

CONFIDENTIAL
 Press Conference #503,
 Warm Springs Foundation,
 Warm Springs, Georgia,
 November 25, 1938

Q What's the news, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: None at all -- you had it all last night.

Q Any comment on the British action to close Palestine to further Jewish immigration?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than I read in the paper.

Q That was a statement by the Colonial Secretary Malcolm McDonald to the House of Commons, objecting to the proposal to allow one hundred thousand more Jews?

[MacDonald]

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any new appointments, Mr. President, new Judgeships, or anything?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think we have any at all. I can't think of anything. You will get lots of news this afternoon. We are going over at George's request to Pine Mountain Valley. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Trohan) I hope we stay over about five or six hours.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that will do it -- we'll about be back in time for supper.

Q I think you are doing this deliberately. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What date do you want to go again? Saturday?
 Tomorrow?

Q I hear they have ice, sleet and snow in Washington, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Really?

Q Six inches.

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh, what do you know about that.

Q See how well we timed it -- maybe we can stay another week.

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THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

I can't think of another thing.

Q Has it definitely been decided which day Ambassador Wilson is coming?

THE PRESIDENT: Have we heard, Mac? Sunday or Monday, I should think. Can you think of anything else?

Q Have you heard from Rayburn or Bankhead?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think we have heard at all.

Q How is the National Defense program coming along, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: All right, as far as I know.

Q Anything on railroads, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- we haven't gotten a pouch this morning. When is it coming down?

(Mr. McIntyre answered.)

THE PRESIDENT: (Addressing Miss ^[Burke-White] Burk White, photographer for Life Magazine) How does it feel to hang out of an aeroplane by your feet? Why don't you tell these boys something about hanging out of an aeroplane by the feet -- I think they need it.

(Laughter)

Q Mr. President, there were some figures from the Labor Department in the paper this morning, that employment has picked up by 900,000 from March until the end of October. Is there any comment you have on that?

THE PRESIDENT: What are you driving at Fred (Storm)? Maybe I can help you. What kind of a story do you want me to give you?

Q A good bullish, business story.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, employment has picked up -- no question about it. But, of course, you always have to remember this -- that

when employment picks up it doesn't necessarily mean that relief rolls can drop in proportion immediately, for the very good reason that we all know that last March (when we gave the figures out) there were a good many hundred thousand people who were out of work, needed work and there was no work for them. You see? In other words, the relief appropriations did not employ, at the low point, anything like all the people who needed relief.

Q What do reports show now on the general business situation throughout the country?

THE PRESIDENT: Increasingly better. Another fact, of course, is that production in most industries increases faster than the reemployment of labor. That is one thing we have had to contend with right along. And also we have to take into consideration that the number of people seeking work is a constantly yearly increasing factor, because the population is going up. To put it in a simple way, if there were thirty million (take any round figure) people employed at the peak of, what was it? the spring of 1937, today there would be several hundred thousand additional people who would have to be employed to make up the boys and girls coming of age, that is, getting to the working age.

Q Does population increase about two million a year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what the figure is. I don't think it is as much as that, Felix (Belair).

Q Mr. Hopkins told us at Hyde Park the last time, that a permanent curtailment in WPA relief programs probably would take place, and that it was not so much a matter of employment increase as a matter of policy. He seemed to indicate --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't understand it well enough.

Q Can you give us in round numbers, Mr. President, what you will ask for from the Congress for relief for the next year?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not until the third of January.

Q Is it possible that Dan Bell will be down here?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What are you going to do at Pine Mountain Valley?

THE PRESIDENT: What is the program, Mac?

(Mrs. Roosevelt whispers something from back seat of car.)

MR. McINTYRE: Just about an hour's program there, Mr. President, somewhat like they put on last year, and you are to make a few well chosen remarks.

Q Where is it to be held?

MR. McINTYRE: Outside.

THE PRESIDENT: It is going to be a good day -- it's all right.

Well, no Georgia news?

Q I think you handled that situation. Mr. Smith (Ralph Smith, of the Atlanta Journal) isn't asking any questions today. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Ralph Smith) Well, that was out of my hands anyway, and everybody agreed with you.

THE PRESIDENT: I think so -- it's going to help.

Q (Mr. Ralph Smith) I hope some day you will express yourself about our County unit rule.

THE PRESIDENT: Ralph, you would have to explain it to me first.

Q Mr. President, I do not know whether you care to go into it or not.

It is rather difficult to understand. You see, we could have nominated a Senator down here with thirty thousand votes. The rural

districts are kicked up. I figured it out, taking this county for example, Senator George got 1100 votes in this county. The other fellows got 1050 apiece. There are 20,000 people disfranchised. They have no voice at all. It isn't representative government -- it isn't popular government.

THE PRESIDENT: What was the total number of votes cast?

Q The total number was something over 231,000.

THE PRESIDENT: How many eligible voters in the State?

Q The registration showed something over 500,000. In Fulton County, however, George didn't carry a majority of the votes. It isn't representative. If it were based on the Electoral College, for example, or on population, but it isn't.

THE PRESIDENT: Wouldn't it be more useful, instead of talking about the party political angle, to talk about the general subject of county government and local government?

Q We have so many of those counties, however.

THE PRESIDENT: But in one way you are not nearly as badly off as we are in the State of New York, because we have in addition to our fifty-seven counties outside the City of New York, 905 townships and each one of those townships has a complete local government of its own, including a Highway Superintendent, and the Commissioner of the Poor, and assessors, etc. We have a great many more layers of government than they have down here. But on the other hand, in Georgia it is still the rule when an ex-Governor dies to divide another county and make a new county, naming it after him.

Q (Mr. Ralph Smith) When I began writing politics we had 125 counties and now we have 159 counties.

THE PRESIDENT: Has anything been done in this State to study the North Carolina system of highways and schools?

Q No, nothing at all.

THE PRESIDENT: Because the North Carolina progress is probably greater than any other state in the South.

Q (Mr. Ralph Smith) It is developing much faster than any other.

THE PRESIDENT: Much faster, much faster.

(Mrs. Roosevelt whispers to the President, asking whether he has seen some surveys on this subject being made in Georgia.)

THE PRESIDENT: I have heard about those surveys, but you know, as I remember it, in North Carolina, starting in about 1925, or 1926, they borrowed money up to the hilt to build highways and within three or four years of the completion of any given highway, the real estate value of the properties adjacent to those counties amortized all of the bondage. This is a very interesting thing. It pays for itself. It brings it in in taxes.

Q If Rivers goes on he is trying to centralize all the government in Atlanta, and all appropriations in Atlanta, and it will be to the interest of the counties to merge. Fulton absorbed two additional counties. It isn't fixed on population; as the Constitution says, the six largest counties shall have three representatives, no matter how large they are.

THE PRESIDENT: So, roughly speaking, the most sparsely settled county that you can probably find to live in, you get more representation there than in other places?

