

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #497,  
In the President's Study in his  
home at Hyde Park, New York,  
November 4, 1938, 11.15 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. George, (Durno) how's your bridge?

Q (Mr. Durno) Not so good.

MR. McINTYRE: It is improving, Mr. President.

Q We would like a story, Mr. President. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I have not been down here long enough to acquire one.

Q Are you, by any chance, planning a short trip this weekend?

THE PRESIDENT: No, who suggested that?

Q There have been some very persistent reports that you were going  
into Ohio or Michigan.

THE PRESIDENT: What kind of reports, what is the source?

Q I don't know.

THE PRESIDENT: It is always interesting to find out the source of  
stories of that kind.

Q Mr. President, what time may we expect the text of your speech to-  
night?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Fred (Storm), I have got the semi-final draft done  
and I am going to work -- as soon as I can throw Mac and Kannee  
overboard I am going to work on the final draft, but I have not  
as yet prepared the three o'clock radio address. That is that.  
I have not even drafted it.

Q It is going to be kind of tough.

THE PRESIDENT: How long will it take mechanically? (Meaning the even-  
ing speech)

MR. McINTYRE: About an hour.

THE PRESIDENT: If I get it to you at five o'clock, it will be six when you (the Press) get it.

Q We couldn't get the text in the early editions. We could get leads in but could not run the complete text.

THE PRESIDENT: What is your dead line on that?

(Discussion off the record.)

Q King George, in a message to Parliament today paid high tribute to your efforts in bringing about the peace of Munich. The office is wondering whether you have any comment.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot, Fred (Storm), because I haven't seen it yet.

Q Mr. President, the Senate Campaign Investigating Committee has made some rather important charges about coercion of WPA workers, not by WPA but by local politicians. Mr. Williams, I think, in the main has denied that. The Senate Committee seems to be set on making some kind of a report to the Senate on individual races.

THE PRESIDENT: The only thing I have seen is what I read in the paper about some local political people who were trying to influence votes in Pennsylvania, both sides, Democrats and Republicans. The only thing I have seen is that, and that was a perfectly specific thing because they mentioned the counties and the people. And they also mentioned something about a shipyard.

Q The WPA workers were given jobs in the shipyard after they promised to vote the Republican ticket, according to the charge.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any comment to make on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course it ought not to be done and it is being kept down as well as it is possible to keep it down. No administration

can be wholly responsible for the actions of either Republican or Democratic local political leaders. Every effort is being made to prevent them from getting mixed up with WPA. Be sure, in writing your stories, that you make it apply both ways. In this county, for example, wouldn't you agree with me that it applies more to the Republican leaders than to the Democratic leaders? (Laughter)

Q That editorial inquiry recalls to mind the question of what might be done about the Wagner Act. You will recall that you talked about that before leaving Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will find that pretty well covered in tonight's speech, but not the Wagner Act alone but all legislation of the past five years, all legislation. Make that clear, too. Do not make a lead on the Wagner Act. Say the same thing about the Social Security Act and the same thing about giving help to crippled children, destitute children, and so forth and so on. Every law needs improvement and always will.

Q Mr. President, I wonder if you can discuss some phases of the Naval program in reference to construction. There was quite a lengthy article this morning in the Times.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw that.

Q It brings up that very interesting point of improvements as we go ahead while actually under construction. I wonder if you would comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Except that it is an interesting article and very well written because it is a highly technical subject. It points out two things that are of real importance. The first is that in 1933,

when we started the building up of the Navy, we had had practically no experience in the design of new ships since the ships which were designed in 1918. There was a complete lack of experimentation with new designs over a period of fifteen years. For example, the destroyers that were built then were entirely different from the war-type destroyers. They had to embody all kinds of improvements which science had made possible in those fifteen years. The same thing has been true of the light cruisers which are now going into commission and we are, as every nation is, we are experimenting.

The other phase and the important phase that was mentioned was the length of time that it takes us between the appropriation of the money by Congress and the actual completion of the ship. That length of time is altogether too long. One of the principal reasons for this is the changing of design during the progress of construction of a ship and that we are trying to eliminate and hope within the next year to make a very material reduction in the time that it takes to build a ship.

Q Have you anything to say on the almost identical bids that were submitted for the hull and machinery of the three new battleships which were rejected by the Navy Department?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not seen them; they were opened the day before yesterday.

Q Yes. They all ran from fifty-two to fifty-four million.

Q Forty-nine million --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They have been rejected.

Q No final action has been taken yet.

Q I think they put them aside.

THE PRESIDENT: They would not reject a bid on a battleship in three days. It takes weeks to study the bids.

Q In that connection, to bring up the question of cost of construction, the original bid for the WASHINGTON and NORTH CAROLINA, those were set aside as too high and the Navy went ahead in their own yard. These bids submitted by the private yards are all a million or two millions higher than the bids for the WASHINGTON and NORTH CAROLINA, which had been set aside.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

Q Now, that raises a point as to a yardstick to measure the cost of building a battleship.

THE PRESIDENT: They have those in the Navy Department all the time.

Q The point I had in mind was that if the Navy goes ahead and builds the WASHINGTON, they have to buy their armor plate, for example, from Bethlehem and Bethlehem Steel. Now, Bethlehem Steel is where its subsidiary gets its figures on cost when they make their bids. They bid their figures on the basis of its cost to them.

Is there any way of knowing whether Bethlehem cost is a fair charge?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, that is always followed down to the last ton.

Q It occurred to me that we did have, through the war time, that West Virginia plant turning out a small amount of armor plate. I wondered if there was any consideration of putting that in operation to compare the cost.

THE PRESIDENT: Not for armor plate. It was built for armor plate but we know now, through our studies, and accounting methods that have

been put in, approximately with a great deal more accuracy than we did in 1913 as to whether the price for armor plate is a fair price or not. That is a comparatively simple thing to determine. We also, of course, have the right, and we do know what the Bethlehem shipbuilding company pays for armor plate to the Bethlehem Steel Company and therefore have a comparison of what it costs us, when we are buying for a navy yard ship, for the same armor from the same armor plate company.

Q You said, in connection with that West Virginia plant, it is not for armor plate?

THE PRESIDENT: It is going to be used but we are not ready yet to make an announcement.

Q By the Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: By the Government, the same way that the New Orleans Navy Yard is about to be used by the Government.

In fact, I think you can go so far as to say that in our studies of essential national defense needs we are surveying all land and all unused plants that the Government owns for the purpose of using them, if they are fit for operation, rather than buying existing privately owned plants on private land. That means a very large net saving to the Government in every case that we can use existing Government property.

