

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #462,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
May 31, 1938, 4.00 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Why don't you go out and look for the Daisy Chain?

Q We have given it serious consideration one or two times.

THE PRESIDENT: You know, you have never played the Vassar end. And it is good all through the summer because they have a summer school.

Q Didn't you make a speech to the summer school one time?

THE PRESIDENT: They have a summer school on euthenics.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse the hilarity in the front row. We are talking about Vassar College. It is all right. Mr. Storm is soliloquizing on Vassar College. (Laughter) That is off the record.

Q (Mr. Storm) God, I hope so.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news at all today, which is grand.

Q Mr. President, can you add anything more to what Senator Barkley said today about consideration of the Reorganization Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No, nothing more than they told you when they went out this morning.

Q He said there would be a statement tomorrow, very definitely.

THE PRESIDENT: So I understand.

Q Will that come from you, sir, or up the Hill?

THE PRESIDENT: Up the Hill.

Q From whom up the Hill?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Were you consulted with respect to the statement made by Harry Hopkins last week on the Iowa Primary?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I was not. Now, look, here is the trouble: You ask me a question like that and it is just like the candidate himself who has heard his opponent say something about the Administration being for him and demands to know of the White House whether the statement was correct. If I say, "Yes," -- if the White House says, "Yes," or Steve says, "Yes," it is promptly interpreted as being in favor of one candidate. If the White House says, "No," it is promptly interpreted as being in favor of the other candidate. In other words, it is one of those questions, as you realize, that if I say, "Yes," or "No," it will be construed one way or the other for political advantage in a Primary. Now, as a matter of fact, I will give you the answer off the record, but I have got to stress that it is off the record. I did not know a thing. But suppose you print that, what will happen? One candidate will promptly say that the other candidate has not got the endorsement of the Administration. You see how perfectly impossible it is. Now, hereafter I am not going to answer questions of that kind either from candidates or from the Press.

Q May I ask this one other question?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You are favoring neither candidate?

THE PRESIDENT: I am taking the same position there that I have taken in the previous Primaries. Now, that is all I am going to say.

(Laughter)

Q Mr. President, I understand that Victor Anderson, who is District Attorney in St. Paul, is now one of the dozen Democratic candidates in Minnesota. Why are you objecting to the removal of Victor <sup>[Christgau]</sup> Crisgeau as WPA Administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about it at all, not the faintest idea.

Q Senator Harrison says that you were misinformed about those taxes in your speech at Arthurdale. Anything you can say about it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because I think first of all I would have to read Senator Harrison's speech, which is on my desk at the White House in the Congressional Record of Saturday.

Q Mr. President, have you had a report from the Department of Justice on the Supreme Court decision in the tax exempt case? Can you tell us whether it comes in line with your tax exempt ideas?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; I have just had a report that came in last week. I have not got it here. It is one of those things that I would hate to talk about casually. It is in the Attorney General's report on cases.

Q Will you talk about it sometime?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't believe so.

Q I think it is a little early to ask you, sir, but you signed a bill today giving the District of Columbia four more judges. Have you had time, sir, to consider anybody?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The recommendations started coming in -- when was it? -- about a year ago and that list has been constantly added to until, with the accretions, it now amounts to about 220 names for the four posts.

Q Mr. President, there have been stories that the White House has been asked for support, by backing the Florida Ship Canal, for this bill up in Congress to reauthorize that project.

THE PRESIDENT: There have been requests, pro and con, for the last two years. There isn't any news on it at all. Nothing has been done one way or the other. It is left strictly to the Congress.

Q Are you going to do anything more at Annapolis other than deliver the speech? Are you going to pass out the diplomas?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so.

Q Will there be an advance on the speech?

THE PRESIDENT: I doubt it.

MR. EARLY: No, sir.

Q Just a short one?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing of national importance in the speech except the fact that these young men are graduating and that is of national importance.

Q How about international importance?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that won't be in it. That might come before they reach the age of sixty-four.

Q Is your possible trip to South America and the West Coast any more definite?

THE PRESIDENT: There has never been anything definite, especially the South American end of it.

Q How about the West Coast?

THE PRESIDENT: It is just one of those things. I don't know yet. I would like to, very much, and if I do go, I would go in early July.

Q In early July?



THE PRESIDENT: If I do go, I will go in early July and come back through the Canal, but the thing has not been arranged, even as to the time table.

Q Do you hope to go to Campobello later in the summer?

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

Q Have you decided whether you will accept Senator Bulkley's invitation to talk in the Muskingum Conservance District the day after Marietta?

THE PRESIDENT: Mac (Mr. McIntyre) is now working on the time tables to see if I can do them both in one day. If I cannot do both in one day, I will have to give up Muskingum.

Q Is your Swedish trip on, sir; the Swedish celebration?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the twenty-seventh.

Q Of June?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you tell us anything about new appointments? There are a lot of vacancies, the S.E.C. and the Board of Tax Appeals?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There are one or two that were signed today that are going up tomorrow. Nothing very important yet.

Q Not I.C.C. or S.E.C. in those?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you comment on the Hatch Amendment under which persons administering relief funds would be eliminated from endorsing political candidates?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know it.

Q It virtually extends the same sort of ban that now exists in Civil Service.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen it at all. Has it passed?

Q No, sir.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #463,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
June 3, 1938, 10.50 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Last night I approved another fifty-seven million of Federal loans for slum clearance for the U. S. Housing Authority, eight cities, Allentown, Pennsylvania, Baltimore, Birmingham, Buffalo, Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit and Pittsburgh.

The room rent per month will run from \$3.75 to \$4.25. So far, today, we have earmarked funds in different cities, including a great many small cities, to the extent of \$357,000,000., and loan contracts that have been approved out of that sum are \$111,000,000.

Mr. Straus told me last night that as far as we can guess there will be about \$50,000,000. a month more coming along now pretty steadily through the balance of the year.

Q For how long a period is that? Is it since the Housing Administration has been in office?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, these are all new.

I don't think I have got anything else.

Q Mr. President, there is a story in the morning papers that you have named a committee, headed by Gerard Swope, to study the British Trade Union Act with reference to the National Labor Relations Board.

THE PRESIDENT: I regret that that story came out because it is essentially cockeyed. (Laughter) I mean it is all wrong.

The fact is that there is a group either going to be on the other side or going abroad for it this summer who will study the British Labor Relations Act.

The trouble with the story is that it relates it to the National Labor Relations Act, which is not true. The real reason for it is this, that there has been a great deal of misinformation in this country in regard to what the British methods are. There have been all kinds of perfectly crazy, wild statements that have been made about the British procedure, and I thought it would be just as well, and for the benefit of the Press, to get a statement as to what the British system is. So I am doing this out of the kindness of my heart to get some real facts for all of you people, and not so much for you people but especially for editorial writers and columnists and people like that. So these people are going over and are going to study the thing and give us a very clear, simple, "words-of-one-syllable" statement as to what the British procedure is.

Q Is this to be purely educational?

THE PRESIDENT: Educational.

Q Does that statement mean you are not going to favor amending the Wagner Act at any time?

THE PRESIDENT: No relationship. It has nothing to do with it.

That is what happened this morning. Steve came in and said, "This study will be a comparative study?" I said, "No. It is for educational purposes as to what the British system is."

Q Has no relation to amendments?



THE PRESIDENT: No, sir; none at all.

Q Are you satisfied with the Labor Act, the National --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I would have to repeat what I said before, that the whole subject of labor relations is an evolutionary one. We are way behind Great Britain, shall I say, on the progress of evolution? We have a great deal to learn from the past experience of other countries.

Q Can comparisons be avoided then?

THE PRESIDENT: After the report is made, you will have something to make a comparison on, but you haven't now.