Q Have you received any reaction to your Press Conference statement the other day about Georgia and WPA? The State Constitution --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, no reaction except what you said.

Unquestionably the State will do something about it. We are not saying what should be done as long as something is done about it.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #504,
Held in front of the Press Cottage,
Warm Springs, Georgia,
November 29, 1938, 11.00 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know where you were. I stopped at Fred's place.

Q We did not move up very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Doris (Miss Fleeson), how are you? I am glad to see you.

Q (Miss Fleeson) I was all right until they handed the kitchen plate to me as a welcoming present.

THE PRESIDENT: I heard about it from the Ambassadors. I heard you take care of them very well.

Q What can you tell us about your talk with the Ambassadors?

THE PRESIDENT: I can tell you that Captain Ross T. McIntire has been made Surgeon General of the Navy.

Q Already? (Laughter)

Q I thought you were trying to build up the Navy, Mr. President.
(Laughter)

DR. McINTIRE: Oh, dear, I did not suspect that from you.

Q (Mr. Storm) Congratulations, Admiral. I will say a good word for you.

Q (Miss Fleeson) You will overcome me.

THE PRESIDENT: This is not Storm, but if I were writing the story, I would say that one of the principal motives in the selection was that the position of Surgeon General nowadays calls for more than merely looking after Navy health. In other words, it calls for a knowledge of and cooperation in other things,

such as public health and international medicine and other affiliated fields.

Q When will Dr. McIntire take over his new duties, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know, nor does he. (Laughter)

Q What are the "other fields"? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: The next piece of news is that Marvin McIntyre is very sick -- he went to bed at quarter past nine last night.
(Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: That is off the record too.

Q He did not stay in, though, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you mean he went in to fool Ross (Dr. McIntire) and then got up again?

Q I won't say anything more.

MR. McINTYRE: That is the first time Fred (Mr. Storm) ever lied about me in his life.

THE PRESIDENT: The third piece of news: I am about to appoint -- I think the Commission will come down today -- Mr. Ed Eicher, of Iowa, to the S. E. C. That is the Haines vacancy.

Q How is that Eicher spelled?

THE PRESIDENT: E-I-C-H-E-R.

Q Can you give us some background on him? He retired but did not run again, did he not?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What is his qualification?

THE PRESIDENT: He has a general knowledge of economic problems. I think you can look up what he did in the House. Also they need somebody from further west.

Q While you were out in the West, did you pick an Associate Justice for the Supreme Court?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you need somebody from the West for that vacancy too?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not taken it up at all.

Q Can't you tell us anything at all about your conferences with (Ambassadors) Phillips and Wilson?

THE PRESIDENT: I could not write a story if I tried -- I literally could not.

Q I will if you talk about the conference.

THE PRESIDENT: No, you could not. You could not write a decent story about it even if you were sitting in the room.

Q (Mr. Trohan) I would have liked that too.

Q (Mr. Durno) Mr. President, did you notice Father Coughlan's latest stories?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q He has gotten into this picture. If you have not noticed him, I guess there is no comment.

Q Who is going to succeed Dr. McIntire at the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I guess we will have a combination which includes him. Isn't that the best way of putting it?

DR. McINTIRE: I think that is good.

Q I think you will have to introduce his successor to us gradually.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think it will work out all right.

Q When does that appointment take effect?

THE PRESIDENT: The first of December.

Q Is Mr. Wilson going back to Berlin?

THE PRESIDENT: Not now.

Q Eventually?

THE PRESIDENT: I said, "Not now."

Q He objected last night to the phrase "indefinitely" as bad. Is that so?

THE PRESIDENT: He was right.

Q The information that they (the Ambassadors) submitted to you, was there anything new in it that you had not received before, or was it just a general discussion of this problem?

THE PRESIDENT: General discussion.

Q Will you see them again after you return to Washington, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Phillips is going back about the tenth, I think, and I will probably see them a couple of days after I get back to Washington.

Q Mr. President, could you comment on Joe Kennedy's action with respect to the British censoring a newsreel ^[film?] firm over there?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about it except what I read in the papers and therefore cannot comment.

Q Do you expect to see Kennedy in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes. He is coming over but I cannot tell you when.

Q Did you read the story in the morning's papers on the New Orleans Cotton Exchange's view on crop control?

THE PRESIDENT: I read it over hurriedly. I saw one paragraph that crop control would be abandoned. Is that right?

Q It said there must be help but not through loans, that the farmer

should be compensated.

THE PRESIDENT: What is the plan?

Q They have no plan. They said they proposed some basic principle.

I see Marvin Jones (Representative Marvin Jones) and I thought that might be the subject of discussion today?

THE PRESIDENT: It is just the same old story. They set forth certain objectives and no plan to carry them out.

Q What about a processing tax?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a different subject. First you have to get your plan and afterwards find out how to finance it. But they do not offer any alternative or substitute plan and it is typical of most of the resolutions that are passed, quite frankly, by groups of that kind, the N. A. M., National Association of Manufacturers, and so forth and so on. They set forth perfectly good objectives and no alternative or substitute method of carrying them out.

Q Can I go back to Joe Kennedy a minute? Is his trip at your special request?

THE PRESIDENT: No; leave, holiday.

Q I understand that Chicago has invited you to toss the first shovel in the \$40,000,000 subway. Any chance of you doing it?

THE PRESIDENT: No chance of getting out there. When are they going to start it?

Q Very soon, I understand.

THE PRESIDENT: No. When I go back to Washington I have got to dig in.

MR. McINTYRE: You have also declined the invitation to Florida.

Q Also the Insane Asylum at Milledgeville? (Laughter)

Q When are we going to send an Ambassador to Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q Who is reporting to you on conditions in Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: The embassy. Things are going along all right.

Q Colonel Mac (Mr. McIntyre) would be a good man.

THE PRESIDENT: He is too close to the reds.

Q I know. You might send Dies (Congressman Dies) to Russia. I believe that would take care of everything.

THE PRESIDENT: Hamilton-Dies -- Martin Fish and Hamilton Dies -- so that both parties have got them now. (Laughter)

Q In the diplomatic pouch which arrived yesterday morning from Berlin, there is a story that appeared in the official Navy publication -- a German admiral wrote the story -- in which they said they had information from Japan that Japan had laid down four 45,000-ton battleships. I was wondering whether, on such information, this country would invoke the escalator clause?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to ask the Navy Department and they won't tell you. (Laughter)

Q I know they would not.

Q That is destructive criticism.

THE PRESIDENT: Have you played our golf course, Brother Whigham?

Q (Mr. Whigham) Yes, I have.

THE PRESIDENT: How do you like it?

Q Very well laid out.

THE PRESIDENT: This is rather a nice story of golf which you will appreciate. I was driving over the course when it was under construction. We got to the eighth hole, and Donald Ross who

laid out the course said to me, "This is a trick hole. It is a good deal further than it looks. It is pretty nearly a full midiron." Then we went up to it and it was trapped on both sides, with a precipice on one side and woods on the other end. If you did not land on the green, you were gone. I said to Mr. Ross, "That is a terribly discouraging hill. A good player can take eight or nine on this hole and he is going to give up golf."

