

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #353

Outside of press cottage,

Warm Springs Foundation, Warm Springs, Ga.

March 23, 1937. 11:30 A. M.

THE PRESIDENT: Not a deuced thing.

Q Going up to the Valley tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q How about the Court thing?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything.

Q Can you tell us anything about the sit-down strike situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing I can say. Of course, I am in touch with it all the time. Let me tell you off the record that the thing doesn't look so good.

Q Can you tell us how you arrived at that?

THE PRESIDENT: Just reading the papers.

Q Can you tell us whether Governor Murphy has been in touch with you?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you that because it would be a long story. In other words, again off the record, I haven't talked to him directly, but have been in touch through Washington.

Q Is that off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because there isn't any news in it.

Q Just in touch?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, in touch but not directly.

Q Can you tell us anything about control of credit?

THE PRESIDENT: What do you mean, "control of credit?"

Q Control of inflation according to you, Secretary Wallace and a few other people?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a long story for the future.

Q Do you think you can get along without any new taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope there won't be any new taxes this session.

Q We have all paid our income taxes. I think Henry has got a lot of money up there.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter) Unfortunately, I am afraid that the returns, according to the Press, were not very much larger than last year.

Q It was smaller. I got married. (Laughter)

Q His wife is supporting him. (Laughter)

Q We don't count expense account income; that is non-taxable.

THE PRESIDENT: I used to work for a paper myself, once.

Q That Harvard Crimson didn't have an expense account, did it?

THE PRESIDENT: I always wished it did.

Q I have a little good news. Kurt Sell sent down a case of bock beer from the German Embassy. He thought you would like it. And he has particularly insisted that you get a bottle personally and I am going to see to it.

THE PRESIDENT: That would be perfectly grand. Those are big bottles. You are being generous.

Q He also sent some bockwurst -- that is little sausages.

THE PRESIDENT: I'd love it and I haven't had bock beer for I don't know how many years.

Q I will send it over to you.

Q Do you plan to go on the air soon?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you plan to answer any of the Court speeches?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The only thing I did this morning was to work on the Texas trip.

Q How about the status of that; have you got it straightened out yet?

THE PRESIDENT: The nearest I have is some time the last week of April.

Q For about two weeks?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And Mac wins out on Galveston?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Ross (Dr. McIntire) and I think it would be better to work it further south and we may put Mac (Mr. McIntyre) in Tampico.

MR. MCINTYRE: That's pretty close to the border.

THE PRESIDENT: Over the border -- you will be in Mexico.

Q They won't let Mac go into Mexico. (Laughter)

Q Do you plan to stop anywhere off the Coast?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't use it because the Texas people won't like it, but it is the worst looking coast I ever saw. There are very few inlets you can even get the Potomac into and there are lots of inlets with 7 and 8 and 9 feet of water which you can't get into.

Q Are you going to take the Potomac?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can we elaborate at all on this Eccles' statement the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: What was that?

Q About credit and things like that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Evolutionary at the present time.

Q Can you tell us whether there will be any more taxes.

THE PRESIDENT: I said I hoped there would not be any more taxes this Session.

Q No need for any?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't say that. (Laughter)

Q Have you got a good statement for the cherry blossoms?

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- don't use it attributing it to me but while writing the story, I would write it a little bit this way: If you go back to last November and December, when you were all guessing on the budget, nobody guessed last November or December that the budget itself would actually be in balance and there was a great deal of surprise in the financial world when we brought out a budget that was in balance on the condition that the relief expenditures did not exceed a billion and a half. In other words, as of last November and December, everybody thought that instead of being overboard -- what was the last budget? -- overboard by a billion and a half as in the current fiscal year, that it would probably run over four or five hundred million. Most of your stories guessed that we would be overboard four or five hundred million. Now we haven't any reason to change that except the possibility of a few things like the Wagner Housing Bill and the Farm Tenancy Bill which might run us a hundred or a hundred and fifty million over the budget.

Q Both or just the Farm Tenancy Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no; both.

Q That is assuming that you keep relief down?

THE PRESIDENT: Now, the other question mark is "What happens on relief?" because I don't know that yet. Taking it by and large, we are inside of what most people's guess was as of last November and December, and when you are running a total budget of around six and three quarter billion, a matter of a hundred or two hundred million isn't a very serious thing.

Q. How about that remark, "inside" -- is that off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: None of it is on the record. It is just a lead on how to run your story. When you have a budget running six and a half or seven billion dollars, a matter of a hundred million is pretty small potatoes whether you actually hit it or not. Then, of course, there is one other factor that ought to be mentioned. These are based on estimated expenditures for the coming fiscal year, which are within the figures of the budget, but, actually, the expenditures never run as high as the appropriations. We always save somewhere between a hundred and two hundred million on the actual expenditures. Therefore, you may on paper show that we will run over in the coming fiscal year whereas, when you tally it a year from now, you will be within the budget.

Q. Have you heard from the Treasury Department whether the income tax returns are up to expectations?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't had any final figures. As of the 18th they were about one hundred and fifty millions shy but they still have to go to the 30th, when they get the final figures.

Q. You are in direct touch with Governor Murphy, are you not?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I am not.

Q When you say that the Wagner Housing Act and the Farm Tenancy Bill may run it up 150 million -- when you say that, may we take it that you are in favor of cutting down the amount of money to be carried on the Wagner Housing Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No, when I talked about expenditures -- in other words, they may authorize a ten year program, and I am talking about the amount that may be usefully spent in the coming fiscal year.

Q You couldn't spend that much.

THE PRESIDENT: A good many people think we can spend more than that.

MR. TROHAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is anything else. See you all at the picnic.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #354,
Kress Hall, Warm Springs Foundation,
Warm Springs, Georgia,
March 24, 1937, about 6.00 P.M.

(This was an impromptu Press Conference following a party given by the office force to the newspapermen in the sitting room at Kress Hall. One of the newspapermen had queried the President as to a report emanating from Washington that he was going to hold a conference of great importance with Congressional leaders immediately upon his return from Warm Springs to Washington. The President was in the midst of his answer to this query when the reporter arrived.)

THE PRESIDENT: that shows why it was impossible to talk to them before I announced the Supreme Court thing. I talked to them and said I would see them over the week end and evidently that started the story.

Q The story was that you were going to have a big conference on Saturday.

Q You will see them individually over the week end?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course I would see Jack (Vice President Garner) and of course I would see the Speaker and of course I would see Joe Robinson, but there would be no particular occasion.

Q From Washington they gather the names of Rayburn, La Follette, Byrnes and Black and Connally.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they may be asking for a conference with me. That is another thing. I have not heard about it.

Q I think that is entirely possible from the queries we have had. Joe Robinson is inclined to say nothing at all about a conference

with you, but he might be inclined to say that if the situation (sit-down strike) did not clear up the Congressional leaders could get together and talk about the situation. In other words, the stories could have come from up there.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so.