Q Can you tell us who will be in this group?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you yet because the list is not complete. Probably seven or eight different people.

Q Some of them labor leaders?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

Q And employers?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. There will be really three groups, labor people and employers and some Government people.

Q What category does Lloyd Garrison fall in?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Government, I suppose.

Q When you were speaking to Mr. Straus last night with respect to this money, did you take up any of those local projects in Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: No, Washington isn't on this list.

Q We were told specially today that you were going to have something to say about Washington.

THE PRESIDENT: It is not in here at all so I cannot tell you about it.

Q Is there something to be given out here on that list?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better go to Nathan (Straus) about it. He has the complete details. I have some here but they are mostly figures.

Q The British Labor Disputes Commission report -- will it go to you or to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I think that will be completely immaterial.

Q Will you tell us whose idea it was?

THE PRESIDENT: Mine.

Q Will they make a study in any other country?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. Garrison and Mr. Swope were named in this story. Have they been chosen?

THE PRESIDENT: I really do not know. I have not got the list. I would tell you if I had the list.

Q Did you see Speaker Bankhead this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you tell us anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: No; it was a personal matter.

Q Mr. President, the Works Progress Administrator in Minnesota has been removed and asserts that only you can remove him. Can you comment on where the power of removal in the case of a state WPA administrator resides, or will you say whether you will remove Mr. Crisgeau?

[Christgau]

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I never thought of it. What you tell me is news to me. I did not know, except in the headlines, that

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he had been removed. I would have to ask the Attorney General and a lot of people what the powers are.

Q It hit the Senate floor in a big way last night.

THE PRESIDENT: Did it?

Q I hate to bring this up again, but was there any discussion of the Passamaquoddy Power Project in relation to the St. Lawrence Basin Message?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There may have been at the State Department; there was not over here.

Q Mr. Hull said not.

Q If we may presume to pry into personal matters, did the discussion with Speaker Bankhead relate to the adjournment of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: No. If you want to know, off the record, the Speaker came in here and said how awfully sorry he was that he could not go down the river this week end because he wanted to go down and see poor old Jack Cochran, who lost his wife.

Q Whom are you taking down the river?

THE PRESIDENT: Just the family.

Q Leaving tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: Go over to Annapolis at 1.00 o'clock and get back Sunday afternoon. Same old trip.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #464,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
June 7, 1938, 4.10 P.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: There are a couple of matters that I wanted to mention.

It has developed -- it is an old practice but it has started up again -- that in these applications for PWA funds a lot of municipalities, counties, and so forth and so on, are told erroneously that it is a good thing to do to hire a lawyer down here or send a lawyer down here as a paid representative to secure allotments of public funds for their projects. I would be very grateful if you would all carry in some way the thought that that thing is not necessary, completely unnecessary expense, but that actually where lawyers are hired to do that, where the municipality can do it directly just as well, there is a natural tendency on the part of Government to look a bit askance at it. They get much more favorable -- they create a much more favorable impression if they come direct without hiring a lawyer, so if you can in choice terms express that thought better than I have, I think it would be a good thing.

The other thing relates to a question that I have had from, I suppose, a dozen different sources; I don't know whether or not any of you people have had queries on it. It is this business of American pilots, aviation pilots, undertaking to participate actively or passively in revolutions against existing governments in different parts of the world, flying planes to aid revolutionists, hiring out their services as pilots or mechanics to aid



revolutionists. Well, of course you cannot arrest a man who tries to do it, but a great many of these people, pilots especially, are licensed by the Government of the United States. They have licenses or commissions from the Federal Government and it is contrary to American polity for American citizens to go and take part in revolutions in existing governments anywhere in the world. And if this thing in the future -- I am not referring to any specific case -- if this thing should become more active in the future than it has been in the past, we propose to do everything we can, as a government, to take their licenses or commissions away from them. That is about all we can do to them, but they ought to have notice served on them that that is what is going to happen to them.

Q Does that apply to men fighting, Mr. President, on the side of an accredited government?

THE PRESIDENT: Normally speaking, no.

Q You mean just a revolution? How about foreign wars?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not talking about that subject; I am talking about this revolutionary business. It is an entirely different subject; you run into Neutrality Acts and things like that.

Q Do you regard the Spanish War as a revolution?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know; that has been characterized already.

It is a war and of course it is a revolution.

Q Is the civil war a revolution, Mr. President? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Sometimes they call it a war between the states.

Q Yes, that is what I was thinking about.

THE PRESIDENT: Sometimes they call it "the late unpleasantness."

There are lots of names for it. Use your imagination and look

into the history book.

Q Anything on the Iowa Primary?

THE PRESIDENT: Perfectly good carrying out of a perfectly good system of party government.

Q Mr. President, do you expect to send a letter to Senator Gillette as you did in the case of Governor --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I will undoubtedly see him; he will be back in twenty-four hours and undoubtedly he will come down to see me.

Q Now that the Iowa Primary is over, do you care to state whether you think it is proper or correct for a WPA official to take a stand in that test?

THE PRESIDENT: If I had been born and brought up and gone to college in Iowa, I would have felt absolutely at liberty to express my opinion as to what was going on in a Primary in what was my home state. You will also note what Mr. Hopkins said -- it is on the ticket -- about the influencing of WPA votes and I think everybody in this room should know that. There is a good deal of smoke going on around here, which is based on -- never mind, I won't characterize it, you know what it is -- it is based on a desire to write a story on a certain line and the stories are written on certain lines to please the editor -- the owner, I mean. I always differentiate.

Q You have, sir, a good many judgeship vacancies, I believe, under this new bill, Mr. President. Can you tell us whether you will adhere to rules you laid down some time ago that they would be filled by men under sixty years of age?

THE PRESIDENT: So far as I know, I know of no exceptions to that rule.

I think the rule, Fred (Essary), has been violated twice. I think twice I have appointed people who were sixty-eight or sixty-nine years old.

Q Were they promotions?

THE PRESIDENT: They were promotions, promotions with the understanding -- not the understanding but the statement on the part of the man promoted that he expected to retire when he was seventy and I think they have done it. That was a promotional case, though.

And on this question of judges, just to forestall more queries, in the course of the next week I think I have about twenty-four different places to fill and it is physically impossible to make all the necessary checks. You see, the bill was only signed about five days ago. I cannot possibly send those names or a majority of them to the Senate, if the Congress adjourns within the next ten days so I am a little bit in a quandary. I have to do pretty careful checking and so what I hope -- although it is not necessary at all -- is that I may be given the same right that was given, I think, in 1933 when there were a lot of new places created so that if I fill the vacancy, the new place, after adjournment of the Congress, they would draw pay until such time as their nominations had been acted on at the next session so that, for example, in a number of these judgeships, where I could not complete my studies before the Senate adjourned, I could then go ahead and appoint sometime during the summer and they could draw pay up until their names were acted on at the next session of Congress.

Q Did you ever get the law point cleared up that for the vacancies, not new offices but vacancies, you can make recess appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: I can make recess appointments but they do not draw pay.

Q They are taking a chance?

THE PRESIDENT: They are taking a chance.

Q You have a number of other appointments that occurred during this session?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Have you any of those?

THE PRESIDENT: I sent up four or five today.

Q Is the Comptroller appointment ready yet, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Have you heard anything from the Attorney General of the investigation of the possibility of prosecuting Frank Hague?

THE PRESIDENT: I find the Attorney General is away. Joe Keenan is here. (Mr. Keenan was sitting in back of the President) I will ask him after you all go out. (Laughter)

Q Do you contemplate filling the vacancy in the Comptroller General post?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at this time.

Q Mr. President, I believe the Bureau of the Budget calculates that four and a half million dollars is a proper figure for administration of the United States Housing <sup>[Authority]</sup> Administration. I understand that Congress has cut that in half. Is there any way of giving that back to the U.S.H.A.?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a new one on me; I don't know. I was talking to Danny Bell today and he never mentioned it.

