

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #486,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
September 27, 1938, 4.10 P.M.

Q How is the cold, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: A great deal better. I have still got a little snuffles in the nose. It did look like a raw carrot but it does not any more. (Laughter) It felt like a two-cent carrot.

Q You know, the boys said that they would not have minded if it had been the price of liquor, but they do not like carrots now and they don't care what they cost. (Laughter)

Q Big crowd today.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: You know about the Railway Labor Board that has been appointed. I don't think there is any other news.

Q Do you expect to get away to Hyde Park pretty soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I have absolutely no idea. I am on an hour-to-hour basis. Absolutely no plans.

Q There has been a suggestion from Paris again that perhaps your recent note to President Benes and Chancellor Hitler might be followed by a note of some sort to France and England.

THE PRESIDENT: I have had nothing from Paris on that.

Q Senator Logan suggests the revision of the Neutrality Act?

THE PRESIDENT: No news on it.

Q Will you comment on any of the replies that you have received from your message with respect to peace?

THE PRESIDENT: No. They speak for themselves.

Q Did you tell your California visitors what you think of the

Thirty-dollars-a-week-every-Thursday plan?

THE PRESIDENT: It was not discussed.

Q Will you tell us what you did discuss?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. Downey (Sheridan Downey) said he came here by your invitation.

That would suggest that you had something in mind particularly?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't think he put it quite that way.

Q He said in a mimeographed statement that he came here at your invitation.

THE PRESIDENT: It was intimated to me that they both would be glad to come on here and I said I would be very glad to see them. So they came.

Q Your invitation at his intimation? (Laughter)

Q Have you anything to say about Representative Lewis' visit today?

THE PRESIDENT: No, talked about various things.

Q Bridges -- the Morgantown Bridge?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Any news in the visit of Louis Brownlow and Charles Merriam the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, nothing in particular. We talked about the need of some form of improving the business methods of the Executive Branch of the Government -- in other words, reorganization.

And we are all agreed that there was the same need for adequate reorganization that has existed for the last forty years.

Q Mr. President, in view of the conditions abroad, have you considered at all the idea of offering mediation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no news on that.

Q Did you and the members of the Cabinet hear the broadcast of Chamberlain this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we did.

Q Could you comment on that at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Has Mr. Hopkins reported to you on the New England situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Very briefly at Cabinet meeting -- three or four minutes.

Q Do you expect to discuss that situation with him again?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so, yes. The general work of rehabilitation, as a general thing, is going extremely well in practically all localities. There is cooperation, not only with all the local agencies, the State agencies, but the Federal agencies are working in with them. On the whole, the situation, in view of what amounted to a very serious disaster, is being taken care of as well as possible, with all forms of government cooperating to effect rehabilitation and to repair the damages.

Q Will there be any special machinery necessary? There was some talk yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: I think not. We have two machines: First, the practical, definite aid that can be given through W.P.A., F.W.A., the C. C. C. Camps and various other Government agencies on actual work, plus the Government lending agencies. As I understand it, in the loaning agencies, especially the R. F. C., there is enough money left over from previous appropriations to take care of the immediate loan needs. Of course it is too early yet to tell what may be necessary in addition to those two factors.

The immediate situation is being taken care of without any additional legislation.

Q There have been reports from up there that labor troubles are hampering the moving of food into the New England areas.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard about it.

Q New York truck drivers.

Q That, and the railroads are being hampered in loading cars of food.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard about that. Find out from Hopkins and the Red Cross.

Q Mr. President, have you heard when Commissioner McNutt will return from Manila?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard; I do not know.

Q About a week ago there was a U. P. story from Halifax saying that four large airports are being built at Nova Scotia and that they will be available to the United States in case of need. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Off the record, it sounds like a U. P. story.

Q (Mr. Storm) Always right, Mr. President. (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us anything about the construction of airports under the Wilcox Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: You know everything about it that I do. They have certain ones being built.

Q The only one announced is Seattle.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is the only one they have money for.

Q That is the only one that has been located under the Wilcox Bill and it is probably for military air base.

THE PRESIDENT: It is the only one that money has been appropriated for, is it not?

Q The location was to have been announced first.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about the location. I can only spend money when it has been appropriated.

Q Do you have in mind any additional correspondence with Mr. Hitler and Mr. Benes?

THE PRESIDENT: No news on that.

Q Can you tell us anything about the visit of Charles West?

THE PRESIDENT: I have forgotten now what we did talk about.

There wasn't any particular news; I have not seen him for some time. He has been going around the country. We just talked about general things.

Q Anything on Ohio discussed at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Are you likely to see Secretaries Hull and Welles again today?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably again at six o'clock.

Q Referring to the international situation, is there any difference now in the attitude of this Government between the sentiments you expressed in Chautauqua in July, 1936, with respect to America's end of the situation in the World War, that holds good now?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the best way to do is to tell you -- you remember Mr. Coolidge came back from listening to a sermon?

Q I recall that.

THE PRESIDENT: He was agin it. Well, I am agin evil and for peace.

Q Mr. President, does your answer, "no news" on the question of more

correspondence with Hitler and Benes mean that you think you have done all you can for the present?

THE PRESIDENT: It means no news for you, any of you today, and do not try to guess and do not try to interpret when I say there is no news. And now, that is all there is.

Q I understand there is some negotiation between Civil Aeronautics and P. W. A. by which an airport might be built here with P. W. A. money. It is in some hazy state. Do you know anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Has anything come out about that?

Q I do not think it has come out as a definite matter.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is perfectly proper to say that my position has been, all along, as you know, the same position that was taken by, I think, President Coolidge about 1927, that the airport facilities of the National Capital were inadequate and unsafe and I think President Coolidge was the first one to ask Congress that something be done about it. I know that President Hoover did the same thing and I know that I have been doing it steadily for five and one-half years and nothing has been done. That is for a total of about eleven years. So I felt that human lives were at stake and we could not wait another eleven years and therefore I put it up to the Civil Aeronautics Authority, as one of the first things, to make a recommendation. They made a recommendation that speed was essential, that something ought to be done and that the National Capital should have at least two thoroughly adequate airports, one close in for 95% use and the other for the other five per cent of the time when it is foggy on the river, or for storms --

things of that kind, but the first and most immediate need was for an airport that could be used most of the time. They therefore recommended the immediate development of the Gravelly Point site.

We are now studying with the various agencies of the Government as to whether we can immediately proceed to the building of the Gravelly Point Airport as the first of two. That involves -- would involve the supervision of the project, as a project, by the National -- by the Civil Aeronautics Authority. In other words, they would be the sponsors and various agencies would carry out the actual work for the Civil Aeronautics Authority. We would have the Army engineers, for instance, on the dredging end of things, the W. P. A. in moving dirt from the upland down into the site, and I think there are one or two other Government agencies concerned. In any event, we are studying now on the tying in of all of the Government agencies into this one project so that we may start in right away.