Q Another thing, I think the Committee is going to meet on Tuesday.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, again off the record, on this labor thing, naturally it is an Executive thing purely. You could not get through any legislation that could possibly affect this thing inside of two or three weeks and somebody would be dead -- shot, killed, etc., -- or the thing would have been settled in the meantime. Now, what they are trying to do is to butt in on this thing. The thing is going on pretty well in Detroit and it will be settled without bloodshed.

Q I hope you will call me down if I am not in order. You said the other day that it did not look good. Would it be all right to say you are worried?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not a bit worried. On the contrary, my advices indicate that things seem to be going pretty well.

Q Mr. President, would it be all right to say that you are careful about what you are saying?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I would not say I am careful, not at all.

Q Off the record entirely, what legislation could come out of the Federal Government on this situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Very little. Now, that is a practical question and I do not know the answer.

Q Except a reaffirmation of property rights from Congress.

THE PRESIDENT: What do you mean by that?

Q It is an expedient.

THE PRESIDENT: A Resolution by the Congress of the United States that "We still recognize the rights of property"?

As a matter of fact, there isn't anything here. I have no appointments. I will see, in the first four or five days I will see the leaders and between now and the time we leave on Friday I will probably call up Jack Garner and say, "Will you drop in sometime Saturday or Sunday to strike a blow for liberty?" which is literally true.

MR. McINTYRE: This is on the basis of a social party tonight.

THE PRESIDENT: This is on the basis of what has been said and no background at all. It is off the record.

MR. McINTYRE: Striking a blow for liberty and anything else, you cannot put that in the paper.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got a lead for you. Starting about, nearly four years ago, there used to arrive at the White House all manner of gifts and most of them were, I would say, of historical interest. But we did not have room in the White House, having filled up all the spare rooms and the passageways downstairs, so Miss Lehland had a very happy thought that we should start a Roosevelt Museum at Warm Springs. From that time on, every two months there has been sent to Warm Springs a very large case containing all manner of very interesting figures of all kinds, engrossed manuscripts, statues, plaster casts and everything else relating to the Chief Executive.

We have been sending them to Warm Springs now for four years

and all we know is that the Warm Springs Foundation receipts for those things when they get here. Somewhere here there is supposed to be a museum; I have never seen it. Somebody called it Madame Tissaud's Waxworks and somebody else called it the Chamber of Horrors.

Has anybody ever seen it? Where is it? Nobody has ever seen it but there is somewhere around here a museum, or at least some boxes with accumulations of years. Now, go to it. See what happens.

Q That museum was there in the spring of 1933 and then it vanished.

It was torn down when Meriwether Inn vanished.

Q We are all scooped on that.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #355,
In front of Georgia Hall,
Warm Springs Foundation, Warm Springs, Georgia,
March 25, 1937, 5.00 P.M.

Q Mac thought you would have some news, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q Have you heard anything further on the strike?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard anything today at all.

Q How about this conference Senator Robinson said would be held
tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: That is what nobody knows. I haven't heard of it
at all.

Q Will you see them if they want to see you?

THE PRESIDENT: Foolish question No. 3. (Laughter)

Q The CCC boy (referring to the young CCC newspaper reporter who
had interrogated the President during the afternoon) did so
well that Phil (Pearl) wanted to try it.

THE PRESIDENT: He did very well. (Laughter)

Q Maybe he doesn't know he can't quote you.

THE PRESIDENT: I'll bet he does quote me.

Q You don't mind if we do?

THE PRESIDENT: He will do it in the mimeographed monthly.

Q You don't mind if we do?

THE PRESIDENT: Foolish question No. 4. You are doing well today.

Did you talk to any of those people on how they are doing
out there? (Pine Mountain Project)

Q We didn't have a chance to. We noticed they are getting along
all right but we didn't see any livestock.

THE PRESIDENT: You see, they have a cooperative dairy. They have their own pigs and their own chickens.

Q How do you think they are going to get along?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are going to get along all right. They started paying this fall and I think, compared with the rest of the countryside we went through, it is a most amazing thing to see how they are cultivating and how the houses look.

Q What is their chief crop out there?

THE PRESIDENT: That is exactly the point. They just don't have a chief crop. The theory is that they raise all they possibly can of their own food stuffs. They are putting in every kind of a vegetable they can grow and they are doing a tremendous amount of canning. In addition to furnishing canned food for their home consumption, they are canning for the outside market and selling at a profit to themselves through a cooperative.

Q How old is that project?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me see. We started three years ago -- started to buy land then. The first families were moved in a little over a year ago and they have 185 families.

Q They didn't start paying back until this fall?

THE PRESIDENT: Until this fall. Maybe some of the first families started the first of the year, but most of them this fall. And they are supposed to raise most of their own food supplies. They have a cooperative dairy which makes a profit in the heavy milk season but it is mostly for local consumption.

Q They don't raise any cotton?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, they are going to raise perhaps about 80 acres of cotton. They are diversifying on sweet potatoes and cotton; I think they are raising some of their own wheat and grinding it themselves.

Q How about rye?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q They are raising a few children, too.

THE PRESIDENT: Quite a lot of them.

Q How is your farm?

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

Q When this CCC becomes permanent, do you think there is any possibility that the boys who care to do so may, as part of their recreation, take training or rifle drill?

THE PRESIDENT: Not in the camps.

Q That has been brought out several times in editorials.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. No, they have too much else to do. They have a good deal of occupational work and, of course, they have all kinds of courses of instructional work.

Q Suppose they wish to do it instead of playing football?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Then, in tonight's overnight story, we will get you back to Washington and just say you have one engagement? Is that all?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. We haven't heard one blessed thing.

Q Do you expect this group of Governors to come back and see

you next week on this relief thing?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; some time before the message goes in.

Q In the next two or three weeks then?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

By the way, in this other camp where we saw the dam (during the afternoon drive), that is coming on very well. That is to be turned over this summer to the State of Georgia, to this new State Park Commission they have created for the first time.

Q How many acres in that?

THE PRESIDENT: About five thousand, both sides of the mountain, and then they have these cottages which the people will rent for fifty cents a head a night -- some on this side and some on the other side, -- and then they are building a lake on the other side -- you didn't see that. They have more applicants now than they have cottages. That is pretty good, considering that they have not finished.

(Off the record talk about peach brandy, as made locally.)

MR. TROHAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #356,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 30, 1937, 4.00 P.M.

Q I wish this were in front of the Cottage (in Warm Springs).

THE PRESIDENT: Well, how is everybody feeling?

Q Fine.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we got a lot of important financial news
down there. (Laughter)

Q Believe me, that was printed in every paper in the country
except the Wall Street Journal. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: They didn't print it?

Q But they thought it was wonderful and signed my expense ac-
count O. K. My largest item was "entertaining for McIntyre."
(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Now I am learning some new secrets.

Q Mr. President, don't you O. K. any of McIntyre's expense ac-
counts?

THE PRESIDENT: I always check those pretty carefully.

Q You can let him have a few golf balls -- he lost so many.

