

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #560,
At the Picnic, on the Grounds adjacent
to Val Kill Cottage, Hyde Park, New York,
July 4, 1939, 2.25 P. M.

Q (Mr. Trohan) Belair (Mr. Felix Belair of the New York Times) has asked me to announce that he is going to take notes at this Conference.

THE PRESIDENT: Where is Mr. Bickel? (Referring to Mr. Carl Bickel of the United Press) Mr. Bickel is here. Mr. Storm wants Mr. Bickel.

MR. HASSETT: I think he is coming.

THE PRESIDENT: He is here. Carl, did you ever see Fred (Mr. Storm) in action?

Q (Mr. Bickel) Not very much. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You want to watch him; he is good. He takes no notes at all. He is wonderful. It generally stays in the head, so it is all right.

Q We have all our questions printed on the tablecloth here. (Indicating blue tablecloth, which had, printed on it in white letters, the initials of the various agencies of the Government as well as slogans, current and past, used during the Administration.)

THE PRESIDENT: (Reading from tablecloth) "Cotton is King," "Liberty League," "Soak the Rich," "Popular Sovereign."

Q That is Calloway (Cason Calloway) -- "Every Man a King."

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any news at all. I do not know of any and neither does the Press.

Q What can you tell us about the foreign situation, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing that you have not printed and a great deal that you have printed.

Q Can you comment, Mr. President, what in your opinion will be the result of the House action on the neutrality bill, which they voted on on Friday?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Any comment on this monetary --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q Are you going to see the leaders tomorrow morning, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I have not the faintest idea. I wish I could be helpful.

Q Any truth in that story in the papers this morning on how you felt on how the House voted?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not see it. What kind of a story? The only one I saw was the crazy story in the Times (New York Times).

Q (Mr. Belair) Under the Washington date line?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q (Mr. Belair) Thank you, Mr. President. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You are all right; you are absolved. I might almost say it is a typical Washington date line story.

Q (Mr. Belair) Mr. President, those were my very words this morning.

Q At your last Press Conference in Washington, you told us that the Treasury Department was studying a method by which they could meet the situation created through the defeat of the monetary bill. Is there anything that you can tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not communicated with them and I am sorry to spoil a good story but I have not even talked to the Secretary

of the Treasury since last Friday afternoon and he holds up his hand over there and tells us that I am telling the truth. It leaves you out on the limb. You see, Carl (Bickel), how stories are made?

Q I talked to him (indicating the Secretary of the Treasury) and he said that he is whistling.

THE PRESIDENT: Whistling to keep up his courage.

Q Yes, and he is wearing dark glasses.

Q Are you going to press for new monetary legislation at this session?

THE PRESIDENT: New monetary legislation? What is the matter with the present monetary legislation that is in the works?

Q There are some in the works?

THE PRESIDENT: Aren't you a little previous?

Q He has been listening to the wrong lawyer.

Q Where, in your opinion, is the \$2,000,000,000. of what was the stabilization fund?

THE PRESIDENT: It is in suspense.

Q Not in the general fund of the Treasury?

THE PRESIDENT: Did you ever see one of those seances where the body rises from the table and remains in mid-air?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: That is it.

Q (Mr. Trohan) Mohammed's Coffin.

Q We have a classic scholar there.

Q We wrote yesterday, without any attribution in any manner, that you felt that the House action on the neutrality bill would have an unfavorable effect on the European crisis and would, perhaps, even

shorten the chances of war, that it would make it more difficult for you to keep America out of war and to conserve peace.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you were absolutely right in your stories, which were based largely on press dispatches from the other side, from the four principal capitals. Those dispatches, I think, were substantially accurate because they were reflected in the official dispatches that the State Department got.

If you wanted to supplement that at all, I think you might emphasize a little bit more the fact that the policy of the Administration is to try to prevent any war in any part of the world. That is the first policy and anything that can be done to stop a war from starting is a good thing because it does not raise certain questions which would be raised if a war started. That is in words of one syllable.

Q (Mr. Harkness) Mr. President, on that basis, is it a safe assumption, or would you say that you want the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to go ahead with its consideration of neutrality legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, in the interest of preventing war.

Q (Mr. Harkness) Would you like them to use, sir, the original Bloom Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Now you are going into details; let us stick to the objective rather than the details.

Q May I put this question this way? May I say that you are still for the objectives of Secretary Hull's recommendations --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is right, yes.

Q -- which were embodied in the Bloom Bill?

I mean Mr. Hull's letter to Senator Pittman and Representative

Bloom?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is right.

But, again, consider the objectives, because sometimes you can get objectives by changing the wording of the thing, as you all know.

Q Also by a few amendments.

Q Do you think, sir, there should be action at this session of the Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, again in the interest of preventing war.

Q How about the western trip?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know the date now.

Q (Mr. Trohan) I do not know the month, though.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is different. It is four days after Congress goes home.

Q That would be the nineteenth, would it not? (Laughter)

Q Going to get down as far as Hollywood?

THE PRESIDENT: No, Fred (Storm), not again.

Q He has already gone to work.

THE PRESIDENT: What are you doing, drawing a double salary? (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Storm) I wish I were.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you ought to ask your boss if he wants to ask questions, some you have forgotten.

Q (Mr. Storm) Carl?

Q (Mr. Bickel) I can't think of a thing. I would not want to embarrass you, Fred, by asking any.

Q Mr. President, do you have any comment to make on the statements of several and certain Senators that they will discuss the neutrality

bill until September, if necessary, to retain the embargo?

THE PRESIDENT: That is entirely up to them. They have full discretion to do it if they want to, under the Senate rules.

Q Mr. President, is it true that you have asked the Procurement Division of the Treasury to give a plaque to the Rhinebeck Post Office, setting forth the fact that the Crown Prince of Denmark had assisted in the cornerstone laying?