"Oh," he said, "no. You know, it is a game of psychology." He said, "He will feel that way until the end of the eighth and then he will step over to the ninth tee and see all the kingdoms of the earth, and he can chop or slice or pull and he has no trouble. He will get to the bottom of the hill."

Q There is a magnificent expanse there.

Q Mr. President, I have an inquiry as to whether Governor Bailey, of Arkansas, is under consideration or has been already named Federal Judge for Arkansas.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no; nothing has been done on that. He came up here to talk about the P. W. A. thing.

Q For the University?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know -- the University and several other things. Is Bailey coming back?

MR. McINTYRE: Yes, sir; he expected to but was going to call me this morning.

Q Is Frank Murphy coming down?

THE PRESIDENT: No; somebody still has to eat crow. I am sorry.

Q What about Speaker Bankhead?

THE PRESIDENT: He is coming. Mr. Bankhead is coming here Thursday

and, is Sam (Representative Sam Rayburn) coming?

MR. McINTYRE: No, sir; I do not think so. He is going to stay in Washington, but he was not definite.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot think of anything else.

Q Thank you, sir.

Q Oh yes you can. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I was a bit worried about Harold (Mr. Oliver) being burned up in the middle of the night.

Q We had to have a negro with a bucket of water and a dipper, throwing it on the fireplace as it caught fire.

THE PRESIDENT: Where does it catch?

Q The mantel has a wooden frame that runs all around it, right down to the outer edge of the fireplace, so that when the logs go out or start popping --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It just catches?

Q It catches from the heat, too.

THE PRESIDENT: I think this cottage has been on fire once a year since it was erected, and the other Josephs' cottage catches fire every year, too.

Q Any Georgians coming down this week before you go?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. Do you know of any?

MR. McINTYRE: Yes, there are, but it is not definite yet.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #505,
In front of the Press Cottage,
Warms Springs, Georgia,
December 2, 1938, 12.00 o'clock, noon.

Q Can you tell us anything about your talk with Mr. Hopkins?

THE PRESIDENT: Talk with Hopkins?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had any talk with Hopkins yet.

Q I thought you had one yesterday afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT: We had a grand dinner party last night, together;
that is not a talk.

Q How about Ambassador Bullitt?

THE PRESIDENT: Same thing. I am sorry to spoil a good story, Fred
(Storm).

Q You have not spoiled mine, Mr. President.

Q Frank C. Walker is down here. Has he a formal appointment?

THE PRESIDENT: He has not a formal appointment. He is coming to
lunch.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us about your conference with the
Governor and Mr. Camp?

THE PRESIDENT: We did not have a conference.

Q No conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Had a nice social talk. Sorry. Aren't I giving
them a bad time, Ed ?

GOVERNOR RIVERS: You are doing very well.

Q Did the social talk cover any state matters?

THE PRESIDENT: No, social.

Q Did the Governor assure you, Mr. President, that he would cooperate in bringing about a method whereby Georgia would bear part of the cost of --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, well, that will be taken care of all right, I think. We are all agreed on that. Incidentally, Ralph (Mr. Smith, reporter for the Atlanta Journal) referred to his friend in the private shop and of course it ought to be made clear in all the papers in this State that, in the first place, the State has received its quota and, in the second place, of course in every state the overwhelming bulk of the money goes to ^{the} municipalities, the counties, the cities, the school districts, et cetera and so on, and there has never been any trouble in the State of Georgia on that part. That is the bulk of the money. And the State, I think, is up to its quota. Isn't that right, Ed?

GOVERNOR RIVERS: I think it is somewhere near it. I have not checked it. Of course our attitude has been and will continue to be cooperative on the whole program. I agree with your statement thoroughly.

THE PRESIDENT: We will be able to get around the technicalities.

GOVERNOR RIVERS: I think, unquestionably, everything is going to be all right.

Q Mr. President, at Chapel Hill, in your speech, are you going to touch on the international situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not the faintest idea. I have not begun to write it. I have not even thought about it.

Q It is going to be on a national hookup?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Did you ever hear from the Joint Railroad Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

MR. McINTYRE: I ticked up and they are not ready. They are having another meeting the first of this week.

Q How about a powerful speech this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will turn over the speechmaking to other people.

Q Mr. President, in the conference this morning, was there any suggestion of help to the State of Georgia in meeting the payments to school teachers?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Very splendid conference, thank you.

Q I am afraid, as Managing Editor today, you won't qualify. My assignment sheet is sort of blank.

THE PRESIDENT: Can't you talk about the return of warm weather?

Q We have.

Q We are enjoying it and letting it go at that.

THE PRESIDENT: You might write a piece about Bullitt in search of a good climate.

Q Doesn't he like France?

THE PRESIDENT: When he arrived from the other side he decided he would want some nice warm weather and he went to Bermuda and froze to death. Then he came back, hit a snow storm and then he went down to the Bahamas where they rained him out. Finally he came to Warm Springs and now he is getting it.

Q Put him in Josephs' Cottage, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Does Harold (Mr. Oliver) still lay awake nights, smelling smoke?

Q (Mr. Oliver) More than smoke. (Laughter)

Q Are you ready to talk yet about the details of the legislative program?

THE PRESIDENT: No. You are only about a month ahead.

Q No appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Didn't Hamilton Fish say he would take that place in Russia?
(Laughter)

Q After Anthony Eden makes his speech in New York, will he come down to see you at the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not any idea.

MR. McINTYRE: I am checking on that up in Washington. I did not even know he was coming.

Q We understand you had a ceremony of launching the new Admiral yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: It was very nice. I understand you had a fleet review too?

Q We had one last night. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: With Admiral Storm on the bridge of his battleship?
(Laughter)

Q I had to tow it.

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you what I am doing now in about fifteen minutes. I am going to inspect a piece of property below the pool that belongs to the Foundation, with the idea of seeing if we cannot put a little dam across a gully -- it is the creek. What do they call the creek? The Cascade -- it is on that

creek, and put a little dam across and have a fish pond.

Q What are you going to stock it with?

THE PRESIDENT: Brim and largemouthed bass.

MR. McINTYRE: Have you the title to sell it, considering my holdings here?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Are you doing anything on a new pool yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think this pool will go along all right for four or five years more anyway.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #506,
Executive Offices of the White House,
December 6, 1938, 4.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Glad to see you. How are you all? Well, Dean, (Russell Young) the report on the life and works of those who accompanied us to Warm Springs is that they were one hundred per cent. Now, that is going some. They behaved better than they do in Washington. Now, that is my influence.

Q (Miss Fleeson) I thought it was mine. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Storm) Thank you, Mr. President. Such a reputation must be deserved.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Did you take that picture of Fred?

THE PRESIDENT: It was all right. That was not Fred's fault. You cannot blame him for that. Blame the lady that took it.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Fred got off at Alexandria this morning. He got off and walked home in disguise.