THE PRESIDENT: That was a grand party down there this year. It
was a real holiday. It is the best holiday I ever had at
Warm Springs because I didn't do one damn thing.

Q You didn't have everybody running in on you. That is the nice
part.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the Warm Springs family says there is no

news whatsoever. I don't think there is any news. You know everything that I know of.

Q We doubt it.

Q Mr. President, do you think the Supreme Court is curing itself?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news on it. To tell you the honest truth, I haven't even had the time to read the opinions. I have the printed opinions on my desk.

Q I have the minority opinion. It is a good one this time.

Q Is it too early to discuss labor policy legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; a good deal.

Q In that connection, do you approve of sitdown as a good strike technique?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news on that. It is too early to discuss labor policy.

Q Will you tell us about your conference with that Agricultural Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I just talked to them about the general aspects of the Farm Tenancy legislation and there are three.

I told them that after looking over the situation in different parts of the country it might be said that there are really three aspects to the farm tenancy problem. The first is the continuation of rehabilitation loans. Of course, most of them go to people who are on land which, after a survey, we believe the farm family can make pay. That runs somewhere around, as I remember it, about 75 million dollars a year. Hitherto that has been taken out of the relief budget, as I remember it.

Then the second phase relates to the purchase of sub-marginal land -- taking that land out of cultivation or putting it into trees or grass.

Then the third phase of it, which I particularly wanted to talk to them about, is the more difficult and, at the same time, I think the fairly important phase of the problem, and that relates to the purchase of land by the Government for two purposes: First, a place to put the families that have been taken off the submarginal land, instead of paying them for the submarginal land and letting them shift for themselves in the hope that they may find another farm. I think we owe a certain duty to the families that are on submarginal land that we buy out, making them move. I think we ought to give them another place to go to. And then there is the other class of people, especially the people who are tenants on the larger farms, who should be given a chance to buy the farm on which they live. That means the subdivision of the larger properties.

Q Would that be compulsory?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. Oh, Heavens, no. None of this is compulsory. Whether the amount is small or as large as proposed in the Jones' Bill -- I think it is fifty million that is proposed for the second two phases, that is, submarginal land and the financing of people on new farms -- whether it should be as high as that or whether the Committee would want to keep it down to a smaller amount on what might be called an experimental basis, I don't think it makes a lot of difference, but I think we ought to work towards the reduction of farm tenancy.

Q Mr. President, do you favor turning the land over to the tenants immediately, or after they have paid 50% or after a period of years such as, say, 20 years?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it makes an awful lot of difference as long as there is protection there against land speculation.

Q Such as a tax as recommended by the Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't care much about what the details or methods are so long as you prevent land speculation.

Q Is that fifty million dollars for the first year or fifty million dollars a year?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think only the first year. I don't know what it will be; maybe only ten million. That depends entirely on the Committee.

Q Does the Committee -- did they indicate they will be able to work out the details of the program this session?

THE PRESIDENT: No; we didn't talk about that at all.

Q Does this plan refer to a particular section of the country or only generally?

THE PRESIDENT: It would be spread very, very thin. Practically speaking, it would be on an experimental basis, an administration basis, because, obviously, if you did it for all the tenant families it would run into the billions.

Q The figures show forty or fifty thousand people a year going off the land.

Q This is the first step?

THE PRESIDENT: Not necessarily.

Q Is consideration to be given to an increased naval program to

meet the British program, or have we abandoned the policy of a navy second to none?

THE PRESIDENT: That hasn't come up.

Q Mr. President, within the last fortnight there has been a change of policy on the part of the Post Office Department toward the right of newspapers to print results of sweepstakes and stories of sweepstakes' winners. Since June of 1933 we have been printing those results under a more liberal policy on the part of the Post Office. While we were in Warm Springs word came out that more stringent regulations are to be put into effect which apply to newspapers. I wonder if you are familiar with that change of policy?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't talked to anybody about it.

Q Would you care to make any comment regarding the proposal advanced by Philippine President Quezon a week or so ago to shorten the Commonwealth period?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a word since I got back. I don't know. All I heard down at Warm Springs -- and I think it has been given out -- the scheme for a joint committee to study the whole problem. I don't think there is anything more than that.

Q Have you given any consideration to the personnel of that committee?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet.

Q Any comment on Senator Glass' speech last night, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't read it and I didn't hear it.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us something about your conference this afternoon? (With Secretary of Labor, et al)

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about everything, including the kitchen stove.

Q Did you include the sit-down strike?

THE PRESIDENT: Everything.

Q Have you named the American delegates to the World Textile Conference leaving here Friday?

THE PRESIDENT: I just did. I put an O. K. on it and it has been sent over to the State Department. They will have to give it out.

Q Do you think state legislation is adequate to take care of and prevent low wages and long hours?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think I have talked on that lots of times.

Q Did you change your mind?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q The Supreme Court decision dealt with minimum wages for women only. Have you expressed an attitude on that or do such laws figure in your program?

THE PRESIDENT: That is women only. I think it should include everybody, men and women -- and children where they are employed and they are still employed in some states.

Q Can you tell us anything about what you plan to take up with the Canadian Governor-General?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, everything, horizontally and perpendicularly, latitude and longitude. Putting it that way, you can't make a mistake.

Q I wonder if you have seen a copy of the wages and hours bill which has been drawn up by Labor Department attorneys?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't know anything about it. I am going to do one thing -- I haven't done it yet -- but I am going to ask the Attorney General for an expression of opinion about what I read in the papers this morning and this afternoon about the District Minimum Wage Bill that was thrown out in the Adkins Decision. I see that somebody said it was now back on the statute books and somebody else said it was not. The first thing is to determine the Attorney General's opinion as to whether it is back on the statute books or not.

Q Does the law have to be reenacted?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Are you familiar with the law?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not familiar with it; I wasn't here at the time.

Q I was going to ask you. It establishes a Board for the administration of a minimum wage for women in the District of Columbia.

That is the brief of it and they think they can go right ahead with it.

THE PRESIDENT: I am going to get an opinion on it and if the law is back on the statute books, we ought to know whether it is back on the statute books and whether it requires amendment or change, or, if it is not on the statute books, then in that case we ought to know that it is not.

Q Would that include men and children also, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. What does the present law include?

Q Just women. I think it includes children too -- women and minors.

THE PRESIDENT: Why not go the whole hog?

Q What do you mean -- men? (Laughter)

I did not mean to be funny about that. Seriously, if you were to recommend a law, would you include men?

THE PRESIDENT: Men and women. It is all right.

Q The issue in the Adkins case, Mr. President, was that women lost their jobs.

THE PRESIDENT: They did? Don't the women want minimum wages?

Q Some do, but not for women only. Most professional women don't for women only. Industrial women do.

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies of the Press?

Q Don't. We are in competition. (Laughter)

Q If you find that the Adkins law is back on the statute books, if you get such an opinion from the Attorney General, would you explore the possibility of having other laws, such as NRA and AAA --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You are getting too "iffy."