Q Out of that twenty-four judges there are four, I think, within the



confines of the District of Columbia?

THE PRESIDENT: Four new ones; one is to the Circuit Court of Appeals and three District judges.

Q Would you consider that a local appointment or one beyond the confines of the District of Columbia? We have a lot of lawyers that would like that. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: This is going to be an awful shock to you but I have to tell you quite frankly that the District of Columbia is the National Capital and lawyers from any state or territory of the United States are eligible for posts here.

Q Yes, sir; they are here now. (Laughter) A lot of them are lobbying and you might as well give them a job on the Bench. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That is not a bad idea. (Laughter)

Q Are you considering a woman for one of the District judgeships?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there are two hundred and twenty applications filed so far and I have not segregated them in accordance with sex so I cannot answer your question. (Laughter)

Q I had one in mind. (Laughter)

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #465,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
June 10, 1938, 10.50 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: There is just one little thing that is rather unusual in Government. The Special Mexican Claims Commission was appointed three years ago in August of 1935, to hear and determine the various claims of Americans against Mexico, most of the claims arising out of the former revolutions in Mexico. The Commission was given three years to make their final determination and report and the three years are not up until August thirty-first. They have therefore completed their work two and one-half months ahead of time, and on the fifteenth of June, five days from now, I sign an Executive Order that terminates all of their duties and they go out of existence. The whole thing is all settled. They will have actually paid into the Treasury, on account of these claims by Mexico, more than two million dollars and, under the terms of the agreement, payments will continue and the amount in hand, two million dollars, will, I think, be used immediately to pay a percentage on the awards. It is a very satisfactory termination of this Commission's work.

Q Have you the total, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a sort of a record for a commission to be appointed, told to report within a given number of years, and to finish their work well ahead of time and be thanked and discharged.

Q What is the total? You mention two million dollars now and more to come.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Have you ordered Victor Christgau to resign as WPA Administrator for Minnesota?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Following your talk yesterday with Jesse Jones, there are rumors or thoughts about that you might send some sort of a railroad message to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not contemplate it. I said all I could say in one message.

Q Mr. President, getting back to this Mexican thing, is there any possibility of a similar Claims Commission being appointed or authorized to settle the oil expropriations?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it has got to that stage of the discussion. The discussion is still going on.

Q Still in diplomatic channels?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Have you decided on the personnel of the commission which will study labor legislation in Great Britain?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had any report on that from the Labor Department at all. I suppose it will come along very soon.

Q Do you believe that Congress should take into consideration, in drafting railroad legislation, if any, the proposal of railway managements to cut wages?

THE PRESIDENT: I have already -- as I just said, I sent a message to Congress on the problem of the railroads and there is nothing further to add.

Q Anything new on the Ambassadorship to Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing; it has not even been discussed.

Q Is the Administration interested in this new postmaster selection bill that is up before Congress now?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean the --

Q (interposing) -- the one that gives you the privilege of selecting from the top three.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, very much. It is very definitely a step ahead. Of course it has not come to me for signature but I understand they are agreed.

It places all the positions, first, second and third, which were not under the Civil Service except by Executive Order, it places them in the Civil Service System. The Commission will certify to the Postmaster General the three eligibles rated highest in the examination for the consideration of the President. In that certification the regular, permanent staff of the Post Office Service is eligible to take these examinations, even for the first class offices. It is a very distinct step in the right direction.

Q Do you think there is anything further that this Government could or should do beyond the Welles' statement respecting bombing of China?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to ask the State Department.

Q Could you comment on the causes for Christgau's removal?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you tell us what states in the far west you intend to visit, besides California?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will have to visit all the states between here and California on the route I am going because I am not going by



air.

Q What route are you going from Texas?

THE PRESIDENT: Going from Fort Worth out, as far as I can tell now -- this is, of course, still tentative -- from Fort Worth out through Amarillo and, let me see, before you get to Amarillo you go through Wichita Falls, I think, and then Amarillo and then up -- I couldn't even tell you the name of the railroad from there to Pueblo. You see, what I am heading for is San Francisco. Pueblo, and then through the Royal Gorge, which most of you haven't seen with me -- you will find the scenery excellent -- and we are going through the Royal Gorge by day and then -- that is Colorado, of course -- and then through Utah, Nevada and then down to San Francisco.

Q Are you going into Yosemite?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I have never been there and so, for your benefit and mine, I hope we will have a day in Yosemite and see the Susan B. Anthony tree.

Q What about the Oklahoma part of the trip?

THE PRESIDENT: As I remember it, we leave here and we go through West Virginia into Ohio and from Ohio into Kentucky, then from Kentucky into Tennessee, I think -- I don't know which way we are going from there, either by way of Memphis or St. Louis and into Oklahoma and from there down to Fort Worth.

Q Going to what places in Oklahoma?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think it is -- I think it is the ninth or the tenth, I have forgotten which.

Q Mr. President, Governor Murphy, of Michigan, was here the other day and he was quoted as saying that when you went up to dedicate the

international bridge at Port Huron, Michigan, that you would swing into Wisconsin and Minnesota.

THE PRESIDENT: That is so far off that it is entirely problematical.

There are a lot of international bridges that have to be dedicated by Canada and the United States sometime between August and January. There are three international bridges and a peace park.

Q How far south do you plan to go on the cruise?

THE PRESIDENT: Just to -- not below the equator, and that is not a South American trip -- Galapagos Island and if I have to come back in a hurry, instead of going there we will go to the place you love so much, the Cocos Islands and stay about three or four days.

Q Can you tell us how many speeches you expect to make on this railroad trip to the West?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

Q There will be probably several?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably the only formal speech will be at Marietta.

Q When at Marietta, will you go to the Muskingum Valley?

THE PRESIDENT: I just plain won't have time. I'd like to.

Q Will there be some other trips later on before the November elections?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea. There are three international bridges and a peace park to dedicate. (Laughter)

Q You say these plans are tentative. How far are they tentative?

THE PRESIDENT: After I get back from the cruise everything is tentative.

Q I mean on this particular trip.

THE PRESIDENT: They are pretty well set.

Q Regardless of what Congress does?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Heavens, do you think they will still be here then?

(Laughter)

Q They might be. (Laughter)

Q Do you intend to fill the vacancy on the Securities Commission before Congress adjourns?

THE PRESIDENT: No, there isn't any.

Q Might I ask about Governor Case's place on the Communications Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: No news on the appointments until they go up. I am sending Stewart McDonald's up today for reappointment. That is the only one.

Q Does your answer on the railroad situation cover also a possible letter to the chairmen of the committees?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, same thing.

Q Did you see the story in the Herald-Tribune this morning that twenty-eight Senators had come to the Vice President and suggested that there --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The only story I read this morning was Cissy Patterson's, who said she is in favor of monopolies.

Q In view of the widespread discussion, will you outline the political powers delegated to Tom Corcoran? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Ask Roy Howard. He lunched with me the other day and I told Roy Howard that he had been reading the papers. That is the best answer I can give. We all laughed. It is a boogeyman that has been set up. That is the best way we can put it.

Q Has a petition been received by you from some South Chicago perch fishermen, who had been fishing from a park pier?

THE PRESIDENT: What did they do, fall in?

Q The WPA workmen nearby were so interested in seeing the fishing that they did not do shoveling. Now the park has revoked their permits and they are afraid they will have to go to work instead of perch fishing. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: As far as I can see, everybody gains except the fish. (Laughter)

Q There was supposed to be a petition signed by the fishermen asking for your intervention.