THE PRESIDENT: The plaque is all designed and in process of being made. I think it would be nice to have something there to commemorate the laying of the cornerstone.

Q (Mr. Trohan) How about the final remark?

THE PRESIDENT: That will be there and attributed to you.

Q (Mr. Trohan) To me, the Master of Ceremonies?

Q When do you expect that will be ready to go up to Rhinebeck?

THE PRESIDENT: There won't be any ceremony.

Q How long will it be?

THE PRESIDENT: In about a month. That is just a guess on my part.

I do not know how long it takes to make them.

Q You were serious about naming that school after Mr. Haviland?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Largely because of his historical life?

THE PRESIDENT: And also because all his life he has been a perfectly splendid citizen of this town, interested in all the work of education in the town and a good neighbor to all the town.

I think it would be a nice thing to do, especially because it stands on land that was in his family for about four generations. It would be a nice thing. You know the old man? He is

a grand old fellow.

Q Yes. I don't think it is quite four generations.

THE PRESIDENT: It may have been his grandfather that came there.

Q I talked to him the other day.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Have you received any new messages from abroad?

THE PRESIDENT: No, just the routine.

Q You have been in very constant touch, have you not, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am sorry, George (Durno). (The President was referring to the fact that the newspaper stories out of Hyde Park had indicated that he, the President, was so in touch.)

Q I should not have asked that question.

Q Trying to make the story you have written stand up is bad. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: It is all right. No, I have not talked to Washington all day Sunday or all day yesterday. I did not see any dispatches until about ten of them this morning and there wasn't anything of interest in them.

Q If you saw ten dispatches this morning, that would cover me up.

Q If Russ Young were here he would say, "We know what a President ought to do." (Laughter)

Q Do you plan to see Mr. Hull tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so, but I do not think that is a news item because I always do see him when I get back, rain or shine.

Q How about coming back to Dutchess? Can you count on much of it?

THE PRESIDENT: We cannot count on anything at all. Off and on until this famous trip to the Pacific Coast.

Q Are you going to take any interest in the local political situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Not any more than I have since 1906. (Laughter)

Q Nor less, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Nor less.

MR. TROHAN: I think it is a good time for a "Thank you."

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #561,
Executive Offices of the White House,
July 11, 1939, 4.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I have a suggestion to make. Where is Russell (referring to Mr. Young)?

Q He is sick today.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you remember why Fred (Mr. Storm) occupied that chair, don't you?

Q (Mr. Earl Godwin) Opaque and large?

THE PRESIDENT: That was it. You could not see through him. Now, don't you think you had better sit in that chair?

Q (Mr. Godwin) Me?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Does it mean that I would have to go to Hollywood later on?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that would be cruel and unusual punishment. But you go ahead and sit down.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Shall I tell them when the book is full? Remember that, when I say, "Thank you, Mr. President," that is enough!

Jimmy (Mr. James Roosevelt) had an awfully good party (for Fred Storm).

THE PRESIDENT: I hear you were grand, that you were perfect. I was amazed because Jimmy got home a quarter to eleven. I said, "What is the matter? Was the party a flop?"

Q It went on until four or five o'clock.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I heard that afterwards.

Q It was an awfully good party.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: All of you who are behind will be glad to know that Fred Storm's chair by the desk has been filled by the promotion of Mr. Earl Godwin to the chair on the ground that he is large and not transparent, but he takes this position with a guarantee from me that he won't have to go to Hollywood. (Laughter) It is all right.

And he, after this, in place of Fred (Storm), will make the famous announcement whenever he chooses in the conference. He will say, "Mr. President, that is enough." (Laughter)

I think that is all that Earl and I have.

Q Mr. President, can you give us the background of the McNutt appointment? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I would say in that case that some of you people may be writing yourselves out on limbs. In other words, although it may sound strange, coming from Washington in the way of news dispatches, sometimes in making appointments there are other considerations than politics. In other words, in this particular position we have five or six agencies that are concerned with various forms of welfare. Each of the heads of those agencies will continue to conduct his particular agency in exactly the same manner as he does at the present time. For instance, Dr. Parran will continue to conduct Public Health. It is a question largely of medical science, research, et cetera. C. C. C. will continue to be conducted as it is at the present time.

Under the reorganization plan which went through, there

were created three agencies to coordinate. It will be difficult for some people to understand it -- I appreciate that -- but it is a fact that that particular position of Federal Security Administrator is not concerned with the politics of any of those five or six agencies under his control. Neither will that individual be concerned with individual politics any more than any member of the Cabinet or any other member of this Administration or the Supreme Court or the Congress -- no, I will leave out "or the Congress" because they are all the time.

So, do not write yourselves out on the limb because it is a pity to be shallow in reporting, even out of Washington. In other words, there are more serious implications than politics.

With that lecture, I think I have said everything that is necessary.

Q You think there are no politics whatever to be talked about?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think you will find, for instance, that Mr. McNutt will be running as a candidate for the Presidency any more than any other ten, twelve or fifteen people that you or I could name very easily.

Q Is it a fact that he made it a condition of acceptance that his friends should not be precluded from pushing him for the Presidency?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that was not mentioned at all.

Q He said you cannot control your friends.

THE PRESIDENT: How many people are there who have been spoken of for nomination who are actively in Government service? I should say about ten or twelve or fifteen, any number you can choose. Some

are members of the Cabinet. Now, they all have friends; you cannot help that. Try to get the facts clear. I know some people who won't, but it is all right.

Q It is a little vague to some of us just exactly what the duties of this Administrator will be. The individual agencies will be run as they are and he will not be concerned with policies. What will be his duties?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, one of the first things is to prevent overlapping of duties. Well, just for example, we had a great question of where the ^[Employment?] Unemployment Service shall go. Some people said it should go into Labor and other people said it should go into the new Security Administration.