THE PRESIDENT: He will be explaining that for a year.

Q (Mr. Godwin) He will have to do a year's explaining in twenty-four hours.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: They tell me I have told them everything down at Warm Springs. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your conversation this afternoon with the Ambassadors?

THE PRESIDENT: No; just conducting conversations, no news.

Q Since you got back have you had time to consider appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: Not one.

Q Can you tell us anything, sir, about this five hundred or fifty million dollar loan to Cuba from the Export-Import Banks?

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

Q Hasn't it come to you yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't know a thing about it.

Q Have you reached any conclusions yet about your armament program, about the scope and length of time of it?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Did Secretary Morgenthau report anything today of the work of his new committee on fiscal and monetary problems?

THE PRESIDENT: Just talking things over, that is all. I don't think there will be any particular news from it ever. In other words, it is one of those informal committees that meets from time to time, that is talking it over with people outside of the committee and then talking it over with me. I don't think there will be any formal report.

Q Have you any suggestions for Secretary Ickes' Mayoralty campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I haven't talked it over with him.

Q There are frequent rumors that you may go down to the Lima Conference at the end, or towards the end. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess there is no further news on something on which there has never been any news. (Laughter)

Q Can you give us any idea as to when the tax program will be on its way to completion?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing on that at all; nothing more than there was a month ago.

Q Anything on the estimated cost of this new armaments program?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q When do we start for Lima, Mr. President? (Laughter)

Q Senator Guffey demands that you run for office again in 1940. Will you accede to his request? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news on that either.

Q Mr. President, do you contemplate making an address to the Lima Conference by radio?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on the Franco-German peace pact?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter) You are getting lots of chances today.

Q Do you care to discuss your plans for receiving Anthony Eden?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not got any plan for receiving Mr. Eden.

Q It was stated that the State Department had sent over a request.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose when he gets here I will receive him just as I have a great many other foreign parliamentary bodies. I assume he will be brought in by his Minister and I will be very glad to see him as I have seen a great many in the past.

Q Can you tell us on what date Governor Murphy's appointment will be sent to the Senate for Attorney General? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh, they are getting better and better all the time. I am going to have all these questions framed, because this particular time they are good.

Q Will it be the same day that you send Bob Jackson's name to the Senate? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, getting better and better.

Q Can you discuss the budget possibilities, that is --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That you won't get anything on, literally, until the third day of January, and I suppose we will have it the day before, one of those sit-around-the-floor conferences, to talk it over on the second.

Q In reference to your determination not to name anyone to the Federal Bench who has reached the age of sixty, will you ever take into consideration other factors and waive that in some cases or is it an inflexible rule?

THE PRESIDENT: The only way I can answer that is on the basis of past performance. I have had a great many requests and a great deal of pressure, as you know, from a great many members of the Senate and House to put on people over sixty and, so far, I think that we have only put on -- what was it? -- two people over sixty-nine and those, I think, were both promotions from the District Court and on the understanding that they would retire when they got to be seventy.

Q Was that your understanding with Judge Williams in Oklahoma, that he would retire when he was seventy?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. You had better check up with Homer Cummings, but I think so.

Q I think he wrote a letter signifying that desire.

Q Mr. President, do such factors as reemployment or industrial recovery enter into the Administration's policy of national defense?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am sorry to destroy another good story.

Q Is there anything new on the refugee problem?

THE PRESIDENT: What is that?

Q On the refugee problem?

THE PRESIDENT: No, nothing new on that.

Q Mr. President, are you considering the making of any suggestions for amendment of the Wagner Labor Relations Act?

THE PRESIDENT: That has been studied, I suppose, since the day it was passed and it is continuing to be studied, the whole of the Act.

Q Can you tell us about your conference with Madame Perkins and Chairman Madden in that connection?

THE PRESIDENT: The primary purpose of the conference was to take up some conditions that I was asked to look into when I was in the South, in a mill town in the South, and the thing seems to have been pretty well straightened out in the last couple of days.

Q What was your answer on that national defense? Does it mean that there is no pump priming involved in the national defense program?

THE PRESIDENT: That is correct. In other words, national defense is national defense and nothing else.

Q Will you tell us what you did talk to Ickes about?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if you had seen what he brought in with him you would have known what I talked with him about. I think he had 110 different books for me to sign, to initial, to clean up on final projects. I signed steadily for one hour.

Q You said, "cleaning up on final projects." Did you mean that literally? Is that the end?

THE PRESIDENT: Not entirely, because they are still getting certain revocations coming in from day to day. The only thing is that we cannot reallocate any money that the local people turned back through inability to go through with it unless the new project.

can be started by the first of January, so that the time is getting awfully short. I don't suppose it will be more than a very few days more before we have to say no more new projects because, under the law, they won't be able to start before the first of January.

Q In the matter of national defense, have you fixed in your own mind any proportion or any per cent. of the new money needed which should be raised by taxation on a sort of "pay as we go" basis?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you think we should raise part of it without a fixed percentage?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet, Fred (Essary); we haven't got to that.

Q I seem to recall that you remarked here once that you thought some of that money ought to be raised by taxation as in the case of any other expensive project that Congress might provide for.

THE PRESIDENT: Certainly, as a general proposition national defense ought to be paid for on a pay as you go basis, because it is not a self-liquidating project in any way.

You see there are, according to the practice of some countries like, for instance, Sweden -- do not imply from that that I am going to do anything like that -- but in some other countries they have differentiated between three types of expenditure: The first is the actual cost of running the Government in its current work and they try to raise all of that by taxation. Then they have two other classifications of expenditures. One is the absolutely self-liquidating expenditure, such as -- well, for example, Boulder Dam would be -- where the dam is completed and the contracts for the sale of water and power are all signed and we

know that over a period of years it is going to pay itself out.

And then they have a third classification -- I have forgotten what the technical term is -- but it is the type of expenditure which will so increase the national welfare or, putting it the other way around, the national income, that there will be a resulting return of the money through the increase in national income over a period of years. It is not actually self-sustaining in the sense that you have contracts out. But national defense, very clearly in my judgment, falls under the category of something that ought to be paid for from year to year.

Q That is why I differentiated between the new money necessary to carry on the program and the usual budgetary sums to be set aside, the additional money for the Navy, as an example.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it ought to be paid for as we go along.

Q Even if it takes additional taxation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; but, of course, that might, on the other hand, as I suggested, leave out of consideration certain expenditures of the Government which are self-liquidating. Therefore, Q.E.D., it may not be necessary to increase the total amount of taxes coming in. However, it is a matter that is being studied; it is a long and difficult study; nothing has been determined upon and it is purely in the study stage.

Q Do you plan to stay here after Congress convenes?

THE PRESIDENT: I plan to be right here until the end of February.

Q You are not going up to Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think I have any engagements except perhaps to plant some more cherry trees or something like that

(laughter), and then we are starting the succession of dinners, etc. I think those are the only dates we have.

