

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #480,
At the Site of the New Cottage, Hyde Park, New York,
August 27, 1938, 2.30 P.M.

Q What is the frontage on this (cottage)? How long is the place going to be?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. That does not give it to you (indicating strings showing foundation lines). It gives an erroneous impression. The only thing I can give you is the number of rooms. There are two bedrooms and a bath on the south end and then one combination livingroom and diningroom in the middle and in the north end is the kitchen, pantry, hallway and one bedroom.

Q How many porches are there going to be?

THE PRESIDENT: One on the west side.

Q Are you going to finish the second story?

THE PRESIDENT: That is not for use; that is only for air.

MR. McINTYRE: I cannot understand that fireplace.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a trick. We did not want to have an ugly staircase going down into the cellar so we made the staircase going down to the cellar inside of the chimney. Right over here (indicating).

Q How big is the main room?

THE PRESIDENT: 22 by 34.

Q A fireplace on one side only?

Q What is this place here, outside of that wall (indicating)?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that will just be a grass plot.

MRS. ROOSEVELT: Franklin, which wing has the kitchen in it?

THE PRESIDENT: Right there (indicating).

MRS. ROOSEVELT: I thought so, on account of the doors.

Q How are they coming?

THE PRESIDENT: About two weeks ahead of schedule.

Q Where did you pick up the stone?

THE PRESIDENT: From the stone walls in the woods.

Q What kind of a finish?

THE PRESIDENT: Plain plaster.

Q Are you going to clear out some of those trees in front?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but only one at a time so we can be sure that we don't cut a tree and be sorry about it afterwards.

Q Is it going to cost \$15,000. to build it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q \$15,000. or \$16,000.?

THE PRESIDENT: \$15,000. or \$16,000., including various things.

Q I notice there is a sign up here that it is going to be air-conditioned?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no, it is not.

Q There is a big sign?

THE PRESIDENT: That does not mean that it is going to be air-conditioned. That is the name of the company and what it is going to do. Don't believe what you read.

Q Is it an artesian well or a soil well?

THE PRESIDENT: We had a dispute as to what is an artesian well and apparently it is not an artesian well, because somebody found in the dictionary that an artesian well is a flowing well.

Q It is a drilled well?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a drilled well, 110 feet deep.

(Mrs. Roosevelt asked the President to take his sun glasses off because the photographers were about to take pictures.)

THE PRESIDENT: All you fellows hold up your pieces of paper and pencils and we can send the pictures to the offices. (Laughter)

Q Are you planning any landscaping?

THE PRESIDENT: Whatever there is, just the trees -- just trees. There will be no garden. But what I will do is to try to get some from out of the woods and from the Catskills, various flowering shrubs, things of that sort, so that we will get something flowering from the first of May through to September.

Q All native?

THE PRESIDENT: All native, yes.

Q When do you expect you will be ready to move in?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, next spring.

Q What kind of a heating plant are you having?

THE PRESIDENT: It is that company that is doing the air-conditioning in other places but not here.

Q Coal or oil?

THE PRESIDENT: Oil.

Q Have you decided on a name for it?

THE PRESIDENT: We will call it after the hill, this old hill along here, from two miles south to a mile north. It has always been known as Dutchess Hill.

Q Dutchess Hill?

THE PRESIDENT: But it is not just this place. Anybody else can call it Dutchess Hill.

Q There is a story it was located on Mount McIntyre. (Laughter)

Q Will Mr. Spencer admit the validity of that name?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. (Laughter)

I am glad I have not a doghouse here because you probably would have crawled into it. (Referring to photographers.)

(Laughter)

Q Have you changed your mind, Mr. President, about having a telephone in?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no telephones.

Q No telephone, no radio, no electric lights?

THE PRESIDENT: No garden.

Q How will it be illuminated?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, next spring I am putting electric lights in but I don't know yet.

Q What kind of roof are you going to have?

THE PRESIDENT: Patent shingle stuff, whatever they call it, fire-proof shingles.

Q Mr. President, are you going to give us a pretty good speech over at Moses Smith's today?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will talk about fishing.

Q How about throwing in a little international stuff this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: Why that?

Q We need two good stories.

THE PRESIDENT: Not today. You don't need another story until tomorrow night. They do not open the news section of Sunday newspapers anyway.

Q Yes they do.

Q It is a return to the horse and buggy age. (Referring to the President's comment that there would be no electricity or telephones

in the new house.)

THE PRESIDENT: I can tell you a story off the record but you will have to make it off the record. If you go out to buy telephone poles from the electric light company, they want \$40. a pole. I have to have fifteen poles to get in from the road and it is \$600. What I am going to do, I think, is to go down into the woods and cut fifteen hemlocks, strip them and put them into the barn for the winter so they will dry out and then, in April, creosote them and put in my own poles. Then of course the wire and the transformer will have to be put in by experts. But I can put in my own poles for about \$10. a pole and that is a saving of \$450. It is worthwhile.

Well, as a matter of fact, of course that is the whole basis of the R.E.A. thing. The R.E.A. is being done in large part, of course, by the farmers themselves in a cooperative way. You can get poles out of the woods with your own labor and strip them and creosote them for \$9. or \$10. anywhere. All you need do is dig holes in the ground. You do not need experts to do that.

Q Mr. President, they asked me to ask you a question so they could take a picture. (Referring to photographers.) (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That is a very good question.

Q That would be a pretty good story in itself, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes but I cannot give it to you because it sounds like an attack on a particular company which, as a matter of fact, in its rates has been doing a rather good job.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #481,
Executive Offices of the White House,
August 30, 1938, 4.07 P.M.

Q How is the cottage coming along?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine; I have got roofs on the two end sections.

Q Will it be through this fall?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q Without radio and electric lights too?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I forgot one other thing I might have said -- no daily papers.

Q Not even the Poughkeepsie Eagle News?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am going to read them one week late and then I can laugh. Every paper will come in just one week or seven days late and then I can see how cockeyed they are. That is off the record. (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any news. I just found on my desk this morning a report of the National Labor Relations Board, showing sixteen strike situations in July, affecting 3849 workers. Ten were settled, covering 3466 workers, and the other six only affected less than 400 people. The cases closed by agreement were 262, affecting 41,000 workers, and quite a number of other cases were closed, 29 cases by certification, 68 dismissed and 167 withdrawn.