There is quite a lot of work that can be done to coordinate the Administration in different cities and counties and states and between Unemployment Insurance, Social Security and the Employment Service. Now, there are three that tie in together. We will be able to save in personnel; we will be able to prevent misunderstandings within states; we will be able to inspect more easily the states' contribution and help the states so that they, perhaps, can coordinate their own activities with respect to unemployment insurance, as to which they are contributors, and unemployment pension and old age pension.

Take another thing: We may have a tremendous drive on that takes the attention of the public and directs it all into one line. Let us say that it is the great health program of the Nation. Everybody says, "Let's go; let's obligate the Government for a billion dollars this year." All right, then you have

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the school question, education. Are you going to leave them out? Are we going to go all lopsided? Well, that will be one of the duties of the Administrator to see that all of these welfare agencies are adequately provided for without giving too much to one and too little to the other, there being only so much money to go around.

Q Mr. President, will you name Josephus Daniels as Secretary of the Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't taken up that question and won't for a long time.

Q You took politics out when Pete Brandt asked that question and you mentioned a rather intricate program of administration. I gather you picked Mr. McNutt because he has administrative ability or something of that sort. Is there something you care to say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: That is absolutely true. You know, it is an interesting thing, which I think you all realize although you probably won't all write it. If you take a successful businessman, who has an individual business, and you bring him down into the Federal Government, the chances are that you have a greater percentage of failures than where you take somebody who has had successful experience in public life before he comes down to the Federal Government. That is unbelievably true, and some of you older people, like Fred Essary, will recognize that. You know the tragedies we have had in Washington in bringing down people who have been successful in conducting some one individual business. They know their own business thoroughly. They do not

know the relationship of their business to other forms of business. Half the time they do not know the United States. They know their own geographical locality. That is why all this talk about bringing businessmen down to Washington is too far-fetched. We brought some down successfully but, with respect to others, we made a complete flop of it.

Paul McNutt has had a good deal of practical experience, running a law school, Governor of Indiana, and High Commissioner in the Philippines. He has made good at all of those administrative jobs, therefore there is reasonable probability that he will make good on this administrative job.

Q Is Mr. McNutt an exponent of those liberal principles that underlie the Social Security program?

THE PRESIDENT: I should think so. I don't believe he would undertake the job if he was opposed to the present Social Security laws, do you?

Q What is your attitude toward the Senate vote on neutrality?

THE PRESIDENT: I see the Secretary of State made a statement. It was very good and he mentions the six points. I think it might be worth while adding just one thing to it, that at the present time there is not a law covering these points except the sixth.

There isn't any law to prohibit American ships, irrespective of what they may be carrying, from entering combat areas. There isn't any law to restrict travel by American citizens in combat areas. There isn't any law to provide that the export of goods destined for belligerents shall be preceded by transfer of title to the foreign purchaser. There isn't any law to continue the

existing legislation respecting loans and credits to nations at war. There isn't any law to regulate the solicitation and collection in this country of funds for belligerents.

So there I am and there is the Secretary of State. And of course the other thing is, and it has been made clear, and that is if the Congress should go home and adjourn, leaving these open for possible action sometime next spring -- not January, because you know what would happen; it would be next spring sometime -- two kinds of things may happen in the meantime and, if something should happen internationally in the meantime, it would be a pretty difficult thing for Congress to reassemble after the event and pass legislation in the face of an existing war. There is a probability that everybody would be charged with unneutrality at that time.

Q Now what is the next move in the situation so far as the Administration is concerned?

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

Q Senator Pittman says that the vote of the Committee anticipates a special session of Congress.

THE PRESIDENT: Anticipates it? I did not know that.

Q It was the motion by Clark to postpone it. He said that anticipated a special session of Congress.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh!

Q In case of war.

THE PRESIDENT: In case of war. In other words, just exactly what I say -- after the event.

Q Senator Pittman says he is going to press for a vote Friday by the Foreign Relations Committee on his nine-power treaty embargo bill; that is, the embargoing of nations violating the nine-power treaty.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know enough about it.

Q That would force an immediate declaration of embargo on munitions and materials of war, including oil, without admitting that a state of war exists.

THE PRESIDENT: No, that is a new one on me.

Q Will you ask the Leaders to keep Congress in session until they do something about the Neutrality Act?

THE PRESIDENT: I have answered that; I do not think I have any information on that today.

Q Will you consider the possibility of calling a special session, if there is no war, in anticipation of a war?

THE PRESIDENT: Same answer. My God, that has four "ifs" in it.

Q When do you plan to send up your special Message on District of Columbia fiscal affairs?

THE PRESIDENT: I have been waiting and trying to read the paper to see whether we can get action without it. How much more time shall we give them?

Q I don't know.

Q Have you any observations about the T. V. A. compromise?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard the details but apparently it does make possible a complete financing of Mr. Wilkie and so I suppose it is all right.

Q Shouldn't it restore investment confidence?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think that was needed, Ulric (Mr. Bell).

It was very well shown -- well, for instance, the issue of bonds the other day, a very large issue to refinance, to refund the financial structure of that concern out in Oregon which is right next to Bonneville and Grand Coulee. It went over big. In other words, the investing public does not believe all it reads.

Q Mr. President, do you have any comment on these W. P. A. strikes?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. The situation, as I got it today, is that about three per cent of all the W. P. A. workers are out in the United States and most of that three per cent are confined to two or three communities.

Q What are your personal views on the prevailing wage situation?

I know that at one time the Administration opposed it and then Harry Hopkins recommended it and now it goes out. I was wondering, does the Administration oppose --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Just stick to the existing law; carry out the existing law.

Q An attempt is being made to change that law. Will the Administration oppose that?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know anything about it except what I read in the papers.