Q I understand that P. W. A. funds have all run out. That was the last thing I heard about.

THE PRESIDENT: I think there are P. W. A. and there may be some Army funds loose; I do not know.

Q It looks like it will get started pretty soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q Did you talk about building a new airship for the Navy to Edison?

THE PRESIDENT: There is no decision on that and won't be for a good many weeks.

Q For a good many reasons?

THE PRESIDENT: For a good many weeks and a good many reasons.

Q Could I ask whether you expect something after six o'clock tonight, when you meet Mr. Hull and Mr. Welles?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not think so. As far as I can tell, I don't think you will be called out of bed tonight, Fred (Mr. Storm).

Q Coming back to your talk on reorganization, was there any compromise proposed that would make the bill more acceptable to the House?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we just talked about the general need for better business methods in the Government.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Wait a minute, Mr. Wile (Frederic William Wile) is here. May we adjourn?

Q (Mr. Wile) Objection sustained. (Laughter)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference #487,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
September 30, 1938, 10.45 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any special news. I have tentative plans to go up to Hyde Park tomorrow night and stay just for a few days. That is tentative, however.

Q Did you say two days or a few days?

THE PRESIDENT: A few days.

Q Mr. President, have you any plans in regard to the appointment of a new Comptroller General?

THE PRESIDENT: Not now.

Q Do you intend to submit a new reorganization bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Submit what?

Q A new bill to reorganize the Federal Government?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose probably you will know all about it on the third of January.

Q Mr. President, reports from Albany say that Governor Lehman has consented to run again for Governor rather than try for the Senate. Any comment?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I heard from Albany this morning that that was the fact and it made me extremely happy.

MR. EARLY: Albany or Rochester?

THE PRESIDENT: I mean Rochester. As far as I understand, the present plan of the Convention is to renominate the Governor who, of course, has been a perfectly splendid Governor the whole of the six years since he has been there, and Senator

Wagner, who is a very definite credit to the State of New York -- and people know it. And then Jim Mead -- we all know his record in the Congress, and believe it will meet with general public approval in the State. Also, as I understand it, the Comptroller, who has been Comptroller I don't know how many years, starting under Al Smith.

Q That is Tremaine?

THE PRESIDENT: He was Comptroller under me and Comptroller under Governor Lehman and under him as Comptroller the finances of the State of New York have been in splendid shape all the way through.

I understand they propose to renominate Jack Bennett, whom some of you older people will remember I suggested to the Convention in Syracuse in 1930 as a very excellent Attorney General. I understand they are talking about nominating Charlie Poletti for Lieutenant Governor. Charlie Poletti is more recent in the public service but he has had a very splendid record, first at Albany and then as a judge. I think that is all that need be said about that.

Q Can you comment on the turn of events toward peace in Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, on the State ticket, did you indicate what, if anything, you had to do with the naming of the slate?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I had nothing to do with it. The Convention will decide -- (laughter)

Q Mr. President, are you likely to appoint a Supreme Court justice before the Court meets?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no news on that.

Q Have you selected a successor to Mr. Hanes on the Securities and Exchange Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Mr. President, is there anybody in your mind at the moment for the Ambassadorship to Soviet Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, have you decided yet whether to make a trip to Wisconsin and other states in the vicinity sometime next month?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not thought of it.

Q Are you going to Michigan?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not that I know of.

Q Pennsylvania?

THE PRESIDENT: Same story as I told you two or three weeks or a month ago. Nothing new on that.

Q Can you tell us anything about your conference yesterday with Morgenthau, Jesse Jones and Papp on what we were told was some wheat plan?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, a general survey of the situation.

Q We were given to understand that there was something new on that.

THE PRESIDENT: We are trying to move wheat, as you know. It is the general situation.

On the European thing, the only thing I think I can comment on is the very wonderful service that was done by the Secretary of State and the Under Secretary and the other people in the Department of State, plus the American diplomatic stations at the various capitals that were concerned in it. It is a very fine example of team play and everybody working right together

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with very great success. Also I might add to that the fine way in which both the press and the radio kept their feet on the ground, nearly all of them. I have to qualify that and say, "nearly all of them" during a moment of very serious world tension. It was, as we all know, a very definite crisis and, though there are many things which are called crises which are not, this one was.

Q Have you noticed any rapidity or speed of crises, et cetera, by the use of radio? It seems to me that folks know so much and make up their minds so rapidly.

Q Louder, please.

Q (Mr. Godwin) I asked you, sir, if you had noticed any difference in speed by which these so-called crises approach their limit by reason of the ease of use of radio, et cetera. Here people make up their minds about it and the world seems to act very much more quickly. I was wondering whether that was an element?

THE PRESIDENT: That is an element today and there is also the element that because of radio, easier communications and because of the airplane, the meeting of the situation is also speeded up, so that it works both ways. Things do come to a head quicker and at the same time they can be tided over more quickly, if tiding over is a possibility. That applies not only to the theatre of the crisis but to the whole world. For instance, as we all know, in this particular crisis a very large portion of the earth's surface took some part in an expression of Government opinion and public opinion.

Q Are we still encouraging Americans to leave Europe, sir, or has that taken more or less care of itself?

THE PRESIDENT: We were yesterday; I do not know the answer today.

Q Have you received an intimation or proposal that this Government have some part in the work of the commission setting up new boundaries for the Sudetan?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There was a note came in yesterday afternoon sometime but, of course, there again things move so fast that the --

Q (interposing) That was from the Czechs?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- that the situation was changed almost before the note was received.

Q Is it your feeling that that note now, of course, requires no comment or answer?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will have to ask the Secretary of State about that.

I have got a statement here which I asked Steve (Mr. Early) to have mimeographed for you. It tells the status of the P.W.A. grants and it is very clear. There is no use my taking up time now in reading it. It shows the applications received, et cetera and so on.

Q Any District Commission news?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Is Mr. Wile satisfied?

MR. WILE: Perfectly. (Laughter)

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #488,  
In the President's Study at his Hyde Park Home,  
October 4, 1938, 12.45 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have anything except routine news.

Steve (Mr. Early) will give to you today, for your own information -- it is to be released in Washington -- the first of three stories on the problem of the northern Great Plains drought area. We are doing it in three stories because the average person could not digest all three of them at the same time.

MR. EARLY: It is voluminous.

THE PRESIDENT: The area is the eastern two-thirds of Montana, all of North and South Dakota, and the northeast quarter of Wyoming and the northern half of Nebraska. That is five states. In other words, it is the northern half of the drought strip.

