

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #440
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 8, 1938, 4.04 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I get it on the ticker here that the I. C. C. has handed down its decision. I know nothing except what I read on the ticker. I suppose some time early next week I will have a railroad conference. You see, I am anticipating all your questions.

Q Mr. President, have any new names been added to those invited?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q Mr. President, is the Government going to colonize any more islands in addition to those already selected?

THE PRESIDENT: Ask the State Department. Do you want to be a Colonist?
(Laughter)

Q Have you asked the three TVA directors in for a conference next week?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not next week; this week, Friday morning.

Q All three?

THE PRESIDENT: All three.

Q At the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: Right after I see you, at 11.00 o'clock.

Q All three at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: All three at the same time. If you want something for background, this goes back. It is a long, long story. There have been all of these disagreements and disputes for about a year and finally, last September, this disagreement between the majority

and the minority came to a head in this way: There was an article in the Atlantic Monthly, the September number, if you remember, that the majority of the Commission passed a resolution in regard to the article by the minority member, in effect asking that the allegations impugning the integrity of the majority should either be made good on or withdrawn. That was sent to me and I sent a letter to Dr. Arthur Morgan on the third of September. There is no use in cluttering up the record and giving you the whole letter, but I called his attention to the resolution disavowing such methods in the discussion of TVA problems as injurious to the project and the public interest, and then I go on and I said this to Dr. Arthur Morgan:

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 "Naturally, I am concerned by this and do not think that the matter can properly rest where it is. May I suggest, therefore, that there is a very definite obligation on you either to withdraw what your colleagues believe to be an impugning of their integrity or that you present whatever specific facts you may have, if any, to justify your statements.

"After all, no great constructive work can be carried out if those in charge of the administration of the work feel that their integrity and motives have been challenged by a fellow member. I know that you will agree with me in this."

Well, in reply to that letter I got no reply but Dr. Morgan came to see me about two weeks later on and I said, "It is a pretty serious thing to impugn the motives of your fellow members, their integrity." "Well," he said, "I did not mean it that way. I did not mean to impugn their motives. I have no question as to their personal integrity."

"Well," I said, "for Heaven's sake don't do it again. Go back and see if you cannot work in harmony with your two

fellow members."

Well, that is about all that happened in the fall, but evidently the thing was going on underneath and now it has come to a head in these statements to the public and to the press and on Friday all three members are going to appear before me and I am going to ask that the statements by all of them be justified, if they can justify them, but that I want facts and not opinions. I want nothing but facts.

To give you an illustration of the true inwardness of the situation, I got two telegrams today. One was from New Jersey. It says -- mind you, this is from a person who had absolutely no access to anything except the newspapers -- "Please, Mr. President, you must vindicate Dr. Arthur Morgan." The other one, from Illinois, said, "Please, you must vindicate the majority and not surrender to the power interests."

Now, of course, that kind of public opinion is worth nothing at all because it is not based on any facts. There isn't one of you that has any facts. I haven't either. Let us stick to the facts. That is why we are having this meeting on Friday.

Q What time is the meeting, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: 11.00 o'clock.

Q If they cannot justify the statements they have been making, then what?

THE PRESIDENT: Now you are asking a question before the case has been heard by the court.

Q Do you expect any of them to remain in office?

THE PRESIDENT: That is asking the decision of the court before I have

any evidence.

There you are! Aren't those last two questions absolutely typical? Did you ever know anything to beat it? "What are you going to do before you get the testimony?"

Q How are we going to find out what did go on?

THE PRESIDENT: I am going to ask questions.

Q How will we find out?

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you all about it.

Q When?

THE PRESIDENT: After we get through.

Q Do we have a press conference?

THE PRESIDENT: At half past ten. You will get it, don't worry. You will get the facts.

Q. Mr. President, do you know whether you have power under the TVA Act to call for the resignation or require the resignation of a member of the Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not the faintest idea, not the faintest. In other words, I have not investigated that end. I haven't the faintest idea. I am interested in the facts regarding these allegations, which are of a general nature, both sides.

Q Is Senator Norris going to sit in with you? Has he been invited to sit in with you?

THE PRESIDENT: He has not.

Q Will you have anyone else there besides yourself and the three Commissioners?

THE PRESIDENT: I think Steve (Early) will be here so that he can give you a report on it.

Q There is a wide disparity between the Lea and the McCarran Aviation Bills. I wonder which you consider the Administration bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you because I have seen only one of them. I don't know. I have not seen the McCarran bill. Taking it by and large, Congressman's Lea's bill is in line with the desires of the large majority of the industry and is in line, substantially, with the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Committee. Whether the McCarran bill is the same or not I do not know because I have not seen it.

Q Would you care to amplify the assurance you gave Senator Green yesterday that New England's industries' fears with regard to the Treaty are baseless?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I did not say that to them because I do not know what New England's fears are.

Q He said you had authorized him to say --

THE PRESIDENT: No, not that language. You haven't it right.

Q Will you state it for us?

THE PRESIDENT: New England need not fear that there will be anything in any trade agreement which will seriously cripple any New England industry.

I will give you a parallel case. Do you remember about the shoes? Do you remember what New England said before the Treaty about shoes? That every New England shoe factory would be closed by the Czechoslovakian Agreement?

Q The reports from Boston are that it will be very harmful.

THE PRESIDENT: I just got a copy of a Boston paper and it does not

bear out that statement. It says that the majority of the industries are satisfied. What paper do you represent?

Q The Boston Herald. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No wonder.

Q As I understand it, that affects 1 1/2% of the total number of shoes produced.

THE PRESIDENT: That is right. It depends on the paper you are writing for, largely.

Q Has the Glass Bank Holding Company Bill the support of the Administration?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not read it. Secretary Morgenthau is studying it and is going to talk to me probably in the course of the next couple of weeks. As we understand it, Senator Glass is going on a trip to the Mediterranean and he doesn't want anybody to take the thing up until he gets back. It will take several weeks.

Q Mr. President, complaints have come in from a good many places that the Comptroller of Currency is being quite technical in his examination of banks and in marking slow loans and that that is working in the opposite direction your Administration seems to be headed.

THE PRESIDENT: Have you asked the Comptroller of the Currency for his latest figures from the bank examiners and his percentage of slow loans at the present time?

