinery was sold or scrapped. What is left is primarily armor plate machinery but if it were opened for any other purpose the plant would have to be rebuilt.

Q Was that plant, sir, ever equipped to make armor plate steel?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it was. As I remember it it was only armor plate. Whether the processes for making armor plate are the same as those for structural steel, I don't know. But it would have to be substantially rebuilt.

Q But the property is in possession of the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: You bet it is. People tried to buy it in the last two or three years but I never would sell it. I thought it was worth holding on to. There was a real estate development wanted

to buy it.

Q Will you tell us about your recent conference with various groups and Senators?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q Mr. President, do you care to discuss the possibility that we may match the new British program of construction?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not talked to anybody about it, literally nobody, except that I did talk to old Commodore Marvin McIntyre.

Q Did you and the Commodore reach any conclusions on the subject?

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we did. It is all right, they were very good conclusions.

Q In talking to Mr. Edison yesterday, many of us got the impression that they were facing a situation where they would have to stop work in the Navy Yards pretty soon.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we have to do something about getting steel in the next few weeks.

Q Do you know what it would be?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Would it be by legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; we are still talking about it.

Q Do you favor the principle of the Walsh-Healey Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I favor very, very distinctly the provisions for labor in the Walsh-Healey Bill. I would like to see them applied to industry all over the United States. If you will read the five provisions, A, B, C, D and E -- they are fine.

Q Mr. President, what are your plans regarding President Quezon, who will be here in a couple of days?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we will have conferences here and at the State Department, and then we are having a luncheon in his honor -- I think it is the second or third of March.

Q Mr. President, anything to be said about conferences with Treasury experts on foreign security holdings?

THE PRESIDENT: No; they are still working on it.

Q Secretary Roper indicated yesterday that you were going to do something pretty soon about the Maritime Commission -- a permanent appointment?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. (Laughter) You will be right some day. It is all right.

Q I hope so.

Q Anything from Annapolis about your investigations of James L. Johnston, Jr., and his resignation?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there are quite a number that have been investigated, and not just one. There are quite a number. I suppose there will be a report on it today. In other words, it is merely a recheck to see whether there were any valid reasons for retaining any of the 135 youngsters from different classes who have not come up to standard on one or more counts.

Q Is that report coming to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; I will know about it. It does not come to me for approval because it is under a statute.

Q Is it made public?

THE PRESIDENT: There is no reason why it should not be made public,

as long as you include all of the 135.

Q Would you care to say anything about the increasing of the American naval program above our present program in relation to the new British program?

THE PRESIDENT: As I said, the only person I talked to, literally, is Commodore McIntyre, nobody else.

Q Can you tell us, perhaps in the abstract, to what extent you feel our naval construction program should be on account of what Great Britain is doing?

THE PRESIDENT: Based on adequate national defense.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: It is a very dull day. I don't see why we should not put the lid on over Saturday and Sunday. There may be some people coming down to see me tomorrow or Sunday but Steve (Early) will tell you.

f

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #347,
Executive Offices of the White House,
February 23, 1937, 4.05 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I was just showing the Dean (Mr. Young) my bill which has just come in for 26,000 trees which are going to be planted next month.

Q Spruce trees, aren't they?

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, I am practising what I preach.

Q Are these the Christmas trees?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. 23,000 Norway spruce, 2,000 balsam firs and 1,000 Douglas firs. That is experimental. That is an awful lot of trees.

Q Those are the ordinary Santa Claus trees?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. They are on another ten acres of waste land. That is stopping erosion.

Q You did not tell us the amount of the bill.

THE PRESIDENT: \$130.00.

Q Did you say, sir, whether they are to be planted in Georgia or in New York?

THE PRESIDENT: At Hyde Park.

Q \$130.00 for all of them?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, \$5.00 a thousand.

Q Are they seedlings?

THE PRESIDENT: They call them three-year old transplants. In other words, they have been transplanted once already from the original bed.

Q Do you get them from the State Conservation Department?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You had the others down at Valkill?

THE PRESIDENT: In back of the cottage, yes.

Outside of that I don't think there is any news at all.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the rumor, which I understand is going around, that Mr. Bullitt may return from Paris to become Under Secretary of State?

THE PRESIDENT: He is going to be here about eleven days and will then go back to Paris.