We are always wrong in talking about the "dust bowl" and "drought bowl" because, actually, as you know, it is a strip that runs from the Canadian line almost down to the Gulf of Mexico. This is a pretty good report on the northern half of it.

It is to be released for October seventh morning papers. You can look it over, just so that you know what is going on down in Washington.

Then I have a request from Norman Davis, Chairman of the Red Cross, that I say something for the benefit of New England, about the erroneous impression that a good many people have that it is not necessary to give money for the Red Cross work in New England because they think that the Government has taken charge of relief.

He asks me merely to call attention to the fact that the Gov-

ernment is taking care, through WPA and PWA and RFC and Farm Credit, etc., of the physical needs, like the restoration of bridges and roads, public properties, the clearing away of debris -- in other words, the purely physical side of it. The Government has an excellently coordinated system but the Government cannot look after the human needs, the rehabilitation of families, the helping of men and women and children who have no other resources nor credit of their own and that, of course, still devolves on an agency sustained by public subscription, in other words, the American Red Cross.

I hope very much that the American Red Cross will get the funds in accordance with a little statement that Governor Cross made asking cooperation with the Red Cross, "for its very existence is a true demonstration of neighborliness and it is a work of God."

In other words, that is something that the Government cannot do. I am telling you that just to clear up the situation.

(Addressing Mr. Early) Send word to Norman that I have carried out my word and spoken to the Press about it.

Q There was a story appearing in the papers this morning, a speech by Under Secretary Welles, in which he suggested that one way of settling everything was to have world disarmament. Can we assume that a move may be made by this country?

THE PRESIDENT: Fred (Storm), I think the easiest thing to do would be to ask you to do a little home work -- in other words, stick entirely to the record. The record, of course, is very, very clear on the things that this country has done in the last five

years end, secondly, the things that have been said by the Secretary of State and myself. I don't think it is necessary to add anything to it. I think it is just plain stick by the record and not elaborate on American English.

Q The time is not yet ripe where you can take us behind the scenes and tell us the background of the show of the last ten days?

THE PRESIDENT: Sumner (Under Secretary Welles) did that pretty well last night. Did you hear him?

Q No, we did not.

THE PRESIDENT: That was pretty adequately covered last night. That gave the timetable and the reasons for the move.

Q Mr. Chamberlain gave a speech yesterday. Have you any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Now that the Supreme Court is back in session, may we expect an appointment to the vacancy?

THE PRESIDENT: I would have to say the same old story, no news on that.

Q Could I ask this: Is it possible, as suggested, that you will wait until January because Congress --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No news on that.

Q We got a couple of vacancies in Illinois -- I think a District Judge at Chicago and a Circuit Court Judge at Chicago. Is there any news on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Quite a few around the country. Is there any news on any of them?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Q Any plans to see Governor Lehman in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably before election, yes. I cannot give you any date because no actual specific appointment has been made. It depends very largely, of course, on his plans. There is a campaign on.

Q Are you going to make a speech for the ticket between now and election day?

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

Q Have you any visitors today, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I have got one of the school trustees, Mr. White, and Mr. Von Wagoner coming to see me at 2.00 o'clock to talk to me about this new merger that went through.

[Van Wagner?]

Q Are you pretty well pleased the way it has turned out?

THE PRESIDENT: It is very constructive. I think the thing had to be done and it has been done within the time limit. Apparently the Poughkeepsie school problem did not go through under the dead line, did it?

Q I think they are trying to do something. They wired a couple of hours before the dead line.

THE PRESIDENT: In Poughkeepsie? I thought Hyde Park did it.

Q Yes, they did.

THE PRESIDENT: If some of you people want to write a story, get it from our Poughkeepsie brethren as to what happened in the Board of Supervisors. This is off the record but is a tip for you on what happened in the Board of Supervisors on the question of local relief. I think it is one of the best illustrations I know. They met, as I read the papers this morning -- this is off the record, entirely, just so that maybe you would want to write a story with

a little lesson in it on the question of relief in this county -- not Federal relief at all, this is the home relief end of it. Home relief, as I understand it -- check me if I am not right -- has been handled through a county board?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, these are state and local funds. The Federal Government has nothing to do with it at all. But, you see, it has a bearing on the effort to return all relief handling to the localities. There is quite an effort being made along that line all over the country.

On this particular phase of it, as I understand it from reading the Star and the Eagle, the County Board was charged by the Grange of wasteful extravagance and things like that and they had all kinds of meetings and it got to be quite a hot issue. So, yesterday, in the Board they did not approve anything, as I understand it, there being a complete division of opinion. Didn't they have an investigation and did not approve a damn thing?

Q They are all too uninformed now; they don't want to take a step.

THE PRESIDENT: Yesterday they had a meeting with the idea of returning the administration of relief to the twenty-one townships in the county. The supervisors in those townships did not have machinery to set up local relief administration and they did not know what to do and the result was that they just sort of wandered around the entire subject for an hour or two. I guess it was a closed meeting, but everybody knows what goes on in closed meetings, and the town supervisors, in the first place, said, "We don't know anything about this; we don't know what to do." And,

secondly, some of the supervisors from the poorer towns made the point, properly, that if it was put back on the towns, the poorer towns, which needed the most money, would get the least money.

The town of East Fishkill -- not Fishkill, oh, what is the town? -- and the other town, where there is very little in the way of assessed values and much poverty -- those are the places that need most relief and, under this system, would get the least relief.

I loved one line in the Eagle this morning, which is another illustration, just talking about political education, the Eagle this morning said that although no decision was reached and there seemed to be great confusion over the question, undoubtedly the matter will be decided in a Republican caucus to be held before the next meeting. (Laughter) To be holding a Republican caucus! I think that is one of the most beautiful object lessons on the handling of local relief in most places in the United States that I know of. I could say the same thing for Georgia. There the question would be just as political. It would not be a question there of Republicans or Democrats, it would be a question between one faction of Democrats in Meriwether County and another faction of Democrats as to which one controls the County Commission down there. They do not have townships down there but they have County Commissions. In Albany, New York, local relief, of course, would be handled by the O'Connell boys. Let us be quite frank. In Syracuse, local relief would be handled by Mayor Marvin who is the Republican counterpart of the O'Connell boys.

That little line in the Eagle this morning was one of the most beautiful illustrations, that the whole policy on relief

before the next meeting is held will be determined in a caucus of the Republican members of the Board of Supervisors. I think it is grand. (Laughter)

Q It would be grand on the record.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, this is off the record. It is just a little lesson.