I mention this because it is not news. In other words, the only news is when the man bites the dog, and we do not get publicity, as I have remarked before, for the very, very large

percentage of labor conciliation cases which are being settled every day.

Q In that connection would you like to say something about the peaceful settlement of the long standing Harlan County dispute?

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to but I have not got any detailed information on it. All I can say is that if it is going to bring (a) peace and, secondly, decent treatment of the workers in Harlan County, it is good. I do not know Harlan County at first-hand, that is why I put it that way.

Q Mr. President, are you either planning or hoping to attend the Pan American Conference at Lima this year?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I answered that the last time I was down there.

Q Speaking of trips, there is a report in Minneapolis that you are coming out there to make a speech at the opening of the Community Chest drive?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Anything to that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. On the Community drive I usually, in the fall I will go on the air when the thing starts, sometime in October.

Q Do you expect to speak in the Sixteenth New York Congressional District?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no plans whatever that you do not know about.

Q Have you given any thought to Allen's successor? (Former District of Columbia Commissioner)

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Anything on the Federal Judgeships?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What did you see Sidney Hillman about today, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we talked over a lot of general situations.

Q The Wagner Act?

THE PRESIDENT: Just general situations.

Q Did you approve the recommendation of General Hines for a new Veterans' Hospital in Illinois?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. As I remember it, while formal official approval has not yet been given, we are all ready to go ahead with the decision on Texas but not on Illinois.

Q May I ask what is holding it up?

THE PRESIDENT: A number of organizations or communities, I do not know which it is, have asked for further hearings.

Q Will you tell us where in Texas that hospital will be?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess you had probably better wait and get it from Hines because there are a good many technicalities involved.

Q Mr. President, have you complied with the request from Congressman Dies for more cooperation from Government departments for his committee?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard of such a thing. More cooperation from Government departments? Aren't they getting it?

Q He wrote to you asking that the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor assist him.

THE PRESIDENT: He was not asking for more cooperation; he was asking for the detail of certain specified people. That is a very different thing than asking for more cooperation.

Q Have you done anything about that request?

THE PRESIDENT: I have referred it to the Departments involved.

Q Can you tell us what you wrote to those Departments?

THE PRESIDENT: I have referred it to them for report.

Q Secretary Hull would not tell us about his talk with you early this morning although he did say that he covered certain phases of the international situation.

THE PRESIDENT: I think at a time like this it is best not to comment.

Q Is this a good time to comment on Maryland?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Next Monday -- I am going there on Monday.

Q Representative Goldsborough gave us some details as to the trip, et cetera and so on. Is there anything else you want to add or would care to add about his visit with you this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. He told where I was going to land and then coming back here that evening?

Q Steve (Mr. Early) had told us that beforehand.

Q Mr. President, do you know who is going to be in your party?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet. I will be able to tell you in a few days.

Q Newspaper advertisements are urging the people of the state to resist the Federal invasion. Do you regard yourself as an invader?

THE PRESIDENT: I read it and my first impression was one of amusement and my next impression was one of sadness that anybody could put out a hysterical statement of that kind. On the face of it it is funny but when you go down deep it is sad, pathetic.

Q Do you share the view of Attorney General Cummings that Senator Lonergan is an acceptable candidate in Connecticut?

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

Q He made the announcement that the Senator is for the New Deal.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a word about Connecticut since the

day that the White House correspondents played ball over in Pawling -- about what was it, ten days?

Q That was the day you said "How do?" to Mr. Kopplemann.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is right, and they all saw me and heard me.

Q And they lost. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: We had a manager with us. (Laughter)

Q Fred (Storm) stole second. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Stole?

Q Tried to.

Q Are you soon going to release the report of the Philippine Joint Preparatory Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: That I do not know. You will have to talk to them about it. I have not heard a word.

They are releasing, for Friday morning papers, the report of this committee that went abroad to bring in a factual report of relations between employers and employees in England and Sweden. We are releasing the English part on Thursday for Friday morning papers. It is unanimous and exceedingly interesting. It is well worth reading through and not just trying to hit the high spots.

Q When do you think you will have your Denton speech ready, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I suppose Monday about noon.

Q And it is to be delivered by 2.00 o'clock?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q That is plenty of time; plenty of time. (Laughter)

Q In that connection, it is reported that you also may go to Baltimore later on?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

Q You don't plan to?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, do you know where Representative Goldsborough stands in the Senatorial contest?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better ask him.

Q I would not ask him where he stands but do you know where he stands? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. (Laughter)

Q Down in Georgia you spoke of the necessity of doing something about the freight rates differentials. I wonder if you could tell us what you have in mind on that?

THE PRESIDENT: A good many of the agencies are working on it.

Q I wonder if you plan to recommend anything to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: That is too far ahead.

Q Did Secretary Morgenthau have that tax study prepared for you today?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, gosh, no. You are about two months ahead of me.

Q When he started he said he hoped to have some or all by fall and I wondered if he had brought any over?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Can you comment on your talk with Marvin Jones this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about agriculture.

Q In view of the committees that want help to study labor relations and in view of Green's statement, do you plan to recommend any

Wagner Labor Act amendments?

THE PRESIDENT: Read the Act first.

Q Where will that report be released?

THE PRESIDENT: Right here at the White House.

Q How soon?

MR. EARLY: Probably tomorrow afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT: For Friday morning papers.

Q Do you care to make any remarks about Mr. Byrnes in South Carolina?

THE PRESIDENT: No, (pausing) no. (Laughter) I know what I will say, whichever way it goes. That I have got very definitely in my mind so it is all right.

MR. YOUNG: Well, again I thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #482,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 2, 1938, 10.37 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: This makes me realize that winter is coming on. I understand the Press Club is arranging its winter program.

Q I am on that committee. Have you any suggestions?

THE PRESIDENT: I have lots of suggestions; it is all right.

Q I would appreciate a memorandum. (Laughter)

Q The Senator rejoined after many years of absence.

THE PRESIDENT: I know it.