Q Very soon the terms of District Attorneys, Revenue Collectors expire. Are you going to reappoint them generally, or are they going to continue in office permanently?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not even talked to anybody about it. They begin expiring the end of March, don't they? I mean, their terms begin to expire? (Laughter)

Q I realize you know how it is that your name is misused during the four years you have experienced it. Have you any comment on the C. I. O. use of your name in soliciting members?

THE PRESIDENT: The only way I can talk about that is off the record and "off the record" means, of course, confidential. Don't make a face at me, it is true.

Naturally, I never heard of this thing at all. I still do not know who they were referring to. They may have been referring to their own president and they may have been referring to me. I don't know who they are referring to. It means if I say anything for the record that somebody will not write a negative story but an affirmative story. They will say, "The

President repudiates" or words to that effect. Now how in blazes can I repudiate something that I don't know whether I was the fellow referred to? Therefore it has got to be off the record. I cannot say anything one way or the other. All I know is what I read in the papers. Of course nothing came from here.

Q There was an interview with the man who was supposed to be responsible for that the other day and he said they assumed that that was all right in view of your advocacy of the Wagner Labor Relations Act and the general stand on labor.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there are a lot of people, including writers, who assume things. The only thing that is absolutely safe and absolutely sure is to quote from messages I have written or things I have publicly said. That is a pretty safe rule.

Q Mr. President, are you planning to send to Congress soon a message embracing your views on maximum hours and minimum wages legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it is still in the study stage and probably will be for some time longer.

Q The appropriation for the Central Statistical Board was cut out of the independent offices bill. Was that done with your approval?

THE PRESIDENT: We are trying to get it back as soon as we can.

You know the reason we started the Central Statistical Board: All through 1933 and for some time into 1934, before we got the machinery going, it was a perfectly easy thing for anybody to go and get the Federal Reserve Board statistics on something

and compare them with the Comptroller of Currency's statistics or compare them with the Treasury Department statistics and then write a story that the Government figures did not tally, which was perfectly true. In the same way, you could go to the Department of Agriculture and get their statistics and go to the Department of Labor and get theirs, and the things did not tally. The Government was telling six or eight different kinds of stories in a statistical way. At that time there was no coordination whatsoever. I would go ahead and be given a memorandum in the morning from perfectly good statistics, which I assumed were all right, and you boys would come in in the afternoon and I would hand these statistics to you and base what I said on that and the next day some other department would make a liar out of me.

So what we did was to set up a central agency to see to it that if two departments did disagree on their figures that they would be put into a room and told to agree. We did not tell them how to agree. The only thing we did was to tell them that we did have to have the Government departments and the various agencies saying the same thing, saying whatever they thought was the right thing as long as they were not saying two or three different things. Hence the Central Statistical Board. However, in that work, when they find two different departments or agencies that have reached figures that do not jibe with each other because they have been made -- because the figures have been made on different forms of research -- on different formula -- the Central Statistical Board has to do some research into the two different

formulas that have been used in order to give an intelligent answer to the different departments in trying to get them to use the same formula. That is the principal cost of the Central Statistical Board, doing research in order to standardize the formulae of the different agencies of the Government.

Q How do you account for it being cut out?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what happened.

Q Have you seen the report on consumer cooperatives?

THE PRESIDENT: Where is that, Steve?

MR. EARLY: I have not seen it.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it has come in. You mean the trip last summer?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: It did come in and I sent it somewhere; where, I do not know.

MR. EARLY: There were some things you wanted checked up.

Q Is the Warm Springs trip still being considered definitely?

THE PRESIDENT: It looks now as if I will get off to Warm Springs.

The exact date I do not know because I am talking with Budget and Harry Hopkins about the estimate for the 1938 relief appropriation and I am not -- what I would like to do would be to make the preliminary studies of it before I go so that it can be put into shape and be ready for me to transmit to the Congress when I come back from Warm Springs. That process will take about ten or twelve days and I want to do the preliminary work before I leave. I would say, offhand, that we will get away between the eighth and the twelfth of March.

Q Will that include the stop-offs in Charleston and Augusta?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. If I have to defer things, I doubt very much if I can make the stop-offs because I have already got appointments for Warm Springs which cannot be changed.

Q Anything new on the Walsh-Healey controversy?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a peep for three days.

Q Do you plan any further conferences with Mr. McGrady or possibly Mr. Lewis?

THE PRESIDENT: No. They were going to come back and talk to me about the Navy steel problem whenever they were ready and they have not asked to come in yet.