Q As to the percentage? No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: You had better ask him. That will answer your question.

Q Have you read Professor Arnold's book?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q In that book he ventures the opinion that the Government will create more and more agencies and will probably wind up by being one of the greatest credit organizations in the country. Have you any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Very interesting. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, have you any comment on the report of the Quetico-Superior Committee submitted to you last week?

THE PRESIDENT: I have, and I sent it over yesterday, I think, to the Secretary of State because -- isn't that a matter that involves cooperation with Canada?

Q It does.

THE PRESIDENT: That is right; it is over there now.

Q The New Jersey papers today are carrying a story that you asked for the resignation of William J. Kelly, Internal Revenue Collector.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have not. You had better ask the Treasury Department.

Q Have you heard from that five-day week study yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #441
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 11, 1938, 10.42 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have got anything at all. I saw the Committee on Human Needs and I am having a hearing (referring to TVA Conference) as soon as you people leave.

Q May I ask you then, Sir, if the stories are correct which seem to indicate that you have withdrawn or abandoned your support of the Reorganization Bill? In other words, they say that you would just as soon have Congress adjourn without enacting that bill. Is there anything you can tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I started in 1913 as a member of the Inter-departmental Committee and came to realize the need of reorganization of many of the executive branches of the Federal Government. That is what? -- that is twenty-five years ago. That is twenty-five years ago, yet it has been discussed ever since then, every year or two, every President, Democrat and Republican. Still it has not been done and I am still very much in favor of it, and I hope that we will get something this year. I hope it won't be another twenty-five years of continuation of the present system.

Q Can you explain why it is that some Senators, who say that there are too many Government bureaus, are afraid to abolish some?

THE PRESIDENT: That is one of the mysteries of Washington that has been here since before you and I were born.

Q Will your phosphate message be ready soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Pretty soon, I think.

Q Did you discuss the Whitney case with Chairman Douglas of the SEC?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you any comment on it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, when will your monopoly message go up?

THE PRESIDENT: Pete (Brandt), I do not know. I am working on three or four messages.

Q There will be a monopoly message?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

Q When will the railroad conference be held?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I told Mac (Mr. McIntyre) Monday or Tuesday.

Q I noticed in the original list the name of Senator Truman is included.

THE PRESIDENT: That is right.

Q. He will attend?

THE PRESIDENT: He will.

Q What is the nature of the other messages you are working on?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I cannot tell you.

Q I would like to ask another question about the Reorganization Bill, if I may. You are charged with creating a dictatorship in this bill -- (laughter) -- I have never heard you discuss that.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't think that it needs discussion with any of you people who have come into this room.

Q Mr. President, do you need the permission of Congress to become a dictator? (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, have you anything to say on the action up on the Hill on throwing out the tax on closely held corporations in the Tax Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think only this, which may be of interest to some newspapers: What we are seeking in tax laws is the ending of special privilege where it exists under existing tax laws. In other words, if Mr. A and Mr. B, both in the upper brackets -- both in the higher brackets -- make the same profits with their money, the same amount of dollars, ought not Mr. A and Mr. B, in the upper brackets, to pay the same amount in income taxes to the Government? When you try to get them to pay the same amount, if you find that at the present time they are not paying the same amount, ought that action to be called in the headlines and the leads "punitive"? That is the last word to use. It is a restoration of equality for two people making the same profits. I think that is enough.

Q Mr. President, if that is the purpose of the tax, why is it necessary to raise the tax on whisky? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: The payment of that tax is really a voluntary procedure.

Q You are assuming that one is a partnership and the other is a --

THE PRESIDENT: I am not assuming anything. I am talking about two people whose money makes the same amount of profit in the course of the year. You can go into all kinds of different methods of taxation, the corporate form, the partnership form, the individual

business form but, in the last analysis, the one thing to think about is whether those two people making the same profits with their money, should not pay the same tax.

I may go into this further and cite some cases before I get through, but not today. I am too busy.

Q Is the conference following ours here, the one with the Tennessee Valley Authority directors, to be a Killgenny cat affair or will it be gradually drawn out?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope it won't but I am no prophet.

Q When you said that this statement on taxes may be of some interest to some newspapers, do you possibly have in mind the publishers?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, don't press me. (Laughter)

Q Have you received some proposals from Great Britain for settlement of the so-called controversy over islands in the Pacific?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. I don't think anything has come in.

Q Can you tell us what the status of that situation is?

THE PRESIDENT: It is the same as it was a week ago except that I think one or two islands have been occupied by citizens of the United States since then. (Laughter)

Q Will you release a stenographic report of the TVA Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: Just as fast as we can get it out.

Q A stenographic report?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Do you favor the increase in the whisky tax? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I have not considered it.

Q Mr. President, what steps do you propose to take if the House puts that section back into the law?

THE PRESIDENT: I am just talking principle, that is all.

Q Chairman Vinson of the Naval Affairs Committee is rather intimating that you might call a disarmament conference here.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #442,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 15, 1938, 4.07 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: That was a very good party we had (referring to the White House Correspondents' Dinner).

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: It was perfect. It was a good show, George.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Off the record -- off the record, I said -- and for the benefit of that very small but persistent minority who think that they are living under a dictator in the United States, I call the attention of that little minority to the Washington Times front page, "Newsmen held under Guns as Hitler talks to Austria." (Laughter)

Q That is the way to do it. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid my technique has not improved very much. I don't think I have any news.

Q Mr. President, so far as the United States is concerned, has Austria ceased to exist as an independent nation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have just been talking to the Secretary of State about it. Legally, if there is such a thing as international law, we have had from Austria no announcement through her Minister or otherwise that Austria has ceased to be an independent state. I believe that the Secretary of State has been so informed by the German Ambassador. Further comment unnecessary.

Q Mr. President, I had in mind your letter to the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the Czechoslovakian Trade Treaty, in

which a distinction was drawn between Germany and Austria, as to what the future steps would be.

THE PRESIDENT: I signed it this morning and of course it included the word, "Austria."

Q It can be assumed then that this Government has no intention for the present of withdrawing its Ambassador and Diplomatic Staff from Austria.

THE PRESIDENT: Is that a statement? I think you had better not assume things. You had better talk to the Secretary of State on that.