Well, you are going to have a nice long time at Hyde Park this time.

Q I bought a new set of golf clubs yesterday, so I am all set.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Will it improve your game?

Q (Mr. Storm) I think so. I hope so.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Senator, have you any questions this morning?

Q Mr. President, have you any comment to make on Italy's order for the expulsion of about 22,000 Jews who have been there since 1919?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about the failure of railroad labor to accept arbitration as a means of settling the wage reduction?

THE PRESIDENT: Only that I hope it can be worked out.

Q Are you at a point where you can consider a successor to George Allen yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q I have to ask you that at certain times.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there will be any news for quite a while.

Q Do you see anything alarming in the situation with respect to Mexico, respecting the President's remarks?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news on that other than what you have got.

Q Is there anything you can add to the Navy Department announcement of the creation of a new squadron?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think they announced why it is being done.

Q Is it a fact that you have decided not to go to dedicate ^{the} bridge at Port Huron? Would that indicate that you are not going into Michigan this fall?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not any definite plans. It is going to be awfully hard to get away from here before election. I will have to say this off the record: It is an unjustified, absolutely unjustified, assumption which is being made by Detroit papers that a failure to go to dedicate an international bridge up there at Port Huron is in any way connected with the Michigan campaign. It is a deliberate distortion of the fact and the Detroit papers might as well get that. I would like to go there to dedicate the bridge but it is a little difficult for me to get away.

Q In view of the political situation, wouldn't it be O. K. for us to say that it has nothing to do with the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a deliberate distortion for any Michigan paper

to make any such assumption.

Q Is that on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, leave that on the record. (Laughter) You asked for it and you got it.

Q I do not know whether you are talking about my paper or not. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am talking about some assumptions.

Q May I ask one more question?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You have been engaged in eliminating or trying to eliminate some of the Senatorial candidates --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is not true either.

Q Well, do you plan in any way to give any help to Governor Murphy in the election out there?

THE PRESIDENT: I will probably do the same thing about him as I will do for various other liberals in the United States. I am in favor of liberals. I am not taking part in party politics in the election. If there is a good liberal running on the Republican ticket, I would not have the slightest objection to his election.

Q Have you found any yet, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, curiously enough there are some.

Q Would Clyde Reed of Kansas qualify?

THE PRESIDENT: Now you are going into names and it is much too premature.

Q What did you say, sir? Was it, "I would not have the slightest objection to his --" what, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: To his election.

Q Does that imply that you may do something to help the Governor?

THE PRESIDENT: Now you are coming down to specific cases. I am talking principle. Let's stick to principle. It doesn't make the same kind of a headline in Michigan or any other place, but American people are beginning to think more in terms of principle than personality. That is easy.

Q May we infer from the picture that you draw -- you said it is difficult to get away -- may we infer that you consider the national or the international situation delicate at this time? Can we comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Only to this extent, on the international situation I would not say it is delicate, I would say it is difficult. We all know that. It is a difficult situation and I hate to tie myself up at the present time. I do not know what my dates are; possibly any dates will be a few hours from Washington and things that can be canceled very easily in case I need to.

Q Mr. President, have you made up your list of who will accompany you Saturday into Maryland, or Sunday?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, who have we got? Can we tell them? The President of the United States, Jim Farley, Dave Lewis, Governor Nice, that first day.

Q Congressman Goldsborough?

THE PRESIDENT: Congressman Goldsborough and Dr. McIntire.

Q Is Dr. Byrd going?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Will Mr. Farley make the whole trip?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will the Governor make the whole trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I think he is leaving at Morgantown and then rejoining us on Monday at Matapeake. I don't know how to spell it. It is all right otherwise.

Q In view of the fact that there has been a division of titles, is Mr. Farley making the trip as Postmaster General or as head of the Democratic Party?

THE PRESIDENT: In both capacities.

Q May we quote you directly about that sentence on the election of Republican liberals?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q Would you care to comment on the stories this morning to the effect that the bridge at Morgantown has been sponsored for years by people now active as Lewis' campaign managers, et cetera?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard of it. No, the bridge at Morgantown was just brought to my attention, I think, a year before the junior Senator from Maryland was elected to the Senate. Now, that is quite a long while ago. He came in here and he talked to me about the great desirability of a bridge across the Potomac for the people of Maryland to get into Tidewater Virginia without having to come all the way up here to Washington. They only had ferries which, of course, did not always operate through the winter. That is the first I heard of it. From that time I have been very much interested in some method of getting across the Potomac River throughout the year further down. You see, it is approximately 110 miles from here down to the mouth of the Potomac and no way of getting across except by ferry.

MR. EARLY: If you are going to quote that sentence, I think you had better clarify it and repeat.

Q Would it be possible to extend that quote to include deliberate distortion and also what you said about liberals?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, use both. And add to that, still in the quotes, "The good of the country rises above party."

(The stenographer then read the following questions and answers:

"Q In view of the political situation, wouldn't it be O. K. for us to say that it has nothing to do with the campaign?

"THE PRESIDENT: It is a deliberate distortion for any Michigan paper to make any such assumption.

.....

"THE PRESIDENT: I am not taking part in party politics in the election. If there is a good liberal running on the Republican ticket, I would not have the slightest objection to his election.")

Q Would it be encroaching too much to ask if your direct quotation on the election of liberal Republicans refers to California?

THE PRESIDENT: I am talking nationally. As a matter of fact, I do not mind talking to you for background on California. There is no question about it. This is not for direct quotation, it is background. There is no question, of course, that both Downey and Olson are, in their general points of view, liberals. There

is absolutely no question about that. There is also no question that I have felt -- because I told you all before -- that the Thirty-Dollars-every-Thursday plan is, in my judgment, unsound from the financial point of view. It is, however, a State plan.

If a plan of that kind is adopted by the voters and the legislatures of a state, provided it does not violate the Federal Constitution in regard to the issuance of currency, under our system of Government the state has a right to try out the plan. I do not like the plan. The Senate of the United States has nothing to do with the plan, provided it is constitutional. But, outside of that plan, which I do not like personally, both Downey and Olson are undoubtedly liberals.