Q Have you made your predictions as to the outcome of the New York State election?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet; I have not had time. I have been working on the speech.

Q Mr. President, are you planning to open up your new cottage during

your stay here this time?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is it completed yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No; it is going to be boarded up.

Q Will you comment on the action announced in Japan as to their intent to substitute for the Nine-power Treaty, now considered obsolete, a working arrangement between Japan and China and Manchukuo?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will have to refer you to your colleagues covering the State Department today.

Q They sent us up an aide-memoire. (Laughter)

Q Are you writing a speech in connection with the Will Rogers Memorial?

THE PRESIDENT: I think about two and a half minutes.

Q Is that at three o'clock?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, inasmuch as you probably are not making a local appearance this time, would it be all right for me to ask if there may be some Dutchess County reference in your speech?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can say that I am very definitely going to vote for Dick Russell as District Attorney, because, as a purely local matter, I think it would be a good thing to have Russell handling the local affairs in this county -- with the expectation that if elected he will serve his full term. (Laughter)

Q We are a little slow this morning. We should have got that thirty seconds before you did. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I hate to ever refer to an editorial page. Last Tuesday

you were, nearly all of you, in the White House (at the press conference) when somebody asked me the following question -- Kannee hasn't got his notes here but his recollection checks and I think yours will too: "Mr. President, have you any comment on a poll taken by the Republican State Committee in Connecticut which showed that 85% of the people polled did not believe they were better off than two years ago?"

Answered by the President, with a perfectly cheerful smile, "So what -- considering the source?"

I think you will all check on that?

Q That is right.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is almost verbatim, with a smile, "So what -- considering the source?"

I don't mind, in fact I welcome opposition on controversial matters of opinion in any editorial column in the country. Those opinions, whether favorable or unfavorable ought, as a matter of simple American honesty, <sup>to</sup> be based, at least in part, on fact.

Note the heavy tone of sarcasm.

The Herald Tribune this morning runs an editorial -- the following is the first paragraph: (Reading) "When President Roosevelt's attention was called to a poll of 5,000 residents of Connecticut which showed 85 per cent of the voters answering 'no,' to the question, 'Are you better off today than you were two years ago?'"

That first half of the sentence is, of course, a deliberate lie for the very simple reason that that was not the question asked me, as you know. The question asked me was, "When his attention

was called to a poll by the Republican State Committee of Connecticut," which makes it a very different question, and to leave out those words is a deliberate misrepresentation of the question.

(Reading) "He brushed it aside impatiently, with the testy remark: 'So what?'"

That is equally a definite and a deliberate falsehood because I did not say, "So what?" I said, "So what -- considering the source."

That ought to be a lesson to every newspaper owner in the United States on how public opinion loses confidence in newspapers when, on the editorial page, the editorial -- never mind what the editorial says, I don't care about the opinion part of it -- when the editorial is based on two misstatements of fact in the two separate phases of one sentence.

That, of course, does not apply by any means to all the papers. It applies to a few papers; therefore, this is not an attack on the press of the United States in any sense of the word. It is calling your attention and the attention of the public to certain types of papers which sometimes commit atrocities of this kind deliberately. I am not talking about the accidental kind of atrocity.

I am sorry, John (O'Brien).

Q (John O'Brien) It is all right with me.

THE PRESIDENT: It was not your fault. Isn't it terrible? Isn't it a perfectly dreadful thing?

Q John (O'Brien) spotted it before breakfast this morning and talked about it to me.

THE PRESIDENT: I think John is as het up as I am, probably more so.

Q (Mr. O'Brien) Yes.

Q It has been suggested that your reluctance to refer to editorial pages is a reluctance [not] to speak of the dead. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. I told John Boettiger that if I were running his paper I would not run an editorial page because Mr. Ochs told me he had had a survey made to find out how many people read the editorial page of the Times, which is probably more widely quoted than the editorial page of any other paper in this country. He said his very careful poll showed that 8% of the readers of the Times read the editorial page and of this 8% only 4%, read any one editorial through. Which is on the authority of Mr. Adolph Ochs.

Q I am surprised it is that high, four out of a hundred.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe there is anything else. I think I am going to work on the speech all day.

Q How about Governor Cross?

THE PRESIDENT: Is he coming?

Q He is coming for lunch.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my God! That is off the record. (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: That is all right; we know how fond you really are of the old man.

THE PRESIDENT: I am fond of the old man but he is interfering with my speech.

Q Anybody else?

THE PRESIDENT: I have got somebody coming in at five o'clock and cannot remember what it is.

Q Anything further on this school situation in connection with the local thing? There has been some question raised about architects and --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The only thing I heard was before I left Washington, that the PWA had had to give them a dead line and that dead line, I think, is very close and they will have to recommend cancellation unless the dead line is met.

Q Does it involve a question of architects? There has been a dispute.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, on the ground that the plan of the School Board -- the plans of the School Board cannot be carried out adequately by the architect selected.

Q Well, it is quite a serious --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not a big enough staff and not enough experience to carry the whole thing through. Of course that is a thing that I cannot do anything about because it is the regular procedure with PWA. They have to have competent architecture and they have to decide whether an architect has enough of a staff and enough experience to carry through the job.

Q May I say anything at all on what you say?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I have to be bound by the regular rules of PWA that apply in every part of the country.

Q There is some threat that the thing will be cancelled?

THE PRESIDENT: It looks pretty dark at the present time.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #498

At the Town Hall, Hyde Park, New York,  
(after the President had voted),  
November 8, 1938, 12.40 P.M.

Q Mr. President, have you that watch chain of Andrew Jackson's?

THE PRESIDENT: I have it; it is in my safe.

Q You are saving it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; the Andrew Jackson watch chain is too valuable  
to carry around.

Any news today?

Q It is Election Day, Mr. President, have you any comments to make?

Q It is nice election weather all over the State.

THE PRESIDENT: Have all of you people voted? You are not all residents  
of the district.

Q (Mr. Storm) I cannot get an absentee ballot in Maryland.

THE PRESIDENT: Fred, you have got a bum state.

Q One more Democratic vote down there won't make any difference.

(Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: That is off the record.

Q Have you any comment at all on the election?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that it is a fine day and everybody is out  
voting, which is a good thing.

Q Have you made up a list of predictions?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Do you plan to?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope to. I hope to be able to sit down with a piece  
of paper and pencil.