THE PRESIDENT: I am all for the fishermen. (Laughter)

Q Have you any comment on the bill passed to extend the emergency interest rate on Farm Credit loans?

THE PRESIDENT: It hasn't come to me yet. I cannot comment on it yet.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #466,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
June 14, 1938, 4.08 P.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Right. What is the news?

Q You tell us, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Ain't got none.

Q Mr. President, there seems to be some confusion up on the Hill as to railroad legislation at this session. Do you want to see railroad legislation before Congress goes home?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a perfectly simple position. I sent a message and explained the situation very clearly and told them that I hoped they would have legislation and if they can pass any legislation which will be helpful, it would be very nice, and that is all.

Q Mr. President, in the second deficiency appropriation bill, when it passed the House, there were items for the War Department building and Social Security building, with appropriate amounts, about \$6,000,000, and when the bill came out of the Senate Committee those items were missing, they were not there.

THE PRESIDENT: Did they find them?

Q No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I hope there will be a searching party, and I hope they will find them.

Q Would you like to see them back again?

THE PRESIDENT: Very much.

Q Anything you can do to get them back?



THE PRESIDENT: Except to encourage a searching party. (Laughter)

Q Are you doing anything to prevent airplanes going to Japan?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think the Secretary of State covered that pretty well the other day.

Q Mr. President, you said last week that you would ask Joe Keenan what progress, if any, has been made in the Jersey City situation. Did Joe reply in any way?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't. I forgot to ask. I will.

Q. Mr. President, do you contemplate dollar devaluation within the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Who is asking, London, Amsterdam, Paris or Wall Street?

Q Fred Storm of the United Press. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Same old answer.

Q Has final selection been made of that committee to study labor legislation in Great Britain?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. I guess it will be in a few days.

Q Any names?

THE PRESIDENT: They haven't sent me any names at all. They sent one name and asked if it would be a good idea to appoint him and I said, "Yes," but I haven't the list.

Q Is an appropriation to be made or is that taken out of the Labor Department funds?

THE PRESIDENT: Labor Department funds.

Q You don't know how much will be allocated for it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think most of the people are on the other side anyway.

Q Of the water?

THE PRESIDENT: So the total cost is very little.

Q How long will they be over there? Do you figure it will be a long time?

THE PRESIDENT: A few weeks.

Q Do you expect to discuss war debts with Ambassador Kennedy when he returns?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q Do you know yet when you will leave for Nahant?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The last moment I can leave is Friday evening, about 7.00 o'clock and I will go as much before that as I can, that is the last day.

Q You have not decided yet where you will meet the POTOMAC?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on when I can leave. If I cannot leave by Thursday noon, I won't meet the POTOMAC at New London, I will meet the POTOMAC up somewhere north of Boston.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us what you discussed with Mr. Lasker?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, lots of things. Nothing of any particular news value.

Q Was there any news value in the visit of the Civil Service Commission today? They referred us to you.

THE PRESIDENT: We were talking about an Executive Order that we are not ready on yet relating to registers -- future registers and changing a good many of the present regulations of the Commission relating to examinations, mostly in minor detail, but it is one of those things that takes about forty pages and they came in to explain the whys and wherefores for these many minor changes.

Q When you say "registers," what do you mean?

THE PRESIDENT: Civil Service lists.

Q Will these changes have a marked effect on the regulations?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not at all.

Q In view of the fact that Senator Duffy and Mr. Farley remained behind after the Letter Carriers' invitation came to you today, is there anything you can tell us about Wisconsin politics?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing came up. I think we were swapping some stories. They were only able to stay behind a minute and a half. They might have visited Mac, I don't know.

Q Did you talk about the possibility of going to Wisconsin?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you tell us what you talked to Senator Green about today?

THE PRESIDENT: What did I talk to him about? Oh, he presented the name of somebody for something. (Laughter)

Q Would it be an administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you all those things. It was somebody for something.

Q He might have presented our bar bill from the Muenchner King a couple of years ago. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That is right, too; I remember that party. (Laughter)

Q Do you expect to have the yacht in Nahant Friday night for the dance?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I am going to be on board as soon as they get up there.

Q It will be definitely there Friday night?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; I will be sleeping on it if I can get there in time. I may not get there until Saturday morning.

Q My point is whether or not the yacht will be there Friday evening.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, the yacht will be at New London on Thursday at 7.00 P.M. and if I cannot get away from here in time to meet her there, it will proceed through the Canal up to Nahant and I will join her up there.

Q Mr. President, in view of the great flood distress in China, would you consider reviving your appeal to the American people for contributions to the Chinese Civilian Relief?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not say "reviving" it. Did I ever state a specific sum? I don't know.

Q A million dollars?

THE PRESIDENT: Then let it go just as many million dollars as it is possible because the need is very, very great. The more the better.

Q Have you heard anything new from High Commissioner McNutt as to when he is coming home?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a word.

Q The Senate passed the Air Authority Bill yesterday. How soon do you think you will be able to appoint the personnel to start that setup functioning?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Before you start on this western trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. I hope to get most of the appointments made before I start west.

Q Does that include the new member of the S. E. C.?

THE PRESIDENT: No, there won't be any vacancy before I start west.

Q Did you get any authority for your recess appointees to be paid until the next session?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they have the resolution but it has not been acted on. Of course one of the principal reasons for the resolution is this, that there are a good many people who cannot afford to go without a salary between this summer and next winter; they are not rich enough to go without the salary. Of course it has been customary in every case to give them the salary, even though they are not confirmed, so that I feel in the long run there is not very much difference and it enables a poor man to take the job where otherwise he could not take it.

Q In other words, if they do not pass the resolution your field is limited?

THE PRESIDENT: If they do not pass the resolution my field is more limited.

Q Will you be back here between the wedding and the time you go west?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; sometime next week and then I have the Swedish reception, et cetera, and then New York and then I am back after that.

Q Will you go from here to Wilmington?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, from here. I will be back here next week.

Q Can you tell us what you wrote Secretary Woodring in regard to the use of rivers and harbors funds, this bill that was signed Saturday and announced today?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot without a copy of it because it related to the various departments concerned. You know part of it goes to agriculture and soil erosion, part of it relates to the possibility of power development and this memorandum only related to our getting all the various interested parties together to coordinate the



work.

Q Coordinating the relief program?

THE PRESIDENT: No, this was the rivers and harbors. Well, relief comes into it, too.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #467,

Dutton Lumber Company Wharf, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.,

(The President was seated in his car with his son, John, seated with him.)

June 20, 1938.

THE PRESIDENT: You all know this distinguished gentleman over here in the corner? (Indicating his son, John.)

Q I have seen him before.

Q Any news we ought to know about?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have been telling John the news.

Q He will scoop us. He won't tell us anything.

Q Any callers today?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Arthur. He is the son of the late President.

Q What is it about?

THE PRESIDENT: Social visit, not another thing.

Q Are you going to see Joe Kennedy?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet. I don't know whether he is coming up here from New York. I have not heard a word on what his plans are when he lands. I will see him either up here or in Washington. No arrangement has been made.

Q You will have to act on the Wages and Hours Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my Lord! I will try to give you, for this afternoon, a story on the number of bills still out. I could not tell you right now. There may be two hundred or may be three hundred. Let's just get hold of Rudolph (Mr. Forster) to let us have those figures, the number of bills that are still out.

Ninety-five per cent of the bills that are sent to the

White House, after they have been acted on by the Speaker and the President Pro Tem, after they come to the White House they are sent out to the departments concerned for comments and recommendations so, of course, I do not get them back for anywhere from two to six days.

Q There has been some talk around Washington that an extra session might be called for the purpose of making railroad loans. Is there anything you can tell us on that?

THE PRESIDENT: It was John O'Connor who started that story. I won't comment on that.

Q It started on the Hill.