MR. EARLY: There is no Ambassador there.

Q Minister?

MR. EARLY: No Minister there either.

Q Mr. President, do the events in Europe of last week make any difference in our defense situation?

THE PRESIDENT: None at all -- as recommended by me.

Q We were given to understand that your Railroad Conference this morning got only about half way down the track and is coming back in. Can you tell us how far they got?

THE PRESIDENT: Just about half way down the track. (Laughter) We are going the other half of the way when we come back on Thursday.

Q Chairman Splawn said that you read a statement to them at the beginning of the conference.

THE PRESIDENT: No, he read a statement to me. You have got it just turned around. (Laughter)

Q That wasn't the way I got it.

Q Governor Earle said that during his visit here you wished him good

luck in his Senatorial campaign. Can you add anything to that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter)

Q Can you take anything away from it, Mr. President? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. Just put on it the letters "s-t-e-t."

Q What does that mean? (Laughter)

Q He never worked on a copy desk. (Laughter)

Q Paul McNutt is also here with the Senator. Which one do you like the best? (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us, Mr. President, whether or not the address of Governor McNutt regarding a reexamination of the Philippine independence matter has been brought to your attention at all, or have you any point of view regarding it?

THE PRESIDENT: There is nothing I can say, Fred (Essary), on that. There have been a good many people, as you know, who have felt that there should be a reexamination. After being there for over a year -- I did not read more than the headlines -- I think that Governor McNutt said he thought there were a good many people in the same way who felt there should be a reexamination of it. That does not presage or suggest any immediate examination.

After all, the fact of independence under the existing law may not be completed until 1946. We may none of us be alive at that time. We have plenty of time. It is a perfectly legitimate thing to do, to express the opinion that between now and 1946 there may be a reexamination. I don't think there is any particular news in that statement. Some people think they should, and other people haven't thought of it.

Q Mr. Quezon responded rather quickly to the idea, according to this afternoon's dispatches. He thought, himself, that it would be a desirable thing to reexamine the situation.

THE PRESIDENT: That is about all there is to the story.

Q In opening the Railroad Conference, did you state the scope?

THE PRESIDENT: I said the scope was just as wide as the world. I was perfectly willing to discuss all phases of the railroad problem. Of course there are a great many of them. Oh, I suppose -- as Claude (Mahoney) said, we discussed about half of them this morning. Just as a suggestion, if I were writing the story, I think all that can be said is that we did touch on two or three phases of the problem on which possibly quick action could be got as, for example, the desirability of the continuation of railroad stock holding companies. There seems to be a pretty general agreement that they were not very much in the public interest. We all know some of the troubles that have been caused by them in the past. There were one or two other things, on which action probably could be taken fairly quickly, on which there was substantial agreement, but those matters do not really go to the root of the railroad problem and, as several of the speakers this morning pointed out, it is not merely a railroad problem. It is a transportation problem from the physical operating point of view and, in addition to that, it is a financial problem on which there are a great many schools of thought. On the more basic phases of the railroad problem, it is a question whether it will be possible to get action at this session; on that, I do not know. Or, if we do want recom-

mendations fairly quickly, it is a question as to how we should arrive at the recommendations. That is a thing we will probably discuss Thursday as to the next step to be taken. We haven't got anywhere on it up to the present time.

Q Is it also a labor problem?

THE PRESIDENT: I regard that as one of the resulting phases.

Q Have you discussed reorganization?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is tied up with the problem of ultimate financing of the railroads. It is not an immediate, but ultimate.

When I said the labor problem is one of the minor things, I should also tell you that we were in agreement this morning that if the Government, for example, brought about consolidations by encouraging or legislating, it would mean laying off people by action of the Government and the Government could not then take the position that those people would be merely laid off without any provision for them except the possibility of the relief rolls. Obviously, the Government has to do something where it forces, by its action, people to lose their jobs.

Q Isn't the way usually discussed that they will not fill vacancies?

Isn't that the usual way? Is that what you have been talking about?

THE PRESIDENT: That is one of the ways out but probably not the complete answer.

Q In other words, you are thinking of much broader --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, just take this as an example:

Suppose, through death and disability and old age, only 3%, or

something like that, of the employees would retire at the end of each year. Well, the Government might want to put through consolidations at a faster pace than that.

Q You would take care of them in some way?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q In what way could you take care of them?

THE PRESIDENT: There are all kinds of ways suggested. One of the ways that has been adopted, of course, was that agreement of last year.

Q What agreement was that?

THE PRESIDENT: That was the agreement to take care of people laid off.

Q The dismissal wage?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It was a combination, as I remember it, of dismissal wage -- there was an option in it -- a dismissal wage or annuity pay.

Q On the idea that the railroads are only one subdivision of the transportation problem, does that lead to the ultimate conclusion that transportation by rail, car and water and interstate trucking will ultimately be brought together under one unit or head?

THE PRESIDENT: You are becoming a little too factual at the present time because we haven't got to that. Let me read you one table out of this book that was given to me by Chairman Splawn. It is rather interesting on the transportation problem as a whole, and as far as I know it has never been printed before:

Rail operations in transportation amount to 20% of all of

the transportation of the United States. They include in the definition of rail operations the steam railroads, the electric railways, including their bus operations, the parlor and sleeping car companies and the express companies. There is a total of 19.14 -- call it 20% of the whole.

Then, under the second heading, we have highway operations. They include highway motor trucks, common and contract carriers -- those are the regular business trucks, people in the business of trucking -- publicly owned motor trucks, privately owned motor trucks not for hire -- that is the company truck or the farmer's truck, highway motor buses, common and contract carriers, and school buses. The highway operations account for 75% of all transportation -- 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.

Q Is that on a mileage basis -- what basis?

THE PRESIDENT: That is on the basis of operating expenses, depreciation and taxes of all carriers.

Q Both public and private?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

That was 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ %. Then your third group is waterway operations. Those are the regular and common contract carriers with private terminals, the waterway operations of private carriers, which means the companies that own their own steamships or barges, the maintenance of waterways and operation of public terminals, etc. That totals 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of all transportation.

Then, which amazed me because I thought it would be a great deal bigger, all airway operations amount to one-fifth of 1% of all transportation in the United States. One-fifth of 1%.