Q You heard about Paul Anderson's death?

THE PRESIDENT: I know. I am sorry; he was a very old friend of mine. It is too bad, he was a grand fellow.

Q In connection with the national defense program, one of the War Department reports indicated the other day that we are far behind technically as far as airplane production is concerned. Have you had any reports indicating that that is so?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not had that. I don't believe there is anything in that -- not technically.

Q The program of the Civil Aeronautics Authority to promote civil flying, has that any connection with the defense program to train a lot of civilian pilots?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course the training of reserve pilots is all part of any program for an increase in the number of planes that the Government has available to go in the air.

Q Instead of training them purely in purely military planes, is there any plan for a Civil Aeronautics program where they will be used as a sort of reserve in this announced plan?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. Of course you train a pilot on the same kind of a plane for civil aviation as you do for military aviation when you teach them to fly. There is no distinction.

Q Is that to be handled for the Army and Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have no idea.

Q - When you make your recommendations on national defense, will they include the use and conservation of natural resources used in

national defense, or will they deal strictly in the military aspect?

THE PRESIDENT: What sort of things do you have in mind?

Q Energy sources and minerals.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not think so. No, the only thing that might be a part of any national defense program would be certain resources which we have not got in this country. You know that the Army has made several recommendations saying that the Navy should have certain stock piles of things we have not got, like manganese and nickel and a few other things of that kind, and that does enter into a national defense program. They are things we do not have here.

Q Might you not coddle a domestic manganese industry?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it costs too much.

Q That requires legislation, does it not, to build up those things?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Do you know of any report which has been drawn up showing legal means by which this country might take economic sanctions against countries that discriminate against us on trade matters?

THE PRESIDENT: No; nothing that has not been reported on since the Act was first passed. I have not seen anything for years on that.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #507,
Executive Offices of the White House,
December 9, 1938, 10.45 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am seeing the Committee from the National Seaway Council right after the Press Conference, and they are giving me a letter and I am making a short statement in reply, and Steve (Mr. Early) will have a copy of it when you go out. I don't think there is anything else I can think of.

Q It is reported that Senator Lodge is advocating a sixty-dollar-a-week old age pension. Is that one -- does that come under the classification of a short cut to Utopia?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I think the whole thing is being studied by the Board on Social Security.

Q It is sixty dollars a month.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. The whole subject is being studied.

Q Mr. President, there is a report from Melbourne, Florida, that a man named Kammerer wired to you an offer of 30,000 acres of land to be used as a place of refuge for Jews driven out of Germany.

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard of it. Mac (Mr. McIntyre), did you see any telegram?

MR. McINTYRE: No, sir.

Q Mr. President, Harry Hopkins yesterday spoke of the possibility of some changes in relief procedure to meet some of the criticism that has been directed at W. P. A. Have you anything to say on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is up to Congress.

Q Anything to say about your reorganization conference yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except we made good progress and undoubtedly there will be reorganization legislation in a broad sense asked for and probably bills introduced by various members of the Congress, as last year.

Q Mr. President, you made very good progress in that report that went to Congress and it was not successful in the Legislature. Do you expect any material changes?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have no idea at all. You see the point is a very, very simple one. We all admit, even some of the columnists, whose names I need not mention, admit that we do need to improve the Government. That is the big, salient point. Congress, everybody else, has probably got as much information dating back forty years as they will ever have. And now, who passes the legislation? Whose responsibility is it? It is the responsibility of Congress. That is just about as far as anybody can go.

Q Will there be a Message?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will it be soon? Is it one of the things that you hope for or have in your mind for action soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope at the coming session.

Q Right off the bat, if possible?

Q Mr. President, will you ask for it in one bill or a number of bills?

THE PRESIDENT: That is entirely up to the Congress, as it was last year.

Q Mr. President, there was an allowance to the Budget Bureau of \$200,000., if I remember correctly, for exploring this subject of

reorganization. Has there been any report?

THE PRESIDENT: Not reorganization. That was studying various questions of administration, actually administration, and they are at work.

Q That is not connected with reorganization?

THE PRESIDENT: Only as a result of reorganization. It is an administrative study, not looking towards a reorganization bill but looking towards the proper functioning of Government if we get reorganization, which is a different thing. That study is going on today.

Q No report?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Lamar Hardy, United States Attorney, was in yesterday. Was he following through on the conferences he had with you in Hyde Park? We understood it was on the spy --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) We talked over the whole spy situation and at the same time he told me again what he had been saying for a year, that he really, for personal reasons, had to get out, to resign as District Attorney. I very reluctantly said that I could not demand that he stay any longer and he will retire sometime in January. There has been no specific date set.

But the important thing was that we discussed what has been done on the spy situation in the past. He did a perfectly amazing job in this spy trial in New York. It is a very easy thing for a District Attorney to spend his time trying petty criminals but it is a difficult thing to go right to the source of one of the most difficult criminal problems that we have in the country and

that is spies.

Continuing what I said at Hyde Park, we are going to ask for additional appropriations to meet a situation which is by no means ended by this trial. In other words, the root of this thing, the roots go down pretty deep. I suppose a way of putting it is that we need in the United States no O. G. P. U., or what is the other thing we have -- we do not need any secret police in the United States to watch American people, to watch our own people, but we do need our own people to watch the secret police of certain other nations, which is a very excellent distinction to make, and therefore we are going to ask for more money so that our people can check up on the activities of the secret police of other nations. I think that covers it pretty well.

Q Mr. President, at Hyde Park you mentioned the idea of coordinating the activities of the various Governmental agencies?

THE PRESIDENT: That has been done.

Q Has any step been taken?

THE PRESIDENT: That has been done; it is working.

Q What is that, coordination?

THE PRESIDENT: Coordination of the different agencies of the Government.

Q The different police agencies?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- well, the different intelligence agencies of the Government.

Q Does that include the Military and Naval?

THE PRESIDENT: It includes all kinds of things.

Q Would you care to be specific -- would you care to state specifically

what steps have been taken?

THE PRESIDENT: That is one of the things I am not going to tell you, and I don't think it ought to be asked about because, very obviously, if you run stories of the exact workings of the intelligence system you are going to destroy ninety per cent. of the value of that system. That is obvious. You can take it from me that the cooperation at the present time is excellent and there are a great many agencies involved and I am not going to tell you which ones.

Q You do not contemplate the establishment of a new agency?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Has a Coordinator been appointed?

THE PRESIDENT: There you go. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, Governor Frank Murphy, of Michigan, was in town the night before last. Did he go down to the White House to see you?

THE PRESIDENT: No, he did not. I did not even know he was in town.

Q Has the national defense program reached a point yet where it can be discussed yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. It is getting on very well.

Q Some months ago you ordered a survey of statistics now being collected from the Government and business men with the idea of seeing if the burden can be lightened somewhat. Have you had a report on that?

THE PRESIDENT: What committee was that?