THE PRESIDENT: It started on the Hill.

Q Any appointments, Mr. President, that you are going to fill while up here?

THE PRESIDENT: Fred (Mr. Storm), I have not thought of appointments since last Friday morning.

Q Still planning to go back --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Either Wednesday night or Thursday night.

Q Are you going to see the last race of the Poughkeepsie Regatta?

THE PRESIDENT: If I can make it. It depends on when I can get away from Wilmington. The POTOMAC will be here and I told Captain Clark that if I could make it I would get on board and go over to the finish and see the last race. If I am not here, he can take any of the Navy crew members, their families and friends and the Naval officers with him on the POTOMAC and go over and see it. He can use her as an observation boat.

Did you hear this one, only for God's sake don't let this get out. (The President then told a story about the Harvard-Navy-Pennsylvania race. It appears that the members of the Roosevelt family were standing on one side of the boat, shouting for Harvard. The Naval officers were standing on the other side, rooting at the top of their lungs for the Navy. Poor old Pennsylvania was coming up with nobody rooting for her so the President, to equalize the situation, started rooting for Pennsylvania.)

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #468,  
Held in the study of the President's  
home at Hyde Park, New York,  
June 21, 1938, 2.30 P.M.

Q It is a full house, Mr. President; more than you had yesterday in the morning. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I stole a march on you. (Laughter)

Q What made us mad was that the photographers took pictures with only two of us down there.

THE PRESIDENT: I will bet that is bad. (Laughter)

Let us see, what have we got? Number one, I call your attention to this, if you want to write an overnight you can write on this. It has been released in the Department of Commerce about five days ago, about the national income for the year 1937 and shows that it exceeded our estimates. It did not exceed our estimates by much but if you will remember, away back last fall, the estimate was -- what did it run to? -- sixty-eight or sixty-nine billion dollars and actually it was sixty-nine point eight, or within two-tenths of being seventy billion dollars, which was pretty good.

Q Sixty-nine point eight?

THE PRESIDENT: Sixty-nine point eight. I will give this release to you. It has got some quite interesting things in it. One of the things which showed particularly was that while, in comparison with the famous year of 1929, the average annual wage of full-time employees -- this is a special thing, this is not average annual wage of everybody but of full-time employees -- was down nine per cent. below the 1929 average, last year the index of the cost of



living was fifteen per cent. below the 1929 average. That, of course, is another way of saying that it did not cost as much to live in 1937 as it did in 1929 for the same income. Therefore, relatively, the country was better off in that particular classification.

And the other thing, which is not in the book, is that the Bureau -- the Department of Commerce now estimates that the 1938 income, national income, based on the first three months, which is, of course, all they can take, will be slightly above sixty billion dollars, which is a rather definite improvement over the figures that the Government has been working on in the fall. You will remember -- I don't know which particular lot of statisticians there was, whether it was the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or the Central Statistical Board, they estimated it below fifty-five billion dollars, and it looks to these people, the Department of Commerce people, that it will run slightly above sixty.

Q That is based on the first three months?

THE PRESIDENT: That is based on the first three months.

Q Is there any estimate of what the 1937 income would have been --

this is a very "iffy" question -- if it had not been for the slow last quarter? What were we doing the first nine months?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had anything but a guess on that -- it would be necessarily a guess -- that it would have run somewhere around seventy-two billion.

Q I think it is interesting.

THE PRESIDENT: So it is not off very much from what it would have been.

Q Mr. President, do you regard this better figure of approximately

sixty billion as an indication that business is coming back?

THE PRESIDENT: I'd put it the other way around, that business is not and has not been this year as bad as a lot of people believed it to be. That is not only business, that is all income, that is industry and agriculture.

Q Dividends, wages paid, et cetera?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, do your reports of business show that -- do you feel there will be a steady improvement during the year, that the bottom has been scraped?

THE PRESIDENT: As somebody remarked the other day, "There have been a few raindrops coming from the heavens and possibly they will be followed by a much needed shower."

Q Mr. President, on the estimate of sixty billion for the current year, I am wondering if that took into account the new spending, lending program and the total that that will add to the national income?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q That won't come until the end of the year?

THE PRESIDENT: Some of it starts the first of July. For instance, all of your WPA, Resettlement, Farm Security, National Youth Administration, all that starts the first of July.

Q That will undoubtedly boost it, won't it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q May we quote that "rain drops"?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Pushing your forecast more definitely, Mr. President, when do you

expect the shower? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, you are writing news stories. (Laughter)

I will give you a news item. I think that Friday night, when I go back to Washington, I am going to do a little talk over the air. It will be 9.30 eastern standard, 10.30 daylight. It will be over all the network, CBS and National and Mutual. And that evening, before the broadcast, I go to the dinner that is being given by the Little Cabinet to me, the annual dinner, and at the end of the dinner I will come back to the White House and go on the air at 9.30 eastern standard time.

Q What is the nature of your address, Mr. President, can you tell us?

THE PRESIDENT: General.

Q Fireside?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing special -- general.

Q Any particular reason for making that address?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I usually do it after Congress goes home.

Now, here is a bunch of bills approved, which we will give you today. No vetoes so far.

Q Did you sign the Pure Food and Drug Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it has not come to me yet. I am very well up on my end of the work -- better than Washington. I have taken action on every bill except this little bunch here, about ten, which I will probably act on in the course of the day. But there are still outstanding 347 bills to be acted on. It is awful.

Q 347 to come up from Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: To be acted on, of which ten are here, right there, (indicating) and the other 337 are still in Washington. So you

see I am pretty well up with my work.

Q Does it usually take that long?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would say this: I would say that this year there was -- well, the total number of bills passed by this Congress does not vary much from previous Congresses. I would say there were fewer bills that came to me before the last week of the session and more bills that came to me that were passed in the last week of the session than in any previous year. I have never had a flood like that before. I acted on 43 last night. I signed 560 and vetoed 23. One passed over veto and one became a law without signature.

MR. MCINTYRE: That is 584 in all.

THE PRESIDENT: 584 in all and 347 have to be acted on.

Now, here are the bills I acted on today. Here is a claim bill, a relief bill -- several of them. Here is an Act to regulate the transportation and sale of natural gas in interstate commerce and for other purposes -- you had better look at it because I cannot describe it to you -- a technical bill.

And, most important of all, the relief bill, public loans and grants, et cetera, which was signed this morning. I was going to give you all a statement on it but I decided not to so I will read it to you and you can make notes so you will have it indirectly. (Reading)

"It is generally recognized today that economic and social welfare ought to go hand in hand.

"This relief and works bill covers both forms of welfare. It permits a great program to get under way immediately -- a large amount of money to be spent for many different forms of assistance, not only to



the unemployed and to getting wages out but also to agriculture, industry and to business.

"It is carried out on the principle of Federal participation in partnership with state and local agencies -- almost wholly a partnership basis. Practically all WPA work is that, all of PWA is that, NYA, and so forth and so -- a whole list of things. It is a partnership bill.

"On the Public works end, PWA was created of course as an experiment in 1933. We recognized its power but we did not -- we had not measured it at that time. Since then we have been metering its merits. That is a new line. We have discovered two things: the first is that cities and other public bodies still need a very large volume of permanent improvements and that they are glad to and able to assess themselves for more than half of the total cost of these improvements by going into partnership with the Federal Government.

"We also know that on these PWA projects for every worker on the project site who works one day, two and a half other workers are given work in mines, mills, forests, transportation, etc. Another illustration is that 36¢ out of every dollar goes to the construction payroll on the job and 64¢ goes for producing and fabricating materials, generally at distant points.

"In five years -- by the way it is just five years last Thursday that PWA started -- we have added all over the country 25,000 useful projects, releasing thereby to industry for the purchase of materials over two billion dollars worth of money.