Q With respect to your discussions with Mr. Bell and Mr. Hopkins, can you give us any information of the size of the 1938 relief figures?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. We haven't gotten to it.

Q Have you and Senator Wagner agreed on the low cost housing bill?

THE PRESIDENT: We have got things at the present time in what might be called the final study stage.

Q Have you the Maritime Commission to the final study stage?

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: S-o-o-n. (Spelling the word out)

Q Have you given any consideration to the new food and drug bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I have been studying the bill that has gone in.

Q What do you think of it?

THE PRESIDENT: The first impression is that it weakens the District law of thirty-two years ago instead of strengthening it.

Q Do you expect to make any recommendation about it?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, sometimes I adopt a pernicious practice of tearing down instead of building up. It is very rare on my part.

Q Can you tell us anything regarding Mr. Bullitt's speech in Paris yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not seen it.

Q I merely wanted to ask you if the speech is important. It is alleged that the speech was drafted, read to you on the telephone, sent to the State Department textually and then delivered. I would like to have your point of view.

THE PRESIDENT: It never came to me and, off the record, I have not even read it in the newspapers.

Q It is not in the papers. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Here is today's mail. I don't think it has even been sent over to me. I am sure it is not. (Examining papers) This is (indicating) about something else. That is about Spain.

Q What about it? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I have not got it at all. They may have it in the State Department.

Q Is Mr. Bullitt returning this week at your request?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes and no. (Laughter) In other words, when he went over he said he thought it would be a good thing to come back and give a report sometime in February or March and he suggested a month ago that he thought it would be a good thing to come back toward the end of February and the State Department said, "Come along." That is all there is. There is no specific reason for his coming over.

Q Is there any specific reason for Mr. Dodd coming over?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know he was. Is he?

Q I don't know. (Laughter)

Q He is just fishing. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the answer to that is, Why is a mouse when it spins? Well, the higher the fewer, or other things like that. That is a gem. It is all right.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #348,
Executive Offices of the White House,
February 26, 1937, 10.35 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that about the only news is that there is a message going up today transmitting -- this is to be held for release until it gets there -- transmitting the Panama Canal Tolls and Vessel Measurement Committee report. That is the Committee which was appointed under the provisions of the Act of April 13, 1936. It is pretty technical. Some of you will want to read it and some of you won't.

Q Will the report be available with the message?

MR. EARLY: It will be available over there. We haven't any copies.

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't any copies -- just the originals.

This thing that Steve will give you has got three provisions for amending of existing legislation at the end. There are three short paragraphs.

Q Do you favor coal legislation this year?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we have to do something about coal.

Q Have you seen that bill? Have you looked at it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q You favor the subject generally?

THE PRESIDENT: Very decidedly.

Q Are you considering making a radio speech on your court program before you go to Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will. I was talking to Steve about it last night. The usual fireside talk on the general state of

the Nation.

Q Including the court?

THE PRESIDENT: Usual broadcast on the state of the Nation.

It will include a great many things, as usual.

Don't get yourselves out on limbs. I think Steve got the ninth of March for it, at 10.30 P.M. Columbia, National, Mutual -- I don't know what else. Usual thing.

Q Half hour, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you tell us anything new on the Navy steel situation following your discussion?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard anything this morning.

I didn't hear anything until yesterday morning when Charlie Edison came in and talked to me about it. There was no news then and I don't know any now.

Q Do you think this new Wagner Housing Bill will do the job of providing low cost housing?

THE PRESIDENT: Still in conference on it.

Q Will you sign the bill on the railway pension tax? I understand it is to be signed today or tomorrow.

MR. EARLY: Not to my knowledge.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it came in but you had better check. I don't know.

Q On housing, the bill has been introduced. Will conferences now relate as to whether the bill should be pushed?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. We have to have housing legislation. We certainly all want housing legislation at this session. They

are still talking about it and I suppose there will be hearings on it, too.

Q You say they are still talking about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Congress -- and they are asking opinions from different Government departments.

Q Have you given any consideration to reviving that old housing committee you had last year?

THE PRESIDENT: No. They are appearing individually, which is practically the same thing.

Q Statements are being printed that radical changes are being made in your plans to reorganize the Executive Branch of the Government. Is that true?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

I haven't discussed it with anybody for three weeks, I think.

Q To return to that fireside talk. You say we will be going out on a limb if we write stories that you may discuss the Supreme Court?