Q The Central Statistical Board. It was the Central Statistical Board's study of these questionnaires that went out to business men.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have not heard anything.

Q The Wall Street Journal had a story this morning saying you would meet with the legislative leaders on the seventeenth. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid that was just a story.

Q I was afraid of that, too.

Q May I go back to the reorganization --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Wait a minute. In answer to Fred's (Storm) question, I think that various leaders of the House and Senate are going to begin arriving here around the middle of the month, some of them in the course of the next week, and will be coming in from then on until the first of January. There are no conferences planned and probably when they do come in they will come and see me. The Speaker is coming before Christmas and I think the Vice President is coming before Christmas and one or two others after Christmas. In other words, it will be the normal procedure of coming in before the Congress begins.

Q Two things which attracted a lot of attention in the reorganization dispute in Washington were your suggestion as to the Comptroller General and the Civil Service Commission. Do you care to say whether or not you are going to maintain the same attitude in your Message to Congress on your suggestions?

THE PRESIDENT: Only as to the general objective. In other words, in the case of the Comptroller General, practically everybody has agreed that audit and post-audit and pre-audit are separate things.

Q Mr. President, are any Federal Judgeships imminent?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so; not at least for the next three or

four days. I cannot look further ahead than that.

Q Any other appointments in sight?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you expect to recommend any legislation as to the extension of credit or capital loans to business?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q Mr. President, could you comment on the recall for consultation of our Ambassador to China?

THE PRESIDENT: No; he has been there four years and I wanted to talk to him and he wanted to come home to get a little breathing spell, so he is coming home to spend a very short time and then will return immediately to the Chinese Government.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #508, (Special),
Held in the President's Study at the White House proper,
December 10, 1938, 3.45 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Have you had a chance to read this? (Indicating mimeographed copies of Press Release.)

MR. EARLY: They have not, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, I think possibly you might let me explain first and then read it and then get a complete picture.

For the last two years I have been considering more and more the final disposal of what amounts to probably the largest collection of original source material of almost anybody over the last quarter of a century and it is very voluminous. It includes all of my papers when I was in the State Senate, all of my personal papers when I was in the Navy Department, including the war period. It includes the Vice Presidential Campaign of 1920 and the Convention of 1924, the Convention of 1928, the four years as Governor and I have, up in Albany, sixty packing cases full of those papers of the Governorship. It includes the Campaigns of 1928 and 1930, the Presidential Campaigns of 1932 and 1936, plus all the Presidential papers and the file I operate.

After taking the advice of many historians and others, their advice is that material of that kind for the future ought not to be broken up. It ought to be kept intact. It ought not to be sold at auction, it ought not to be scattered among descendents. It should be kept in one place and kept in its original form because, so often in the past, Presidential papers and other public papers have been culled over during the lifetime of the owner and

the owner has thrown out a great deal of material which he personally did not consider of any importance which, however, from the point of view of future history, may have been of the utmost importance.

Therefore, in looking around as to what to do with it, because this relates not just to the Federal Government but to a great many other activities, such as my service in Albany a quarter of a century ago, all the papers as Governor, a great many personal papers that have no relationship to the Federal Government, it became a question as to where they should ultimately be deposited, if deposited in toto, in one place.

Then came the question as to whether it would not be better to put them somewhere where I could personally help the ultimate owner of the papers in going over them, listing them and so forth, annotating them. That made it almost imperative that they should be placed at Hyde Park and, at the same time, that the ownership and title of all the papers, books, et cetera, should be in the Federal Government itself.

Therefore this plan: (Reading)

"Since 1910 - or in other words for a period of twenty-eight years -- I have carefully preserved all of my correspondence, public papers, pamphlets, books, etc. This includes all incoming material and copies of practically all outgoing material. These years cover my service of nearly three years in the New York State Senate; seven and one-half years as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, including the World War period and two trips to Europe; my business and legal correspondence; much political material between 1920 and 1928, including my campaign for the Vice Presidency, the 1924 Convention, and the 1928 Convention; my campaign for Governor in 1928 and 1930; all of my personal papers as Governor of New York, 1929-1933; the campaigns for the Presidency, 1932 and 1936; and all of my Presi-

dential papers from March 4, 1933 to date.

"Because these papers relate to so many periods and activities which are not connected with my service in the Federal Government, I do not wish to break them up, leaving a portion of them to the National Archives and dividing the rest between the State of New York Archives, the New York State Historical Society, the Dutchess County Historical Society, the Harvard College Library."

And I might add to that the Naval Records Office here.

"In other words, it is my desire that they be kept as a whole and intact in their original condition, available to scholars of the future in one definite locality.

"I have carefully considered the choice of locality and for many reasons have decided that it would be best that they remain permanently on the grounds of my family home at Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York.

"I realize that the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the New York State Library, Harvard University and the New York State Historical Society --"

and others

"-- would probably be glad to have the whole collection intact. It is my thought, however, that an opportunity exists to set up for the first time in this country what might be called a source material collection relating to a specific period in our history."

That is a very important thing because, so far as we know, it has never been done before.

"That part of my family's country place at Hyde Park on which we live will, without doubt, eventually go to the Federal Government to be maintained for the benefit of the public by the Federal Government.

"It is, therefore, my thought that funds can be raised for the erection of a separate, modern, fire-proof building to be built near my family's house at Hyde Park, so designed that it would hold all of my own collections and also such other source material relating to this period in our history as might be

donated to the collection in the future by other members of the present Administration."

Well, of course, that would include also members of the Administration when I was in Albany. Fred Storm, for instance, could leave his papers as part of that Administration.

Q (Mr. Storm) I have a lot of them, Mr. President.

Q (Mr. Durno) Only after he is dead. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: He would not part with them before that?

Q (Mr. O'Donnell) It is a question of libel if published before that.

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (Reading)

"I forgot to mention that in addition to the very voluminous correspondence, I have also two rather specialized collections which are of some definite historic value: a collection of paintings, drawings, prints, manuscript letters and documents, log-books, pamphlets and books relating to the American Navy from 1775 to date; and a smaller collection of similar material relating to the Hudson River, and especially Dutchess County and the town of Hyde Park. These collections would be placed in the proposed building, together with the public papers, etc.

"I have also a very large number of books and pamphlets - far more than my children could possibly use, many of them inscribed by their authors to me. The bulk of these books would also be added to the contents of the building and, incidentally, they form the nucleus of a library relating to this period which would be available to students in the future."

Well, for example, I was just talking to Ernest Lindley and he said, "Have you got all the books relating to this Administration?"

I said, "I checked and I have here in the House about three-quarters of all the books that have been written in the last six years about this Administration. That is a good nucleus to start with. Most of them have been given to me by the authors themselves

and that would mean the edding only of what is missing, which is about twenty-five per cent."

"It is my thought that if a building such as I suggest is erected and the material - not only my own but that of others who would contribute their own material - is placed there, the title to the building and all the material would be vested in the United States Government and placed under the primary responsibility of the Archivist of the United States,"

Dr. Connor.