Q Are you going to take a cruise this summer? I was wondering; the Sewanna is being reconditioned.

THE PRESIDENT: For Jimmy?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: He didn't tell me he had rented it. He may have.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #356-A,
(Press Conference of Lord Tweedsmuir,
Governor-General of Canada, on the
occasion of his visit to the White House),
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 31, 1937, 10.10 A.M.

(Mr. J. Russell Young introduced all of the members of the Press
to Lord Tweedsmuir.)

THE PRESIDENT: I can introduce the Governor-General as an old news-
paperman, which he was, so he belongs to the fraternity. Of
course, during the war, as you know, he was the head of the press
section in France and got to know all of the older generation who
were there during the war. So, being a fellow newspaperman, treat
him gently.

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: It is very good of you to give me the chance of meet-
ing some of my older colleagues. I am very sorry that I cannot
say anything about public affairs because a Governor-General has
no politics. He has no views on anything except his Cabinet and
Prime Minister. I am delighted to meet you. I wonder if there
is any of the old brigade that was in France in the war?

THE PRESIDENT: At the moment, not.

MR. EARLY: I was there.

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: Were you there? Were you, really? I had the privi-
lege, during the last months of the war, of meeting American
journalists in England three times a week about public affairs
and the state of the war. I told them again and again about af-
fairs that would have blown me out of the war and they never even
hinted in the publicity of things that I asked them to keep quiet.

Do any of you remember a man called Judd Welliver?

Q Yes.

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: Where is he?

Q In Philadelphia.

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: If any of you see Judd will you give him my love?

Q Can you tell us whether there was an opportunity to get in some personal conversation?

THE PRESIDENT: Just a little. You see -- well, the Governor-General cannot officially say anything about Government affairs in Canada. If we both sit on the sofa, we can soliloquize to ourselves and might overhear what the other fellow was saying. (Laughter)

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: It is a very good way of putting it. (Laughter)

Q That is why I said personal conference. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: We expect to have more of them.

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: I apologize for my clothes this morning. This is not my ordinary garb.

Q Isn't this something like an innovation in holding a Press Conference?

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: Yes. I meet all the press men in Canada, of course, but they come to see me privately. A Press Conference is unknown.

Q Apart from very public affairs, would you care to say anything about the relations between the two countries?

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: That is public affairs. Of course I have known the old country for many, many years and this has always been a kind of second fatherland to me. I have known your country a long time so I am not a stranger. I do not suppose there are any of you who know the battlefields about here? We followed every move of Jackson

in the Valley (Shenandoah Valley?) campaign, every one of them.

THE PRESIDENT: I wish, while you are here, you would have time to go over to the Shenandoah Parkway. That starts at Warrenton, just south of here, and it is on top of the Blue Ridge, on this side of the Valley. We have built this roadway up on top of the ridge. It is about 150 miles long now and will eventually be extended all the way down North Carolina to the Smokies.

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: On the ridge?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It is the most beautiful scenic drive we have in this country.

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: I remember the battlefields at Fort Republic.

Q Where is that?

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: Down in the Valley at Fort Republic.

Q Have you read Haskell's letter on Gettysburg?

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: No.

Q You will find it in the Harvard Five-Foot Shelf.

Q Nothing was so silly -- do you think the Americans and English act and think alike?

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: Thank God, they are different. You are never good friends of the people you are too like.

Q After you leave here, sir, are you returning immediately?

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: I have got to get back. The representative of the Emperor of Japan is getting there. He is on his way to the Coronation, and I have to get back. I will spend a day or two in New York and see some of my friends.

Q Thank you, Your Excellency.

LORD TWEEDSMUIR: Thank you very much. You are very kind.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #357,
Executive Offices of the White House,
April 2, 1937, 10.40 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Many happy returns, Russell (J. Russell Young,
1882 -). He is a mere child. He was not born until April.
I was ready to talk and walk when you came into the world.

Q (Mr. Young) I was married in ^[1905?] 1895, same as you.

THE PRESIDENT: I think all of us congratulate Dean Young on
achieving another birthday anniversary. Perhaps the ladies
might like to lead us in singing "Happy Birthday" to you.

(Laughter)

He gets younger every year.

I don't think there is any particular news. Probably
somebody will ask me this, so I will anticipate it. The
relief message, I should say at the present time, will go
up about the 14th -- about a week from next Tuesday, along
in there. Not necessarily Tuesday but I hope to get it up
that week and with the relief message will be a statement
of a recasting of the estimated receipts and expenditures
for this year and for 1938, based on the new information
that has come in since the December forecast.

Q Mr. President, the stories both here and from Europe persist
in the intimation that you are considering some important
move in the international situation, particularly with regard
to disarmament. Can you tell us whether there is any founda-
tion for that?

THE PRESIDENT: I hate to have to say it, but I am afraid that all

of those articles are press inspired. I hate to have to say it, but I am afraid that that is the actual fact. The Secretary of State yesterday answered the same question perfectly categorically and perfectly truthfully and he said -- he made it very definite to you gentlemen in entire candor that Mr. Davis has not gone over to London to enter into any agreement of any kind or even to propose any agreements of any kind outside of his official and well defined connection with the London conference and along with that will be determined later on the question of whether he will go to Geneva the first of May for a meeting of the Armaments Committee. That does not in any sense mean we are making any proposals to anybody or planning to make any proposals to any government or governments for a conference of any kind.

Q Mr. President, there is a story that Mrs. J. Borden Harriman is slated for a diplomatic post?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you anything about it. There have been various suggestions. It is the same old story, one has to get agreements from the foreign governments and there are always leaks on the other side in a great many places that we are asking for such an agreement. I can't tell you more than that because I don't know whether any of the agreements have come through.

Q Getting back to relief which you spoke about at first, do you anticipate that the recasting of the estimated expenditures and receipts will show the financial situation in about the same picture as it was?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you that because I haven't got the figures. They are just starting to work on them. I won't get them until about the end of next week.

Q Have you done anything as yet about an Under Secretary of State?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, no.

Q Will you confer with the five Governors on relief soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I am talking to Governor Lehman on the telephone in about 15 minutes.

Q You expected to bring them back down here after your return?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q On relief, may we ask if there is any determination of the amount to be asked?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that also I cannot tell you until the end of next week or the beginning of the following week. Probably that will be held until the actual message itself.

Q Will this message also state a long range relief policy or has that been drawn up as yet?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Do you still hope you won't need any new taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: I do, at this session. Always put that in, you know, because I don't want somebody next January, if I ask for a change of taxes or new taxes -- to have somebody come back and say, "On April 2nd, 1937, you said you would ask for no new taxes."

Q Have you any comment on the sit-down strikes?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q One question I would like to ask: I don't understand this "agreement" thing you placed such emphasis on. Will it be all right to say that she -- (laughter) that she is being -- that aside from this agreement that she is seriously being considered? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to use your discretion.