Q Mr. President, you voted the State Democratic ticket, I suppose, did

you not?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a secret ballot. (Laughter)

Q Would you be in a position to comment as to how you voted on the Constitutional amendments?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so; it is a secret ballot. By the way, we got through our school thing last night.

Q Yes, I heard of it. It is very swell and I imagine they are very happy.

THE PRESIDENT: Very happy and now it is a question of whether we can build three schools for the money. They are coming down tomorrow to talk about first, where to put the buildings, what site, and the character of the buildings, and I think maybe I will be able to help a little on the saving of money, since I have done so much building.

Q I was going to ask the question in relation to your little visit to Poughkeepsie. Some mention was made of the fact that you are interested in slum clearance?

THE PRESIDENT: That is it and that is all there was. In other words, under the present law, these city slums -- you cannot go outside of the city limits -- you can organize by action of the city authorities, that is the Board of Aldermen, a non-profit corporation which can issue tax-exempt bonds, in other words, make a very excellent investment, and pay them all with low interest under this new plan in twenty-eight or thirty years. That is why we were studying within the city limits and looking at property of that kind, because the property has to be a very, very cheap property in order to pay off the bonds. It is paid off within twenty-eight

or thirty years under this plan and at the end of that time the property, including the buildings, belongs to the city, so that nobody has any equity or unearned increment. It is a good investment and, at the end of the period, the buildings and land belong to the Authority, in other words the city. Of course a thing like that ought to be started by people who have enough interest in improving housing conditions.

Q Do you feel that there is quite a real need for housing in Poughkeepsie?

THE PRESIDENT: All you have to do is to drive through certain sections through Poughkeepsie. I went into two or three of them and looked at the buildings which are supposed to be lodgings for poor people. They speak for themselves.

Q Do you mean the Nelson House? (Laughter)

Q When are you planning to go back to Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: Thursday afternoon, I think.

Q Anything on national affairs that we should know about?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing. I signed all my mail this morning and there isn't a thing of interest in it."

Q Who will be with you tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: Just the family.

Q You have a phone connected to National Headquarters?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether Mac (Mr. McIntyre) has had one put in or not. I think he has. Mac will be out and I think Frank Walker will be out with him and Harry Hopkins is coming back this afternoon after voting in New York and probably -- his little girl Diana is up here.

Q Will you have a statement after the results are known?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I never do.

Q Are you coming back soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably not until February. I am going down to Warm Springs the end of November for a week or ten days.

MR. STORM: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we will have a fairly quiet day. I don't know what you can write about on a day like this.

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference No. 499  
At the White House,

November 11, 1938 - 10:20 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: The Commonwealth of the Philippines has asked us for the assistance of some experts from the Department of State and the Department of Labor in connection with immigration control in the Philippines. The State Department is designating Mr. George L. Brandt, Foreign Service, and the Secretary of Labor, Mr. I. F. Wixon, Deputy Commissioner, who cooperated together before; and they are being sent out to the Philippines, their expenses being reimbursed to this Government by the Philippine Commonwealth. That is part of the general plan of being helpful in detailing officers to smaller countries to help them organize necessary agencies of government.

We have decided to take part in the Central American Radio Regional Conference to be held at Guatemala City on the 24th of November for the purpose of concluding a regional agreement in harmony with Article 7 of the General Radio Articles adopted at Cairo, Egypt, in February of this year. We sent a delegation to take part in that.

Q May I have the date again?

THE PRESIDENT: The 24th of November.

There are no appointments, but probably will be within a week; some--I don't know which--before I go to Warm Springs.

Q Is Governor Murphy on that list, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody is on the list; it has not been made up.

Q When do you leave for Warm Springs, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: The 20th or 21st.

Q You will stay over Thanksgiving?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will a Supreme Court Justice be on this appointment list?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Any prospect of Frank Murphy going back to the Philippines, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not thought about it; I am taking it up over the week end. There are quite a large number of vacancies--all departments.

Q Mr. President, the Argentine Government has expressed itself as very disturbed over the report that the United States plans to sell subsidized wheat in Brazil, and has said such sale would be looked upon as an "international incident." What is your attitude?

THE PRESIDENT: Hasn't somebody said already in the Government that we did not have anything to do with it?

Q It is said that the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has pledged its cooperation in such a sale.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I know only what I read in the newspapers.

Q Mr. President, will you give us your reaction to what Mr. Dewey called "the election returns"?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are all right.

Q Do you believe, Mr. President, or will you comment on the election returns in regard to your radio "Fireside Chat" last Friday night? Do you think they indicate a defection from liberal government as you outlined it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, certainly not.

Q How will it affect your program in Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Just exactly what I have had before--only state it right!

Q Will you not encounter coalition opposition?

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

Q I do! (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: The trees are too close to the forest!

Q Mr. President, did you ever disclose what was in that envelope you hid away on the election?

THE PRESIDENT: It was pretty good!

Q What do you mean by "pretty good"?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will give it to you three ways; I figured out New York just about the way it came out; on the total of Senators I was one out.

Q Which way?

THE PRESIDENT: I figured a loss of seven, and apparently it is eight. That is almost as good as some of the polls.

Q Which one fooled you, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I have forgotten. (Laughter.) I couldn't tell you because I haven't got the slip with me; but I was one out. On Congress I was twenty out.

Q Which way?

THE PRESIDENT: I figured about sixty-five lost in that, and apparently it will run eighty or eighty-one. That is better than most guessers around here! (Laughter.)

Q How about the governorships?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't put anything down on those only New York; didn't know enough about it.

Q Mr. President, have you anything to say about the Nazi Government's expanded campaign against the Jews as the result of the shooting of the German diplomat in Paris two or three days ago?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think not, Fred; you better handle that through the State Department.

Q In that connection, Mr. President, on election day the British chose that particular day to put out their proposed "white paper" on teletype.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't read it.

Q Mr. President, do you know whether Mr. Chamberlain is coming with the King and Queen?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea.

Q Mr. President, what is holding up the site of the new veterans' hospital in Illinois?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know--I haven't the faintest idea. They have had the hearings; that is all I know.

Q I understand it was to be a P.W.A. project, and some wondered whether it can go on now.

THE PRESIDENT: They have selected the site?

Q No, that is what the squabble is about.

THE PRESIDENT: Before it comes to me, they will have to select a site.

Q Do you think you will go down the Potomac through the week end?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think I will stay here ; I will stay here until about time to go to Warm Springs.