"This would insure permanent care and the provision of adequate facilities for its use. At the same time, being somewhat familiar with historical material, its preservation and its availability for students and scholars, I should much like to have the assistance of recognized scholars in American History and Government, past and present. That is why I believe that a collection of this kind should be under the supervision of a committee of historians working in cooperation with the Archivist and the Librarian of Congress.

"It is my hope that during my lifetime I will continue to live in the family home at Hyde Park, and if a period collection of this kind is permanently domiciled on what is my own place, I will be able to give assistance to the maintenance of the collection during my lifetime. As I have said before, it is my expectation that while the title to the collections would vest immediately in the Government, my family's house and that portion of the place on which we live would revert to the Government on my death.

"All of this has the approval and consent of my Mother who owns the property during her lifetime.

"I may mention that the place at Hyde Park is located on the New York-Albany Post Road -- two hours from New York City by train or motor, and four and one-half miles from the City of Poughkeepsie, which has good hotel and other accommodations."

Now, don't be -- (laughter) don't slam that last statement.

(Laughter)

Q Mr. President, I am not quite clear. Do you mean the entire Hyde Park estate eventually?

THE PRESIDENT: I mean that portion on which we live, that portion from the Post Road down to the foot of the hill.

MR. EARLY: Some time ago you permitted the announcement to be made that whatever funds you received from newspapers and magazines, from the publication of your papers, would be devoted to what we then phrased as "a national useful purpose."

THE PRESIDENT: And that is where those funds about which there were so many columns written, the mystery fund, that is where it was intended to go from the very beginning and will go, not only my own receipts from the newspapers and magazines and publications, but also all that Judge Samuel I. Rosenman received from the same source. That is to say the net amount.

MR. EARLY: Minus taxes.

THE PRESIDENT: The gross amount less what I have to pay as taxes and what Judge Rosenman has to pay as taxes.

Q What prompted your decision to do this at this particular time?

THE PRESIDENT: I have been thinking about it for the last three years, three or four years. I suppose the amount -- you see, here is one thing about it: The amount of material that I have is so infinitely larger than that of any previous President that it creates a new problem. As I remember it, when we came in here we were told that President Hoover, his mail averaged about four hundred letters a day. My mail has averaged, as you know, about four thousand letters a day. Well, there is all the difference in the world. The result is that just my Presidential files alone are so big that you couldn't possibly put them in any private house and I do not want to put them just into storage.

Q The cataloging of your books has progressed pretty well. Have you any idea, approximately, how many books you have?

THE PRESIDENT: Just on books alone I would estimate about seven thousand here and about seven thousand at Hyde Park.

Q How about the New York house?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, very few, only a few hundred, perhaps a thousand. About fifteen thousand all told. And then, of course, in addition to that, if you get down to the question of pamphlets, I suppose just in my American Navy collection alone there must be of old pamphlets four or five thousand at least in addition and, of course, in my files there are a great many other pamphlets and documents which have been going to files rather than into slip cases -- book cases.

Q Of course this has never been done before in the history of the Government on the collection of papers. We wonder if you took the immediate step because of the recent developments in the past years with respect to the Lincoln papers and the concern felt with respect to those of other Presidents, where there has been a bewildering lack of facts.

THE PRESIDENT: I have been interested in the subject a great many years of what happens to the papers of public officials.

Q We still haven't got Lincoln's papers. Didn't T. R. save his and build a special vault?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, they are in a fireproof storage place in Oyster Bay.

Q Of course his collections are nowhere near as extensive as yours.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because people did not write as much in those days.

Curiously enough it (referring to T. R.'s collection) covered approximately the same period of years, a little over a quarter of a century, as mine does.

Q There is no reference to the filing of a diary?

THE PRESIDENT: There is not. I think you will find among the papers three diaries that started on the first of January in three different years, far apart. I think the most voluminous one ran to the fourth of January.

Q That is like Mark Twain. He kept it up for a week, got up, washed and went to bed. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I tried it once and it went on for four days, I believe.

Now, I invited to lunch the list which you have here. You know them all or know about them all. There is Ambassador Dodd; President Graham of North Carolina University; Archie MacLeish, a writer, and I think he has been connected with "Time"; Randolph Adams, Librarian of the University of Michigan; Edmund E. Day; Dr. Connor; Dr. Flick, State Historian at Albany; Dr. Charles A. Beard; Professor Frankfurter; Stuart Chase; Samuel Rosenman, who knows more about my papers than anybody else; Ernest Lindley, who has written more about the Administration than anybody else; President ^{Paxson} Paxson of the American Historical Association; Dr. Boyd, of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Helen Taft Manning, of Bryn Mawr; Miss Marguerite Wells, President of the League of Women Voters; President Morison, of Harvard University and Frank Walker, of New York.

Q Any idea of the amount of the fund to be raised?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we don't know, but Frank Walker has kindly offered to take charge of that part of it. There will be public subscription. All of this general list, all of these ladies and gentlemen have been good enough to say that they are very keen about it and go along. I am going to ask Professor Morrison, who is here, to say a few words about that because that is their business rather than mine.

PROFESSOR SAMUEL MORRISON: I think I may say that the conference that the President called today was one hundred per cent. favorable to his proposal, especially because we who work in American history know how difficult it is to get at the records of the Presidents and of the lamentable mistakes which have been made in the past in disposing of and dealing with President's records. It has been the custom for every President of the United States, starting with John Adams, the first who lived in this House, to take away all his papers with him and some of them, for instance the records of the two Adamases are shut in a vault in Boston where nobody can get at them.

THE PRESIDENT: Really? I did not know that.

PROFESSOR MORRISON: Nobody allowed in except the family.

Others have generally gone back to the President's old home where they have been subjected to a great deal of dilapidation. The Presidents have sometimes passed their declining years in trying to rearrange them, with unfortunate results because the order of the documents has been entirely spoiled. And their widows have given them away as souvenirs and children have played with them and the rats have eaten them up. After a lapse of years,

sometimes two or three generations, they are turned over to the Library of Congress, which is where the Jefferson, the Madison, the Monroe, the Washington and the Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt papers are now.

But that is an unsatisfactory system because, in the meantime, a great many of the papers have been disposed of. The Lincoln papers, for instance, which somebody mentioned, are scattered in numerous repositories, since Mrs. Lincoln gave them away, and the historian does not know where to turn to find the information he wants.

A great deal of the important evidence has been destroyed, some purposely, others by mere neglect and accident.

Thus President Roosevelt has proposed, for the first time, to keep all of his files intact. Of his predecessors, I believe President Hoover was the first one who did not destroy a considerable part of the White House files at the time he left. President Roosevelt proposes not only to keep his files intact, but to place them immediately under the administration of the National Archivist so that from the time they leave the White House they will be under public control and will not be subject to dilapidation or destruction or anything else. The whole thing will come down in its entirety to the historians of the future.