And, finally, pipeline operations, fuel oil and gasoline

amount to six-tenths of 1%. That means that airway operations and the pipeline operations, put together, are only eight-tenths of 1%.

MR. EARLY: And no horse and buggy.

THE PRESIDENT: And, as Steve says, no horse and buggy included.

(Laughter)

Q Any separation between private and public on the highways?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Well, as I just said, on the highways, for instance, if you ship by truck through a common carrier from here to Chicago, a trucking company, that is a public company, but if you are in your own business and own your own trucks, those are private trucks and they are not common carriers.

Q Mr. President, Joe Kennedy said that the division for the air ought to be between domestic and foreign.

THE PRESIDENT: This is all domestic. Foreign commerce does not enter into this at all.

Q After you get through with these discussions do you plan a message to the Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, heavens, I haven't any more idea than you have, probably less.

Q Aside from protecting the jobs of people who may be affected by railroad consolidations later on, did the Committee make any recommendations with regard to the proposal for a wage cut now?

THE PRESIDENT: It was not mentioned.

Q Do you think you will be able to clear it up by Thursday?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we will probably get a next step by Thursday.

Q Will they report or --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, or report to the Congress.

Q Does your subdivision in Mr. Splawn's table of highway operations include private passenger automobiles?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is the TVA Conference still on for Friday?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, at 11.00 o'clock.

Q In your speech in Gainesville, do you plan to discuss the business situation at all?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

Q Have you chosen a man to fill the place left vacant by Mr. Hosford of the Coal Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: What about him?

Q He has resigned, we understand.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, he has resigned to take effect -- I have asked him to stay until the thirtieth of April.

Q Have you chosen his successor?

THE PRESIDENT: No, heavens, no.

Q Do you plan any other action with respect to that Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Not now.

Q Was your letter to Secretary Morgenthau signed before the German Ambassador called at the State Department this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: What letter to Secretary Morgenthau?

Q With respect to the Czechoslovakian trade agreement.

THE PRESIDENT. It was signed this morning. I don't know when the German Ambassador called.

Q Did you and Governor Earle discuss Pennsylvania politics this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: We did not. (Laughter)

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #443,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 18, 1938, 10.52 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have any news.

Q Good. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, are you considering a message to Congress on the
Army?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. I read I was in the paper this
morning. (Laughter)

Q There is a row on between various Federal employee associations
in the District of Columbia -- the District of Columbia Medi-
cal Association. Do you know anything about that? Has it been
brought to your attention?

THE PRESIDENT: Not enough to talk about without further study. I am
always a little bit disturbed when things happen, like last year,
I think it was the Bar Association of the District of Columbia
opposed a Children's Court, or a Small Claims Court. In the
same way, I think it is a pity for the Medical Association to
oppose steps, which are successful in a great many places,
looking toward better medical care. That is a matter of
general principle. I don't know enough about this particular
argument.

Q You don't regard that as socialization of medicine?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q That seems to be the principal complaint.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not regard that as socialization of medicine.

Q In view of Secretary Hull's plea for international cooperation against aggressors and in view of the fact that Italy and Germany are permitted to buy arms in the United States, do you intend to lift the embargo against Spain?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. You had better ask the State Department. I have not heard of it.

Q There is an embargo, is there not, against Spanish Loyalists?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Are you considering withdrawing it?

THE PRESIDENT: I just answered that, not that I know of.

Q Any comment to make on the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Railway Association that a reduction in wages be made?

THE PRESIDENT: I had not seen that. When was that done?

Q They decided that last Friday.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not seen it.

Q And all the members are meeting in Chicago today.

Q Mr. President, this may sound impertinent, but isn't it you that makes the embargo on arms? You construe them, do you not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, on the subject of national defense, may I ask your judgment as to whether we would have had attacks upon our ship, after other aggressions that led us into the World War, had we then had a Navy and other national defense adequate enough to deter attacks?

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid that is too hypothetical.

Q I avoided the word "if." (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: It is a little bit too much like saying, "If Abraham

Lincoln were alive in this particular Bituminous Coal Commission problem, what would he have done? (Laughter)

Q What do you think? (Laughter)

Q Will you tell us what your recent conversation was with Mr. Disney?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Wes Disney. I don't know. We talked about public works down in his district.

Q Anything about politics or the Senatorship?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better ask him.

Q I did. (Laughter) Would you tell us, please, if you contemplate going to Oklahoma this summer?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q You did not tell Senator Thomas (of Oklahoma) that you might come down there?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't made any plans for the summer.

Q You spoke of Abraham Lincoln and the Bituminous Coal Commission. Will you tell us what President Roosevelt has in mind?

THE PRESIDENT: Very simply, the only news you already know is that the chairman has tendered his resignation and I asked him whether he would stay until the end of April.

Q No other resignations?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you feel that there is any concrete or tangible step which the United States can properly take at this time to aid in relieving the very serious situation in Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would not do it at a Press Conference if I had one in mind.

Q Can you break down that 30% that Mr. Splawn talked about on

savings by railroads? He said 70% might come out of labor and 30% out of other things. What would that be, consolidation of terminals, or something like that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think his figures were based on certain physical consolidations.

Q There would be a saving there?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, if we may get back to the Coal Commission, has a successor to Chairman Hosford been determined upon yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No, and probably won't be until I get back from Warm Springs.

Q There has been some discussion as to whether that successor may be one not in the coal business?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't given it consideration and probably won't until I get back.

Q Are you going to continue conferences tomorrow morning with the TVA directors today?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I haven't the faintest idea.

Q What do you think of the proposal to write into the Navy Bill a limitation on our Naval frontier, beyond which the Navy shall not go except upon a peaceful mission?

THE PRESIDENT: I could talk two hours, but I have not said anything on it and I am not going to.

Q What was the reaction to Secretary Hull's address yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: So far as I have heard, excellent, except from the lady members of the Press, who were excluded from the Press Club. (Laughter)

Q The reaction from this country or from abroad?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard anything from abroad.

Q Under all the circumstances, do you think that a railway labor reduction is advisable?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not given any consideration to it at all.

I should say, offhand, no.