Q She is one of our big local (social) leaders. (Laughter)

Q Have you heard something on this subject of minimum wages?

You were going to ask the Attorney General for his opinion.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard from him. We will probably talk about it in Cabinet today.

Q Any decision reached on the Wagner Bill that Secretary Morgenthau is talking about?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard anything about it for four or five days. They are still conferring on it, hoping to find a formula.

Q Can you tell us anything about your conference yesterday with a group of Representatives concerning the continuation of PWA?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I gave them an economic dissertation. I don't see any reason why I should not try to put in words of one syllable what I said to them. Everybody who has been reviewing the existing economic situation is pretty well agreed that the present increase in the production of durable goods is going more rapidly than the production of consumer goods and that that, judging by the past -- going back over thirty or forty years -- does constitute a danger sign. Almost every

time in the past that the curve of durable goods has gone up above the curve of consumer goods, we have run into -- not a depression but a falling off in the production of both consumer and durable goods within the next twelve to eighteen months. Now, that is history and I think almost all economists are agreed on that. Well, that means that we have got to think about the connection of the Government in stepping up the production of durable goods and I have about reached the conclusion that the time has come for the Government, insofar as is possible, to discourage Government expenditures on durable goods and to encourage Government expenditures on consumer goods.

Another way of putting it is this: We need more distribution of national income, not Government expenditures but national income, which would include Government expenditures. We need more expenditures at the bottom and less at the top, because of the fact that expenditures of funds at the bottom goes primarily to people, millions of people, who are the consumers of consumer goods rather than consumers of durable goods.

Just for example, this past -- taking up again the Government end of it -- this past six months or a year we have been buying, inclusive of the Army and Navy contracts, two hundred and fifty million dollars worth of steel. Those are Government purchases. The Government has been purchasing a very large percentage of the total cement output. Of course cement is durable goods. Well, the net result is that we are

coming to the conclusion -- you raised this question in speaking about public works -- that with respect to future expenditures during the coming year of Government money, we want to slow down on things like steel bridges and great permanent structures that use certain materials, the prices of which are going up and up and up.

I am concerned -- we are all concerned -- over the price rise in certain materials that go into durable goods primarily. Well, for example, we all know that there are a great many mines in this country -- copper mines -- that can turn out copper at a profit at five and six cents. Even the high-priced mines, like Anaconda, they can probably make a profit at eight and nine cents. Yet today copper is selling at 17 cents or more, pushing up thereby the prices of all kinds of articles into which copper enters and of course it does enter into a very, very large field of articles of all kinds. Primarily, however, it enters into durable goods articles.

I think it is in line -- this economic situation and the policy of the Government in regard to its own expenditures -- it is in line with what we have been talking about in regard to planning. On public works we have all talked about our old figure of five hundred million dollars. Now, in a time like this, the less we spend on great, permanent public structures like bridges and so forth, and concrete dams, the better it is. At the same time, in taking care of relief and other necessary things like dredging channels and building dirt dams and things of that kind, that is all to the good because that gives a

larger purchasing power for consumer goods, as opposed to durable goods,

Therefore, to wind it up, that was the economic story that I told those gentlemen from the Hill the other day -- yesterday -- that in my judgment the Government ought not to encourage too great purchases of durable goods at the present time -- to slow down on it because they are in an upward spiral which is at least a danger flag, judging by the past.

Q Isn't that somewhat a matter of reversal of conditions? It seems to me that early in 1933 and 1934 not enough durable goods were being purchased.

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. You remember that was the principle thesis of Lew Douglas all through 1933 -- do something to get the durable goods started.

Q Mr. President, on that basis the Wagner program is more or less out except as a blueprint for tomorrow.

THE PRESIDENT: What program?

Q The Wagner housing program.

THE PRESIDENT: Depends a good deal. Of course you and I know, as a practical matter, it is a blueprint in the sense that you cannot -- if the Wagner Bill goes through this year, there won't be a heavy expenditure under it for a year to come. It will take so long to get the various projects put together and started.

Q I wasn't thinking of that so much, Mr. President as of when you were talking away back of having a public works program

ready for next time.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. But when you come to 17-cent copper, you are slowing everything up. Or six dollars a ton increase in steel. Of course people are figuring how much of that increase was necessitated by the wages paid to steel workers.

Q I was going to ask if you thought some of those increases in prices are far above what they should have been.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, copper is an excellent example. I think the Central Statistical Board may have some figures on that. I think that the price increase of ordinary steel was much larger than was justified by the increase in the pay of the workers; it was probably somewhere between twice and three times the amount that went to the workers.

Q Was there any thought to trying to check that?

THE PRESIDENT: I wish you would show me a way of doing it.

Q Doesn't this constant increase in armaments throughout the world have an effect?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course it has; it has a tremendous effect. I haven't got the actual figures but I suppose you can get them. Steel orders that have come to us from Great Britain just in the past month -- I am told they run forty or fifty million dollars. You had better check on that because I don't know that those are the correct figures. That is an amazing thing for us to be sending forty or fifty millions to England, if those figures are correct.

Q Any relationship between that 17-cent price on copper and that 4 cents excise tax?

THE PRESIDENT: None at all.

Q Are you in favor of the revision of that tax?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it makes much difference because the world price is 17 cents. In other words, there would be no imports to this country if there were no tax. It would make no difference if they left it on or took it off.

Q Any significance in the presence at the dinner to the Governor General of Mr. Manly and Mr. Walsh?

THE PRESIDENT: Except that they had been up to meet him in Ottawa. In other words, they are old friends.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference # 358
Executive Offices of the White House,
April 6, 1937, 4:10 P. M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

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

Q Mr. President, are your plans for the Texas trip complete?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no more than they have been before.

Leave -- I don't know -- possibly about the 28th.

Q To be gone about two weeks?

THE PRESIDENT: Gone about two weeks, yes.

Q Mr. President, has there been any discussion of the tax or
tariff on gold imports?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Or the lowering of the price?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Anything you care to say about the sit-down strike?

THE PRESIDENT: Only thing I saw about it was in Mallon's
column or something like that.

Q Anything you can tell us?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no news.

Q Mr. President, on your discussion of earth fill dams last
Friday, will that include Federal funds for the construction
of farm ponds? Is that part of the program?

THE PRESIDENT: That is, of course, part of the way a great many
states can usefully use WPA labor. And not only confined to
those states where we saw them building them last year but to
a great many other states too. The Geological Survey, I think

it was, made a survey of the run-off of water and it is amazing the number of eastern states that would be benefited if they could hold back the water in that way.

Q By the use of these smaller farm ponds or reservoirs?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Have you had an opportunity to study that new report from the Army Engineers on the Florida Ship Canal?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet.

MR. EARLY: You don't get that report, sir. That was merely transmitted.

THE PRESIDENT: It was transmitted, yes. I think we have a copy here. I am going to read it but I haven't got around to it yet.

Q What became of the steel price inquiry you asked the Department of Justice to make?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't ask the Department of Justice to make it.