Q Would not it be possible for the Senate and Congress to adopt this plan on a national basis? Isn't it just as applicable nationally as it is for the state?

THE PRESIDENT: Just on the doctrine of chances, no. As Lord Bryce said to me a great many years ago, about 1904 or 1905, one of the advantages of the American system of government, which makes it better than the European system, is that when somebody comes along with a brand new plan which a great many people think is crackpot, or won't work financially, or for some other reason, the state, either one state or two states or three states have a right to try it out and, if the thing works, it is apt to be adopted on a national scale.

I suppose one of the easiest illustrations is direct primaries. Direct primaries started in one or two states and worked.

They liked it. It spread to other states so that today direct primaries are on a national basis with very few exceptions. It is one of the excellent results of our system of government.

Q Financially unsound -- is there any suggestion, do you mean to suggest that some similar plan or some plan to extend pensions would be favored?

THE PRESIDENT: You saw the memo at Hyde Park. I think that covered it.

Q What would you say about using such a plan in the Senatorial Primary? Do you agree with Senator McAdoo's saying that it is a delusion?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q If a Democrat conservative were nominated and running against a Republican liberal, would you favor the Republican liberal?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on what is inside his heart. The question is, "When he gets to the Senate, what is in his heart?" If he is a real liberal, he will vote that way.

Q In view of all this, do you think you should consider the use of the word, "purge"?

THE PRESIDENT: I would call it one of those headline words, when you have to have a short word to illustrate an idea, and, to go further, I would say it is an extremely immature word, either for headlines or leads.

You are getting Steve (Mr. Early) worried.

Q A point of order: You labeled your comment on California, on Downey and Olson, as background?

THE PRESIDENT: You can use it in the regular way but not for quotes.

Q Following your instructions, I read that British labor thing. The

principal factor seems to be that collective bargaining is accepted and therefore they have peace. Can you give us some idea of what in that report might be applicable to proposed legislation in view of the fact that Britain's success is due largely to a state of mind?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that I believe we will gradually work toward that state of mind over here. I think it is a very important factor. In working out any law or working out any system, if both sides to any controversy are in a state of mind where they want to work it out in the spirit of the law or the system, you generally get somewhere but, if you call the other fellow names or emphasize publicly the violence of the dispute, you do not get anywhere.

And, of course, people can be helpful. The Press can be helpful in not overstressing disputes. The people engaged in the disputes can be helpful if they do not use bad names, do not make overstatements.

Of course this has been going on in England for a long, long time and I hope that in this country we are going gradually, over a period of years, to get in the same frame of mind that they are in over there, but it needs cooperation.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us about your talk yesterday morning with Mr. Phillip Murray of the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: It was along that general line I have been talking about, the same idea, trying to settle things in a friendly way. Nothing specific, only general.

Q Nothing was brought out about the wage cuts in the steel industry?

THE PRESIDENT: Only in relation to what I said, trying to work it out in a friendly way.

Q What do you think of the English system of settling jurisdictionally every jurisdictional dispute?

THE PRESIDENT: It seems to work.

Q Do you think there is any hope?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. Again it is a question of frame of mind.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #483,
At the Hyde Park Station of the
New York Central Railroad, N. Y.,
(The President was seated in his motor car),
September 6, 1938, 8.45 A.M.

(Only a few of the Press were present.)

THE PRESIDENT: You know what the cameramen said about George (Durno)?

You know that famous story? They got George terribly excited because Mrs. Roosevelt happened to remark -- this is the cameramen's story -- "Where is George Durno?" And one of the cameramen is reported to have said, "Drunk." They told him that she was telling it for about two days, and he believed it for about two days.

MR. McINTYRE: That is the reason George is here now.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news. You have got it all. I cannot think of a thing.

Q How long do you plan to stay?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope to stay until a week from Sunday.

Q Will you be back here after the Chattanooga trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I will go first to Washington and stay a day and then Chattanooga and then back to Washington for about ten days.

Q Any callers of importance today?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think anything. I will see the house. It has a few more stones added to it.

Q You are going to make a speech up here on the seventeenth?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, just the regular Constitution thing.

Q How do you feel about Maryland after the reception yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was fine. I never campaigned on the

Eastern Shore before. That is off the record. Did you ever campaign in Maine? That is also off the record.

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Or even the back part of Dutchess County? (Laughter)

Q Is there any likelihood of your going to this conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not any plans. It is the same thing, the same story. You see, the real fact is that I have not a plan, except the Chattanooga thing, more than six hours distance from Washington at any time.

Q What do you hear on the international situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than you people have got.

Q It looks pretty bad?

THE PRESIDENT: You cannot tell.

Q Anything about the French mobilization?

THE PRESIDENT: The trouble is -- this is off the record -- the trouble is there are so many stories that come through that are just rumors that you cannot tell. For instance, all the newspapers the other day had a dispatch -- this is all off the record -- that Henlein had left Hitler and gone back to deliver an ultimatum to Czechoslovakia. Even London and Paris said that. Berlin said that he was still in Berchtesgaden, which he was. He had not left at all.

You see, you cannot get news. The fellows covering that situation -- there is no way in which they can get the dope, the plain facts. The same thing happens to us. While our State Department dispatches are not as wild as the newspaper stories, they are darned near, and that is saying a lot.

Q You have not --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They have not any Hyde Park over there and they have not any Press Conferences.

It is a bad situation because half the stories are just nothing but talk.

Q You have not made any plans?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think there is a blessed thing. I hope it will be quiet today.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #484,
At the Hyde Park home of the President,
(In the Study),
September 9, 1938, 5.30 P.M.

Q How do you do, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, how is everybody? How is your golf?

Q (Mr. Storm) I took eight bucks from Mac (Mr. McIntyre) yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: Were you his partner?

Q (Mr. Belair) I was, Mr. President.

Q That was the grandest flag of all; grand design; pony express flag.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I thought you would like to have that. George
needed something to wave.

Q Absolutely.

THE PRESIDENT: So I told Grace (Miss Tully) to take it down to you.
You really have something to wave.

Q (Mr. Durno) I have been waving.

THE PRESIDENT: You cannot just go around through life, just waving
your arm. You get tired. You have to have something in your
hand.