THE PRESIDENT: Not if you write the story that I am going to discuss a good many problems that will affect the state of the Nation. What the talk will be I haven't any idea at the present time, because I haven't written it yet.

Q Is that the day that the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings begin on the Court Reorganization Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Is it?

Q I understand so.

THE PRESIDENT: I guess Steve will have to change the date. (Laughter)
Well, that date was set -- off the record -- with the idea of

getting down to Warm Springs -- doing it the last minute just before we go down. I hope to go the next day.

Q Anything on Louis Brownlow's administration report?

THE PRESIDENT: That is what Russell (Mr. Young) just was asking about. I haven't talked about it for three weeks.

Q The last two weeks there have been several allocations of PWA funds for various states. Does that indicate a change?

THE PRESIDENT: The only allocations made, I understand, were in the two cases we talked about before, Pennsylvania and Louisiana, and two or three comparatively small projects that had been promised two years ago and we were morally bound to put them through. They were schoolhouses in Texas and some kind of a college in North Carolina. They were just one or two things we felt morally obliged to go through with.

Q No change in policy?

THE PRESIDENT: No change.

Q Have you received a protest from New London, Connecticut, demanding that the Federal Government compel the Electric Boat Company --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not that I know of.

Q -- to negotiate with strikers?

THE PRESIDENT: Mac, (Mr. McIntyre) have you seen it?

MR. MCINTYRE: No, sir.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #349,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 2, 1937, 4.05 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news at all. I have been looking at charts of the Texas coast to see where the tarpon run.

Q What season do they run?

THE PRESIDENT: End of April is a very good season.

Q Where will you make your base on that trip -- for Mr. McIntyre?

THE PRESIDENT: At sea. Oh, for Mac? I haven't thought of that.

I wouldn't trust him in New Orleans. (Laughter)

Q Not if we went along?

THE PRESIDENT: No; that would make it worse.

Q Is that definite?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that is just a hope.

Q What boat would you use?

THE PRESIDENT: Something that draws very little water because it is shallow all along.

Q How about the Potomac?

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe, if she can get there.

Q Are you expecting to go to New Orleans?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope to go via New Orleans. Maybe we will drop Mac off there but I don't know.

Q Sounds good.

Q Last Sunday morning there appeared in the New York Times a story --

THE PRESIDENT: Fred (Mr. Essary) is getting good now.

Q Wait until I finish my question. (Laughter)

That story appeared to be either inspired or authorized and if it is in order I would like to know, sir, whether it was either authorized or inspired.

THE PRESIDENT: Fred, off the record, Steve has laid his head on the block and so do I. It won't happen again.

Q That helps some, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that was the first offense in years.

Q I rather thought so; that is why it was a little shocking.

Q Have you decided on the Under Secretary of State, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Or on any of the other vacant diplomatic posts?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We are getting on pretty well. We have talked about it today and are continuing our conversations and I think over the next week or two there will be some announcement regarding the whole list.

Q How about the Maritime Commission? Tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: No; we are getting warm though.

Q Before you go?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. That is a real honest-to-God hope.

Q Has any decision been reached on the CCC program?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I was talking that over with the Steering Committee of the House this morning and pointing out to them that I would like to enlarge the CCC, as they suggested, to another hundred thousand boys, making it four hundred thousand instead of three hundred thousand, but that I could not think of it primarily in terms of boys; unfortunately I have got to think of it in terms of dollars. When we made up the budget

we figured that if we are to come to a reasonable prospect of a balance in the fiscal year 1938 we couldn't spend more than three hundred million dollars for the CCC in that year. Incidentally, that number of three hundred thousand seems to be pretty close to the figure that will take up all the applicants for CCC from the relief rolls or applicants from families that are on the relief rolls. Of course it does mean that some of the camps now in existence will have to close down, but what we are trying to do is only to close those camps where the work as originally planned has been completed. I say "as originally planned" because, of course, once you get a camp in a place, you plan for two or three years of work but when that work is done it is very easy to find another two or three years of work in the same spot. Well, two very good examples of that are the two camps near where I live, one in Staatsburg, New York, where they are working on the State Park, and the other one down in Georgia, that works on the Pine Mountain, and in both of those cases the original work of those camps has been substantially completed. There are a great many others -- several hundred of them.

Q Have you still got the one in Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: That is in the same category.

Q It is a good camp.