Q Mr. President, is the continuation of this TVA scheduled for this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: It is scheduled for three minutes from now.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #444,
Executive Offices of the White House,
March 22, 1938, 4.15 P.M.

Q Did Jesse Jones smooth out the Southern roadbed since last year?

THE PRESIDENT: Why?

Q Eddie Cantor says that it swerves to the south. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Swerves to the south is right. Russ, are you going with us?

Q (Mr. Young) No, sir; I am not. They want to save a little money.

THE PRESIDENT: I take it the president is not going with us?

Q No, sir; there has to be some president (referring to president of White House Correspondents' Association).

THE PRESIDENT: If you would go with us I would write one of your broadcasts.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Would you?

THE PRESIDENT: If you would agree to deliver it. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Young) That is different.

Q You will have to give me an awfully good story to vindicate it.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: When you go out, Mac (Mr. McIntyre) will give you mimeographed copies of a letter to Dr. (A. E.) Morgan, removing him as a member and Chairman of the Board of the Tennessee Valley Authority. I will read it to you now so if there are any questions, you may ask them now: (Reading)

"March 22, 1938

"Honorable Arthur E. Morgan,
Knoxville, Tennessee.

"Dear Dr. Morgan:

"As a result of the hearings had before me on March 11, 18, and 21, 1938, I regret to inform you that I feel obliged to remove, and do hereby remove, you as member and Chairman of the Board of the Tennessee Valley Authority. This removal is to become effective as and from March 23, 1938.

"As is more fully explained in the memorandum opinion which I read at the hearing on March 21, and by the record before me, I have been impelled to remove you for the following reasons:

"(a) Openly making grave and libelous charges of dishonesty and want of integrity against your fellow-directors without reasonable excuse or justification.

"(b) Obstructing the work of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

"(c) Refusing to submit to the demand of the Chief Executive for the facts upon which you relied in openly making grave and libelous charges of dishonesty and want of integrity against your fellow-directors and refusing to respond to questions of the Chief Executive relating to charges of obstruction made against you by your fellow-directors.

"I have taken note of the fact that you have not presented to me in person or in writing any reason why I should not remove you other than the statement recorded in the transcript of the proceedings before me on March 21, 1938.

"A duplicate of this letter is being filed with the Secretary of State.

"Yours respectfully,"

Mac (Mr. McIntyre) will give you a copy. Tomorrow the whole record goes to the Congress and a Message, which you will get, goes to the Congress with it.

Q Have you any comment other than the record itself?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

Q There will be recommendations in the Message?

THE PRESIDENT: You will see the Message when you get it.

Q There has been considerable discussion as to your authority for re-

moving Dr. Morgan.

THE PRESIDENT: The message will also contain the opinion of the Attorney General, the principal law officer of the Government.

Q Before you go away will you make any appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There is one other thing that I may do and that is to appoint Dr. Harcourt Morgan as Chairman.

Q Can you tell us about that phase of it? Does --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q Does it mean that the Commission will remain a two-man body temporarily until Congress has had an investigation, or will there be an appointment made of a successor?

THE PRESIDENT: No news on that, none at all. I might add that I have had a large number of telegrams, pro and con, most of the telegrams con, asserting categorically that they have read in the newspapers -- I take it they are telling the truth, that they have read it in the same newspaper -- the statement that I was opposed to a Congressional investigation. Those statements in the newspapers are made out of whole cloth. They have been made mostly by special writers and columnists. From the very beginning they have been made out of whole cloth. That is sufficient comment. There has never been one word of truth in them.

Q Mr. President, charges are being made in Pennsylvania that one faction of the Democratic Party there is already using WPA for its own political purposes. Will you please give your attitude on the use of WPA for any political purpose?

THE PRESIDENT: It is not supposed to be used for any political purpose.

Q Will you take any measures to prevent this use?

THE PRESIDENT: If there is justification for any measures, yes.

Q Have you changed your attitude or found any solution to this inter-coastal shipping problem since your conference of Saturday?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I have been talking with the Maritime Commission on it and the chief problem is the obvious fact that these ships, these very big ships on the passenger service of the East Coast to the West Coast, do not pay. Whether it is the size of the ship or the character of the ship, we do not know. We are trying to find out. But they do run at a loss. Now, it is obvious that that brings up several questions: If they run at a loss ought the Government to subsidize that loss? Would not the railroads have a complaint? Ought not they to have a similar subsidy as against subsidized ships? If we do it for the West Coast trade, should not we do it for the New York-Galveston trade? In other words, if a passenger ship cannot run without a Government subsidy from New York to Galveston, should the Government pay a subsidy on that?

There is one other factor in the question of whether a ship can be run profitably or at a loss and that is what it costs to build the ship. Obviously, if you are running a ship that only costs you \$150. per ton, it will cost you a great deal less on your capital charges to run that ship than if you were to run a ship which cost you \$400. a ton, which is the amount of the bid that was recently put in by private contractors for the building of new ships.

If this is an emergency, as I told Senator McAdoo and the

other members of the Congressional committee, if this is a real emergency under which we have to take emergency action, something that has to be done right off next month or within two or three months, then of course there would be one way to handle it, as I think I remarked in a Press Conference two or three years ago,-- and I don't know, frankly, whether you can get a vote on that -- and that would be to buy ships outside of the United States at probably a far lower price than you can possibly build them for in the United States. That is a possible solution. That is a real solution.

Q There was some talk the other day that gave the impression that you had a concrete plan in mind for buying ships?

THE PRESIDENT: I think if we did have such authorization we could find the ships to buy, perfectly satisfactory ships.

Q They are possibly concerned about labor reaction on buying them abroad.

THE PRESIDENT: That is it; that is why I raised the question of whether they could vote for it.

Q Doesn't it require a special Act of Congress to employ ships purchased abroad in intercoastal trade?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my, yes. It does require legislation. We cannot buy ships abroad and put them in intercoastal trade, but it will take legislation anyway to take care of this particularly grave problem in which they find themselves.

Q You are still of the same opinion as you were last week?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Have you had a chance to go over Captain Ingersoll's letter? That is, the Navy's attitude on these ships? I understand Captain

Ingersoll's letter was left with you the other day. Have you any comment on that angle?