Q The papers have stated that the present law, against which these strikers are protesting, was your authorship or, at least, had your O. K., between you and Colonel Harrington. Is that a correct statement?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not remember; I could not tell you. In other

words, Colonel Harrington may have spoken to me about it and, frankly, I do not know whether he did or not but, anyway, the thing went in and was passed with practically no opposition and I did not list it when I signed the bill as one of the main objections to the bill. I did list some other things.

Q Whom will you appoint to succeed Mr. McNutt as High Commissioner?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I have not taken up any appointment.

Q Is it true that American sailors will participate in the Bastille Day celebration in France?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The usual thing will happen on the fourteenth of July and that is that in most ports where American ships are present, they will parade, if they are requested to by the municipality, in the streets of the port. In France there are some men going ashore at Havre, but that is all; that is where the ships are lying.

Q Would you care to comment on the action of the County Chairmen of New York who met at Rochester and passed a resolution attacking the political activities of Thomas Corcoran?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard of it.

Q They met last week and did that.

THE PRESIDENT: His political activities?

Q They thought he was guilty of some and they did not like it.

THE PRESIDENT: They did not mention them?

Q They mentioned Moskowitz, which was the National Emergency. They said he was setting up a political organization.

THE PRESIDENT: You had better get the facts.

Q Is the increase of Export-Import Bank credit a satisfactory sub-

stitute for your original proposal?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q The Justice Department has taken a criminal investigation --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I cannot hear.

Q I am asking if you have any comment on W. P. A. strikes as applied to --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The Department of Justice, I think, started an investigation this afternoon or this morning.

Q Did you have any part in that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it was reported to me from the Department.

Q Do I understand that these dozen aspiring young men of the Administration are privileged to go ahead with their Presidential campaigns?

THE PRESIDENT: That is just the opposite to what I said. I said that these dozen charming young men are not going ahead. What their friends do out in the sticks I do not know and I do not believe that it is within their control.

Q Do you favor the continuation of the Senate investigation of violations of civil liberties?

THE PRESIDENT: I have all along.

MR. BELAIR: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #562,
Executive Offices of the White House,
July 14, 1939, 10.44 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am sending up this morning to Representative Collins and Senator Overton quite a brief letter referring to the District of Columbia appropriation question. I think you will have to get it up there because I cannot properly give it out here before they get it. It is the same letter to both of them.

Q Is that the communication that Mr. Early indicated might go up?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You do not care to discuss it, then?

THE PRESIDENT: Only I can tell you this, that it suggests to Congress that if the Appropriation Bill does not pass they should pass some form of Joint Resolution which would appropriate the money for tomorrow's payday and enable the 10,000 employees of the District to keep on their jobs and get paid for their work.

Q Representatives Kennedy and Randolph are here from the Hill. Did you happen to know that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q They are outside and possibly want to come in. I thought possibly you may have known that.

THE PRESIDENT: On the neutrality thing, there isn't any news yet. The Secretary is coming in around noon and there may be some news this afternoon.

Q What are your week-end plans?

THE PRESIDENT: Russell (Young), I do not know definitely yet. I

probably will stay here. I may go down the river on Sunday just for the day.

Q What is your reaction to the action in the Senate on having the Government pay two to one on social security?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you anything about it because I have got some people coming in today to tell me about it.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about the W.P.A. situation now? That is, the labor difficulties?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard anything since the day before yesterday except what I have read.

Q Mr. President, have you received the report from the Attorney General on his first six months in office? I believe he submitted a report, did he not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I have had a letter from him speaking of various things that have been done, including the setting up, I think, of those two new divisions, one is on civil liberties and there is no reason, as far as I am concerned, why that should not be made public. If Justice wants to give it out, it is all right.

Q Do you agree with him that there should be no strike against the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: You cannot strike against the Government.

Q They had a Barge Line strike in St. Louis. Suppose you had a T.V.A. strike, is that a strike against the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: (The President evidently said, "Yes," in answer to the first part of the previous question, without hearing the latter part of the question which was rather indistinct.)

Q What was that question? W.P.A. strike?

Q I said, "Suppose you had a T.V.A. strike, is that a strike against the Government?"

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. I could not answer that question offhand.

It is a subsidiary of the Government.

Q We had one on the Mississippi Barge Line.

THE PRESIDENT: That is the same sort of thing.

Q But on the fundamental question of W.P.A., you feel that there should be no strike?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a straight Government operation, yes.

Q There has been a lot of discussion about this 130-hour month. Can you tell us something of what you regard as the difficulties of the maintenance of the prevailing wage as contrasted against the desirability of this 130-hour blanket arrangement?

THE PRESIDENT: It would take too long. I think it is a thing for an hour's discussion. There are so many angles. It is awfully hard to do it off the bat. There are a great many pros and cons on each angle -- geography, trade, et cetera and so on.

Q It is one of the things that has not been emphasized that there has been a difference, not only as to the hours but as to the subsistence wage, that is, the total amount.

THE PRESIDENT: That is right and of course that depends --

Q (interposing) A lot of people think this is an attempt to make a blanket 130 hours a month for the same total amount of wages and that is not the case.

THE PRESIDENT: No and, as I say, there are so many angles and so many instances you could use that it is very hard to talk intelligently about any one of them without giving them undue

emphasis. For instance, just to take an example, how far should the Government go with respect to base relief? Subsistence is supposed to be a little bit better than home relief. We know the problem of the highly skilled artisan. Should that apply, for example, to any one of us here, a member of the Press, let us say? Take the average earnings of everybody in this room: Should we take that as the criterion? A clergyman loses his job; what does he get? A bank cashier who has been getting four or five thousand dollars a year loses his job and cannot find employment; what should he get?

It is not just the question of a few trades but applies to almost every occupation in life, professions as well as trades.

It is too difficult to go into much more deeply than that.

Q When will you see President Green (of the A. F. of L.)?

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- 11.45 this morning.