Q That inspired story that appeared on Sunday made some mention of your desire to find a method to enforce contracts between capital and labor. I wonder if you could outline how you

propose to accomplish that.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that would take too long a time and I haven't really worked it out for this occasion.

Q The NRA report you sent to the Hill today, will that be followed in the future by any more specific recommendations for legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that brings up that big general subject. I think you can assume that I hope that something will happen in this session.

And by the way, just between us boys and girls, let us try something new for the rest of this year. You know, you invented the word -- I didn't -- "must" legislation, and I have kicked for four years about that "must" legislation. Well, since that Spring of 1933 Session, there has never been any "must" legislation. Why don't you help me out by using a new word -- "ought" legislation. I think it is a more accurate description.

Q Senator Reynolds was in to see you yesterday regarding securing an additional allotment regarding the Smoky Mountain Park. Are you able to give us anything?

THE PRESIDENT: He told me something I had never heard of so I sent out to find out about it.

Q Has there been any way found of giving Mayor Kelly his forty million dollars for digging subways?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he is trying to find out how many relief workers he can put to work if we build them.

Q Is it possible to get the money without matching it?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no.

In other words, you know the general story about PWA money at the present time -- that the grant could reach as high as 45% of the total cost of the project provided that 45% represented people taken off the relief rolls and put to work.

Q But it must be matched?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

Q Is the message on relief for the next fiscal year coming out pretty soon now?

THE PRESIDENT: Soon after I get back from Warm Springs. I would say around the end of March.

Q Coming back to the subway. Philadelphia has some. what are our chances?

THE PRESIDENT: Same problem; New York ought to get one too. In other words, I don't think we will make any different rule for subways. They fall under the general category or principle of schoolhouses or highways or anything else. It is a question of the amount of labor that we can take off relief rolls.

Q Don't the circumstances under which you authorized the loans to Pennsylvania somewhat alter the PWA program?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I don't know of this particular Philadelphia thing. I never heard of it before but if it comes under the general program for the State under this rule of trying to equalize the Pennsylvania situation because of their constitutional problems, why it is all right -- as long as it falls under that exception rule for Pennsylvania and Louisiana.

Q Do you care to comment on the telegram of the six Governors on relief?

THE PRESIDENT: They are coming down to lunch with me on Saturday.

Q Mr. President, the CIO - United States Steel negotiations opened yesterday. In that connection, has there been any report or any hope for early settlement on the Walsh-Healey difficulties?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a thing about it since I read the papers this morning. I haven't heard anything from the Navy Department or Labor on it. I hope it will.

Q Mr. President, is there any connection between Myron C. Taylor's visit at the White House a couple of months ago and the introduction of the forty-hour week in the steel industry?

THE PRESIDENT: No; not any more than the fact that Myron Taylor and I, whenever we see each other, talk about general problems affecting national welfare.

Q Can you tell us about housing at all in view of your conference with Senator Wagner? Can you give us any idea of how the housing program is coming along?

THE PRESIDENT: When they came in this morning I sent them all into the Cabinet Room to talk over with the Treasury the problem of financing housing. I told them not to come out until they had reached an agreement. They may be still there.

Q They came out but hadn't reached an agreement. (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us anything about your conference with Lieutenant Governor Price of Virginia?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Just had a nice visit.

Q On this subway business, Mayor Kelly's program also includes

elevated speedways and highways. Would that be confined -- if he can show employment of the relief labor, would that be confined to WPA or would it be possible for a direct grant of PWA?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it would have to be matched; if it comes out of PWA funds it would have to be matched.

Q Is there a possibility of a grant or allocation from Works Progress for such work?

THE PRESIDENT: We are trying not to scramble the two together because it confuses the whole thing. If you do, you get away from the principle not to exceed 45% from the PWA. You see, the PWA fund is intended to help out municipalities that have good public works of their own to do and that have difficulty in financing them, and with this grant it enables them to carry through a lot of things that otherwise they couldn't do. It is really a distinct thing from WPA.

Q Can you tell us anything about taxing to finance the Wagner housing program?

THE PRESIDENT: That is about that same thing we were talking about. What was the question?

Q Are any new taxes contemplated to finance the Wagner Housing Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No. They were talking about that this morning but haven't reported yet. There are a dozen different ways of doing it.

Q Do you contemplate legislation along the lines of the British Trade Union Act for the control of industrial disputes?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; that is a pretty broad question.