THE PRESIDENT: Sam, do you want to say anything about the Executive Committee, what we propose to do?

PROFESSOR MORRISON: The Advisory Committee today is going to appoint a small Executive Committee to act in collaboration with Dr. Walker (Mr. Frank Walker) to raise the necessary money for the building.

Later I presume another committee will be appointed under the National Archivist to aid him in arranging the collections and the archives.

I have spoken especially of the archives but, of course, equally important are those collections of naval prints and pictures, and the President's collection of naval books and pamphlets, which is much the best collection of United States naval history in private hands today. That is a very important collection in itself and that will be in the building with the rest.

THE PRESIDENT: Sam, do you want to say anything about the Advisory Committee having other people besides pure historians, or in other words, the economists?

PROFESSOR MORRISON: The Advisory Committee today was just the nucleus and to which are going to be added men and women who represent economics, sociology and the various social sciences, that will be interested in these papers equally with historians. The historian of the future will be interested in the economic trends of our day, the social movements in a large sense, just as much as he is in the political history, even more so.

Q Who are the members of that Advisory Committee?

PROFESSOR MORRISON: That was the list that the President gave you. Others, representing the social sciences, for example, will be added to it as it is rather overloaded on the historian side right now.

Q The "mystery" fund you spoke of will be used as a nucleus around which the public subscription will be raised, but you have no estimate?

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q Any estimate of that, I mean the amount?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you until I find the amount of my income.

Q I did not understand -- you made it perfectly clear about your income, but you said something about Judge Rosenman?

THE PRESIDENT: The same thing for him; he edited the five volumes.

Q Does this mean there will be any change in your agreement or contract with Random House, who started publication of your State papers?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Did Random House have any agreement with you for publication of your papers?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; that is any subsequent volumes.

Q This does not end that?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no.

Q Have you thought of the physical aspect of this building? Will it be of colonial style, in keeping with Dutchess County?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a thing we have not got very far on but the general thought on the part of several architects I have thought of is that it should be in keeping with older buildings which are typical of the locality. It should be simple, not high, probably one story, and probably built of field stone, like the older buildings of Dutchess County.

Q The Post Office?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Absolutely simple but, of course, absolutely modern, with fireproofing, and nowadays you have to have air conditioning or you have to have the same temperature in the record room the

year round.

(Mrs. Roosevelt entered the room at this point and spoke to the President.)

THE PRESIDENT: I have to dedicate a piano now.

Q How many acres in that part of the estate which will eventually go to the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: A hundred acres.

Q Which will leave how much which does not go?

THE PRESIDENT: I have a farm away over on the other side of the road, way back and that has five or six hundred acres in it.

Q I thought your estate was more than a hundred acres where the family house is?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. You see my sister-in-law's place is next door.

MR. STORM: Thank you, sir.

Q This, of course, will be private during your lifetime?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no; Oh, my, no.

Q The minute you leave here it goes to the public?

THE PRESIDENT: As soon as they can get it arranged.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #509

Executive Offices of the White House,
December 13, 1938, 4.09 P.M.

Q (Mr. Mahoney) In the absence of Fred (Storm), we have nominated
Ma~~h~~ Craig to sit down.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Provided she won't ask any question about Quoddy.

THE PRESIDENT: You are elected, Ma~~h~~, it is all right.

Q (Mr. Young) You sit down and do not ask a question, Ma~~h~~.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose this carries in place of the Gridiron
Dinner?

Q (Miss Craig) Did I hear anything?

THE PRESIDENT: Did you hear applause and cheers?

Q (Miss Craig) No, sir.

Q (Mr. Young) Sit there and don't say a word.

THE PRESIDENT: We are sort of rubbing it in, aren't we, Ma~~h~~?

Q (Mr. Godwin) She is going to get to say, "Thank you, Mr. Presi-
dent."

THE PRESIDENT: Where is Ray Clapper? I have not congratulated him
yet.

Q Here he is.

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, Ray, congratulations. Ray, nevertheless, I
am glad I do not have to make a speech.

Q Is that so?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Are you sure? (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have only got one thing and that isn't very exciting.

I have by letter today increased the amount that can be loaned on insured mortgages by the Federal Housing Administration from two billion dollars to three billion dollars. They are coming close to the end of their original power, up to two millions, and they think because they are constantly insuring more mortgages that it should be extended, and under the original Act I have the authority to extend it to three billion and I am doing it. That is all there is. Mac (Mr. McIntyre) has got the mimeographed copies of the letter to me and the authority that I am giving him.

Q Mr. President, why is it this donkey over here (indicating) has elephant ears?

THE PRESIDENT: Which one?

Q The one there (indicating).

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, those are not elephant ears. You don't know your zoology.

Q They are pretty big.

Q Can you tell us anything about your talk with Mr. Anthony Eden?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we agreed that we had a very pleasant conversation, talk, about many things, and because I knew that he was going to the Press Club afterwards I knew he would tell you everything he told me so that anything further would be unnecessary. (Laughter)

Q Some of us were not there.

THE PRESIDENT: I know. Isn't that a shame? (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your talk today with Assistant Secretary of the Navy Charles Edison?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, just the usual every month or six weeks talk over general things. Nothing in particular.

Q Mr. President, it is understood that Senator Guffey has recommended Judge Musmano for the vacancy on the Third Circuit?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know anything about it. He must have recommended him to the Attorney General.

Q How are you making out with your appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, they are gradually coming to a head. Isn't that what we call it?

Q Progress?

THE PRESIDENT: That is what happens to a boil. (Laughter)

Q Is it as painful as that? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Very nearly.

Q They have to be picked, don't they?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is the trouble.

Q Secretary Morgenthau said yesterday he was studying the possibility of making loans to Latin American countries. Can you add anything to that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not think there is anything new to be added to it.

Q Will you comment on the cotton and tobacco referendums held last week?

THE PRESIDENT: I think what the Secretary of Agriculture said was about right.

Q How is your legislative program coming on?

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

Q Meeting any opposition or getting any advice?

THE PRESIDENT: Lots of advice and no opposition. (Laughter)

Q When will you see Vice President Garner?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he is getting here Saturday.

Q Can you tell us about the advice you are getting?

THE PRESIDENT: No; they always tell you first, so it is all right.

Q Mr. President, do you know about the prepaid medical service plan that the District of Columbia Medical Association is proposing?

THE PRESIDENT: No. What is it, sort of a slot machine? (Laughter)

Q No, it is so much for the family under \$2500.00 income.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, how is your Christmas Tree business this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it is all right. I am selling about a thousand trees this year.

Q About a thousand?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Are they good price?

THE PRESIDENT: About like last year.

Q (Mr. Young, nudging Miss Craig's arm) Hurry up and say "Thank you."
(Laughter)

MISS CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Following the conference one of the reporters asked the President whether there had been anything special in his conference with Mr. Splawn, Chairman of the I.C.C. The President indicated that the discussion had been general and also indicated that he expected a report on the railroad situation sometime around the end of this week.)