THE PRESIDENT: The more good ships we have in the Merchant Marine, the more ships, the better it is for the Navy. That is all there is to that letter. The more the better.

Q I have an inquiry which directs me to ask you if you have anything to say about the anti-lynching bill which has not been heard of recently.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think, Earle (Godwin), I can say what I have said to a great many members of the Senate already and that is this: that if the Senate determines not to proceed with the anti-lynching bill, my own feeling is that the matter ought not to rest there. Therefore, what can be done? I think one of two things would help the problem. Both of them, either one of them, would be based on the obvious need of more current information for the public where the taking of human life results from mob violations of any kind, and I have already suggested that Congress could well adopt legislation either giving authority -- directing the Attorney General in the event of any mob violations to make an investigation through his office, through the Department of Justice, an immediate investigation in regard to the facts, and that that investigation should be promptly made public to the President, to the Congress and to the Press. And if that method is not satisfactory to the Congress, that, as a substitute for it, they should pass a concurrent resolution, or a joint resolution, setting up a Congressional, a standing Congressional committee, which would in the event of violations immediately make an investigation of the

facts and make that investigation public to the Congress and to the Department of Justice and the President and the public.

In other words, what we want is a full exposition of the facts in every case in every part of the Nation.

Q Would you include all types of violations, for instance those labor violations which occurred in Chicago last year?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; in other words, the taking of human life.

Q Would that apply, sir, to cases in which only two or three men are involved on one side or the other?

THE PRESIDENT: It is much cheaper to investigate it in that case.

Q Did you reach any conclusion with Congressman McCormack this morning on flood control?

THE PRESIDENT: No; we made progress. There may be something by the time I get back.

Q Mr. President, if we may return for a moment to TVA, which is supposed to be cleared up. Chairman Morgan (A. E. Morgan) has said that while he has not employed counsel he has had free advice and that free advice says that you do not have power to fire him. It looks like an interesting fight. (Laughter) Can you comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Claude (Mahoney), if you will read the law. In this case it is not the Constitution. The law which sets up the office of Attorney General goes way, way back, I think to 1789 and if you will read that law you will see how the President makes determinations matters of law.

Q (Mr. Mahoney) I wasn't here then. (Laughter)

Q Have you received a report on bank holding companies?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. I have had four or five reports on bank holding companies.

Q Are you leaving about eight o'clock?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. There may be -- no, I almost said there is going to be a message from Warm Springs on bank holding companies but it won't be; it is another I have in mind.

Q How about the report on railroads?

THE PRESIDENT: It will come on Thursday and I will get it probably Friday afternoon and I will ask for several opinions on the report and I will probably be ready to do something by next week.

Q Do you plan to be back here on April third?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the morning of April third.

Q Will that report of the three I.C.C. Commissioners be given out?

THE PRESIDENT: Eventually, yes. Probably not on Thursday, but eventually. I should say probably by the end of next week.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #445,
On the road in front of Curtis Cottage,
Warm Springs Foundation, Georgia,
March 25, 1938, 11.00 A.M.

(The President was seated in his car.)

Q We non-advertising people have to refer to it (referring to the car) as a new V-8 of popular make. That is about the only way we could do it.

THE PRESIDENT: I think John O'Donnell called it a "cheap" car.

(Laughter)

Q (Mr. O'Donnell) I said, "low priced."

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what is the news?

Q That is what we are worried about.

THE PRESIDENT: So am I.

Q Did you get that railroad report? There is a story out of Washington that it has been sent to you.

THE PRESIDENT: Probably has.

Q Do you know that it is en route?

THE PRESIDENT: They said they were going to send it but how do I know whether it is en route?

Q There is nothing delaying it?

THE PRESIDENT: The last information I had was that it was being sent.

Q Mr. President, any chance of any of the Commissioners coming down to talk to you about it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q With respect to the Secretary of State's invitation of yesterday to other powers on the plight of political refugees, from a practical point of view that means the Jews in Germany and Austria --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It means a great many Christians, too, a very large number.

Q I wondered if any spokesmen of Catholic and Lutheran groups had also requested it?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, categorically, but I think so.

Q To give practical application to it, would not legislation be required in order to relax our immigration laws?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Why?

Q For example, there are 200,000 Jews --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The law says that if a country ceases to exist and is merged in another country, that the two quotas are merged into one quota.

Q Then we have the total for both Germany and Austria together? It would run up to (pausing)

THE PRESIDENT: 26,000.

Q Would that number take care of those who would desire to leave?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea at all, because nobody has ever listed the people that want to leave.

Q I was wondering if a further application of it would take in oppressed groups, such as in Spain, where there are oppressed religious groups under the Barcelona government. Then, in Russia, there are certainly groups. In Italy there are the anti-Fascists. This would embrace all of those?

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, it would go back to the old thing that started in 1789 when this country held itself out as a place for political refugees to come to. There was a similar situation in 1848 all over Europe, when they had all kinds of popular uprisings

against monarchies at that time. There were thousands and thousands of people at that time, or eventually, that came over here as political refugees. Of course the percentage in relation to the total population is almost negligible.

Q I was wondering if there is a separate category for those who are political refugees and those who come for ordinary economic reasons?

THE PRESIDENT: No distinction.

Q Is the United States doing, actually, any more now to provide a haven for the oppressed than would otherwise be the case?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, for this reason: They are adopting the suggestion that private money be put up in all these nations to go along with this. That means practically most of the American republics and whatever European nations accept, and those private groups will make it possible for those people to come in.

Q But, from the standpoint of numbers, no more would now come in than --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes; no change in the law.

Q Have they not exhausted their quotas?

THE PRESIDENT: In some cases they have and in other cases they have not.

Q (Mr. Mahoney) I have a couple of questions I would like to go through with. You understand that situation? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I would do almost anything to keep you here. (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: He is a very good influence, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I know he is.

Q We have got what are laughingly referred to as "newspapers" down here and they are still filing a lot of Civil War news. But we

are getting an awful lot of stuff about warships being designed for over 35,000 tons. Have you anything to say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that you are all still amateur strategists. That is a good line.

Q Will you wait until I write it down?

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you what we might do: We might spend a pleasant day drawing battleship plans.

Q My good colleague, Lieutenant Commander Henderson --

Q (Mr. Henderson) I am promoted.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

Q Have you set Wednesday for your trip to Fort Benning?