Q Mr. President, the Federal Communications Commission took action last week which raised the question of radio censorship. They voted four to one, Commissioner Craven dissenting, to cite a small station out in Minneapolis for reasons to show cause why their license should not be taken away. That action would include the entire blue network of National Broadcasting on the ground that the broadcast of Eugene O'Neill's play, "Beyond the Horizon," had been guilty of putting profane and indecent language on the air. The specific charges were that in O'Neill's play the words "Hell," "damn," and "for God's sake" had been used. (Laughter)

Craven, of course, violently opposed and the other four went down the line for it. Now they are told by the counsel of the station and of course they are getting National Broadcasting to represent them so that precedent won't be established, and they said that they had been following the advice of the Commission that they should put on educational things, and after they had put on Toscanini's broadcast, they then took this second sustaining program, which was putting the best dramatic art of the United States --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Was Toscanini all right? (Laughter)

Q Yes. Toscanini went first and then, to carry on that same tradition

of high grade art, they took the twelve Pulitzer prize plays of American dramatists and, to do that, taken as a sustaining program, they threw aside a commercial program. The first they put on was Eugene O'Neill's play, which was the first Pulitzer prize play, for which they are now up on charges.

Now, that raises the whole question of Government policy with respect to the question of morals, etc., so far as the air is concerned. I wonder if you would comment?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot because I never heard of it.

Q I think it is a delightful situation.

THE PRESIDENT: I would not dare comment on it because, off the record, it would get me into the most awful censorship of words which are used extensively in the Bible.

Q And very extensively by Mr. Early. (Laughter)

Q Mr. Patterson began his editorial comment of it, "Damn it the Hell, it is bad."

THE PRESIDENT: (Laughter) Good.

MR. EARLY: The papers went through the mails all right?

Q Yes, the paper is going through the mails. If I want to say it over the air, why shouldn't I be able to do it the same way? Let the people themselves criticize me but not have a Government agency --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Again, off the record, you remember the situation last spring or winter with Mae West?

Q That was the precedent.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, the script was all right -- if you or I read it, all right, but Mae West -- my God, what she put into it! How do

you censor intonation? Now, that is a nice question, How can you censor intonation?

Q Now the question comes, should those who have charge of radio set themselves up as monitors of morals to rap anybody over the knuckles or should their sole function be that of seeing --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Now, of course there is another thing. This is off the record. Suppose somebody does something outrageous, something which would shock Fred (Storm) and me? (Laughter)

Q I would like to see that done. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Ought not there be somebody in the country to stop that sort of thing that would really honestly shock Fred and me? That is the other side of it and nobody knows the answer. Do you think that is a good way of putting it? There is a limit and somebody ought to step in, if necessary.

MR. EARLY: Then, too, Mr. President, I suppose at least four of the five on the Radio Commission read their regulations. They try to take words to define those things in the form of regulations and Acts of Congress, too, and I suppose they put on a literal interpretation.

Q That question was, "Is it profane to say, 'For God's sake!'" That is the point at issue.

THE PRESIDENT: To some people it is very profane.

MR. EARLY: The law says you cannot use profanity.

Q Isn't there a regulation similar to that about matter going through the mails?

MR. EARLY: "Obscene" and "indecent" is the postal regulation. It does not say, "profane."

THE PRESIDENT: It does not say, "profane." Do you suppose the Radio Communications law says, "profane"?

MR. EARLY: It says, "Profanity in any form or degree."

Q You have no greater authority than Dr. Early. (Laughter)

MR. EARLY: Thank you, Mr. Trohan.

Q We have had a lot of war and rumors of war in the last two weeks.

I noticed this morning that the steel index is climbing and the stock market going up. I thought you might be able to tell us something about what you hear of general business conditions throughout the country. It would come as a rather welcome relief to international affairs.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you want me to talk off the record?

Q No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, let me do it this way: Let me talk to you not for attribution.

MR. EARLY: That won't help them.

Q From Hyde Park?

Q Under a Hyde Park date line?

THE PRESIDENT: Under a Hyde Park date line. In other words, use one of your timeworn phrases, "from sources close to the President." (Laughter) Use one of those old things which generally originate in your own mind. In this case it won't.

MR. EARLY: Which makes it legitimate.

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't that good? Nine times out of ten, when you say that, it has originated in your own original minds or from talking it over in the tap room.

Q This is a precedent?

THE PRESIDENT: This is a precedent. It gives you a beautiful idea. In other words, this is something you can really put down as saying it originated in sources close to the summer White House. It is one of those exceptions.

MR. EARLY: Good morning, Judge. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: This is a brand new one, isn't it? In other words, if you leave me out entirely, I would write a story with that thing, "sources close to the White House," that it is felt that the crisis in Europe had an analogy in the industrial economic problems of the United States; that the parallel of saber rattling and mobilization of armies in Europe -- the parallel of artificial creation of a crisis between nations over there is to be found over here in the extravagant statements, the misrepresentation of Government policies, for political benefit; in the painting of over-dark pictures; the setting up of bogeys before the eyes of business and industry; illustrations being the effort to make it appear that the Federal Government was going to put TVAs all over the United States; that it was impossible to raise money for power -- for new privately-owned power plants; that the Governmental tax burden was far higher than it had been a year ago, or three years ago or five years ago; followed by many forms of attack on our own Government, which were clearly for partisan purposes.

From that we can learn -- from that parallel we can learn the same kind of a lesson that we have learned in the last two weeks in Europe. And that is that if we stop calling each other names and rattling the domestic industrial sword, we can have

industrial peace instead of industrial war between industry and Government. And in the field of labor, instead of using the Eugene O'Neill language (laughter), which cannot be carried over the radio, if we would cut out those epithets, we would stand to have labor peace between different factions of labor on the one side and labor and capital on the other far more readily than if we continue to use the epithets.

In other words, to put it in one brief sentence, the quicker we sit around the table and stop calling names, the quicker we will get a resumption of business and industry at home.

Q. Cannot we have that on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. It is going to sound awfully like President Roosevelt. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Now, on the practical end, it seems fairly certain that the shelves of merchandise all through the country are far more empty than they were a year ago, in most lines. Also that the demand on the part of the consuming public is off from a year ago much less than a lot of the tearing-down stories would lead you to believe.

Secondly, the general Governmental program for Governmental expenditures -- use the generic term of priming of the pump -- will not reach their maximum until next spring. For example, all the PWA projects, of which nearly all have now been allocated, most of them will not reach the maximum of employment that they give until next spring. The same thing is true of Nathan Straus' housing, which is up between five and six million dollars, and which will not be under way, obviously, until next spring.

All of these different things point to a very definite increase in business of all kinds.