Q You will recall you referred all that material that Secretary Ickes sent over?

THE PRESIDENT: The Central Statistical Board, I think it was. I think they are studying it.

Q I am not referring to the price structure. Perhaps you may remember that a year or so ago Secretary Ickes had quite a bit to say about collusive bidding -- identical bids -- and at that time a mass of material was sent over to the Justice Department from the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: Glad you reminded me of it. Steve, will you have a check made. I haven't heard of it since you reminded me the last time.

Q On your Texas trip are you going to New Orleans first?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, but Mac (Mr. McIntyre) thinks we are.

Q Yes, let's have one night in New Orleans. (Laughter)

Q The new coal bill practically knocks out Civil Service in that agency, which is apparently in direct conflict with your recommendations in the Reorganization Bill. Do you care to say anything on that subject?

THE PRESIDENT: I think probably it is a perfectly good opportunity. As you know, a great many of these bills establishing new commissions -- new agencies of the Government -- they have taken their personnel in whole or in part out of the Civil Service. In no case has it been on my recommendation. It has been Congressional action, which was wholly within their rights. Of course, as these new agencies are established, I hope that under the Reorganization Bill I will still have the right to cover such portions of the personnel as may be desired under Civil Service.

Q Do you regard it as a deviation of your stated policy for the bill to be passed in such a way that an agency set-up would be almost entirely outside of Civil Service?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because I did not draw the bill.

Q You have the veto power.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but when you come down to it, if you can effect the same objective by a different method without vetoing a bill on that grounds, it seems to be the most practical way of doing it. And it seems to me that under the Reorganization Bill I will have the authority to convert a great many of these

agencies that were not made Civil Service by law, to put them under the Civil Service. As you know, we are doing that steadily with the agencies already created.

Q Mr. President, do you hear of any progress being made by the Reorganization Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I was told this morning that they are getting on very well with their hearings and discussions.

Q Those are closed hearings?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, have you any further comment you care to make on these repeated assertions from abroad that you are contemplating calling an international conference on disarmament, economic problems and other things?

THE PRESIDENT: Only to repeat the comment I used the other day, that nobody dared to print.

Q Namely that they were press inspired reports?

When you said that, did you mean inspired by the press?

THE PRESIDENT: By the press.

Q Our press or the foreign press?

THE PRESIDENT: Our press here and, in large part, the representatives of our press on the other side.

Q Getting back to Reorganization, have you read the Brookings report on the Comptroller General?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I haven't got it. Has it been published?

Q It has been published and the Committees on the Hill have it. One of the recommendations is that you should appoint a Comptroller General at once.

THE PRESIDENT: Without any change from the previous system.

Q Yes, because of policy -- the Acting Comptroller General, they found, does not want to take the responsibility for formulating a new policy.

THE PRESIDENT: I guess we won't do anything about it for a while.

Q Will the relief message go up next week?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so, yes.

Q I hope it won't run afoul of the previous answer, but today is the twentieth century of our entry in the World War. Have you any reflections on the general situation today, in contrast?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I was thinking today how much more peaceful I am than I was on the 6th of April, 1917. As I remember it, I got to bed that particular night about four o'clock in the morning. I spent most of the day in sending telegrams to every ship and every naval station on every ocean and in putting into effect the contracts that we had made in the Navy for various war materials.

I always remember one particular episode: The Navy, at first under Paymaster General Cowie and then under Paymaster General McGowan had started in the previous fall, because they thought that things looked like War, and they had made contracts with every known company for supplies and materials of all kinds from steel down to potatoes that we would need in case of war in the Navy.

About four days after the declaration of War, about the tenth of April, I was sent for by Joe Tumulty to come over here to the White House. I came and there was the President, Barney

Baruch, the Secretary of War and the Chief of Staff. The President said, "Roosevelt, I am very sorry but you, in your zeal, you have cornered the market in a great many essential supplies and you have got to give up 50% of it to the Army." (Laughter)

The Navy did a great job because actually on the 2nd of April, when the President determined on his message to the Congress, and within a few minutes of the time that we got the flash that he was going to the Congress to ask for a declaration of war, we had sent a code telegram to all of these contractors which meant, "Go ahead with that order."

So today I am feeling very peaceful compared with twenty years ago.

Q Mr. President, are your plans for flood control nearing completion now? There are several schemes up on the Hill to create authorities of various sorts, and they seem to have boiled down in the last --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That's it. I am trying to boil them down and see if we can't get them in somewhat orderly shape, which they are not in now.

As you know, there has been a habit -- I suppose it has been in existence forty or fifty years, as far as I know -- on any flood control project or any river or harbor improvement, on any suggestion that has been made either by a committee or by a member of a committee that they would like such and such a river deepened or such and such a harbor dredged out, they have had a habit of sending directly for

a report and recommendation from some Government agency involved. It may be the Reclamation Service, or it may be the Army Engineers or it may be any one of half a dozen different agencies. Then the particular agency so asked has been in the habit, in the past, of sending back their recommendations to the Committee of the Congress, in many cases without even referring it to the head of their own Department. Well, of course, the net result is that you get favorable recommendations from different Government bureaus for perfectly obvious reasons. They would like to do the additional work. That is only human. It is a perfectly natural thing. But there has never been any organization to tie the whole thing in together as part of a national program.

I took up the other day with the Secretary of War and the Chief of Army Engineers many requests that have come down this year in regard to recommendations for different flood control projects. I also took it up with the Secretary of the Interior and got the recommendations from the Reclamation Service. From now on such recommendations will be made, in complete form, by the bureau involved -- that is all right -- but they will come via the Secretary of the department to me. Then, pending the Reorganization Bill -- until that goes through and goes into effect, as I hope it will, until that time -- I will then take the bureau recommendation, which may have on it some comment from the head of

the department, and send it to some appropriate reviewing authority, such, for example, as the National Resources Committee, for their comment. It won't take long, only a matter of a few days. It will then come back to my desk and then I may or may not add my comment and send the whole works up to the committee of the Congress so that they will have a complete picture, starting with the original recommendation of the bureau plus the comments on it all the way through to the responsible planning agency, and in that way I hope we will get a little more order out of it.

Q When you say these will come to you through the secretary, do you mean the Secretary of War?

THE PRESIDENT: Any one of the secretaries. It may be the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Interior.

Q Would this mean taking the Army Engineers out of the picture to some extent?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Their recommendation will go as they make it to the Hill, absolutely. There was a fool editorial about a week ago about how the Army Engineers were going to be taken out of doing any public works. Of course that is crazy -- perfectly silly.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #359,
Executive Offices of the White House,
April 9, 1937, 10.35 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Mr. Early) tells me I know nothing. What do you know?

Q Mr. President, about a week ago you indicated that the prices of copper and of iron and steel were much too high. That thought seems to have extended into the London gold market and gold now seems to be considered too high because the franc and pound, I am told, are going down. There seems to be a lot of agitation for lowering our acceptance price for gold. Can you tell us anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Who is doing the agitating? (Laughter)

Q Danged if I know. I am not.