Q Are there any particular matters, Mr. President, you are going to take up with Colonel Batista this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q How long before Congress convenes will you have the social security program planned?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have no idea. Of course all those things are being studied at the present time. I have no idea what the program will be.

Q Will you make stops at any other points besides Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet.

Q Anything new on the defense program, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Not for publication; quite a lot of new things, but not for publication.

Q Are you contemplating an early session of Congress, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes (pause) the 3d of January! (Laughter.)

Q Early enough, Mr. President! (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: No, I would just as soon have them here any old time!

Q They can't come unless you call them, can they?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter.)

Q Have you altered your plans not to go to Lima?

THE PRESIDENT: Altered my plans not to go to Lima? Isn't that based on what you call a false premise? (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, do you consider the large vote for Senator Wagner as endorsement for the labor act in its present form?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is sort of an impossible question. I say the voters of the State of New York, by nearly half a million majority, wanted him to return to the Senate of the United States because they liked his record. (Pause.)

Thank you, Mr. President! (Conference ended about 10:35 A.M.)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference No. 500,  
At the White House,

Tuesday, November 15, 1938 - 4:08 P.M.

All in!

Q Mr. President, before you get down to the unimportant things,

I would like to ask you a national question: Have you settled the matter of the Gravelly Point airport? (Laughter.) It may sound funny, but it is important, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you; last Friday at Cabinet meeting, it was discovered that there were three different opinions from three groups of lawyers. Of course that creates a very difficult situation! (Laughter.) So I referred the matter to the Department of Justice with the request that they straighten it out and make it legal to go ahead with Gravelly Point. At 6 o'clock that same night, they telephoned they had done it, and it is now legal.

Q Have you approved the allotment, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I did that before it was made legal!

(Laughter.)

Q Then they can get their money now?

THE PRESIDENT: They can get their money now, so I am told, and go ahead.

Q Another important question: Mr. Delano said today during the discussion of the memorial you were going to say something about the cherry trees.

THE PRESIDENT: I was going to withhold that until Friday, because you have so many other things today. I would suggest that you hold in extenso that about the cherry trees.

Q I will surely do so.

THE PRESIDENT: I am glad your paper is not following a certain other paper in Washington on this thing.

Q Thank you.

Q We were just interested in saving the dogwood, Mr. President!

THE PRESIDENT: I think Russell is doing very well today--sort of a continuous performance, this is.

RUSSELL YOUNG: Excuse me, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Now let us come down to more serious things than cherry tree campaigns. Here are several things you will ask me, so I might as well shoot first. First, about the situation in Germany: I just dictated the following; it is not very long, and I think you might as well take it down:

"The news of the past few days from Germany has deeply shocked public opinion in the United States. Such news from any part of the world would inevitably produce a similar profound reaction among American people in every part of the nation.

"I myself could scarcely believe that such things could occur in a twentieth century civilization.

"With a view to gaining a first-hand picture of the current situation in Germany I asked the Secretary of State

to order our Ambassador in Berlin to return at once for report and consultation."

That is the end of the statement. I think you know this.

He is leaving on Thursday on the Manhattan, day after tomorrow.

Q Mr. President, will that be mimeographed to give out?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Would you elaborate on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think it speaks for itself.

Q What about the talk or rumors or report that that is called a "recall"?

THE PRESIDENT: Technically speaking, in diplomatic parlance, it is not a recall; it is a summons to come home.

Q Have you any estimate how long Mr. Wilson will stay here?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing further than what the Secretary of State said today.

Q Have you made any protest to Germany?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing has gone that I know of.

Q There are reports from London that Mr. Kennedy has made a suggestion to the British Government concerning a place wherein the Jewish refugees would be taken care of.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot comment on the report, because I know nothing of what has been happening in London. We do know that the International Refugee Commission is at work trying to extend its help to take care of an increasingly difficult situation.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us whether you feel that there is any place in the world where you could take care of mass emigration of the Jews from Germany--have you given thought to that?

THE PRESIDENT: I have given a great deal of thought to it.

Q Can you tell us any place particularly desirable?

THE PRESIDENT: No, the time is not ripe for that.

Q Have there been any comments or protests made to you concerning the destruction or damage of American property in Germany?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing has come through on that; I imagine the Embassy is checking up on it.

Q You said nothing as yet on a possible protest to Germany; is there anything on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot say anything on that.

Q Would you recommend a relaxation of our immigration restrictions so that the Jewish refugees could be received in this country?

THE PRESIDENT: That is not in contemplation; we have the quota system.

Q Mr. President, has there been time for you to obtain any idea of German reaction to the temporary withdrawal of Mr. Wilson?

THE PRESIDENT: Only what I have read through the press.

Q Mr. President, switching from the German situation to the national defense, is there anything you can say in addition to the piecemeal stories we have been getting recently?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so; you know that we had a very large conference in here yesterday; you saw them. I can tell you the

status of things at the present time. As I suggested before, you should not try to anticipate things; no decision has been made at the present time; we are simply in the study stage.

As a result of world events in the last few years, and as a result of scientific advancement in waging war, the whole orientation of this country in relation to the continent on which we live--in other words, from Canada to Terra del Fuego--has had to be--our conception of it--has had to be changed. There is today a continental solidarity among the twenty-one republics and Canada which is more definite, more unanimous than ever before in the last 120 years, since the Latin American republics were struggling for their independence. Therefore, on this continent we are substantially unanimous in the belief that as a continental doctrine we must be prepared to carry out the outline of continental solidarity that was established at Buenos Aires. It is very important to get the conception that this is a continental solidarity into which we fit as one of the republics. We therefore have to check up and see what is necessary in order to maintain this continental solidarity against any possible threat from any other continent. These particular discussions that we are having relate to that problem; and the first thing we realize is the fact that any possible attack has been brought infinitely closer than it was 5 years or 20 years or 50 years ago. There are a good many reasons for that, and there is no use to go into all of them, but one of the reasons is the development in aircraft. We are therefore

studying national defense and continental solidarity against possible attacks from other hemispheres, other continents, along these different lines, including the problem of aircraft. Yesterday's meeting was confined almost entirely to the problem of aircraft. We are not ready to go into figures of any kind. If I were writing the story, I could not give figures at this time; but the facts remain that the continental safety today is far too low on that particular phase. That is about all I can tell you, except that we are taking--going to take steps first with resources which are already at the disposal of the Government, and secondly by asking for legislation so as to place the defense of the United States and the continent against any possible aggression from the outside on a safer basis; and that is about as far as we can go.