Q Will there be a statement later, after that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, I think it was Tracy (Daniel Tracy) was the name of the gentleman who was here yesterday. We asked him for a statement and he said that if any were issued, one would come from here. Does that apply to this meeting here today?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will you discuss the possibility of a recess of Congress until October?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not heard about it.

Q Can you tell us about this other group of Congressmen who are coming in today?

THE PRESIDENT: They are coming in to discuss getting some P. W. A.
money.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #563,
Executive Offices of the White House,
July 18, 1939, 4.07 P.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what news there is.

Q I would like to ask you a local question before the internationalists get on you. I read that the District Subcommittee has shelved or buried your District reorganization. You put Commissioner Allen back into the service for that reason. Have you had a chance to think about what would happen with respect to George Allen? Would you keep him right on?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Of course, on the general proposition of getting a better government for the District of Columbia, ever since 1913, the first year I came down here in an official capacity, hope has sprung eternal in my breast.

Q And it is still springing?

THE PRESIDENT: Still springing.

Q Specifically, it might be a foolish question, but you remember there was a short term loan of George Allen to the District Government and this seems to put something in the way of it.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. I imagine, during the rest of this fall, the three Commissioners and I will talk things over and maybe change the proposed bill a bit and try to get something for the Congress to consider next January.

MR. EARLY: George (Commissioner Allen) expects to stay on.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Allen expects to stay on, yes.

Q Have you any idea of how you would change the bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you agree with Secretary Woodring that, for reasons of defense, the Brooklyn-Battery Bridge should not be built up in New York?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have not studied it. It is up to the War Department.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about a successor to Mr. McNutt in the Philippines?

THE PRESIDENT: No; nothing yet.

Q Mr. President, do you expect to go to Pittsburgh to address the Young Democrats?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any idea; I have absolutely no plans whatsoever.

Q Mr. President, may I ask if Mr. McNutt will be permitted to fulfill engagements he had made? He had already accepted to speak before the Young Democrats at Pittsburgh.

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to ask him; I do not know.

Q He is out of town.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know who is going to speak there.

Q Mr. President, a story was syndicated this morning under the name of Walter Winchell, which stated that an informant had told him that you had positively announced that you were going to run for a third term and that you desired Mr. McNutt to be your running mate. Did you ever make such statement to any source of information?

THE PRESIDENT: Would it be fair to label that as a newspaper story?

Q No.

THE PRESIDENT: I doubt it.

Q (chorus, while the President was saying "I doubt it") No.

THE PRESIDENT: I agree with you.

Q (Mr. Godwin) I will give you a name for that. It is a "nightclub story."

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I will tell you what it is like, talking off the record. It is just like a story that appeared in Drew Pearson's and Bob Allen's column about my talk with Cardinal Mundelein, flying into a rage and all sorts of things. Of course that is another. I do not know whether I would call that a newspaper story.

Q Will you give it a name, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There was another one by Arthur Krock, another columnist, this morning. This is all off the record. It is the same idea.

Q A misunderstanding might arise from that. You have been referring to anything as a newspaper story as being untrue --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I know, but aren't there degrees? One is third and the other is thirty-second.

Q Another article in the afternoon papers by -- since we are mentioning names -- by Mr. Bill Hutchinson of the International News, says that Capitol Hill reports that Mr. McNutt's role is to go out and campaign for a third term.

THE PRESIDENT: That we will have to label as a newspaper story. I do not know whether it is a third term for Mr. McNutt or Mr. --

Q (interposing) Roosevelt?

THE PRESIDENT: -- or Mr. Hutchinson.

Q Have you been following the developments in Louisiana?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I have not, except what I have read in the newspapers.

Q Have you any comment on the one-day stoppage of W. P. A. on Thursday by the Workers' Alliance?

THE PRESIDENT: What is that? I have not heard of it.

Q They sent out orders for one day's stoppage for demonstrations and parades and mass meetings.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard of it.

Q Any comment at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Senator Lodge is trying to persuade the Senate to pass a bill to cut all executive expenditures ten per cent. Have you a reaction to that?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard of the bill. You will have to define it a little bit more. What do you call executive expenditures?

Q All departmental appropriations. I think he excludes social security payments, relief and fixed charges.

THE PRESIDENT: And that is all?

Q As far as I know.

THE PRESIDENT: Will he cut the debt service ten per cent?

Q I think he includes that in fixed charges.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course you can cut in some places without hurting Government functions but you cannot cut others. People who put in bills of that kind, of course, ought to have the courage to be specific.

Q In connection with the W. P. A. strike violations in Minneapolis,

would you care to indicate how far it is proper for the Federal Government to go in maintaining law and order on Federal projects?

THE PRESIDENT: Read the Constitution.

Q Will you comment on the neutrality situation, since you are going into this conference tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Perhaps you would like to comment on the business situation in view of the stock market shooting up?

THE PRESIDENT: I would be afraid to. (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I will say this, that I am neither short nor long, so it is all right.

Q Have you any idea of addressing the country by air again soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard of it.

Q Do you agree with the A. F. of L. interpretation of the Relief Act that you have power under the emergency clause?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had that report. I asked them to let me have a report on it. That is Section 15-B, or something like that. I have not had any judicial interpretation of it but my own -- what shall I call it? -- layman's reading of it is that it does not authorize the Administrator of W. P. A. to change what is a perfectly definite provision of the law itself, except in a matter of unusual and unthought of, you might call it, emergency. Now, that is just a horseback, layman's opinion. But, to make an executive exception to what is a perfectly clear provision in the law itself, I do not think that Section 15-B was intended to cover it.

Q Sir, is that the wages?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q May I revert to the Lodge question with respect to a cut of ten per cent? You asked, I do not recall whether it was the last fiscal year or not, for certain economies to be administered by the heads of Government. Was that for the year that had just closed?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is for the year that has just passed and we are setting up this year probably the same sort of thing. That is the requirement that every department set up a reserve at the beginning. Actually, when the final spending figures for the year 1939 come out you will find that a great many departments have failed to use their entire appropriation. In other words, a great deal of money actually has gone back into the Treasury.