Of course we are, naturally, trying to keep in touch with what other nations and states have done in regard to working out legislation for industrial disputes. That is about as far as one can go.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us if in the talks with President Quezon the question of shortening the Commonwealth period has come up?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you give us any idea of what lies behind these conversations?

THE PRESIDENT: The chief thing relates to trade between the Philippines and the United States and with President Quezon I only had a general discussion about the economic relations between the Philippines and the United States. We didn't get down to details at all.

Q Mr. President, can you straighten out for us the apparent conflict between the Cuban Trade Agreement and your proposal for a 75¢ excise tax on sugar?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know it did. But when it comes to a question on sugar I find myself very quickly out of depth. You had better ask the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of State. I don't know.

Q The London papers print the report today that one of your sons, apparently James Roosevelt, is going to the coronation of the British King as a member of the delegation.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a very happy thought. That is news to him and to me.

Q Strike while the iron is hot. (Laughter)

Q In connection with the sweeping reorganization of White House lunches and dinners -- breakfasts and luncheons -- the United Press would like to know what you had for breakfast and luncheon today? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Has the United Press descended to that?

Q They telephoned to me and asked me.

THE PRESIDENT: If all the Press Associations would get together and have a conference with the cook you might get a daily bill-of-fare.

Q I think that is fine but she won't talk, Mr. President.

(Laughter)

MR. OLIVER: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #350,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 5, 1937, 10.55 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news. Mr. Mackenzie King is getting here this afternoon at tea time and spending the evening with me, also the night at the White House. We are having dinner alone together and we are going to sit on the sofa and talk until we both just want to go to bed.

Q Talk about the St. Lawrence Waterway Treaty?

THE PRESIDENT: Talk about everything; all kinds of things -- world affairs.

Q Will he stay longer than tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: No, he is leaving tomorrow morning. He is going to the Canadian Legation tomorrow. I don't know when he is actually leaving Washington.

Q Mr. President, is that (indicating piles of telegrams) your fan mail?

THE PRESIDENT: That is part of it; Steve brought them in.

Q Tell us what it is like.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't looked at it. Steve says it is running about eight to one. I was wrong; seven out of eight are favorable.

Q Favorable to what?

THE PRESIDENT: To what I said last night.

Q The morning comment on your speech -- the question was raised as to when the Court had prevented --

THE PRESIDENT: (Interposing) Well, offhand, read the opinion of

Judge Cox -- wasn't it Cox? -- in the TVA case. Whatever his name was --

Q We are talking about the lower courts.

THE PRESIDENT: What was his name?

Q Gore?

THE PRESIDENT: That's right; Gore.

Q Mr. President, during your present Philippine discussions, do you anticipate that the political as well as the economic phases will come up?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. We haven't had any political questions come up so far. I have seen President Quezon twice; once we lunched here, and we didn't take it up, and the other time was a formal luncheon and we didn't discuss it there.

Everything is quiet. We might as well put the lid on.

We haven't any news except Mackenzie King.

Q How about these Governors tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: That is right; you will have to stand by for that.

Q Has that list of Governors grown since the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Any likelihood of the Maritime Commission being appointed?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably just before I leave.

Q Mr. President, will you tell us what you intend to take up in speaking to the Canadian Prime Minister?

THE PRESIDENT: Everything. Going to talk about North, Central and South America and all the other continents.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference No. 351,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 10, 1937, 4.05 P.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it ought to be clearly understood that I am going off on this trip, not because I want to go or need to go but I am doing it solely at the request of the White House Correspondents' Association. They say they are run ragged. It is all right, I am always doing what I am told to do.

Q How about Commodore McIntyre?

THE PRESIDENT: Outside of that I don't think there is any news at all.

Q The term of Mr. Prall as Chairman of the Communications Commission expires today. I think you have to designate a Chairman.

THE PRESIDENT: I have designated him for one year more.

Q Have you given any thought to a successor of Judge Molyneaux of the Eighth Circuit, who resigned several weeks ago on account of old age? (Laughter)

That is true. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Which is the Eighth Circuit?

Q I think he is away up in the seventies. (Laughter) Oh, you mean the Eighth Circuit?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, which is the Eighth Circuit, what state?

Q Minneapolis, I think he succeeded Judge Bell. Whatever that territory is.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have a vague recollection of a vacancy out there but I don't know.