Q Could you name any number of aircraft, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that is just exactly what I cannot do; and no story on numbers at the present time is any good, because we don't know.

Q Mr. President, that means that the problem of national defense has now become a problem of continental defense; is that correct?

THE PRESIDENT: In cooperation with other republics and Canada.

Q That is, it has changed in that period to a problem of continental defense rather than national?

THE PRESIDENT: But continental defense that does not rest solely upon our shoulders; in other words, in cooperation with the other twenty republics and Canada.

Q Does that take into account the possibility of defection from continental solidarity?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't anticipate any such defection from continental solidarity.

Q Will you tell us how much reason you have for believing in that solidarity?

THE PRESIDENT: A good deal of reason.

Q Do you refer to the hemisphere?

THE PRESIDENT: North, Central, and South America.

Q Mr. President, are you considering the possibility of it being necessary to build a fleet large enough to defend both the Atlantic and Pacific Coast at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, yesterday Mr. Johnson said that the program might mean a half billion dollars more on the appropriation, and we assume that that was the Navy; is that true?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Was that the Army or both?

THE PRESIDENT: In the first place, the figure is wrong, and in the second place the assumption is wrong. The way the question was put, it might assume an additional five hundred million dollars over and above present expenditures in the budget. That is not necessarily so.

Q That is the impression we got.

THE PRESIDENT: It is not necessarily so; I cannot enlarge on it yet, because I am not ready for it.

Q Have you any figures?

THE PRESIDENT: There will have to be some legislation.

Q Does that include neutrality legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: No, defense.

Q Could you amplify the new danger which makes this continental defense necessary.

THE PRESIDENT: Read the newspapers for the past five years.

Q Mr. President, are you discussing the position of the Philippines in the new plan?

THE PRESIDENT: The American flag floats over the Philippines.

Q Mr. President, Secretary Morgenthau had a meeting attended by Mr. Eccles, Mr. Delano, and Mr. Bell having to do with natural resources, and said you would have something to say about it.

THE PRESIDENT: I got it, and I thought it would be better to hold that until Friday. That is a separate realm.

Q Mr. President, there has been a report that Attorney General Cummings will resign soon.

THE PRESIDENT: Those are the other two things--No. 1, Jimmy: the doctors tell him he is coming along all right, but he has got to go awfully slow and can't come back here probably until spring; therefore, his resignation is formally coming in today with the expectation that he will come back again in the spring as soon as he is strong enough to assume the kind of work one has to do here in the White House.

The other relates to the Attorney General, and it is not a new story; it is a very, very old one. In 1933, when the

Attorney General first came, he was very loath to stay more than two years. He wanted to go back to practice law before he was too old to practice law; and at the end of two years I persuaded him to stay on. From that time on, from time to time, he has told me that he ought to go back to practice law; and on every occasion I have told him to hold his horses and stay a little longer. Finally, last July, he said the time had come when he simply had to go back to practice law. I told him to hold it off until October; so I talked to him in October, and told him if he felt he had to do it--which he very definitely felt--I supposed there was nothing I could do except to let him go back and practice law sometime in January, after the Congress is all here.

I feel very sorry he has to go, because, of all the various departments of the Government, without making any distinctions or comparisons, the Department of Justice, in the past five years--as I think most of you will bear witness--has accomplished very extraordinary results, not only improvement in methods in the actual handling of cases in the lower courts and the higher courts, but also in tackling certain problems that were so necessary to be tackled on a national basis and on which the country demanded something be done--interstate crime, kidnaping, and all the others. Today we have a system of detection of interstate crime--the apprehension of crime--probably as good as any in the world.

And with that of course goes a very great improvement in the practice of penology, the handling of prisoners, the extension of the building of decent prisons to live in, so that, on the whole, I feel that the Attorney General has accomplished a very remarkable piece of work in the five and one-half years he has been down here in Washington; and while no date has been set, he probably will go back to practice law, after begging me for four years to let him go, sometime in January.

Q Will Mr. Jackson be promoted?

THE PRESIDENT: There are no other resignations and no thought of filling any places yet.

Q Mr. President, has the Attorney General formally submitted his resignation?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, his departure will not cause any slackening in the enforcement of the antitrust laws, will it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, can you say anything about a successor to your son or the Attorney General?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not considered any appointments to take their places.

Q Any appointment for the S.E.C.?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Before you leave for Warm Springs, do you intend to make any judicial appointment?

THE PRESIDENT: Of the new judges?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I think maybe; I don't know. I am talking to the Attorney General about it tomorrow. I am going over a file of recommendations that I think, when I last saw it, was three feet high, and I think it is probably six feet high now. I am going to begin on that tomorrow.

Q Will you or Mr. Hull sign the trade agreement?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that the Secretary will sign it.

Q What day, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Hasn't the State Department given that out yet?

Q No.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, then don't try to get that out of me! I nearly got caught. (Laughter.)

Q Secretary Welles' party for Thursday has been canceled, Mr. President, and everybody thinks it will be then.

Thank you, Mr. President!

The Press Conference adjourned at 4:28 P.M.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference #501,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
November 18, 1938, 10.48 A.M.

Q Mr. President, I want to apply for a White House job.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q I want to be Coordinator of White House Press Conferences. You have one at a quarter to eleven and Mrs. Roosevelt has one at eleven.

THE PRESIDENT: The trouble was the Canadian Prime Minister came in. What are you going to do about that?

Q Haven't you any influence with Mrs. Roosevelt to get her to postpone hers? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Ask the Canadian Prime Minister.

Q To ask Mrs. Roosevelt to have hers at a different time?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am appointing a temporary board which will -- I don't know what a really good name is, but the name is the least important -- which will be an advisory board, a temporary advisory board, on certain fiscal and monetary subjects. Their duties -- first, I will tell you who it is: The Secretary of the Treasury, Chairman, and the members will be the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Director of the Budget, and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the National Resources Committee. Each member can name an alternate from his agency to serve with him in his place and in his absence.

The duties of this board will consist of canvassing, system-

atically, the broader problems of fiscal and monetary policies in relation to national production and the national income. In other words, they will study the whole range of a great many problems that relate to fiscal and monetary policies in respect to sound and orderly recovery and conditions essential to slowing down the peaks and valleys.

It is just another step in tying in all the different agencies of the Government so that they will view any given broad problem as a whole instead of merely in its component parts, and they will report from time to time informally. Probably this is as much as you will hear about it for some time.

Q Mr. President, have you any comment or any thoughts on the summons home of the German Ambassador?