With it there is a definite policy on the part of the Government and on the part of the clearer thinking business men to keep prices from going through the roof. Taking the old example, we all know that copper can be produced in this country at a profit, all the copper we can use, at not to exceed twelve or thirteen cents a pound. One of the things, as we all know, that brought on the curtailment, recession, or, if you are writing for certain papers, the depression, in August of 1937 was the fact that some things, like copper, went clear through the roof and people quit buying. Copper went to eighteen cents. At the same time there are certain other commodities the level of which everybody in the country ought to try to raise. Examples are cotton and wheat, because there the price does not meet the cost of production. They ought to be raised.

But, taking it by and large, if we would go ahead with an orderly improvement in business, trying to bolster up the prices that are too low and trying to keep any prices from going too high, we can look forward to a pretty good year from now on.

I think that covers it pretty well.

Q Would you want to say in the case of cotton and wheat that the prices now do not reach the cost of production?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q In connection with the copper prices, Mr. President, I was doing a little studying --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Of course the cost of production at a

profit. Put that in. What is that, Fred (Storm)?

Q (Mr. Storm) I saw in the paper this morning where Anaconda had opened its largest mine in the country, putting 4500 men to work, which they explained was an increase of about 3000 over the number who had been working since the mines shut down about eight months ago.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no question employment is going up, Fred (Storm), more than seasonally at the present time.

Q Mr. President, can we revert to the European situation for a moment? Could you tell us what you think of the settlement over there, if it is a settlement for peace?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you because that, you see, involves me in just what I said I would not do.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Are you going to the World Series?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I cannot.

Q Could we get something -- what release is this Press Conference?

MR. EARLY: Morning papers.

Q Four o'clock?

MR. EARLY: Four o'clock filings, yes.

Q Take judicial notice of the fact that Early (Secretary Early) was not at church on Sunday.

THE PRESIDENT: I know it, and also take judicial notice of the fact that you were.

Q If I had weighed fifteen pounds more I would have brought him.

MR. EARLY: I was in the choir there, the deep bass voice. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I always knew he was a prima donna; it is all right.

MR. EARLY: I was pinch-hitting for Mac.

Q (by Mr. Beal of the New York Herald-Tribune) I would like to ask one question. I don't know if you saw the piece of mine about the situation in some Government departments where the clerks were being pretty badly overworked with fifty million hours of overtime built up in a six months' period and where the situation in some offices shows that there is, perhaps, a deliberate attempt to slow down to meet the exigencies that are piled on them. I have information from your division heads and personnel men that some offices are from three to six months in arrears in their work and I was just wondering if you contemplate, Mr. President, asking additional funds from Congress for administrative work in order to relieve the situation -- or perhaps with the passage of the Reorganization Bill to aid in curing the situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me put it three ways: The first is that the Congress determines what functions shall be carried on. The Congress also determines how many people will be assigned to carry out those functions -- those orders of Congress. Now, the situation is pointed out to the Congress in the Budget hearings --

MR. EARLY: And in the annual reports also, which are just coming along.

THE PRESIDENT: -- and in the annual reports. So, the responsibility is on the Congress to do one of two things -- one of three things, really: Either let the situation drift and let us stay in arrears. That is the first. Or, two, eliminate some of the functions or to give more personnel to carry them out. In other words, under the existing system, the Administrative Branch of the Government does the best it can to carry out orders given it by the Congress.

It is perfectly true that a great deal of work is in arrears, perfectly true that in a good many bureaus overtime is excessive.

Now, that is a problem and we do the best we can, in view of the actual appropriations that are given to us and in view of the orders to do this, that or the other thing that are also given us by the Congress.

Now, at the same time -- this is off the record -- here is another point I wish you would look into. Years ago, the second or third year in the Navy Department, I was the chairman of an Interdepartmental Personnel Board and we went down, in our own department -- Sam McGowan, who is a perfectly grand fellow, and Admiral Peoples, his assistant, they went down in their own department, Supplies and Accounts, and they found there was an unwritten rule among the girls that the number of letters to be written in the course of the day was fifteen - I would say fifteen one-page letters -- that was a rule among the girls, and when they had written their fifteen, they quit, they slowed up. Furthermore, we found in all the departments that they were beating the clock and the total number of hours that was being worked at that time by Government employees -- this was peace time, before the World War -- ran around six and one-half hours of useful work.

Now, that is the other side of the story, and there are -- this is off the record -- unquestionably in Washington a great many bureaus where there is by agreement, tacit consent, a slowing down of work. "We won't do more than fifteen letters a day." Now, anybody knows, who runs a typewriter, that it ought to have been twenty-four, or whatever it was. That was pretty well elim-

inated during war time because everybody was working at top speed. Whether it has crept in again, I don't know, except that it is always something to consider.

Q I understand that there were thirty-five million hours in Baltimore, a very acute situation, and that in spite of your letter of August sixteenth last year, calling attention to the fact that Government employees should not strike against the Government, that they have been almost on the point of striking, a sitdown strike.

THE PRESIDENT: There you are. We are trying to do a job with inadequate funds on that particular thing. Now you ask about a Reorganization Bill. That would help very, very much, no question about that, because it would eliminate, in our judgment, enough duplication of work so that the same funds would get rid of just what you are talking about. Now, actually, of course, that is a saving of money because if you appropriate the same money and do ten per cent more work with it, you have actually saved money. That is the easiest way of putting it.

Q Mr. President, is the Reorganization Bill going to be one of the first orders of business by the new Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, Fred (Storm), I have not got a slant on the third of January yet.

Q Adolph Sabath is for it. (Laughter)

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #489,

In the Study of the President's Home at Hyde Park,

October 7, 1938, 10.45 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: How is everybody? There is a release coming out from Washington on the detail and I won't give you that, but I do want to discuss with you the general subject of trying to end water pollution of streams. I have a book here today with PWA allotments for 113 additional sewage disposal projects in almost every part of the nation to end pollution in streams and lakes, where they are located, providing for \$19,588,000. worth of construction of disposal plants, sewers and other means to clean up local streams and rivers in thirty states and Puerto Rico.

They started in five years ago to encourage communities to end the pollution of lakes and rivers and the work is progressing very well. Off the record, the City of Poughkeepsie is still dumping its sewage in within half a mile of where it is taking its water out.

Q In the Nelson House? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I said that was off the record.

MR. EARLY: Drinking water, Mr. President, never involved anyone in the Nelson House.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't blame them. I would not drink water in Poughkeepsie.

Q Will the tide carry up that far?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. The tide carries water back and forth about six miles.

Q That is another good reason.

THE PRESIDENT: And none of these different allotments will continue sewage disposal into lakes and rivers. Since 1933 PWA loans, not counting what WPA has done, I approved have carried through approximately 500 sewage disposal plants at a total construction cost of over a billion and a quarter of dollars in five years. That is pretty good.