MR. McINTYRE: The thirtieth, in the afternoon, tentatively.

Q This is the second question I wanted to ask, it is one of my double-barreled numbers: There was a quote this morning about financial assistance for business to come from the Government.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

Q Can you tell us anything about that? It would be very interesting.

THE PRESIDENT: Only this, that there has been in the -- you remember all those letters that went to the Commerce Department after the little businessmen's meeting? There have been a good many noted of those that have complained about the inability to get credit from banks or other sources. We are studying now to see what can be done to relieve that situation. We have not worked out a method yet. But it undoubtedly is one of the things that is being complained of an awful lot by small business.

Q Mr. President, there is a report that the R.F.C. and the S.E.C. and the Federal Reserve Board are working on a scheme of creating

credit banks that would loan money to business, and I think Hanes has made a couple of speeches that if banks do not do it the Government must find some means. Have they made any report?

THE PRESIDENT: No; it is just being studied.

Q What has been the reaction to your Gainesville speech, particularly in the South?

THE PRESIDENT: Considering the fact that the only southerner I have seen here is ^[Irwin] Irving McDuffie, I cannot answer the question.

Q—Is he for it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us anything more about what you started to say at the last Press Conference about working on a bank holding company report and the Message?

THE PRESIDENT: That has not come down.

Q You expect the report?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q What is the most significant and interesting news from abroad that the Ambassador has told you?

THE PRESIDENT: (turning to Ambassador Bullitt who was seated beside him in the automobile) Shall I tell it, Jim? [?] ^[Bill] (Laughter)

He won't even let me tell you.

Q What have you and the Ambassador been talking about?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a question that should not be answered but the actual fact is that we have been talking about young men who go into the career service and, whether they are competent or not, stay there.

Q And what ought to be done about it?

AcB
10/3/55

AcB
9/5/55

THE PRESIDENT: You see, we have not got in the State Department -- in fact, in a great many or most Government agencies -- we have not got the same right as a businessman or the owner or editor of a paper would have to hire and fire.

Q I think it was just a year ago, Mr. President, down here, that Congressman Disney discussed with you the idea of having a West Point for the foreign service in Washington. Has that developed any further?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it is being studied by a good many people. It is a very interesting suggestion. You know, at the present time in the Government service there are only really two branches of the Government service which are run on the basis of efficiency. You cannot get promoted in the Navy or Army unless you are efficient and only a certain proportion of the people can go to the top. And one problem of the civil service has always been having to carry deadwood up the line, the inefficient people.

Q Our good secretary (referring to Mr. Henderson) is a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy here. We hope you are not speaking of deadwood with him in mind?

THE PRESIDENT: He has been promoted every chance he got. That speaks for itself. (Laughter)

Q Every day or so. (Laughter)

Q Getting back to the railroad report, if you do get it today or tomorrow, can you give us a guess on when you will be able to tell us about it?

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to talk to Washington about it. The thought in Washington is that it will be given out early next

week from there.

Q The Message?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no; made public.

Q You have not got the report yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Next week is the idea at the present time.

MR. McINTYRE: When that happens could not we have a Warm Springs
slant on it?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

Q Have you selected a new T.V.A. member yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is George Fort Milton, of Chattanooga, being considered?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not considered anybody yet.

Q Are you going up to North Alabama for the dedication?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is a chance this time.

Q Is Mrs. Roosevelt going to join you here?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q When?

THE PRESIDENT: The twenty-seventh.

Q How is she coming down?

THE PRESIDENT: Flying. She comes through Atlanta by air.

Q From where?

THE PRESIDENT: From Seattle. She will fly over Birmingham and may
even stop there. I don't know.

Q Are you going to Fort Benning?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the thirtieth.

MR. McINTYRE: That is still tentative, though.

THE PRESIDENT: Mac is to decide on the date.

How are things coming along?

Q We are going to Manchester, at the Kiwanis Club.

THE PRESIDENT: What are you going to use as a substitute for Russ Young?

Q We are going to read his message.

Q There isn't any substitute for him. (Laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #446,
On the road in front of Curtis Cottage
at Warm Springs, Georgia,
March 29, 1938, 12.55 P.M.

(The President was seated in his car and for a brief moment the talk centered around his car and its operation.)

Q Mr. President, because of the large amount of speculation that is going on about it, can you give us the highlights on the railroad report?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot. I mean, I cannot do it offhand.

Q Could you even do a sentence offhand?

Q You have not been working on it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I have. There are too many angles to it. I would not know how to write the story. There are too damned many things in it.

Q Will it be made public in Washington this week?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I think so.

Q Can you tell us whether the I. C. C. figures in it? I had an inquiry on it this morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Frankly, I do not know.

Q Is there anything you can tell us?

THE PRESIDENT: I am still getting comments on it from Washington and until I get more comments on it I am not ready to write anything on it myself.

Q When you get off that, is there anything you can tell us about silver? I have had frantic queries about that.

THE PRESIDENT: No, because I do not know.

Q I will have to wire the office.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know any more details than I have read in the papers.

Q I had a message this morning saying that they are to reduce the foreign price of silver another cent to forty-three. That is the latest we got.

THE PRESIDENT: I wish I knew something about it; I do not.

Q How about the angle that they are going to stop buying from Mexico entirely?

THE PRESIDENT: Again the same thing; I do not know.

Q Mr. President, have you received any communication from President Cardenas, of Mexico, in relation to the seizure of the oil properties down there? Is anything being done to work out that situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think they are at work on it. But, there again, I do not know any of the details.

Q Do you recall, Mr. President, whether in the railroad report there was a suggestion for the creation of a special tribunal or agency to expedite the financial reorganization?

THE PRESIDENT: My difficulty is again that if I take up one thing, it is only one thing.

Q That was generally expected at the time and I wondered.

THE PRESIDENT: And the next thing was, was there such a thing? There are a lot of things in it and there is no one thing you could use as a lead. It has to be a complete story.

Q We could use that very nicely if it were a fact. (Laughter)

Q Do you plan to send a Message to Congress on this railroad subject?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Then we may infer some legislation is required, or can we infer?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I will tell you what: If you have to write a railroad story I will try to give you a lead, but it is about the only thing that I can think of. In other words, I will try to be helpful.