Q You say you are setting up the same thing this year. Have you ordered that?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know whether the Director of the Budget has sent it out over his own signature or is waiting to bring it to me.

Q It is promised?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Does it call for a specific cut?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it is not a percentage. It is based on figures. Just as a simple illustration: A department that is wholly one of Government service such as, for example, the Bureau of Standards or the Bureau of Mines, that falls into a different category from an amount allocated to Army aviation. Obviously, in

the latter case a percentage cut would mean a percentage cut in the actual number of planes bought for the Army.

Q Mr. President, there were a couple of questions up there, the answers to which I could not catch up here. Did somebody ask you what you expect to accomplish by the conference of legislators tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope to accomplish progress.

Q On what, neutrality?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you give your views on the Barden amendment to exempt a million and a half people from the Wages and Hours law?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. As I have had the amendment described to me, it would, in effect, pick out the two million lowest and poorest paid employees of industries who are the principal beneficiaries of the Act, and would lift them out from the Act and, in effect, would give Congressional sanction to unconscionably low wages for them.

Q Mr. President, will you ask for a deficiency appropriation for the Wage and Hour Administration?

THE PRESIDENT: Have I?

Q Will you in this session?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it has gone up.

Q Today?

THE PRESIDENT: It went up yesterday or the day before.

Q Have you considered a successor to Mr. Swanson?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you plan to, any time soon?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: Thank you, sir.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #564,
In the President's Study at Hyde Park,
July 21, 1939, 11.27 A. M.

Q Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Glad to see you. Dick (Mr. Harkness), good morning.

Gosh, for some of you it is a new experience up here. By the way, I was delighted to hear about the eight and a half pounds.

Q (Mr. Reynolds, of the United Press) That is right; going to run for President in 1966.

MR. HASSETT: He was nine pounds yesterday.

Q And it will be ten tomorrow. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Trohan) That comes from an old father, Mr. Hassett.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe I have a single thing. I had a good night's sleep and I am still sleepy.

Q (Mr. Durno) Mr. President, the isolation group in the Senate is predicting very freely that you are going to carry the neutrality issue to the country in your forthcoming western swing. Can you comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: On the neutrality issue?

Q The arms embargo.

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't that closed until January?

Q Well --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) By action of the Senate? I think that is the best way of handling it. There is no and there cannot be any immediate issue before the country because certain groups in the Senate just precluded any action until January, making it perfectly clear, of course, -- and they have accepted it --

that the responsibility rests wholly on that.

Of course, one of the important things to bring out on that -- what was it? Tuesday night -- is the fact that they were willing to accept the responsibility. And, as Steve (Mr. Early) told you yesterday, about all we can do between now and January is to pray that there won't be another crisis, and pray awfully hard.

Q (Mr. Harkness) After the session on Tuesday, various participants, various Senators, gave their version of the meeting, what they had said to you, and more, what you had said to them.

THE PRESIDENT: It is like the old story of the Congressman that went in to see Mr. Hoover, I think it was, and was actually in Mr. Hoover's office by a stop watch for a minute and a half and then went out into the lobby and took ten minutes to tell the Press what he had told President Hoover. I have always loved the story. You remember that?

Q (Mr. O'Donnell) Yes, and I remember the Congressman too.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, I did not mean to interrupt.

Q (Mr. Harkness) That is a fitting story, and that is the way I meant it. But there was only one side of that conference came out and I wondered if you had anything to say about the conference itself.

THE PRESIDENT: Except this, that any stories that there was any -- I do not know -- what is the term for it?

Q I used "clashes," "verbal clashes."

THE PRESIDENT: "Clashes," right. I think it was John (Mr. O'Donnell) that said it was bitter. Did you ever see me bitter, John?

Q (Mr. O'Donnell) No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: There weren't any clashes. That part is entirely made up out of whole cloth. There was only one disagreement between two people in the conference and that was the fact -- this has been printed -- the fact was that Senator Borah did intimate rather clearly and definitely that his information, his private information from Europe was better than the information received by the United States Government from Europe and the Secretary of State asked him if he intended that as a suggestion that the State Department information was not as good as his own private information. He finally said that he had meant to infer that. It was all in very parliamentary language.

Q (Mr. Harkness) Did Vice President Garner step into that situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No, he did not.

Q (Mr. Harkness) Did the Vice President use this line, "Captain, we may as well be candid; you haven't got the votes"?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. When it became perfectly clear from a statement by the Republican Leader that the Republicans would vote en masse for postponement until January, and then Senator Barkley said there would probably be sufficient Democrats to go along with them to prevent a vote being taken if Congress stayed in session, nobody had to say anything more. That was obvious.

No, the thing came down to that simple fact, that the Republicans as a whole were going to work against the taking of a vote until January, one hundred per cent of them, and that about a third of the Democrats were going to do the same thing. That does not even raise the question of whether there was a

minority or a majority because, under the Senate rules, any sizeable group can prevent action. And the statement, of course, as written, did show the acceptance of responsibility by the Republicans and by Barkley in the sense that Barkley knew he could not get a vote, but only in that sense.

Q (Mr. Harkness) Senator McNary did definitely accept?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes. The responsibility? Oh, yes.

Q (Mr. Harkness) Is there anything at all you can tell us about the Department of State information which was at issue between Secretary Hull and Senator Borah?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would say from every capital in Europe, without exception, with respect to evidences of preparing for an eventuality that they believe to be fairly close, for the very simple reason that the preparations are moving at a very fast rate, of course emphasizing always what has been said, has been printed and everything else, that it is not any allegation of probability, it is a statement of definite possibility. There is all the difference in the world between those two (words) and the members of the Senate who have decided to defer action until January have been gambling that the possibility won't eventuate. Therefore, there is nothing further to discuss. The country understands it.