Q Do you care to say anything about the veto of the Child Labor amendment by the New York Assembly?

THE PRESIDENT: I deeply regret it. That is all I can say.

Q Mr. President, do you think the Pittman Neutrality Bill gives you sufficient discretion to keep the country out of war?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I ought to discuss that bill because it has not yet come up in the House. We have to wait and see what the House does, whether they will pass that bill or their own bill. In other words, it is still in the legislative process. I think I shall have to wait until it gets beyond that process.

Q On neutrality in general, some people still raise the point that none of the bills prevent a large amount of trade to develop, which some experts think might draw us into war anyway, even if it is on a cash basis. What is your comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Except that we are getting very distinctly into the guessworks stage if we do comment on it.

Q Anything you can tell us about your visit with Mackenzie King or, rather, his visit with you?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we talked all around the world.

Q Did you discuss the St. Lawrence Waterway?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we talked about that and the thing is still in the -- what did I call it before? -- it is still in the preliminary study stage.

Q Does that apply also to the so-called "new approach" we have been

discussing?

THE PRESIDENT: New approach to what?

Q After the Treaty had been turned down there was some talk of a new approach to it?

THE PRESIDENT: That is pretty vague. Of course, in taking the thing up, there are a great many different angles and there may be some new angles; you can't tell.

Q I would like to ask you this question, first, if I may: Are you tying up the question of power or beautification of Niagara Falls, or the question of final disposal of questions with respect to Niagara Falls in the St. Lawrence Treaty, if a new one is reached?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you can fairly assume that the problem of Niagara Falls is one of the subjects under preliminary study.

Q Would the scope of the St. Lawrence Treaty include Passamaquoddy?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter) Well, it might, but actually we did not discuss it the other night.

Q Is there any possibility of the negotiations being completed in time to submit the Treaty at this session of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: That I could not tell you yet; I do not know.

Q Did you discuss the Ottawa Trade Agreement with Mr. King?

THE PRESIDENT: Only in a very casual way. We did not go into it at all. I think he talked to the Secretary of State about that.

Q How about the Western Hemisphere business?

THE PRESIDENT: That was one of the things we discussed -- business around the world.

Q Anything else said about it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Did you examine both the Pittman and McReynolds bills?

THE PRESIDENT: Only in general form when they were introduced.

I have not looked at them since that.

Q Are you making any changes in the office of the Secretary of War?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q To return to your Warm Springs trip, can you tell us who will be in your party?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. Of course Mac, and possibly Jimmy. The usual crowd.

Q Mr. President, have you made any further plans for your Texas trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I have been studying the charts a little bit more and am checking up on distances. Away back in 1928 -- this is off the record -- when Mac and Steve and I and Louis Howe were at the Houston convention, Houston was what might be called a somewhat arid place and one night they were asking about it and they were told that under the Texas law the jurisdiction of the state of Texas extended only to the low water mark and that somebody, taking advantage of that, had built a pier out into the Gulf of Mexico about half a mile. One night they put me to bed in Houston and disappeared in a high-powered automobile, Louis and Steve and Mac, and they got back in the small hours of the morning, having been to Galveston. Now Mac has suddenly discovered that he wants to go back to Galveston the end of April and the first week of May and show you the place.

Q Have they still got the pier? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. So you see how these things come about. He decided that New Orleans was somewhat hackneyed and wanted to try Galveston.

Q That means that the base for Mac will be at Galveston instead of New Orleans?

THE PRESIDENT: That means you will have the base on the pier — I mean on the Gulf. (Laughter)

Q I have been asked to ask you just where Chief Justice Hughes wrote that quotation that you used from him last night.

THE PRESIDENT: I could not tell you offhand; I will have to check up on it. If you want, I will get somebody to do it.

Q Any decision on Diplomatic appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think you will get some pretty soon. There have been some decisions but, as usual, as you know, we have to ask for the agreement.

Q Do you contemplate calling a disarmament conference as was suggested in the House during the passage of the Navy Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No; that was a Herald-Tribune story.

Q How about the New York Times story some time ago?

THE PRESIDENT: That was a long time ago; that was about a year ago.

Q How about that one?

THE PRESIDENT: It was about a year ago.

Q Is there to be a message on long range relief policy?

THE PRESIDENT: I imagine so -- Oh, on the long range? I don't know. I don't know how long the range will be. It will be

one year anyway. I imagine it will go up with the estimates, certainly not before the first of April, in the first ten days of April.