MR. EARLY: But not including this?

THE PRESIDENT: Not including this. The communities assessed themselves for over half this amount in order to become partners with the Federal Government in this valuable work. This water purification work is finally producing tangible results. It is a splendid beginning and efforts must be continued for the cleaning up of our rivers on a national scale.

Let us see: Oh, yes, I got a rather nice suggestion this morning and I cannot say anything more than it is a suggestion and is being looked into further. Governor Bibb Graves, of Alabama, remembering how generous New England was in former disasters that hit the South, hurricanes, has suggested some kind of a big football game in the lower South, the proceeds to be contributed to the Red Cross work in New England. It is a rather nice suggestion because it is the unreconstructed rebel helping the damn yankee and is in line with what we call the domestic good neighbor policy. The thing is being looked into and we have encouraged him to go ahead with the idea.

I don't think there is any other thing outside of that, do you?

Q Do you have the J. Russell Young School of Expression in that team?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter)

The Duchess of Athol, a Member of Parliament, is coming to lunch.

MR. EARLY: And leaving right after lunch.

THE PRESIDENT: And leaving right after lunch.

MR. EARLY: She is taking the 2.00 o'clock train to New York.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q When do you plan to return to Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: Sunday night.

Q Are you coming back up here again?

THE PRESIDENT: The following week for, I hope, a week.

Felix Frankfurter and Mrs. Frankfurter are coming over for their regular visit. They come every year about this time. They are coming tomorrow and leaving Sunday night and, off the record, I warn you -- I warn you not to get out on the old proverbial limb. It doesn't do much good, though you love limbs and you love to saw them off.

(Addressing Mr. Early) I think we ought to have a new name for them -- the tree trimmers. Isn't that what they are called?

MR. EARLY: Why not distribute copies of the old phrase, "Woodman, spare that tree." (Laughter)

Q You sent a note to Mr. Chamberlain, did you not, Mr. President, on the question of refugees?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

MR. EARLY: The State Department O.K.'d that.

Q Anything --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No; it speaks for itself.

Q What did it say? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Ask the State Department. I haven't got a copy of it here. It was all handled by telephone.

Q Is there anything we can say on the record in the local press in connection with this ridding of the Hudson River of pollution? Of course it is a very vital thing right here in Poughkeepsie. In turning down this thing, there was a feeling that they should get some state aid on the question -- I don't know -- in addition to the federal aid, to aid communities in constructing these plants. I don't know whether there is --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know, frankly, I don't know any of the financial details at all except that for twenty-five years I have been talking to the people of Poughkeepsie about two subjects. The first was to quit dumping raw sewage into the Hudson River and, second, to get a decent supply of pure drinking water -- not out of the Hudson River -- which, during the whole of the twenty-five years has been a perfectly practical self-liquidating plan under the law, -- that is, getting the water -- but nobody has done it.

Q So there isn't anything you can say on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that I have been trying to accomplish those two things and suggesting it for twenty-five years and perhaps it will be another twenty-five years before something is done.

Q Heywood Broun told us yesterday that he had suggested to you the creation of a fact-finding committee to study labor relations in the United States, similar to that committee which went abroad at your request. Is there anything you can tell us on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing except that I told him the suggestion would be studied. I made one suggestion to Heywood Broun and I don't know whether he spoke to you about it. Of course one of the problems of taking care of newspaper men on relief is that there are very, very few projects which you can invent for them. It is pretty difficult and one of the suggestions came to me the other day from Archie Watson, former corporation counsel of New York. He has been studying the thing for about six months. In practically every community which is fifty or sixty years old, there are a great many records that ought to be published and we are working on the idea of publishing these records. It does take the kind of skill that the average newspaper man can carry out perfectly well, that of having the records copied, edited and actually published.

The point of it is that on a project of that kind the actual cost per man per year can be kept very low if you sell the volumes for approximately the cost of the physical production of them. Not the editorial cost, but the cost of printing and binding and proof reading. A very good example is the plan in 1933, when I first went to Washington. I knew that the Navy Department had all these perfectly wonderful, very interesting old Captains' letters of the early Navy -- the war with France, the war with the Barbary pirates, the war of 1812. They had never been published. They just existed in the Navy Department. So we got \$10,000. from Congress to publish the first volume. We sold the first volume for \$10,000., got another appropriation for \$10,000. and sold the second volume for \$10,000. So far they have published four volumes

of the old Navy records. It is a beautiful job and, as each volume is published, it pays for itself. The net result is that the Government, at the end of the series, won't be out of pocket for the printing and binding one red cent. The only additional cost, of course, is the editing of these things.

We have here in Poughkeepsie, for example, WPA projects which have done an excellent job in the County Courthouse in copying and listing the old records of this county and, I think, of the City of Poughkeepsie. But they have never been published and they can be published very easily under the auspices of the Dutchess County Historical Society, and the same thing is true in almost every county, and sold to libraries and collectors all over the United States, so as to bring back a portion of the cost of such projects.

That is one suggestion I made to Heywood Broun and we are going to give it further study.

Here is something interesting: Here is one of the things that Archie Watson dug out. This is off the record but it is very interesting. This is, I think, one of the most interesting of all historical documents. This is an indenture, in other words a contract, dated 1760, which is not so long ago.

(Reading) "THIS INDENTURE Witnesseth, That Johanna Dwyer an Infant aged about eight years and an half Hath put herself, and by these Presents, by & with the Consent of Edward Dwyer and Ellinor his wife her parents signified by their being parties to these presents doth voluntarily, and of her own free Will and Accord, --"

Get this picture, this child eight and a half years old putting herself as apprentice.

(Reading) "-- put herself Apprentice to Elizabeth Wright of the City of New York, widow, to learn the

Art of bleeding and midwifery and after the Manner of an Apprentice, to serve from the Day of the Date hereof, for and during, and until the full End and Term of Eleven years & Six Months next ensuing; during all which Time, the said Apprentice her said Mistress faithfully shall serve, her Secrets keep, her lawful Commands every where readily obey: She shall do no Damage to her said Mistress nor see it to be done by others, without letting, or giving Notice thereof to her said Mistress: She shall not waste her said Mistresses Goods, nor lend them unlawfully to any: She shall not commit Fornication, nor contract Matrimony within the said Term: At Cards, Dice, or any other unlawful Game, she shall not play, whereby her said Mistress may have Damage: With her own Goods, nor the Goods of others, without Licence from her said Mistress, she shall neither buy nor sell: She shall not absent herself Day nor Night from her said Mistress her service, without her Leave; nor haunt Ale-houses, Taverns, or Play-houses; but in all Things behave herself as a faithful Apprentice ought to do, during the said Term. And the said Elizabeth shall use the utmost of her Endeavours to teach, or cause to be taught or instructed, the said Apprentice in the Art of Bleeding and Midwifery and procure and provide for her sufficient Meat, Drink, Apparel, Lodging and Washing, fitting for an Apprentice, during the said Term of Eleven years and six months --"

In other words, until she is nineteen years of age. No pay, remember.