Does that cover it, Dick (Harkness)?

Q (Mr. Harkness) Yes, sir. I covered that and, after the conference, we checked different Senators and wanted to know about some of the statements.

THE PRESIDENT: It was an extremely friendly meeting, absolutely, all the way through.

Q (Mr. Belair) You mentioned that we won't have another crisis before January. Won't it take something more than perhaps a crisis to provoke a special session?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q (Mr. O'Donnell) More than a crisis? In other words, an armed conflict?

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, more than mere threat. For the last three or four years there have been recurring threats. So far they have not eventuated in actual war. Another threat may come without eventuating in actual war. But the United States is not in a position to help in a situation of that kind under the present law -- embargo -- and the members of the Senate, the other night, were fully apprised of that; that was a perfectly clear statement, and several of them accepted the thought that there would be no special session until and unless a world war had actually broken out. In other words, they accepted the responsibility of saying to the Executive Branch of the Government, "There is nothing further you can do to avert war."

Does that cover it, Bill?

MR. HASSETT: I should think so.

Q (Mr. Harkness) May I ask this point? Along that line, would you say that you fired one shot in September in the interests of peace?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And then another shot and then you had no more ammunition?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; that is right.

Q That fits in?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q (Mr. Durno) Can you tell us about your conference yesterday with Mr. Norris and Mr. Jewell of the Railway --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I told them the action I had taken. I did not put anything down in writing on it but I told Congressman Lea to tell the Rules Committee that I hoped they would give them a rule on two grounds, the first -- mind you, this does not relate to details of a bill but it does relate to principles -- the first is that something, away back a year ago we thought that something ought to be done to improve the railroad situation and I recommended that action be taken by this Congress. They have been there six and a half months and nothing has been done. I hope, this being apparently the only vehicle for getting it out onto the floor, that they will get a rule and report this bill out.

Q (Mr. Durno) Which bill is that?

THE PRESIDENT: That is the Lea Bill.

And then the other thought was, and it is absolutely in line with what I have been talking about so long, was that of trying to get all forms of transportation coordinated so that we won't have wholly separate agencies running policies, that is, general transportation policies.

It was in line with that that I told Bill Hasset to dig up the speech I made in Salt Lake City. He can show it to you. There is no use my reading the whole damned thing again. It was the speech back in 1932 in which I said, "The individual railroads should be regarded as parts of a national transpor-

tation system. This does not mean all should be under one management..... Let it be noted, for instance, that our Postal Service uses every variety of transport: rail, automobile, steamship, and airplane; but it controls practically none of these vehicles. We might well approach the railroad problems from a similar point of view -- survey all of our national transportation needs -- determine the most efficient, the most economical means of distribution, and substitute a national policy for a national lack of planning and encourage that growth and expansion which is most healthful to the general welfare."

And then, at the end, "...avoid financial excesses; adjust plant to traffic; protect the workers; coordinate all carrier service and above all, serve the public, serve them reasonably, serve them swiftly, and serve them well."

Well, it is just along the same general idea that we are working toward.

Q This consolidation would be done under your reorganization powers, would it?

THE PRESIDENT: No; it has got to be done by straight legislation.

Q Something along the lines of the Emergency Transportation Act?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There are two or three different forms in which the thing can be actually put into practice. The form does not count nearly so much as getting it done. They have been working on it now for six and a half months and nothing has happened.

On the neutrality thing, I have here forty-five newspaper editorials -- this is our regular stuff from the files -- that are quite interesting as showing how widespread is the general

approval by the Press, regardless of party, for having something done to make the United States neutral and helping to avert war. It is a most amazing series of editorials. Here is the old Boston Herald, for instance; the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Portland Oregonian, the Los Angeles Times, and so forth and so on. Bill (Mr. Hassett) can show them to you if you want to see any of them. It is a very interesting cross section of editorial opinion.

Q I had some figures the other day -- I forget who the authority was -- which showed, or alleged to show, that eighty per cent of the commodities bought from us by the Allies during the World War were commodities which would not fall under the present embargo in the event of war. I wonder how accurate that is?

THE PRESIDENT: If you count wheat and cotton and things like that, I suppose it is true but I think you will find that certain foodstuffs, and raw cotton entered into that picture, that eighty per cent, very largely.

Let me -- leave this off the record -- give you a little background on it that will bring it out. It is rather interesting. Let us put it this way: that we are concerned, rightly, to a certain extent with the prosperity picture, the business picture, the economic picture, and the failure of the Senate to take action, deferring everything until January, is, without any question, going to slow up the wheels of industry in this country. On your eighty per cent figure, a very large portion of that was agricultural products, wheat and so on. You will remember that while we were in the war we laid off bacon, and

meat, and tried to eat more fish so that we could ship the meats to the other side.

Well, that is agriculture, but on the other side of the picture you must remember all the manufactured articles that go over, the percentage of them that are wholly off the embargo list is much smaller. Most of them are for munitions of various kinds. Now, of course that brings up a very interesting question. You know that a very simple form of munitions is the little brass shell that goes into a 3-inch gun. That is for the piece the French call the 75's, and that is probably as destructive a weapon as there is. Now, the little 3-inch shell that goes into it is made of brass. How is it made? The principal and far most difficult process is turning out the brass pipe, because that is all it is, just plain common or garden variety of brass pipe like that that goes into the plumbing of a hotel or big house. I suppose ninety per cent of the labor is in that brass pipe.

Now, there is nothing to prevent that brass pipe from being shipped anywhere in the world. It is just brass pipe. Once it gets to a belligerent you do three things. There are three things. One is a little saw that cuts it off into lengths. A girl, one girl can run that, the pipe having arrived in 30-foot lengths. It slides down the table and gets to a certain point and gets chopped off. Number two, it goes into a press -- I have forgotten what they call it, a reamer, or something like that -- and that takes one end of the brass pipe and curls it over. That is the kind of machine that a girl can run. Then it goes to another machine -- they are one after the other in a row -- and that

squeezes the ends of that brass pipe together into a form with a little percussion hole in the end. Then the thing is done. There is your shell. All it needs to have put into it is the powder and the shell itself, but the brass casing is three operations, all of which do not represent, I suppose, more than five per cent of the actual cost of that cartridge.