THE PRESIDENT: Has he been summoned home?

Q Yes, sir.

Q An official dispatch said that he had been summoned home to report in detail on the queer attitude of the United States toward domestic questions of Germany. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think any comment is necessary.

Q In your discussion two days ago on the question of continental solidarity, you laid considerable emphasis on the inclusion of Canada in that idea. Would you favor the extension of the Pan American Union to include Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; that is an entirely separate problem.

Q On Tuesday, Mr. President, you intimated that you did not propose, or would not consider, lowering the immigration barriers for the benefit of German refugees. Since that time a good deal has been

said in print that you might do so after all. Have you changed your mind?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There is one other factor that was brought up that is a brand new one which I did not hear about until yesterday. There are in this country at the present time quite a large number -- I think you had better check these figures through the Secretary of Labor but I am inclined to think that they run as high as twelve to fifteen thousand -- refugees from, principally, Germany and Austria -- what was Austria -- who are in this country on what is called "Visitors' Permits," I think that is the word. In other words, they are here, not on a quota but as visitors with proper passports from their own governments. The situation apparently has arisen that because of a recent decree those visitors' passports will be canceled as of the thirtieth of December, this year. Now, as a matter of practical fact, of course a great many of these people, who are not all Jews by any means, since other religions are included in very large numbers among them, if they were to go back before the thirtieth of December, actually, as I understand it, get back to Germany before the thirtieth of December, a great many of them believe that their treatment on reaching home might be a very serious problem. In other words, it is a question of concentration camps, et cetera and so on. They are not here under a quota so we have a very definite problem as to what to do. I don't know, from the point of view of humanity, that we have a right to put them on a ship and send them back to Germany under the present conditions. We can legally -- the Secretary of Labor can, legally, give six months extensions so that

they can stay in this country under the six months extension provision. As I understand it, the law does not say how many six months extensions there can be -- it does not limit the number -- so what I told the Secretary of Labor yesterday was that it would be a cruel and inhuman thing to compel them to leave here in time to get back to Germany by the thirtieth of December and, therefore, I have suggested to Miss Perkins that they be given six months extensions. Under those extensions they cannot, as I understand it, apply for American citizenship; they are only visitors and therefore, there being no adequate law on the subject, we will simply present the facts to the Congress. If the Congress takes no action, these unfortunate people will be allowed to stay in this country.

Q Will you repeat that, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: They will be allowed to stay in this country under the six months extension law because I cannot, in any decent humanity, throw them out.

Q Do you understand that you may at the end of the first six months extend for another period of six months?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And on and on?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so but I am not clear about it. Anyway we are going to present the situation to the Congress when it meets and I have no doubt that in the case of these twelve or fifteen thousand people the Congress will not compel us to send them back to Germany any more than the Congress compelled us to send a large number of the refugees of the old regime back to Russia after

Q Can't you say it? There is a press waiting to flash this news to the world down here. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether I should be polite as to what was done by Washington newspapers or not, especially two newspapers in Washington. I suppose it is one of the most interesting cases -- luckily they are rare -- of a flim flam game being started by the owner of a paper. It is a complete deception of the public and all you have to do is to read -- I will give them back to Steve, Steve dug them up for me -- the clippings from some of the Washington newspapers in the course of the last few weeks. The statement in one paper "Six hundred trees must give way to the Memorial." Another one, "Many of six hundred trees involved in Memorial may be lost." That is tuning it down a bit.

"328 cherry trees at shrine doomed by secret move." "Public arises at finding new monument dooms 328 cherry trees in Basin. This ten million dollar project ..." And so it goes.

It is the worst case of flim flammng that this dear old capital of ours has been subjected to for a long time.

Now, of course, the facts are very simple. They have got to be looked at from the point of view of what Al Smith would have called "the record." For a long time, dating back to when I was in the Navy Department, I thought it was a sort of funny thing that one of our three greatest Presidents had no memorial in the National Capital -- practically no memorial of any kind, and in the Wilson Administration there were a good many attempts made to get a memorial to Thomas Jefferson and every time that a memorial was suggested, it was a strange thing that while quite a lot

of people backed a memorial -- they would not admit they did not like a memorial to Thomas Jefferson -- they did not like the particular one suggested. So the thing failed.

When the Democratic Administration came back in 1933, we all decided we ought to have a memorial for Thomas Jefferson. As you know, of course, the thing hung fire in Congress and there were a lot of reports and so on and so forth. Finally it came down to a question of site and there were four different sites proposed for a straight memorial and out of the four, finally, by action of the Legislature, this particular site was picked. It is too late to change that site. There is going to be a memorial to Thomas Jefferson in accordance with the action of Congress on that site.

Then, number two, there was the question of the type of memorial which divides itself in two parts: First, should it be utilitarian? Well, that was all discussed. Should it be a stadium or a municipal hall or a race track? -- somebody suggested a race track (laughter) and it was decided again, after complete discussion lasting about four or five years, that it should be a non-utilitarian memorial. So that was all gone into.

That decision having been taken, it became a question of what kind of non-utilitarian memorial it should be and there were two or three plans suggested. The first cost too much and of course there was no unanimity of opinion in regard to the design -- there never is -- but the constituted legal authorities decided on a design and that design is about to be carried out at a cost of somewhere around three million dollars.

Then, all of a sudden, a newspaper campaign -- we have seen

them before, we know what they are, the public does -- they thought it would be good advertising to talk about the cherry trees. Well, I don't suppose there is anybody in the world who loves trees quite as much as I do but I recognize that a cherry tree does not live forever. It is what is called a short-lived tree and there are forty or fifty cherry trees that die or fall down or get flooded out or have to be replaced. It is a short-lived tree and we ought to have, in addition to the 1700 trees we have today, I think another thousand cherry trees. There are lots of places to put another thousand trees. Let us plant 2700 trees instead of 1700.

Actually, according to the records, this particular operation will result in a net loss of the present cherry trees of eighty-eight and of course that net loss will be made up, not only those eighty-eight, as I hope, but 912 others.

So you see what a flim flam game this has been.

A Jefferson Memorial, so far as hotel keepers are concerned -- well, I am just a hick from Dutchess County, a Democratic hick, and when I go back to Dutchess County I think it would be quite a magnet to me to come back to Washington, as a tourist, to see this new Jefferson Memorial, with another thousand cherry trees down around that Basin.

Q They are Japanese cherry trees. Can you get them?

THE PRESIDENT: Why, sure. We are putting in forty or fifty every year.