Q I put it at half-mast at the Nelson House. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Don't they need something at half-mast all the time
in the Nelson House?

Q They need crepe the year around.

THE PRESIDENT: Who is here from Poughkeepsie?

Q I am.

THE PRESIDENT: Right. What is the latest about the row I read about,
about the seventeenth and the local committee's handling of it?

Q I have not heard of any row.

THE PRESIDENT: The Star had a long story on it.

Q That was very long ago.

THE PRESIDENT: That was the day before yesterday. The Eagle News would not carry it but the Star had a big story.

Q Row?

THE PRESIDENT: About how they had not done anything.

Q That is just the Star's editorial policy. It was partly the State's (State of New York) fault. They did not give them any assurances just how far to go ahead.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought they had \$5,000?

Q It was not in black and white until two weeks ago. And now Steingut comes in and says, "Shoot the works." If they had had that two weeks ago, they would be all right.

THE PRESIDENT: Somebody was asleep at the switch, I guess.

Q We need a couple of Democratic Senators from Dutchess County and Assemblymen.

Q Mr. President, as the result of recent speeches by Joe Kennedy and Ambassador Bullitt and also yourself and Secretary Hull, the impression, according to reports, is growing abroad that the United States is allied morally with the democracies of Europe in a sort of "Stop Hitler" movement, not necessarily in commitments for war or anything of that sort, but morally. Is there anything you can tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing I can say is this -- two things: first, is that the Associated Press dispatch about what Ambassador Bullitt said has been categorically and definitely denied by the Ambassador and by the American Embassy

in Paris. Number two is that your question is very well put. You speak of "impressions" -- in other words, interpretations by columnists and editorial writers in the United States. If they would read the English language about what the Secretary of State has said and what I have said, they would find that their interpretations are about 100% wrong. I am not mentioning any names -- I do not have to. In other words, this is -- off the record, this is just a political attempt to misinterpret the fact. That goes for almost every interpretation that I have read, so there. And the worst offenders -- well, I won't say the worst offenders --

Q (interposing) Mr. President, can you state for us the policy of the United States toward the preservation of --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Read what the Secretary of State has said and what I have said. That is the policy. And do not put words into people's mouths that they have not said. Make that very, very clear. The Press of this country is behaving rather badly on this whole foreign policy situation. It is the political angle of the Press and they are giving a false impression. How do you like that?

Q The Secretary of State has complained that whenever he tried to run a bluff, the Press had exposed his hand.

THE PRESIDENT: He had complained that?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: No! When did he ever say that?

Q (Mr. O'Brien) He said that in front of me. Also that he would not object to having some statement of American foreign policy con-

strued a bit strongly for whatever moral effect it might have.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the moral effect end of it has been made perfectly clear right out in open English. I do not think there is anything particularly hidden about it.

MR. McINTYRE: Would you want to qualify that about the "Press of this country"?

THE PRESIDENT: I mean that portion of the American Press which is using the political angle. I should not have said the American Press.

Q Mr. President, I have been asked about a letter that you are supposed to have written to Arkansas, endorsing the removal of the poll tax down there.

MR. McINTYRE: That is the letter you wrote to young Broderick.

THE PRESIDENT: That was a personal letter I wrote to, what is his name?

MR. McINTYRE: Lynn Broderick, was it not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Anything to say, Mr. President, about your conference with Governor Benson?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than you know. We talked about the agricultural situation.

Q How about your conference with the Attorney General?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose we talked about fifty different things; nothing in particular.

Q Mr. President, as a result of what the Attorney General said, -- again a matter of interpretation and speculation is involved -- (laughter) it would appear that the effort to obtain the election

of liberals in primaries and the defeat of reactionaries would be confined to those states already named and not extended in Connecticut. Was that justified?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not think so. In other words, I am talking principle.

Q (by another member of the Press) You wait until I get you home.

THE PRESIDENT: You would bring it out. (Laughter)

Another thing, you are asking about the poll tax. Again, this does not have any particular reference to any one particular state and I think you could put it this way: that there are a good many states which still have it and, historically, it seems to be a remnant of the period, of the time of the Revolution, when the ownership of property was necessary before you could take part in an election. Almost everywhere in the country we have been getting away from that. Every decade has seen some state or series of states getting away from it.

You take, for example, the State of Virginia, which is one of the states which has not got away from it. They have a very, very high poll tax. The result is, roughly, that about one-third of the qualified white voters in Virginia can vote and there are about two-thirds who are disenfranchised by the poll tax.

Of course, at the time of the Revolution and for a good many years afterwards, there were states that required the ownership of real estate before you could vote and it is in general line with that that we have this effort to retain the poll tax in part. I am not bringing in the question of negroes

voting, that is an entirely different question. I am talking about people who now vote. It is a little bit in line with this organization of "ladies" -- put "ladies" in quotes -- in New Jersey who have organized a movement to keep anybody who unfortunately happens to be on the relief rolls, through no fault of their own, from voting because they are paupers.

Q The Women's Rebellion?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think it is incorporated. I think it is called Women's Rebellion, Inc. Of course the logical conclusion to that would be for another women's revolution or men's revolution to start with the franchise to be confined to people with A. B. degrees or more.

I remember President Eliot, twenty or twenty-five years ago, at the time the question of women's suffrage was coming up, somebody said to him, "President Eliot, are you in favor of women's suffrage?" He said, "No." They said, "Why? Do you think it would increase the ignorant vote in the country?" He said, "Why, no, I am very much in favor of an ignorant vote in the country. It is because I do not think women know enough about Government affairs to be given a franchise." President Eliot was then told that quite a number of college graduates have indicated that they favored giving it to holders of college degrees and, in response to that, he said, "When that happens in this country, we will have a republic for three years and no more."

Q Was it Eliot who made that observation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. McINTYRE: I was wrong; it was not the Broderick letter that referred to the poll tax.

Q ^{said} Senator Bilbo/today that he had presented a plan for increasing old age pensions to sixty dollars a month. Have you anything to say?

THE PRESIDENT: I asked him one question: "Where would you get the money?"

Q He conceded that.

THE PRESIDENT: And that is as far as we got.