"I think they have given out in Washington, or will today, the list of projects that have been actually approved. I have been approving them during the past three weeks, in every case subject to the signing of the bill. The signing of the bill today releases them all . . . ."

and I think -- I am not at all sure on this, maybe Kannee can tick down and find out from Burlew's office -- there are about \$350,000,000, I think, that have been approved in the past three weeks.

(Several hundred million approved in the past three weeks.)



"I think in almost every case the actual dirt will begin to fly inside of sixty days, which is the minimum possible time because you have to advertise for bids -- generally thirty days advertising under the law and then the bids have to come in and you select your bidder and he files the contract bond and gets the work really under way in the second four weeks.

"So it is quite a record and the rest of the available money will probably be allocated -- a good deal of it -- this week or next week before I go away, and the balance in the course of the next two or three months. But the bulk of the money for PWA goes to work in the shortest possible time."

Q What is the total for PWA?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to look at the bill.

Q I have got it in my pocket.

THE PRESIDENT: \$700,000,000?

Q \$1,365,000,000.

THE PRESIDENT: That includes loans.

Q The A. P. says --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is what you have to be damned careful about. Out of the \$1,365,000,000 there is about \$750,000,000 available for grants, and then the balance is available for loans.

Q And then the \$400,000,000 from the revolving fund?

THE PRESIDENT: And then the \$400,000,000 from the revolving fund. It is a terribly important thing -- of course nobody can write in the kind of story that everybody figured. Everybody gets the idea that this is a thirteen billion or a twelve billion dollar Congress but of course that is perfect rot because a very large portion of that money is loaned money and a large portion is authorization for which no appropriation has been made at all. There are more damned crooked figures flying around than I know of, most of them,

off the record, in the Herald-Tribune editorial records.

Q Not mine. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, and thank God, you don't write the editorials.

(Laughter)

Q He has a good Albany training; it is a shame to see him go down.

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: If they would turn over those editorials to John

(O'Brien) we would all be happy.

Q Except John. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, except John.

Q I don't think Mrs. Reid would like it. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (Reading)

"Then, on the rest of the bill, the same thing about partnership holds true on all the other appropriations like WPA which is now in gear and ready to go ahead on the first of July. These projects will take care of, as far as we possibly can, all the available employable unemployed and you will find in going over that list that nearly all the other agencies are on the same partnership basis."

Q Do I understand you correctly to say that this WPA will take care of all the employable unemployed?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I mean all that we can.

Q Can you tell us what Mr. Kennedy talked with you about today?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Fred (Storm), just general international affairs.

I cannot be more specific than that.

Q Did he make you feel cheerful or gloomy?

THE PRESIDENT: Made me feel just the way I have felt for the last two or three years.

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, JR.: Joe (Kennedy) wanted me to apologize to all

of you for missing you here. We came back here and waited until 2.30 but Joe had to leave because his train left two or three minutes later, so he wanted me to apologize to you.

THE PRESIDENT: The general international picture is not a particularly happy one. All we can do is to hope for the best. He made one remark yesterday when he landed and the best account of it was in the Herald-Tribune -- the Times did not carry it.

Q What is that, Mr. President? I will check up on it.

THE PRESIDENT: Joe, when he landed, told me he had told this to the boys at the dock:

MR. MCINTYRE: Krock was there, too.

Q It is these damned editorial writers again. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: And he considered it the most important thing he said when he landed. It was to the effect -- if you will read the Herald-Tribune, they have it absolutely O.K. -- when he landed he pointed out that he had met in England exactly the same kind of people that he used to meet on Long Island, exactly the same kind of people, who said that the world was coming to an end, everything was terrible and how they would have to close their country houses and sell their Rolls Royces. They were exactly the same crowd and the only difference was that in England they did not blame it on their Government, which I think is a grand line, a brilliant line. And he was enlarging on it this morning and he said, "You know, they have a problem come up and they talk it over for weeks; then it is presented to Parliament and acted on in another two weeks. Certain elements in the community may not like it; they make their protest, sit around the table and talk it over and if

the thing goes through that they do not like, they quit grouching. That is the real difference between Government in England and Government here."

Q Did he seem hopeful?

(The President did not answer the query.)

Q I had a query last night from Honolulu. This is good!

THE PRESIDENT: Now, Fred (Storm), you cannot go to Honolulu at this time. (Laughter)

Q This said the HOUSTON was out in the Mare Island Navy Yard being fixed up for the trip.

THE PRESIDENT: That part is true.

Q It said that instead of going to the Galapagos we were to head for Honolulu.

THE PRESIDENT: I will take you with me if we go there.

MR. McINTYRE: It might be worth while because Fred threatened to stay out there if he gets there. (Laughter)

Q What are the arrangements for us, the three Press Associations?

THE PRESIDENT: I am having a bad time. I will tell you frankly, I won't take an escort cruiser; it looks like it will be a destroyer and you know what the answer is on that -- there ain't no bunks. However, Panama will be quite exciting, I think.

MR. McINTYRE: We made arrangements for ten days at Hollywood and then move to Panama.

Q It suits me.

Q I would like to see Storm in a hammock.

Q They don't build them that big. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Storm) I spent four years in one. They are very comfortable.



THE PRESIDENT: Are they?

Q Yes, sir; much better than a bunk.

THE PRESIDENT: I regret to say that though I am a sailor I never slept in one. (Laughter)

Q Can you straighten us out on this railroad session in view of all these reports that you are going to call a special session?

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

Q John O'Connor said you have to have one.

THE PRESIDENT: I read that. All I ever heard about it or thought about it is what I read in the papers.

Q Are you going -- this is a very local angle -- are you going to try to attend the local Regatta?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a question actually of minutes because I have to be at this celebration in Wilmington, Delaware, in the morning and it depends a little bit on how long the speeches take. I am going to beat it from the stand to the train and come right on up to Poughkeepsie and possibly get off the train and make a dash for the POTOMAC and get on board in the hope that the races are not yet over. Do you know what time the races start?

Q The Varsity will be at 5.00.

MR. McINTYRE: The Freshman comes first, as I understand it, at 3.30 and then 4.30 and 5.30.

THE PRESIDENT: If it is 3.30, 4.30 and 5.30, I will make the Varsity race and possibly the second Varsity. Of course, if it is rough weather, they will put it off until Sunday. I will come just as quickly as the train can get here.

Q Have you given any indication as to whether you will be able to take



part in the Constitution celebration? I understand your grandfather was one of those who ratified.

MR. MCINTYRE: What is the date of that?

THE PRESIDENT: What is the Chattanooga date?

Q The celebration is from the eighteenth to the twenty-fourth. But they will set it for any time you can make it.

THE PRESIDENT: Here is my situation: When the bill was introduced to take part in this celebration of the Chattanooga Battle, that was way back last fall, I said that I would go, so that is a fixed date. If I can make it the nineteenth, I can be here the seventeenth and still make Chattanooga on the nineteenth.

MR. MCINTYRE: I think we will have it straightened out tomorrow morning.

Q They want to work the dedication of the Post Office at the same time. The date of that is not important -- whatever date you can make it. I was wondering whether you might be able to make any commitments on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I told Miss Reynolds yesterday that I would come if I could.

Q Are you going to see the Postmaster General up here during the week?

THE PRESIDENT: No, Friday, in Washington.

Q For background, if necessary, should we look for any diplomatic action growing out of the German espionage?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is background.

Q May I ask one more local question in connection with PWA? Is there any possibility that you would comment on this school plan in connection with Hyde Park?