Q (Mr. Durno) What year will you be coming back, Mr. President?

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let us see. Let us put it this way: Early and

often. (Laughter)

Q Dutchess County Republicans are all admirers of Thomas Jefferson anyway, are they not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

Q Of course this is serious to some of us newspaper men. Women are going down there to chain themselves to these trees --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The action has been taken by Congress and if anybody wants to chain themselves to the tree and the tree is in the way, we will move the tree and the lady and the chains and transplant them to some other place. (Laughter)

Q How much of this can be used that you have said about the cherry trees and the Memorial?

THE PRESIDENT: You can use it all as long as you do not quote me.

Q Mr. President, do you plan shortly to release the report of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs?

THE PRESIDENT: They have a date for it and I cannot tell you what it is. It is all set for a date, I think.

Q Have you recommendations on that already?

THE PRESIDENT: No, just the report.

Q Mr. President, I understand that a number of telegrams have been sent down to the White House urging Governor Benson as WPA Director of his state. Would you care to comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought somebody else had been appointed.

Q There is an Acting Director out there but nobody appointed.

THE PRESIDENT: Ask Harry (Hopkins). I think somebody has been appointed.

Q I think it is just Acting Director.

Q Before you leave on Sunday afternoon is there any possibility of your

going down to see Gravelly Point to start the works?

THE PRESIDENT: That depends on whether I have time in the first place and, secondly, whether they are going to have any shovel down there. I will go tomorrow afternoon if they are ready for me. No ceremony though.

Q Have you any appointments to announce?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. Frank J. Rice, Collector of Customs, Customs Collection District No. 43.

Q Where?

THE PRESIDENT: Memphis.

Q Have you exchanged notes in connection with the British Trade Agreement bearing on export subsidies and the possibility of the British Government taking some retaliatory move? That is under Mr. Wallace's wheat export plan.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. My mind is not quite up to the subject today.

Q Did you discuss with the Prime Minister the proposed development of the St. Lawrence Waterway?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there were about forty seconds (devoted to that). I expressed my hope that something would be done to hurry it. I think he said that he agreed with me.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #502,  
At the President's Cottage,  
Warm Springs, Georgia,  
Tuesday, November 22, 1938, 12.30 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: It is good to see Ralph (Smith) back with us.

Q (Mr. Smith) I am happy to be back.

THE PRESIDENT: How is the boy?

Q (Mr. Charles Daly) Fine, splendid.

Q Could you comment on Chamberlain's announcement on the establishment of Jewish havens in South Africa and Guinea?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not seen any original of it.

Q You would not comment in lieu of that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q I received a long message from the New York office this afternoon in which they quoted from the "Nation" and say that you had to prod Ambassador Kennedy into action in order to assist in this Intergovernmental Committee on the refugee problem?

THE PRESIDENT: Fred (Storm), does your office know yet that I do not comment on newspaper stories?

Q (Mr. Storm) I had to go through the motions. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Is the Nation a newspaper?

Q No, sir; it is a magazine.

THE PRESIDENT: Is it a magazine?

Q They claim it is. I will leave this with you, Mr. President, if you would like to read it.

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to read it; thanks, Fred (Storm). It sounds almost like a columnist, does it not? (Laughter) Ralph (Smith), you are not a columnist?

Q (Mr. Smith) No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: It is all right.

Q Mr. President, before we left, Representative Rayburn indicated that he and other Congressional leaders probably would be down here. Have you made any arrangements?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely none. I never heard of Frank Murphy coming down, either.

Q I was told he was.

THE PRESIDENT: Where did you get that from?

Q Oh, I cannot tell you.

THE PRESIDENT: Middle of the night? (Laughter)

Q No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact, I have not got a single date for anybody. I was just sort of cutting things off -- it is a horrid thing to do -- but I haven't got a single date for anybody, except Hugh Wilson, who is coming down after he has seen the Secretary of State and been to the State Department. I suppose he will be down Sunday or Monday. That is really the only conceivable date I have. I have no thought of having any dates.

It is possible that what I said to Sam Rayburn was that if he was coming to Washington while I was here, why didn't he come by way of Warm Springs. He said he would if he was going. Now, that can hardly be called a date. The same way I sent word to Will Bankhead that if he was going to Washington why didn't he go by way of Warm Springs.

MR. McINTYRE: Do you want that on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It is just for your personal information. What

I do want on the record is the fact that I haven't any dates. How can you handle it? I have not got any dates. If it is convenient to them, if they were coming this way while I am here, it would be very nice if they dropped off. But I have not any appointments.

Q It is all right to say that you had suggested that if they were going up to Washington they could come by way of Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but there are no appointments.

Q In other words, you would be glad to see them if they dropped off?

MR. McINTYRE: Go ahead and write your face-saver.

Q Have you given any thought to appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I am sorry I cannot help you at all.

Q Will we get any while we are here?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not the faintest idea. We are going to have an awfully barren two weeks. You can talk about the Marines, and talk about Mac (Mr. McIntyre) but that is all there is to talk about.

Q Someone was asking how are Hop and Tug? (The two mules which had been named after Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Tugwell.)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I did not stop on the farm. I drove right past because I thought it was going to rain.

MR. McINTYRE: It would be all right to tell them about Pine Mountain.

THE PRESIDENT: Do they want to do that?

MR. McINTYRE: It is Friday at 2.00 o'clock.

THE PRESIDENT: That will be the best news they have had yet. We will

go a couple of times while we are here. We are giving you all the bad news today.

Q On the main highway it is all right.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got a new dirt road to explore. You go to Chipley and then take the road to the right. You have never done that.

Q We had enough last time. (Laughter)

Q Is the appointment of a new Associate Justice to the Supreme Court in sight yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you a long list of names that you are considering?

THE PRESIDENT: There ain't no appointments in sight. As a matter of fact there are three appointments back home in Washington that will be out soon, aren't there?

MR. McINTYRE: We will possibly have them for tomorrow.

Q Has McNutt given any indication that he would like to be relieved as American High Commissioner to the Philippines?

THE PRESIDENT: No; he is coming home in January.

Q For good?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. There isn't a story you can get out of this answer, Fred (Storm). It is terrible. You can bark and bark but the tree will still be there.

Q Have you any expectation of seeing Governor Talmadge or any of the crowd as to this Georgia melee?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. Did the insane asylum go through?

Q The last I saw it had tentatively gone through.

Q P.W.A. gave so much and the W.P.A. gave so much and we got \$4,000,000.

of the \$7,000,000. that Governor Rivers asked for originally.