Q He also replied, however, or said, -- this is interpretative -- he said that provided a sound means were found to obtain the money, he indicated you would not object to the idea.

THE PRESIDENT: If a sound means could be found, so that you boys, all of you, could get a guaranteed minimum of \$25,000. a year, I would be for it. (Laughter)

Q I think sound means could be found in that case, Mr. President. (Laughter)

Q Was that the principal purpose of his visit, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No, he wanted to talk to me about a number of other things, a project and a pardon case and one or two others.

Q What do you hear from Maryland?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a peep -- not a peep.

Q What have you heard from Rochester about Jim (James Roosevelt)?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard this afternoon. Apparently he is getting along all right. He is on this pre-operation diet.

Q How long do you expect to stay out there?

THE PRESIDENT: A couple of days.

MR. McINTYRE: I talked to Chip (Mr. L. W. Robert) out there and he said that he had just seen Jim and he is in very high spirits.

THE PRESIDENT: Why did Chip go out?

MR. McINTYRE: For an examination.

Q Bourbon has preserved him. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: If you stick to Bourbon, you are all right.

Q Have you any further comment to make on the centralization situation of the town of Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: When are they voting?

Q I believe it is September sixteenth.

THE PRESIDENT: And all the districts except Staatsburg?

Q I have not had a chance to acquaint myself with the details but I understand that Staatsburg is in it -- all of the originally contemplated districts.

THE PRESIDENT: It is so terribly difficult to know what is what, there. They had a violent argument as to whether Staatsburg would vote or not or was entitled to vote or not. Where is it going to be held?

Q I believe in Hyde Park Village.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Will you come back here (from Rochester, Minnesota) or go directly to Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: I have to be here for the party on Saturday.

NOTE:

There were no Press Conferences held between September 9, 1938, at Hyde Park, and September 20, 1938. The President visited his son at Rochester, Minnesota and, upon his return to Washington, was incapacitated by a cold.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #485,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 20, 1938, 4.05 P.M.

Q How is the cold?

THE PRESIDENT: Bad.

Q Everybody seems to have one around here.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Dan Callaghan had one yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Mrs. Scheider has got it and everybody else in general.

Q Why don't you take some of Mr. McIntyre's remedy? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, he knows what to do for a cold. (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: The most important personal news is that I have a bad cold in my nose. That is more important than all the rest of the news to me.

Bill Myers is going back to Cornell, as you know. His letter of resignation and my reply Steve will have ready for you afterwards, and also a rather interesting summary of the work of the F. C. A. for the last five years, which he gave me on leaving. It shows the progress that has been made. If you will remember, in 1933 there were about fifty-seven different varieties of agricultural credit. They have all been put under one head and put on a proper business basis since then. The resume' tells the story. Steve will have it for you.

Q How are you going to keep men like Myers in the Government service?

THE PRESIDENT: It is pretty hard -- a mighty difficult thing.

Q Who will succeed him?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Hill, who is Deputy Governor at the present time.

Then, I just had a very interesting hour and a half conference with Mr. Gray, of the Union Pacific, Mr. Clement⁴, of the Pennsylvania, and Mr. Norris, of the Southern, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Robertson and Mr. ^[Jewell]Jell, of the Brotherhood -- a long discussion of the railroad problem -- but not the wage problem. I suppose it was generally assumed that it was the wage problem but it was not.

The only relationship of the wage problem to what we talked about was what I told them in the beginning. I suggested that the question of railroad wages is only one element in the broader problem of getting a sound system of railroads in the United States. That is the larger aspect, a sound system of transportation, coordinated transportation. I told them that last spring I had sent all the available information to the Congress for Congress to act on, and Congress didn't act on it and I think and I hope that Congress will act on it the coming session; that I felt very strongly that they could be of help if they would act as an informal committee of six to discuss the general problem of transportation, particularly if they could bring in a sufficiently broad plan to make it worth while for the country and the Congress to study and, if they like it, to act on it.

In other words, they know more about the running of railroads than anybody else in the country, their management and employees, and I am going to see if they cannot, in the course of the next month or so, talk things over and get any information they need

from the Government or their own sources and try to bring in some kind of recommendations for legislation, because I felt that we were getting nowhere and I think we ought to get somewhere, and this may help with that picture.

Q Did they accept the commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, they are at work now in the Cabinet Room.

Q Are they going to make that report to you in the very near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- at their convenience, I suppose, a month or six weeks.

Q Mr. President, where does that leave the wage controversy between the two parties?

THE PRESIDENT: It doesn't. It has nothing to do with it. I am sorry if you got out on the limb but I suppose it was the obvious thing to do.

Q That means that the wage controversy will go through the regular stages?

THE PRESIDENT: Just being taken up in the regular way.

Q Will this Cabinet Room session result in a statement from those gentlemen?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. I told them they would not say anything to you. I told them I would do all the talking. (Laughter) That is much better.

Q Mr. President, when do you expect the fact finding board to be created?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably in just about a week.

Q Mr. President, have you offered to Senator McAdoo the job of Comptroller General?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Or any other job?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Anything to give us on the appointment of a Comptroller of Currency?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing.

Q Have you offered Jefty (Mr. J. F. T. O'Connor) anything?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't offered anybody any job.

Q Is the Comptroller General appointment in sight?

THE PRESIDENT: No, nothing in sight.

Q What do you hear from Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Fred (Storm), on Europe there is no news. After all, you are here primarily for news. Now I know that a great many of you have been told to ask certain questions, interpretive questions and questions of opinion, questions of prognostication, and I think that in the present situation it is much better that you go along with me and not ask any questions of that kind. So far as news goes, there isn't any.

Q Mr. President, have any Democratic candidates or officials of Ohio asked you to intervene against the present cutting off of social security funds for Ohio?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a word about it.

Q There is a vacancy soon on the Maritime Commission. Anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: On the Maritime Commission? Didn't even know it. I will have to look into it.

Q When you appointed them you said you were going to look for somebody from the West Coast. Have you anybody in mind for consideration?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at all. I did not know the time was up.

Q How about the vacancy on the Supreme Court? Have you thought that one over?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What can you tell us about the results on Maryland and Georgia?