[Mrs. Rundall]

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard. Miss Arundall is coming up on Tuesday or Wednesday next to talk to me about it. They will have to act mighty fast if they want any of this PWA money because it will be all gone pretty soon.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

403 11-8-5  
[See p. 496]

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #469,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
June 24, 1938, 10.39 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is much news. There are about two hundred bills to be acted on. I will be working on them today and tomorrow and the next day and the day after.

Q Have you signed the Railroad Unemployment Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: That has not come to me. I have acted on everything that has come to me until five minutes ago.

Q Do those make news? (Pointing to commissions on the President's desk.)

THE PRESIDENT: These are just commissions of people that have been confirmed.

Q Do you expect to sign the Wage and Hours Bill today?

THE PRESIDENT: That has not come to me.

Q I have been writing every day that Bob Wagner is not going to leave the Senate and run for the Governorship. The members of the Press at Albany have been writing the opposite. Can you enlighten us on that? It leaves the desk in a state of confusion. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That puts me in a bad fix because I know the Albany boys, too, and I cannot take sides. (Laughter)

Q If I am wrong I am willing to have you tell me. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You keep right on. That is the only hint I can give you.

Q On the same course?

THE PRESIDENT: On the same course.

Q No, that is -- seriously -- (laughter) seriously, Wagner has convinced me he would not run for the Governorship.

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't I just give you a darned good lead? Why overplay your hand?

Q All right; thank you. (Laughter)

Q Is the story that you are going to make a campaign speech in Maine for Governor Brann true? He is running again.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe there is a chance of my getting to Maine this summer. I am going out, as you know, to the Coast and then around.

Q That was an A. P. story. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on the outcome of the Minnesota primaries on Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: To tell you the honest truth, I did not read about it.

Q The Democrats made a powerful poor showing.

Q Do you expect to make a speech in Oklahoma?

THE PRESIDENT: I may say a few kind words. The reason I am going to Oklahoma is because on these various trips we have crossed corners of the state at various times but we have never got off the train and I thought it was time to get off the train in the State of Oklahoma and take a look at it.

Q If we may get away from politics for a moment, there is a report out of Wall Street that the reason for the upturn is that Ambassador Kennedy brought over a plan for simultaneous deflation by the United States and Great Britain. Can you comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: It sounds just like reports out of Wall Street.

Q Have you decided what part of Oklahoma you are going to?

THE PRESIDENT: Oklahoma City.

Q Have you received a report from the Interdepartmental Committee on Philippine Affairs yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet.

Q In line with your recovery program, can you comment on this campaign in the newspapers for immediate buying?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so. I mean, I don't think I want to comment on it.

Q Do you expect to appoint the Wages and Hours Administrator before you leave?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know when it is coming to me. It may be in this pile. (Indicating)

Q Are you going to announce the names of the members of the Monopoly Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. We haven't met. We are going to meet at 12:15.

Q Will you comment on Governor Lehman's announced intention of running for the seat vacated by Senator Copeland?

THE PRESIDENT: No, and I will tell you why: Those up at Albany and Hyde Park know that I have been absolutely jammed the past two days preparing a speech and signing bills. I have had very little chance even to read the papers.

Q When do you expect the speech to be ready?

THE PRESIDENT: Expect what?

Q To get copies of the speech.

THE PRESIDENT: About four or five o'clock.



Q Have you read Secretary Morgenthau's report on bank examinations?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. I think I have it on the desk.

Q Can you tell us your plans for Wilmington?

THE PRESIDENT: I am going up tomorrow afternoon -- no, Sunday afternoon to Wilmington to spend the night with Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Dupont and on Monday morning I am going to motor from there down to the Rock where they all landed -- I mean the Swedes, not the Duponts. (Laughter)

Then there will be some speeches of welcome and so forth, and then I am going right back to the train as fast as I possibly can and go through to Poughkeepsie in the hope of seeing the last two races. When I get to Poughkeepsie I am going to get on board and go right out to the middle of the stream in the hope of seeing the Junior Varsity and the Varsity Races.

Q Will there be any advance on your Wilmington speech?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so; I have not thought of it yet. I will try to get something.

Q There has been talk of a special session in the fall. Have you any comment to make on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Wait until you hear my speech tonight.

Q Will that enlighten us?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any comment you care to make on the New York spy inquiry -- espionage?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. I have been a good deal disturbed by that because it raises a fundamental double question in relation to the Press. Perhaps I should not say "the Press" because there is only one syndicate involved in this particular thing. The issue

is, frankly and squarely, an issue of patriotism and ethics combined. As I understand the facts, a Government employee in the pursuance of his regular duty, unearthed a great deal of information relating to foreign spies in this country. Well, that is a pretty serious thing. It was information which seemed to call for criminal action on the part of the Government. The Department of Justice undertook that criminal action. This Government employee, having obtained all of the details on which the presentment to a grand jury would be based, and before the grand jury had taken any action and before the trial, resigned from the Government service and within fifteen minutes signed a syndicate contract --

MR. EARLY: (interposing) Not before the grand jury.

THE PRESIDENT: Not before the grand jury but before the trial -- thereby in a very serious case relating to the national defense possibly jeopardizing the criminal prosecution by the Government.

I am not talking about the law of his case, I am talking about the patriotism and the ethics; first, of a Government employee doing that, and secondly, any newspaper undertaking to syndicate information of that kind.

I think that is the proper way to present this particular problem that faces the Government of the United States today.

I think that is all the comment that could be made.

Q There is a report out of Berlin this morning that Ambassador Wilson visited the foreign office in connection with the spy inquiry.

I wonder if you had any advance advice on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you because I have not seen any State Department dispatches since Saturday morning. There may be some-

thing in them. Did you ask them over there?

Q In the light of these recent developments, do you think the Army and Navy and their Intelligence Units should have more money and more men for counter espionage?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so, frankly. Both the Army and Navy Intelligence have been held down pretty low on funds.

Q Do you mean by that answer, sir, to approve activities of counter espionage?

THE PRESIDENT: What do you mean? Do you mean running down spies in this country? That is what I mean by counter espionage. I think we ought to have more money for that purpose.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #470,  
Held in the study of the President's  
home at Hyde Park,  
June 28, 1938, 11.00 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Doris (Miss Fleeson), how are you? I am glad the big boy lets you sit down.

Q (Miss Fleeson) Better than at the Nelson House.

THE PRESIDENT: It must be overrun.

Q (Miss Fleeson) Yes, it is.

THE PRESIDENT: Here is the oldest (indicating Mr. Joseph Early, of the Brooklyn Eagle). I think you and I started together almost at the first session.

Q (Mr. Early) It was my first assignment and you gave me a good many stories for the first page on the Senatorial fight.

THE PRESIDENT: January, 1911. You would never know it to look at him.

Q (Mr. Early) Thank you -- gray hair and things of that sort.

Q What can you do in the way of stories in 1938?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. George (Durno) had a pretty good idea.

He was going to come in here and say, "Thank you, Mr. President," and let it go at that. (Laughter)

Q Mr. Aubrey Williams made the front page this morning with some interesting statements.

THE PRESIDENT: Did he? I haven't seen any papers except the Poughkeepsie Eagle News. I wanted to read about the boat race and that is all I have done. It was wicked we did not get to see it.

Q Terrible.

THE PRESIDENT: It did two things, it proved the supremacy of the Navy and --



Q (interposing) And Harvard. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: And Harvard.

Q Are you building here?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. It depends on the bids.

Q Have you signed any bills that we ought to know about?

THE PRESIDENT: I have signed twenty-two this morning. I guess Mac and Kannee will have a release on it.

Q Any comment on the Wage and Hour Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I mentioned it in my speech Friday night. I think that covered it all right. I do think that next to the Social Security Act it is the most important Act that has been passed in the last two or three years.

Q Have you thought about appointing the Administrator yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. I have a civil recommendation. I hope to appoint an Administrator before I leave but that is one appointment I am not dead sure about. The bill does not go into effect for sixty days, you know, so I have time to turn around.