It started with copper, iron and steel and now it has gotten to gold and silver.

THE PRESIDENT: All I can say is that it is a very interesting statement.

Q Yesterday Senator Lundeen was very mysterious when he went out of here. Can you tell us anything about your conversation with him?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about the world in general and had a very nice time.

Q Nothing specific?

THE PRESIDENT: Literally nothing specific. I hadn't seen Senator Lundeen since the session opened, since he had become a Senator, and I just wanted to say "How do?"

Q Homer Cummings and Richberg were also mysterious as to the nature of their visit.

THE PRESIDENT: That tied up, in short, with the question that somebody asked the other day about that old thing of away back last winter -- identical bids -- and they are going to give me a report in a couple of weeks.

Q In what capacity is Mr. Richberg working?

THE PRESIDENT: He had been working on it.

Q Identical bids from steel companies?

THE PRESIDENT: Different kinds of identical bids.

Q Do you know of any plan to lower the American gold price?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except in the press, and that particular thing, I think, seems to have originated with the foreign press, so that will absolve us.

Q Can you tell us anything now to clarify that situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have nothing to say about it. The Treasury doesn't know anything about it and I don't know anything about it, therefore you can't manufacture a story out of it. It is complete news to us.

Q Mr. President, are you seeing the same Governors about relief in the next day or two?

THE PRESIDENT: This afternoon at 3.30; I think there are four of them coming.

Q Has a date been fixed, sir, for sending up the relief message?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Approximately fixed?

THE PRESIDENT: About the middle of next week. I think I originally

said about the fourteenth, which is Wednesday.

Q Have you reached any tentative figure on relief?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably won't be done until about twenty-four hours before the message goes up.

Q Secretary Morgenthau says we might recast the budget in that message.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. You will remember I talked about that the other day. I said we would probably put in the usual revision of budget estimates that we do every few months. We will do it because this probably will be a fairly long session. Instead of waiting to do it at the end of the session, we will probably do it now.

Q How long do you think the session will last?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't ask me that.

Q When you send up your relief request -- your request for an appropriation, do you expect to say what kind of relief program you will want?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't started to work on the message at all. I have no idea.

Q Has the Navy Department taken up with you their troubles in getting bids on their dry docks? For instance, again yesterday their bids were read over and rejected because of the amount of money they had to spend.

THE PRESIDENT: The rising prices -- if they get a fixed amount as of today it may not be good two months from now. As a matter of fact I have asked the Navy Department to take up the whole subject with me, the design of the dock and everything else. I am

not satisfied with the cost of the dock.

Q When will they do that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, in the next few days.

Q Mr. President, are you speaking of the large or small dry dock?

THE PRESIDENT: Both.

Q In connection with the relief and budget problems, do you see any prospect or any necessity for any new revenue legislation this session?

THE PRESIDENT: The same answer: I do not.

Q Have you developed any further opinion on the Federal Government bearing all the cost of the flood program?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think it is fair to say on that that in the past couple of months there has been a growing feeling that the states ought to be asked to bear the cost of the real estate at least. I think I talked before about some of the problems of the Federal Government in buying land: the question as to the constitutionality, for instance, of condemnation proceedings by the Federal Government, the difficulty of getting reasonable awards in condemnation. It seems far simpler to have the purchasing done by the states in regard to real estate.

I understand, for instance, in New England, the four states involved, because of the very definite insistence by the Federal Government that the law says they have to buy the land for the Connecticut River flood control, that they are beginning to get together.

Q Mr. President, would it be possible to do the actual labor with relief workers on the flood control program?

THE PRESIDENT: Depends entirely on the character. You know, most of our relief problem relates to unskilled labor and where we can use unskilled labor we are going to use it.

Q Exactly a month ago today you sent up to the Senate the nominations for the Maritime Commission. Do you not think it is about time that the Senate acted?

THE PRESIDENT: Do you expect me to comment on the Senate? You will have to ask them up there.

Q Can you tell us anything about the progress of the Railroad Retirement dispute?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a word the last four days. They are still conferring and still trying to work out something.

Q Can you tell us anything -- can you change your mind and tell us anything about your attitude on the sit-down strikes?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news on that.

Q What do you think of the Senate's concurrent resolution on the sit-down strike?

THE PRESIDENT: What about it?

Q Do you have any comment on the policy expressed there?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is there likely to be an announcement soon on the Under Secretary of State?

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

Q How about the I.C.C. vacancies?

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh, I am glad you reminded me. I hadn't thought of it. (Laughter)

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #360,
Executive Offices of the White House,
April 13, 1937, 4.10 P.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: On April seventh, I sent out a letter to the heads of all departments, independent offices and other Government agencies in effect asking them to do what I asked them to do last year, a great deal later last year, which was to cause a survey of their expenditures to be made and their requirements for the balance of the fiscal year. It says:

" * * * * It is apparent at this time that the revenues of the Government for the present fiscal year will be materially less than the amount estimated in my budget message of last January; and, hence, the deficit will be far greater than was anticipated unless there is an immediate curtailment of expenditures.

"You will carefully examine the status of appropriations for your activities with a view to making a substantial saving by eliminating or deferring all expenditures which are not absolutely necessary at this time. You will report to me through the Acting Director of the Budget not later than May 1, 1937, * * * *."

They are supposed to tell me the reduced expenditure and the amount of the estimated savings resulting therefrom. I did the same thing last year, if you will remember, but as I remember it, it was around the end of May and therefore really only affected those June expenditures, the idea being to prevent in the twelfth month of the year people obligating all of the monies they have left. This year we are doing it nearly three months before the end of the year and we therefore expect very much more substantial savings in the actual

expenditures.

Q May we have a copy of the letter, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Steve has it for you outside.

Q Mr. President, in your Message to Congress of January fourth you asked the Judiciary to aid in making democracy successful. Have you any comment on the decision of the Supreme Court?

THE PRESIDENT: Not on the record. All I can tell you for on the record is that of course these opinions are very long and I have only read them over in a very cursory way last night. I have not had a chance to read them with any care and therefore any comment at this time must be withheld.

Off the record, and really off the record and just in the family, I have been chortling all morning, ever since I picked up the papers. I have been having a perfectly grand time and when I picked up one of the papers, the dear old Herald-Tribune, and saw the editorial entitled, "A Great Decision," I harked back, and I got Steve to do a little digging for me and he found just exactly what I thought he would find, and it is a joy. It goes back to -- what is the date of that? -- September, 1935, when a committee of very, very distinguished lawyers calling themselves The National Lawyers' Committee and operating under an organization known as The American Liberty League -- this is all off the record, what are you taking this stuff down for? (Laughter)

Q You may change your mind. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, I won't change my mind; this is off the record.