THE PRESIDENT: What I read in the papers, which checked with what I prognosticated. (Laughter) I was off one thousand.

Q How about the support of Tydings in the election?

THE PRESIDENT: You ought to know that. I don't take part in an election between different parties. (Laughter)

Q I do know that, but I also know at your last Press Conference or one of your Press Conferences you said you would not object to the election of a liberal Republican.

THE PRESIDENT: I was talking principle.

Q Were there any principles involved in Maryland?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, a great many.

Q Governor Winship from Puerto Rico and Governor Poindexter from Hawaii are both in the city. Have you any plans --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think I am to see them tomorrow or the next day.

Q Will you give us that little slip of paper you put into your desk on O'Connor today?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I will show it to some other people before 10.00 o'clock tonight when the polls close.

Q How about those two bridges you were talking about in Maryland the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: What two bridges? Oh -- (laughter - prolonged)

Well, I will tell you. That was what they call "a political newspaper story." Purely, one hundred per cent. Do you want the real story on the bridges?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course truth never catches up with the other thing. We will call it "the other thing," therefore it really is rather a waste of time for me to tell you the story, you see, but the actual fact was this:

You know, I told you before, I have been interested in getting a through line for a long time between Baltimore and Richmond. George Radcliffe suggested it away back and I looked it over and then there came up this spring an application for three bridges for this through line. One was at Havre de Grace, the other was the Patapsco, and the third was the Potomac. The total amount -- I have forgotten -- was \$15,000,000. and it would have taken the State so far over its quota that it could not be approved. So I went down there with the Governor and talked to him about cutting down the total to an amount that was within the quota of the State of Maryland and he entirely approved and said it was an excellent plan to cut out the Patapsco bridge, thereby reducing the allotment for Maryland to, as I remember it, about \$5,000,000. or \$6,000,000, which would have covered the Havre de Grace bridge, which is in an unsafe condition, and the Potomac bridge. Well, that is two links out of the ultimate three so, in order to get something done in a hurry before this quota -- it has to be done, you know, by the first of October -- before the final quota of this money is given out, he agreed that he would find out from

the bankers whether they would finance the two bridges for the State of Maryland's share, instead of the three of them.

We therefore took up the engineering plan and put it on the preferred docket, waiting for the agreement on the part of the bankers, which Governor Nice expected to get in order that we could meet the dead line of the first of October.

The bankers, I understand, have turned down the proposition of the loan on the two bridges, therefore if Maryland is unable to pay their 55% of the money by borrowing the money from the bankers, certainly the United States Government cannot put up their 45%.

Therefore, the extra amount that is still due Maryland on its quota will be distributed among a great many other projects.

There is a completely false political newspaper story, which I have now pricked the bubble of. Now that is the story.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Mr. President, is it your impression that industrial home work on goods that go into interstate commerce is covered by the Wages and Hours Act, such as needlework done in the home, say in Puerto Rico, for sale here?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You had better ask Andrews. Frankly, I don't know.

Q He does not know. Governor Winship asked him for a ruling.

Q Has any satisfactory solution been reached on the Battery Tunnel?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard anything about it for a week. The last report was that they were going to try to get a single, complete project for the amount of money which was in our minds.

The total project outlined to us was away over what we could allot to the City of New York. I think they are very nearly in line for it but I have not heard.

Q On this railroad problem, you still entertain the same ideas that were employed in your message and the Eastman commission report last spring?

THE PRESIDENT: In my message.

Q I know, but you also recommended --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Consideration of the Eastman report. I did not make it my report, however.

Q Mr. President, some weeks ago you said that the report of the Joint Committee on the Philippines, I believe, was about to be printed. Can you tell us when that may be published?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I will have to ask Frank Sayre, but not for several weeks, I think.

Q When are you going back to Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, it depends, of course, on things abroad.

Q Steve Early is very anxious to get in a golf game with me up there, that is the reason I asked.

THE PRESIDENT: I should say, offhand, on the twenty-eighth or twenty-ninth if things are quieter on the other side.

Q Did your discussion of the Neutrality Act get anywhere the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not discussed the Neutrality Act.

Q With McReynolds?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. McReynolds came out the other day and gave the impression --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Gave the "impression." In other words, he told you what he said about the Neutrality Act and did not say he discussed it. You know that happens very often. Just because somebody comes out of the office and gives you his personal opinion, don't, please, get the impression that it was talked over with the President. We did not discuss the Neutrality Act. He had a perfect right to give you his views on the Act when he went out.

Q Did you discuss the Johnson Act?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we did not. We discussed the Chattanooga celebration for a very long time.

Q Did you discuss the possibility of an extra session of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: We did not. He gave you his personal impression.

Q I would like to come down from these high and mighty subjects.

Things that you have to buy are very expensive, for example, two cents apiece for carrots when, down in the immediate vicinity, farmers say it doesn't pay them to pick them.

THE PRESIDENT: That is perfectly true.

Q Why is that?

THE PRESIDENT: When I was in the State Legislature in New York I followed a shipment of celery from the Norfolk market and the celery, per crate, was sold by the Norfolk farmers down there for about, as I remember it, 18¢ a crate, which barely paid for the crate let alone making any profit on the labor, and that same celery was being sold, after it had gone to New York by water and had passed through the hands of -- I followed it carefully -- six

different commission merchants, and when you bought that celery in the Bronx or Queens or Brooklyn or Manhattan it cost you at the rate of \$2.20 a crate. It is part of our civilization. Is it necessary? No wonder you ask the question, Is it necessary?

Q These were adjacent farmers, within trucking distance?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and you do your own marketing.

Q I know what things cost.

Q Do you expect to release the study which the Federal Trade Commission turned over to you about three weeks ago on commodity prices?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't see there is any reason why it should not be released. I have not got it. It may have been sent over here.

Q Wasn't it turned over to you last April?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, ask Rudolph. That is a report that I have not read.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #485-A (Held by Mr. Early),
In Mr. Early's Office, Executive Offices
of the White House,
September 23, 1938, 10.40 A.M.

(The President was confined to the White House by a cold. Mr. Early, at the President's request, held the Press Conference.)