Q How about the Civil Aeronautics Authority?

THE PRESIDENT: I am working on that. It is up to 550 applications now.

Q How many are politicians?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I would say about a third.

Q How about our Judges?

THE PRESIDENT: They will come along in driblets.

MR. McIntyre: I am not convinced as to what "politicians" covers.

THE PRESIDENT: Work it out with Doris (Miss Fleeson). (Laughter)

Q In the morning papers there is a story from Washington in which it



says that WPA is going to boost its rolls from 2,700,000 to 3,150,000, thereby adding 400,000. Those figures are approximate. Is there going to be any concerted start of the spending lending money?

THE PRESIDENT: With WPA? Yes.

Q Are the other agencies going to tie in?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course you know about PWA. They are going as fast as they possibly can and those are the two major things. CCC will be up to its new number on the first of July -- the new enrollees.

Q What is that number?

THE PRESIDENT: 350,000, is it not?

MR. McINTYRE: We can tap down on that.

Q Was the date July first, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is it correct to say that July first is the start of this, and that they will all shove off together?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as it is humanly possible.

Q Yes.

Q On that relief picture, if it does not seem too naive, how should our relief policy be stated? Many people are asking, "Does the Government owe them --"

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I should say this, that the object of work relief as distinguished from the dole is to give wages for work instead of just enough money to keep body and soul together without work. During the past six months there has been an increasing -- perhaps that is not fair because it brings it down

a little bit late, the increase took place between last October and this April -- an increase to such numbers that existing funds did not make it possible to take care of every able-bodied person who was able to work, to take care of them with work.

Now, this addition of approximately 400,000 will take care of a large part of that additional number of able-bodied citizens who can work and for whom we did not have enough money before.

Q I had in mind a more fundamental thing. There used to be a favorite statement with some people that the Government has no obligation to any of these people.

THE PRESIDENT: It is a continuing policy and there are two perfectly definite schools of thought. One is to give them wages for work to a sufficient extent to keep them going in as decent a way as we can afford to do, and the other school of thought is merely to give them enough money for food and clothing, without asking them to work for it.

Q Might it not be called a sort of continuing emergency proposition? I mean, you will probably always have them with you and they will probably always have to be taken care of.

THE PRESIDENT: I would not put it that way because you are only stating a third of the problem -- a quarter of the problem. It is far deeper than that. Technology, or whatever you choose to call it, economics, some people say it is the result of the World War, other people say it is the result of new needs of civilization, other people stress the new machinery by which you can turn out, with the same amount of labor, twice as much goods as you did eighteen or twenty years ago -- they are causes and all are con-

tributing factors. In every civilized country there is more unemployment than ever before in history -- world history. Now, that is the simple fact and no country has devised a permanent way, a permanent solution of giving work to people in the depression periods as well as in the boom periods. The only method devised so far that seemed to give 100% of relief, or nearly so, is the method of going in for armaments, putting the unemployed to work manufacturing goods which have no permanent capital value -- goods which do not reproduce wealth. And of course everybody knows that while that may work for a year or two years or a few years, it is by no means the permanent solution of the problem and we are all groping and trying to find a way of doing it without the use of armaments.

Q What do you think of the recommendation made, I believe, by the National Resources Committee for a reservoir public works program, with the projects all set up and approved, which you could let out almost immediately?

THE PRESIDENT: That is one of the answers but not the only permanent answer, and that particular answer has been used with very great effect in Sweden which, however, is a very small compact country.

Q It worked to a certain extent on this program, did it not?

THE PRESIDENT: And, of course, we are, to a certain extent, using it here at the present time. The difference has been over here that we did apply that method in 1933, 1934 and 1935, but in the process, when it was working in 1935, 1936 and 1937, we did not pay off the cost of it, but the Swedes did.

Q How did they do that?

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, in time of prosperity the Swedes laid aside enough in Government revenue to pay for the things they did in the period of depression.

Q Do you think that experience is worth emulating in this country?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it is being studied.

Q To go back to the statement you made a little bit ago regarding armaments, can it be said or thought that our new armament program has something to do with rehabilitation?

THE PRESIDENT: Relatively very little, Claude (Mahoney) because, if you will remember the figures I used three or four months ago about the armament figures in some of the countries of Europe, they ran as high as 45% or 50% of the national income. Well, at that time, our armament figures were about 12%. With the new program I should say, as a guess, -- I have not checked -- the armament percentage of our Government expenditures may run as high as 15% or 16%. Therefore, it is not to be compared with the economic result in those countries where they are spending 45% or 50%.

Q Mr. President, would you like to comment at all for our local Press on Miss Rundall's visit with you?

THE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Rundall came in to give me the report on the school problem in the town of Hyde Park, the north end of the town of Poughkeepsie and the east end of the town of Clinton. You have probably seen it; I think it has been published.

I read it over and she asked me if I would see some of the trustees of the different districts on Friday morning. They are coming at half past ten on Friday and I pointed out to Mrs. Rundall



that this year we have this Public Works program with grants allowable up to -- what? \$700,000,000 or \$750,000,000, something like that, but that the applications already in, many of which have been approved, are going to use that up pretty fast. There is a dead line which is about, as I remember it, about sixty days. It is going to be a pretty tough thing. Apparently nobody realized in this county that there was a P.W.A. program, but other counties in the United States, 3100 other counties, did and they got their applications in. That is not in criticism of Dutchess County but just a fact.

Q By the way, you made a statement and since you made that statement --  
THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Spratty (Mayor Spratt of Poughkeepsie) got busy.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about your itinerary across the country? There have been quite a number of queries from cities along the line.

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing new beyond what I gave you the other day.

Q Anything beyond Pueblo, Colorado?

THE PRESIDENT: We are going through Salt Lake but I think it is in the middle of the night.

Q Are we going to Lake Crescent? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: We are going up into the Yosemite. Can I take care of you there?

Q I don't know. I will see the Colonel (Starling). He will take care of me.

THE PRESIDENT: There is one little lake up there; the ice forms overnight.



Q I slept in it. (Laughter)

Q Are you seeing anybody in the next day or so that we ought to know about?

THE PRESIDENT: No, Mrs. Rundall's school trustees are coming in on Friday. I don't think there is anybody else scheduled.

Q Mr. Kennedy (Ambassador to Great Britain) is not coming back?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q He sails tomorrow.

THE PRESIDENT: He sails tomorrow.

Q A few weeks ago fifty-five members of a college faculty sent a petition to you calling for an administrative policy with respect to Spain. Have you made any reply to them?

THE PRESIDENT: I can only tell you in the utmost secrecy, if you promise not to use it. I did not know that I got it. (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: You got it.

THE PRESIDENT: What did you do with it?

MR. McINTYRE: It was one of six hundred.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was mislaid in the mails.

Q (Mr. Durno) Thank you, Mr. President. I am a little late on that.

Q Mr. President, can we look for the appointment of an Ambassador to Moscow within the next --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is one of the things I am going to talk to the Secretary of State about next Monday. I have not done a thing about it and if I get time before I leave, I will look over these (indicating) -- look over the bids for this little cottage on top of the hill and maybe I can give you a story -- I hope so.

And maybe on Thursday or Friday -- what day is today? -- maybe on Thursday or Friday I can take you up to the top of the hill and

show you where it is going up.

Q Did you sketch the plans yourself?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. What I did was to draw the plan and Henry Toombs did the real job. I have to be careful about that because I haven't the license to practice architecture in this State.

Q There are a lot of us here who are glad to hear you ask what date it is because we are having the same trouble. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Storm) We assume, Claude (Mr. Mahoney), you were speaking for yourself. (Laughter)

(End of Press Conference)