I have been so awfully busy getting speeches ready the last week that I have not done a thing about it and I am not going to at Warm Springs.

Q Have you arrived at any estimate of the amount?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What was the nature of the agreement France recently sought through our Treasury Department in respect to fiscal affairs?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that was all given out. I think you got all those facts.

Q Some information was given out with respect to it. I was wondering if it was complete?

THE PRESIDENT: I could not tell you because I did not see it. I knew the fact, that is all.

Q Have you decided on an Under Secretary of State?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet.

Q Do you think you will have any nomination tomorrow, before you go?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe so. By the way, I appointed the Maritime Commission.

Q Have you anything on the District Attorneys and Collectors whose terms expire next month?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not got around to that at all.

Everything is quiet otherwise.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL**Press Conference #352****Warm Springs Foundation, Warm Springs, Ga.****March 17, 1937, 12:15 P. M.**

(The Conference was held in front of the press cottage, the President remaining seated in his car.)

Q This is going to be a slum clearance project. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: This is pretty comfortable, isn't it?

Q Fine accommodations.

THE PRESIDENT: I hear you have an attendant apiece; a valet for each one of you.

Q It takes two for some. (Laughter)

Q We do our own cooking.

THE PRESIDENT: I take it things are going all right; even Mac (Mr. McIntyre) hasn't had a complaint in the last five days.

Q Senator Robinson was heard the other day from Washington advocating your plan for the Court but indicating also that there should be an amendment to the Constitution. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because I haven't seen what he said.

Q Can you tell us anything of your conversations with Ambassador Bullitt on the international situation? Or what points you have discussed?

THE PRESIDENT: This is off the record. You couldn't print it if I did tell you.

Q As a minor detail, have you discussed the proposition to establish a school for diplomacy, a sort of West Point for the Foreign Service in Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we talked about the possibility of that. You know, Wes Disney has a bill?

Q The bill calling for a five million dollar appropriation?

THE PRESIDENT: A proposal for training people for all kinds of Government service.

Q I didn't know it was all-embracing.

THE PRESIDENT: I think his bill is pretty all-inclusive and, of course, what we were talking about beginning a year ago was the possibility of a school more limited than that for the different types of foreign service -- commercial, agricultural and diplomatic.

Q There was a story in the New York Times Sunday saying that the United States was watching developments abroad for an opportune time to introduce the American peace plan.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't read it.

Q Several of us got an inquiry from Binghamton about building of those arch dams in upper New York. They suddenly think you changed your policy, that instead of allowing the CCC to build them, the work has stopped and the Army Engineers are doing it?

THE PRESIDENT: I can tell you from recollection that both the Army Engineers and the CCC people thought it will be a great deal cheaper and quicker to have it done by the Army -- both cheaper and quicker, and I think about two weeks ago they decided to have the Army do it directly instead of CCC.

Q That would be under contract?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Are you going up to Pine Mountain?

THE PRESIDENT: Just as soon as it warms up.

Q Are you really going to take a swim today? (Note: The Press had had the President swimming virtually every day, which was not the fact.)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I really am going to take a swim today.

Q It will be your fourth swim. (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: I told them you crossed them again this morning. They have been talking about a sty. Stick your head out and show them you haven't one.

THE PRESIDENT: It is all gone.

Q How is the farm?

THE PRESIDENT: It is all right.

Q How are "Tug" and "Hop"? (Referring to mules on the President's farm.)

THE PRESIDENT: Fine.

Q Mr. President, will you stop at Birmingham on the way?

THE PRESIDENT: We will be in the station. I will have to make it some other time, not this time.

Q Would you like me to give Mrs. Roosevelt a message?

(One of the reporters returning to Washington.)

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Tell her everything is quiet, as you know.

Q Yes, extremely quiet.

THE PRESIDENT: I can't invent any news.

Q You are getting congratulations on your anniversary?

THE PRESIDENT: Quite a few telegrams coming in. How is the golf going? Gosh that day I was down there I got a glimpse of Phil Pearl's figure. You see, in his regular clothes he is pretty well disguised but in his golf clothes he was sticking.

out all over.

Q (Mr. Pearl) The next time you look it will be down. (Laughter)

Q So far the only person we have known to drive a golf ball under a bridge and out again is Mac. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'll get that swim now and keep you honest.

MR. TROHAN: Thank you, Mr. President.