(Continuing) -- They got a committee to make a very careful analysis of the Wagner Labor Relations Act and they concluded that it was thoroughly and completely unconstitutional. On September 21, 1935, the Herald-Tribune carried a beautiful editorial called, "Thumbs Down on the Wagner Act," citing with complete approval the unanimous opinion of the lawyers' vigilance committee, and saying that it was a splendid opinion and warning the country as to what would happen if an Act like that could possibly be found constitutional. And now, this morning, they come out with "A Great Decision." Well, I have been having more fun. (Laughter)

And I haven't read the Washington Post and I haven't got the Chicago Tribune yet. (Laughter)

Or the Boston Herald. Today is a very, very happy day.

Q Are you going to award any Ashurst medals?

THE PRESIDENT: Any Ashurst medals? Oh, wasn't that grand what he said yesterday? That was pretty cute and it was made right off the bat.

Q The Postmaster General put out a postscript to his speech in Philadelphia tonight in which he makes this observation: "The circumstance that by a single vote the Court sustained the validity of several New Deal measures furnishes no security of permanent liberalism on the high bench." Could we get back on the record far enough to say whether that represents your view?

THE PRESIDENT: I had no idea of what he was going to say but I will speak off the record and tell you what Eddie Roddan said yesterday when he got the gist of the decision. He said, "Well, we

have all been wondering about this 'No Man's Land.' We have been worrying about the future of the country as long as the 'No Man's Land' continued to exist. Well, in the last two days the 'No Man's Land' has been eliminated but see what we have in place of it: We are now in 'Roberts' Land.'"

(Laughter)

Q Was your guess as to what the decisions were going to be better than your guess about the election?

THE PRESIDENT: I never guess on the Supreme Court. (Laughter)

Q Getting back to the central question, will this have any effect on the desire for the Court Reorganization Bill you submitted?

THE PRESIDENT: Let us switch from off the record and I will give you a little bit of background, Ray (Tucker), on the assumption that I am not credited with it in any way. I will simply put it in this way as long as you do not attribute it to me. It is perfectly true, I have had a great many people in yesterday afternoon, last night and today, and they have all been asking the question. In a cursory reading of the majority opinion in the three manufacturing cases -- I am not talking about the two cases that are pretty obviously interstate commerce, one admitted and one implied, the A. P. case -- but in the three manufacturing cases, reading the majority opinion seems to limit the extension of the old doctrine to the three specific cases before the Court, and limiting them also to the one phase of interstate commerce involved, and that is collective bargaining.

Now, these people are coming in and saying to me, "Well, Mr. President, how about other things. Could we in any way tell

from these decisions whether the same extension of judicial policy would be extended to things like child labor, for example, like the reenactment of the old Child Labor Act that was held unconstitutional, or towards a law effecting minimum wages in factories manufacturing goods that go into interstate commerce, or even a law relating to the five-day week or a maximum number of hours per week?" Those are the questions that are being asked and, of course, frankly, I say to them, "Well, what do you think?" "Well," they say, "the Lord only knows!"

In other words, it is only a preliminary reading of opinion on which these people who have been talking to me feel that the reversal, or whatever you choose to call it, applies only to those three specific cases affecting collective bargaining. How far the decision will be extended to other phases of interstate commerce, again they say, "The Lord only knows."

Of course you can draw several conclusions as to what the next step is: Where do we go from here? have we any assurance, and so forth and so on. And I should say -- mind you, this is all background and not to be attributed in any way -- my guess would be that that is the feeling of the average man and woman on the street, "So far, so good, but" and then, perhaps, the old phrase, "So what?" That is about as far as we have got in twenty-four hours, "So what?"

Q You said something about the policy at the outset; you said something about extension of the old doctrine?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I was referring there to the language in the old

Carter Coal Case, about manufacturing, mining and agriculture being purely local issues, which were cited with approval in the Chicago case. Well, that was what we call, generically, the old doctrine and that was, insofar as these three cases were concerned, reversed in yesterday's decision.

Q That was in the first part?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not remember.

Q Mr. Green said he discussed wage and hour legislation with you?

THE PRESIDENT: We did.

Q I wonder if you are going to send a message to the Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Just discussion, that is all.

Q South Trimble was here. Anything to say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Just came down to say hello. He generally comes down once or twice a year to say, "Howdy."

Q The Navy received identical bids for steel on its invitations today and it reminds me of that question to the Attorney General.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not got it back yet. He said about a week ago that he would have it in two weeks.

Q Any comment on the current bids being identical?

THE PRESIDENT: I had not heard about it until you mentioned it.

Q What is the status of the Reorganization Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Still in the hearings stage, I think. I think the Committee is still holding hearings.

Q They stopped them, I think.

THE PRESIDENT: Have they stopped them?

Q No.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the visit of the French Ambassador this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, just talked about all sorts of things; nothing in particular.

Q When does your relief message go up?

(The President did not answer.)

Q Can you tell us anything about your conversation with Mr. Edison, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: That was about oil reserves. We are trying to round out some of the problems with respect to Navy oil reserves.

About the relief message, I cannot get it up this week because the Treasury won't have preliminary figures until Thursday morning and they won't have final figures until Saturday, so I cannot send it up until the beginning of the week.

Q Can you tell us anything about your conference with the Governors last Friday on relief? They conferred with you on the question of WPA. There was Governor Lehman and Governor Benson and LaFollette and all of them.

THE PRESIDENT: The easiest way to answer that is to tell you that I told them that I would do everything possible.

Q It did not look that way. (Laughter)

Q Is there any significance in the fact that your budget recast is going along with your relief recommendations? Is there any indication that there is going to be a cut in relief?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but it is only fair at this particular time to give the Congress the latest information if there has been a substitution. As you all know, there has been some change.

One or two taxes have not come in at all. The railway tax, for instance, I think they were out almost in toto. The gift tax is way down and the income tax is slightly down as of February. Whether it will be down as to the balance of the year, that we will find out on Saturday.

Q When you wrote the letter to the various departments and agencies and said that the deficit will be greater than anticipated, you meant the current fiscal year?

THE PRESIDENT: Just 1937, that is all.

Q Do you contemplate any move to define the responsibility of labor unions, such as incorporation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not discussed it at all, with anybody.

Q Are there any new developments in the Canadian-American Waterway Treaty negotiations?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is anything that has happened. I think they are still working on it.

Q Mr. President, have you any estimate -- you said if the present trend continues that the deficit will be somewhat greater than anticipated. Have you any estimate as to how much greater?

THE PRESIDENT: I won't get that until Saturday.

Q Mr. President, I met Senator Harrison as he came out of Secretary Morgenthau's office and he told me he was going ahead in a few days with the railway labor pension despite the apparent disagreement between the Treasury and the railways and the rail unions. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: How many days ago was that?

Q This was today.

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are pretty close together on it from all I have been hearing.

Q When will the relief message go?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you the exact date.

Q It won't be this week?

THE PRESIDENT: It won't be probably until Tuesday because I won't get these figures until some time on Saturday.

Q Can you tell us anything about the sit-down strike?

THE PRESIDENT: Where?

Q Anywhere? (Laughter)

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.