No. 1: There are a great many angles to the railroad situation, as we all know. You know the different angles. I would be afraid to start to enumerate them because I might leave some out. If I had jotted them down on a piece of paper, I would give them to you but I am afraid, as it is, to leave something out. The way I would write it is this: That the I. C. C. and the Securities and Exchange Commission, between them, have a great deal of information. The I. C. C. information dates back fifty years. The Securities and Exchange, of course, dates back a much shorter time. The R. F. C. has a great deal of information in regard to the finances of railroads. All of this is included in the information. The I. C. C. information includes all the studies made by Eastman when he was Coordinator.

It looks from all of this information and the recommendations that something must be done. In other words, we have got to get action. It is not a case where an investigation, a further investigation prior to legislation, is called for because we have all the information. And the I. C. C. has been, essentially, an agent of the Congress in legislative and judicial powers, therefore it would seem that the details, even broader than that, the policies to be adopted, are essentially within the jurisdiction of the Congress itself. That, of course, does not relate to the

administrative functions like examining locomotive boilers and car couplings or brakes and things like that. On the administrative end of the I. C. C., there is no new policy involved. We will continue to tap car wheels.

Q I have one more query on the Hungarian War Debt Message. Can you give us anything further than that?

THE PRESIDENT: No; it is all in the Message.

Q You do not mean to suggest, about this jurisdiction of Congress here, that additional legislation will not be required?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not. Just as I said, I think action is necessary, but the matter having been primarily in the jurisdiction of Congress all the way through, the primary responsibility is on the Congress.

Q It was printed yesterday in Washington that you were contemplating a visit to Mexico City this summer, that there was a possibility of going into the capital from a fishing cruise off the coast?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q Have you received a letter from the non-strikers of the Remington Rand plant asking for your help against the National Labor Relations Board?

THE PRESIDENT: I did. I did not know anything about it so I referred it back to Washington to the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board. Is that right, Mac?

MR. McINTYRE: That is correct.

Q Any comment on the Supreme Court decision on the Public Utility Holding Company Act?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I would have to do it in Latin if I do it at all.

Q We will take it that way. (Laughter)

Q We will take a chance on it.

THE PRESIDENT: Just because you went to Notre Dame does not mean that you know Latin. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Trohan) It means that I do not know it. (Laughter)

Q How about the Senate fight on the passage of the Reorganization Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I would love to give you a direct quote on that.

Q We would take it in a minute. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Mac says, "No." Didn't he? (Laughter)

Q I would love to get something on that bill.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will tell you, I will take a shot at it:

It proves that the Senate cannot be purchased by organized telegrams based on direct misrepresentation.

MR. McINTYRE: Do you want to use that word, "purchased"?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it is all right.

Q Can we put this in direct quotes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it is all right. Is that all right?

Q Yes.

MR. McINTYRE: Fred (Mr. Storm) can remember the time that would be embarrassing to him. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That was in his other life. (Laughter)

Q How many has he now? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: He was in a coma for a few months. (Laughter)

Q What is the dope of the House leaders on the prospect of getting it over there?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a word.

Q Can you give us six names to go with that quote? (Laughter)

Q Anything on the foreign situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not talked to Hull since Sunday. I have not heard a word.

Q I think you had better put that off the record. We have had you talking to him daily. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Have you? You had a grand lead that I had talked with the Secretary of the Treasury on the phone on Saturday. Well, I did not. (Laughter)

Q We also had you talking to House and Senate leaders.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose I talk to about ten people a day in Washington. I do have good times, bad times, quiet days, exciting days. There is no significance, any more than if I were in Washington. I would do the same thing there.

Q Do you think the Supreme Court decision would be interpreted as bringing out the merit of the Court program? I think you said something on that line before.

THE PRESIDENT: The time has not yet come.

Q You told us Friday you might have the data on the Bank Holding Company situation. Have you got that yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q The New York Herald-Tribune printed the story that Senator Wagner was your candidate for Governor of New York.

THE PRESIDENT: Harold (Mr. Oliver), you know the Tribune. (Laughter)

Q I know. I had to get that in for mental satisfaction. (Laughter)

Q Could you suggest anything to stop these mocking birds from singing the Lorelei and other things so early in the morning? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Of course I know that you are prejudiced against the Lorelei. I would suggest teaching them Madelin.

Q We have a new correspondent with us, Mr. George O'Connor, of the New Britain Herald. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That is funny. I thought he represented the Alexandria Bee.

Q The Augusta Bee, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the Augusta Bee. George (O'Connor), it is good to see you down here, you are looking fine.

Q (Mr. O'Connor) Thank you, Mr. President, and so are you.

Q We ought to have him sing for the supper.

THE PRESIDENT: Fine; you have done it before. It would be grand if you are going to be here when the kids are down here.

Q (Mr. O'Connor) I took it up with Mr. Boone and he will be glad to have it.

Q Did you see Governor Leche, of Louisiana, this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: No, Mac is going to bring him up to see me.

Q And isn't Governor Olin Johnston coming? He said he was.

THE PRESIDENT: He will let me know. He may wait and come up to Washington instead.

Q And tomorrow we have Fort Benning?

MR. McINTYRE: Yes, and Harry Hopkins probably won't get in until Thursday night.

THE PRESIDENT: Possibly Thursday morning.

MR. McINTYRE: I don't know; he may stop in Atlanta for a day.

THE PRESIDENT: He talked with Mrs. Roosevelt this morning and said he might come down Thursday morning so as to go over to the Pine

Mountain Homesteads.

Q Do you know of any other callers?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Thursday we do the Pine Mountain Homesteads and lunch with the Marines. What do we do Friday? Friday we lunch at the Foundation. What do we do Friday night?

Q Manchester Kiwanis Club.

MR. McINTYRE: They want you to make the address this year. Senator Young is here.

THE PRESIDENT: Who is going to make the speech?

Q Bill Murphy and George O'Connor.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a good idea. I will send a message through them.

Q We will be very glad to have that, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I am going to have George (O'Connor) sing it.

Q Did Governor Leche hear of anything you can tell us about?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you had a good rest, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Perfectly grand. Going strong.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.