(Reading) "-- and at the Expiration thereof give unto the said apprentice two Suits of Cloaths and during the said Term teach the said Apprentice to read and write."

I think it is an amazing document, right in this country in 1760, and yet when you come to think of it, as Heywood Brown remarked yesterday, that child of eight and a half was a good deal better off than many children of these days who are in canning factories or picking up crops, without board, lodging, food or anything else. It is a very interesting document.

Q That is what the Herald-Tribune would call "Youth control."

THE PRESIDENT: Youth control is right.

Q Did Senator Guffey convince you yesterday that everything was safe in Pennsylvania?

THE PRESIDENT: He told me what he told you.

Q I think that was nothing. The only thing he told us was that the ticket would be elected by two hundred thousand.

Q There is a report down in New York that you are going to speak in New York City on the Saturday night before election.

THE PRESIDENT: I have no date whatsoever.

Q Looking forward to a departure story, which is the only cheerful one, is there any particular reason for going back to Washington next week?

THE PRESIDENT: Except to transact business.

Q I assumed that but thought possibly that there might be some conference.

Q Steve (Mr. Early) is kind of broken up about it. He was figuring on all next week in Hyde Park. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: One reason for being there is Mrs. Roosevelt's birthday on Tuesday. She cannot get up here because she has to go off that night or the next day.

MR. EARLY: And you have a lot of appointments.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; people cannot get up here.

Q Are you alternating on these trips between Steve (Mr. Early) and Mac (Mr. McIntyre)?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Mac is having such a good time down there, and --

MR. EARLY: (interposing) And that is the end of the story. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I left it hanging in the air; it is all right.

Q Before these November elections, do you expect to say anything on the various pension proposals? There would be California and Colorado --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You mean out loud, publicly?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: No; only, confidentially and off the record, just between us girls, it is funnier than a crutch, one of the funniest things that happened. You will notice that the old fat cat papers -- off the record -- they have not mentioned, except way down at the end of the last column, on page nine, that up in Maine there were three Republican candidates for Congress who came out and went up and down the whole State of Maine saying, "I am in favor of the Townsend Plan." All these old papers, like the Herald-Tribune, the Chicago Tribune, the New York Times quiet it down.

And over in Massachusetts young Saltonstall entered into an agreement with the candidate for Governor by which he would withdraw as Governor and Saltonstall, as part of his agreement, said to the public, "I am very much interested in the objectives of the Townsend Plan and will give it my serious consideration." It was all cut down.

Q (Mr. Belair) Page one of the New York Times on that one.

THE PRESIDENT: It is awfully funny. I got a great kick out of it, the way it was handled.

MR. EARLY: Isn't it true that the platform in California eliminated the thirty dollar bread and butter plan --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes.

MR. EARLY: -- from the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Do you plan any active interest in the Dutchess County campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose I will see Jim Townsend from time to time.

Q Do you plan to be here election day?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q I did not quite understand those figures you gave for the sewage projects. Are they being released in Washington?

MR. EARLY: Mike Straus, in the Interior Department. They will give the projects by name and the allotments for each project. He said he would have them ready by two o'clock, so you have a good jump on them.

THE PRESIDENT: I think Poughkeepsie is in there for a partial amount.

Q Is Governor Lehman coming down this week?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet.

Q Do you expect that he may be down?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know because we are figuring on what will be the best time for him.

Q Lamar Hardy visited you since we last saw you. Anything you can tell us about his visit?

THE PRESIDENT: No. As you guessed, we did talk about the spy situation and it does present -- I think you can write a story on this -- it does present a national problem, without any question. The objective, really, is to separate two entirely different forms, really separate forms, of foreign governmental activity in the United States; in other words, to separate the propaganda activity from the military and naval spy activity --

MR. EARLY: (interposing) Espionage.

THE PRESIDENT: -- and if one keeps that distinction very clearly in mind, it is a very useful thing to do, and you can use that in your story so long as you do not make it appear that the Federal Government wants to set up a huge anti-propaganda organization -- nobody has considered that in any way.

But there is a problem which the Federal Government has a very definite responsibility for on the Army and Navy side of things, which goes by the generic term of "foreign spies." We are giving that very, very deep study as to what should be done to counteract the continuance of foreign government spying on our national defenses.

MR. EARLY: Another phase of that has got to do with the employment of unnaturalized foreigners by American firms manufacturing for the Army and Navy.

THE PRESIDENT: That is all part of it.

Q Will you probably ask for additional funds next session?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not put it quite that way. I do say we have got to the point of studying what the best kind of machinery is that we can set up.

One of our problems today, quite frankly, is that we have too many organizations that are not sufficiently tied together. As we all know, we have the military intelligence, G-2, the office of Naval Intelligence, and the F. B. I. and several organizations in the Treasury Department.

Q Organizations?

THE PRESIDENT: I am talking about the Government. And we have not got the proper machinery for coordinating all their work to run

down foreign spying.

Q Which one of those organizations is now primarily responsible?

THE PRESIDENT: They all are, within limits.

Q The State Department has an organization too.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; awfully small.

Q Mr. President, do the reports to you show that espionage is on the increase; that is, where the Army and Navy is concerned?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not say it is on the increase today but it is a great deal larger today than it was ten years ago.

Q Mr. President, along that connection I was amazed to hear some time back that the American Rifleman printed pictures and drawings -- almost blueprints -- of our semi-automatic rifle. We are giving out much more information than any other country -- there hardly seems reason for a spy to wander around. You can get topographical maps of almost anything.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and how are you going to prevent it? What you are talking about is public property already and always will be. Topographical maps -- they are public property all over the world and you can be quite sure that if practically every nation did not already have the pictures of a new rifle, we would not have let it be printed.

Q Any connection between sabotage -- this spying -- and a series of Naval aviation disasters that occurred in rapid succession a month or so ago?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I have heard of.

Q You might do something about those Japanese tankers that follow the fleet around, Mr. President. (Laughter)

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #490,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
October 11, 1938, 4.20 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I have been looking at this dirty sheet (The Evening Star). (Laughter) I have been looking at it to see the news. They are killing a lot of people out in China, aren't they? Well, that's old stuff now.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe there is any particular news. I think I should just comment and say how happy I am that the Chaco dispute has been finally terminated through the award of six nations, the delimitation of the boundary, and that has removed a serious cause of disturbance on this continent. The continent is still without any war going on.