THE PRESIDENT: I believe it is all cleaned up.

Q That is contingent on legislative enactments in January.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is all set.

Q It is all set.

THE PRESIDENT: There is something that you can do in the State and that is this: On this particular grant, we did something that perhaps we ought not to have done because four years ago the only way that Georgia could get any benefits was by setting up an authority which it did not have, or by amending the Constitution so that it could borrow the money for its share. Well, that was four and a half years ago and we wanted to do something so as not to cut Georgia out of the first P.W.A. altogether, so we devised a method for the State Prison and the method was for the Federal Government to build the whole thing and rent it to the State for a sum equal to the interest on the money and the amortization but, when we did it, we told the State -- I have forgotten who was Governor at the time --

Q (interposing) Talmadge.

THE PRESIDENT: No, it was before Talmadge; it was Dick Russell. We told Dick we could not do it again because repayment to the Federal Government would depend entirely on each successive legislature, which would mean that if the legislature did not come across with the rent, we would have to throw out all prisoners and close the building and have an empty jail building on our hands.

In the meantime, four and a half years have gone by and the

State has not done one single thing about it. So we came up against it this year and again it was, "Please, we are all down on our knees weeping bitter tears. Please let us have the money." I said, "Why didn't you do what we asked you to do?" It is the only state in the Union -- emphasize it, the only state in the Union -- that has not cooperated with the Federal Government on public works. It is a terrible thing to say but it is true. And finally, because we were silly, softhearted idealists, we went and did it again in very much the same way. We gave the 45% P.W.A. grant and Jesse Jones loaned them the money.

Now, I don't know -- well, I think it ought to be made perfectly clear that not one red cent more goes to the State of Georgia until they do something about it. Never again! It was the only state in the Union that failed to go along.

Q It is your State, your home State. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I know it. I am softhearted but there is a limit.

Now, that ought to be stressed.

Q What was that last loan for?

THE PRESIDENT: It is the insane asylum.

Q In Milledgeville.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no question about it, the insane asylum was terribly needed, in the same way the prison was needed.

Q On the prison we went a long way.

THE PRESIDENT: How is it working?

Q If we keep politics out of parole.

THE PRESIDENT: It is quite a difficult job. I went all through it as Governor.

Q I am on the spot as a newspaperman because I have attacked it.

THE PRESIDENT: The history of parole in the State of New York was that the first board that went in did not play politics but it was too softhearted and we have had to tighten up each year a little bit.

Q Edgar Hoover has an idea that you have to figure parole from the standpoint of protection of the public as well as rehabilitation. We are not doing it in Georgia. There are too many of our habitual criminals who are being paroled. That means more money spent getting them back into the prison where they belong.

THE PRESIDENT: Most of our trouble in New York has been from third and fourth offenders. So now, in the State of New York, (under the law which gives fourth offenders a life term) the larger percentage of the parolees are first offenders. And then we have another thing, which is the wall-less prison and that is working pretty well. Those are for first offenders of the type of criminal who is not, in a sense, and should not be called an habitual criminal. It is for the type of man who has had a little financial trouble and has taken \$200.<sup>out</sup> of the till. He is not going to run away.

Q He did not plan to do it -- he just slipped up a little.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is it possible you could have heard so soon from the Joint Railroad Management Committee that is supposed to make recommendations?

THE PRESIDENT: When are we going to hear? Mac, (Mr. McIntyre) why don't you take it up tomorrow and ask them informally, off the

record, when we are going to hear something because we have not heard a peep.

Q Is Danny Bell going to come down?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Are you doing anything while here on the defense program?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing in particular.

Q How is that shaping up?

THE PRESIDENT: It is coming along very well. I am not doing much on it but a lot of other people are.

Q Can you tell us the number of planes?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

There is going to be a Sunday party for all of the children down at the Marine Camp. There is going to be close-order drill, et cetera and so on and the Colonel suggested that they could put it on the air. Why don't you tell the radio people about it?

MR. McINTYRE: Will you tell Carleton?

Q (Mr. Daly) Yes, I will.

THE PRESIDENT: You will get lovely photographs, too. (Referring to Charles Daly's propensities for taking pictures for his own collection.) (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: Columbia and NBC are broadcasting fifteen minutes Wednesday night, descriptive stuff, and both asked whether there was any possibility of you saying a word.

THE PRESIDENT: Thursday night?

MR. McINTYRE: From 7.00 to 7.15.

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to make a speech.

MR. McINTYRE: That won't be on the air.

THE PRESIDENT: Why not put me on the national hookup the first five minutes and the rest off the record.

MR. McINTYRE: All right.

THE PRESIDENT: What time?

Q (Mr. Daly) 6.45 in the diningroom and then you will be on from 7.00 to 7.05.

What time is the drill going to be on Sunday?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; it will be Sunday afternoon.

MR. McINTYRE: Probably about 3.00 o'clock. We are going to check on that.

THE PRESIDENT: Make a nice piece of description. We had an open-order skirmish three years ago and all the Marines shooting at each other with blank cartridges, with the defensive force directly in front of us and these people crawling on their tummies from cornstalk to cornstalk and dropping down and firing. The children were really scared to death and thought they were going to be captured. We had a grand time. It was a real thriller.

Q It looks as if we will have to make it.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we are going to have an awfully quiet time.

I brought very little down in the way of homework.

Q You are going to rest?

THE PRESIDENT: And play.

Q Are you going in the pool tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q Are you going to the farm?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q We ought to get auto hire if we cannot get news.

THE PRESIDENT: Evie, (Mrs. Walker) have you learned how to make out an account yet?

Q (Mrs. Walker) You mean an expense account?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q (Mrs. Walker) I have had some awfully nice ideas on the train that had never occurred to me.

THE PRESIDENT: I can give you some ideas.

Q (Mrs. Walker) I will think of something very good.

Q We have been trying to get up a gold tournament but we cannot get Mac (Mr. McIntyre) started.

THE PRESIDENT: He started this morning, it was under 70.

MR. McINTYRE: What are you talking about? I did 64, as a matter of fact.

Q I am not worried about the score, it is getting him out on the course.

MR. McINTYRE: He is just giving me a build-up.

THE PRESIDENT: He was good. Were you good this morning?

Q Walter Trohan was good.

THE PRESIDENT: What are we going to do? Dan Callaghan played his first nine this morning and Mac beat him. We will have to have a match between them.

Q I bet Mac asks him for a stroke the hole.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.