Q (Miss Fleeson) Do you mean to say that I got up early to come over and talk to Steve Early? (Laughter)

MR. EARLY: You got a false alarm, Doris.

Q You could have had the conference in the lobby.

MR. EARLY: Yes.

Q We are getting gypped.

MR. EARLY: I don't think the room will hold them all.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

MR. EARLY: Gentlemen, I am sorry you all came out for the fire this morning and probably find a false alarm, but Dr. McIntire thinks that the President is making such progress with his cold in his nose that he should not attempt this morning to leave the White House and come over here[^], or risk exposure, and if he can keep him over there he will quickly be altogether in O.K. condition. It is just a precautionary measure. It was about ten minutes ago that I learned of the doctor's decision and offered myself as a pinch hitter. That is the best I could do under the circumstances.

First, I should like to call your attention to the statement which we are putting out. It is a parallel report made by the same group that gave the President, through the Secretary of Labor,

a week ago, a report on conditions, employer-employee conditions, existing in Great Britain. This is the parallel report on Sweden and it is for release in the Sunday morning papers, together with a preliminary statement by the President. Copies of that are available.

The only other piece of news I have for you is that Mr. J. F. T. O'Connor has advised the President that he does not desire re-appointment as Comptroller of the Currency and he will return to practice law in California. And, along with his practice of law, will work for the election of the Democratic ticket in the State. The President, therefore, is appointing Mr. Preston Delano, of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, who is very distantly related, who is now Governor of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, to be Comptroller of the Currency.

Q How distant is the relationship?

MR. EARLY: It is so distant that I asked Mr. Delano and he said he did not know.

Q He is Governor of what did you say?

MR. EARLY: He is now Governor of the Federal Home Loan Bank System.

Q The national System?

MR. EARLY: Yes.

Q Member of the Board?

MR. EARLY: I have it from the Treasury Department that he is now the Governor of it.

Q Stephen, do you know his relationship to Colonel Frederic A. Delano?

MR. EARLY: I don't know, Fred. He has been in the Government service for five years.

Q He is the one the President visited at Fairhaven?

MR. EARLY: Yes. He is formerly general manager of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation.

Q Any other job that O'Connor did not want, Mr. Early?

MR. EARLY: Ask him.

Q Was he offered reappointment?

MR. EARLY: It was held open for him and he told the President he preferred to return to California and go into private practice.

Q He prefers \$30 every Thursday. (Laughter)

Q Atlanta had a report that Lawrence Camp is going to be appointed to the Supreme Court?

MR. EARLY: You ask me that question and I will ask you to wait until you see him (meaning the President) on Tuesday. The appointments of the day are Louis Brownlow and Mr. Merriam.

Q What time, Steve?

MR. EARLY: At 11.30 at the House.

Q About the new Reorganization Bill?

MR. EARLY: For a very general discussion of reorganization.

Q What are Merriam's initials?

MR. EARLY: I think it is Charles E. Merriam and the other is Louis Brownlow. That will be a very general discussion of reorganization.

Q I forgot the time.

MR. EARLY: 11.30 at the House. That appointment was asked for by Mr. Brownlow on the third of September and it is one that has been held open for him for some time.

Q Any comment to make, Steve, on the defeat of Mr. O'Connor in the

Democratic Primary in New York?

MR. EARLY: None other than has been made. I told you what the President's estimate was and that he did regard it as a pleasant surprise.

Q When is the President going back to Hyde Park?

MR. EARLY: I don't know, Doris (Fleeson), because it depends, I think, -- well, not altogether on the cold but also on the international situation. He will stand by here until he gets both clearance, I should say, from the Secretary of State and Dr. McIntire, which I expect will be around Thursday of next week.

Q Thursday of next week?

MR. EARLY: Both of them.

Q Will he be here during the Democratic State Convention? (Meaning the New York State Convention)

MR. EARLY: I don't know.

Q The Convention will be next Thursday.

MR. EARLY: I don't think he will be there (meaning Hyde Park) then if the Convention meets on Thursday.

Q It is Thursday and Friday.

MR. EARLY: I don't expect that he proposes to leave here before Thursday evening.

Q Clearance by Thursday from Hull?

MR. EARLY: If Hull tells him that things are all right, he will move back to Hyde Park and not stay here in Washington.

Q You said he expected it by Thursday?

MR. EARLY: I think so.

Q Is the President arranging to speak in the Pennsylvania campaign?

MR. EARLY: Not to my knowledge, no.

Q You spoke of the President getting away if things quiet down abroad.

Will you tell us what information you have from over there?

MR. EARLY: His disposition is not to comment at all at the present time on the international situation.

Q I am asking whether you have any news?

MR. EARLY: No.

Q Any reason why you think he can get away from here by Thursday?

MR. EARLY: Principally because he wants to get away by Thursday.

Q Who is going to take Delano's place?

MR. EARLY: I don't know. I am sure that has not been considered.

Q When is he going over to the Treasury Department?

MR. EARLY: I don't know when -- just as soon as the appointment is made, which may be today or tomorrow, I should say.

Q Brownlow and Merriam the only appointments today?

MR. EARLY: No. Bell is coming in at 12.45 and Mr. Bernard Baruch will lunch at 1.00 o'clock. Over at the House at 2.00 o'clock this afternoon the Cabinet will meet.

Q As far as you know, are you establishing a record today in pinch-hitting for the President at a Press Conference?

MR. EARLY: I would not know, Fred (Mr. Wile).

Q Has it happened before in this Administration?

MR. EARLY: No, and it would not have happened this morning if the doctor hadn't made his decision so late. The President intended to hold his Press Conference.

Q (Mr. Earl Godwin) Don't you remember that Joe Tumulty had Press Conferences -- or didn't he?

MR. EARLY: I don't remember that.

Q (Mr. Wile) We are speaking of the present century, Earl. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Godwin) Well, you were there.

Q (Mr. Wile) I am afraid I wasn't.

Q (Mr. Godwin) That's right, you were abroad.

Q Wasn't it done once in the first term of Cleveland?

Q (Mr. Godwin) It was. It was done in the first term of Cleveland

and it was done with Lincoln. You can't kid me, I was there.

MISS FLEESON: Thank you, Mr. President. You did all right. (Laughter)