Q Have you any appointments in the air or to be announced today?

THE PRESIDENT: No, none at all. ^

Q You do not mind my asking that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter)

Q What do you think of the proposal of John L. Lewis that he will quit if Bill Green also resigns?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Fred (Storm), what would you think if I commented on that?

Q (Mr. Storm) I think it would be a good story.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it might be news but I haven't got any news on that.

Q Can you give some comment as to the reaction to your Message?

THE PRESIDENT: The same thing; same idea.

Q Can you tell us anything about the suggestion that you appoint a commission to study American labor relations, the idea which Mr. Lewis endorsed this morning in his press conference?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than I said, Fred, at Hyde Park.

Q Do you see any comparison between the Chaco settlement and the Munich agreement? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No comment on that.

Q Have you any engagements to speak in the Congressional campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I have got no dates yet.

Q Is there anyone pending in Brooklyn?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not pending anywhere, Fred (Essary).

Q Any news on Governor Dixon's call this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: No, just came in to say, "How do you do." It was the first time I had seen him since he was elected in the primaries.

Q Anything on the freight rate differential?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course every Governor from the lower South, when he does come in, does talk about it -- quite properly.

Q Has the farm program consideration reached the point where you can give us any idea of what is going to happen on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. It is still in the general discussion stage between Henry Wallace and myself. Has not got beyond that.

Q What kind of budget outlook did Secretary Morgenthau bring yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: Wait until the next conference.

Q Mr. President, do you think we need a special session for New England disaster relief as suggested by Senator Lodge?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think I had better answer that but I can tell you probably by tomorrow or the next day. Senator Lodge will re-

ceive from me -- it has been dictated but I think not yet signed -- a long letter marked "Personal" on that very subject, and perhaps if he were to ask me whether it is all right for him to give it out, I might say, "Yes." (Laughter)

Q I take it, Mr. President, that you are not giving it to the Press first.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you think he will ask you, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: That is up to you. (Laughter)

Q Did Gifford Pinchot give you any of his political views today, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we two discussed liberalism versus conservatism as a political philosophy with great accord.

Q You are in agreement, I take it, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: On the political philosophy.

Q Are you in accord on the forestry problem?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q Did Gifford Pinchot tell you who he is going to vote for in Pennsylvania?

THE PRESIDENT: He told me he would have a statement for you and he thought he had better not give it to me first because -- (laughter)

Q Chairman McNinch has been over at Federal Communications for a year. There still seems to be considerable friction over there. Would you care to comment on this long controversy over Civil Service status?

THE PRESIDENT: The last I knew the Chairman was still in the hospital and there is still friction.

Q Anything with respect to coordinating counter-espionage?

THE PRESIDENT: Studying it, that is all; trying to get some method of better cooperation.

Q Have you taken any steps yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Governor Poindexter, of Hawaii, was in to see you, I think last week, about the readjustment of WPA in Hawaii to civil jurisdiction. Have you come to any decision about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any particular story on that. I think he felt that there had not been enough percentage of WPA work which was going to municipalities and too much to national defense, but I am inclined to think that about the same proportion should continue to go to national defense.

Q Mr. President, National Chairman Farley said last week that he was going down the line for all Democrats nominated in the primaries. Do you agree with his statement in that respect?

THE PRESIDENT: If I were National Chairman, I would say the same thing.

Q Are you speaking now as President or as head of the Democratic Party?

THE PRESIDENT: If I were head of the Democratic Party, if I were National Chairman, I would do the same thing.

Q The Civil Service Commission was here, I think yesterday. They made no particular statement when they went out. Anything --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Only a budgetary thing.

Q Are they to go through with this work under the Executive Order to take in this 81,000?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. They are working on it all the time. There are things coming up under that Executive Order. Of course, as you run into details you run into difficulties. For example, today Admiral Wilson Brown came in to protest against putting the professors of the Naval Academy under strict Civil Service rule, which would be, of course, a very different thing from the system of hiring and firing of professors in any of the civilian universities throughout the United States. Well, that is a thing that nobody has thought of and of course at Annapolis -- and West Point the same way -- being essentially colleges, the thought for a great many years has been that the hiring and firing and pensioning and employment of civilian professors and assistant and associate professors and instructors should be kept on approximately the same basis as the average of the American colleges.

Q Mr. President, have you been advised through official channels of King George's visit to Canada next spring?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only what I read in the papers.

Q Have you done or will you do something about Biggers' recommendation that the problem of the increased employment of women should be turned over to the Monopoly Committee when it meets? You remember his letter saying that there had been this tremendous increase --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Of course the way I feel about that is that we cannot merely take the figures that were shown by the Biggers report in regard to the employment of women until we make some further analysis of the cause of it.

Just for example, during the depression and after the

depression, because of a very large number of unemployed persons, a great many women who had not worked before, when their husbands were employed, have gone back to work. In other words, we have got to analyze yet and find out why there are more women in industry.

Q Women are sedentary workers --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, and my thought is that there is a question as to whether we should make a study as to the reasons why women had gone back and of the percentage which had been in and gone out again, or what the percentage is of those who were forced, because of the lack of employment of their husbands, to go to work for the first time in their lives. We have to find that out first and whether that should be done immediately or whether we should wait and get a breakdown by the questionnaire method in the 1940 census, I don't know. That is the question to determine. The Biggers figures are very interesting but not conclusive unless you know the reason why.

Q He analyzed it to some extent in the report itself.

THE PRESIDENT: That is not enough. We are still studying as to what to do next.

Q Whether to go to the Monopoly --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Or let it remain a matter for the census.

Q Did you reach any conclusion with Admiral Brown on the Annapolis matter?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it was the first time I heard of it.

Q What do you think of the campaign in Ohio by Bulkley and Taft where they are criticizing mud-slinging issues?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know a thing about it.

Q You said that the percentage of the national budget to go to national defense would not decrease. In view of the tense world situation, is it possible it would go up instead of down?

THE PRESIDENT: That is true. One very simple illustration is that the Navy budget next year has got to go up in order to carry on construction of warships that were authorized. The starting of their construction was authorized by the last session of Congress and contracts have been let, or are about to be let, but very little money will go out of this year's appropriation. Well, for example, the two new battleships, while we will spend out of the Treasury practically nothing on that, we will let the contracts for them this year and we will be on the full spending end by next summer.

I think the Navy budget will probably go up -- I don't know -- a hundred and fifty million dollars of necessity.

Q Will the Chicago PWA subway grant be made?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will have news of that in the course of the next forty-eight hours.

MR. YOUNG: In the absence of Mr. Wile, may I say, "Thank you"?

(Laughter)