Now, you cannot send that to a belligerent, but you can send the brass pipe, which is ninety or ninety-five per cent of the operation. Well, how do you draw a line between the destructive weapon and the brass pipe? I do not know. How do you draw the line between the raw cotton and the nitrates on the one side and the T. N. T. on the other? You take cotton and put it into a vat and you put the wet cotton into the T. N. T., into the nitrate, and you put in a few other small chemical ingredients, mix them all around, heat them to a certain point, then put them into another one and take it out and dry it and you have high explosive. It is made out of cotton and nitrate. They are not themselves in the nature of implements of war. How does the human mind draw a fine line?

Q (Mr. Belair) Do you mean that business is suffering because --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I had a businessman -- I will tell you his name if you won't use it, we will have to have that understanding because I cannot give you his name -- it is Clarence Dillon. He said, "You know this is going to slow up the finest little economic boom that ever happened. Nobody can make commitments. They do not know how the bill will come out. That affects us here as well as on the other side."

Q It means on the brass pipe, or everything?

THE PRESIDENT: On anything; the taking of orders. It makes war more probable. People do not like to give orders for anything, even back home.

Q (Mr. Harkness) May we use that incident, sir, about the effect on business, without the name?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. A newspaper really needs a new press but they can get along with the present press for another year. Now, it takes some time to get a press built. You cannot just buy one off the counter. You say, "By Gosh, if there is a war, I do not know; I do not know whether we would be justified because nobody knows the effect of a war on a newspaper business." Isn't that right? So you say, "Let us wait until January."

Now, it is a few little things like that that make up people's minds as to whether they are going to buy something, order something, or not.

Q I have got enough to write, haven't you, gentlemen?

Q Yes.

Q I have quite a lengthy question. Speaking about war, the political situation here (referring to Dutchess County) is --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What has been happening the last two weeks?

Q Jim Benson received the nomination for sheriff on the Democratic ticket and I suppose you would like to see Jim win. There has been quite a movement on foot in the last two days to put Bonticou up for sheriff on the Republican ticket.

With respect to the indictments, I wondered whether you

might make a parallel or comparison with the Hoffman case in the earlier part of the century. Of course, it was at that time that all the turnover was made by the Hoffman scandal and, of course, the situation here is in some sense parallel with the Federal conspiracy case. I wonder if that suggests anything to you that we might use at all?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know how closely that particular parallel works because I am not sufficiently in touch with this situation. Let us put it this way: As you all know in the county, I have often voted for Republicans for county office where I thought that cleaning house was a good thing or that the Republican was a better man. In this particular case, in the sheriff's office, it seems to me that it has got to the point where a complete cleaning of the sheriff's office seems to be highly advisable. Not just a partial cleaning. How it is best to accomplish that, the voters of the county can determine.

Q May I use that in quotes?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but you can paraphrase it.

Q While it is a small item, we are having a very dry period here, Mr. President. We have not had a decent rain since the latter part of April, which is three months.

THE PRESIDENT: That is one thing I am doing. This afternoon I am going out to see whether my spruces are alive, the ones that we put in this year.

Q I do not know whether we will have to take the example of the West and ask for relief but we are getting pretty dry here.

THE PRESIDENT: It is getting dry.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I will let Bill know who is coming over Sunday to the house. We have -- well, tomorrow night we are going down to the Morgenthau's and that is the only date we have. We have some people coming to lunch but they are nearly all neighbors.

Q Are you going back Monday night?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; Monday at twelve o'clock we are going to sign the deed for the north field here.

Jim Farley is coming up Sunday for the night, before he sails. He is coming up Sunday afternoon and spending the night and Monday at twelve noon we sign the deed and we have told the photographers that they can take pictures of the site or anything they want at the time.

Q That is over in this field over here (indicating)?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Twelve acres?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing has been done so far. They dug a couple of test pits to see what there is underneath.

Q (Mr. Cornell) When will you be back up here, or do you know?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I do not know yet.

Q Still four days after Congress adjourns we set sail?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. We are talking about a change of plan because it is so late, but we have not decided on it yet. The difficulty is that if they wait until the fifth of August or later, it is too late for me to go to Alaska on account of fog.

Q One of the Navy men said that fog is bad in that Inside Passage up there.

Q Can we pull out before Congress adjourns?

THE PRESIDENT: I may stay on this coast for a while and go to San Francisco later. I cannot tell yet but I will know in probably four or five days.

Q (Mr. Trohan) And then come back through Panama, Mr. President?
(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter) It is bad guess Number -- well, you can put the number on.

Q That was not a guess; that was a question. (Laughter)

Q That was a wish. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid it was. I will tell you what we might do. We might tell Walter (Mr. Trohan) that we are going down to Panama and then he would slip off and get there a little ahead of time, and then we won't go at all and he would have had his holiday. (Laughter)

Q We are leaving Monday night, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; Monday afternoon or Monday night. One or the other.

By the way, why don't you arrange about Rio, because we may go down there. (Laughter)

Q I have got another trip. I would cancel it to go down to Rio, though. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You bet he would. (Laughter)

Q Incidentally, in that connection, I understand that Marshall (General Marshall) sold this fellow Monteiro (General Monteiro)

completely on his trip. He had a little German leaning.

THE PRESIDENT: I understand that Monteiro was impressed. They showed him everything.

Q They certainly took him in. He was very enthusiastic.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, he was a nice fellow.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #565,
At the site of the Franklin D. Roosevelt
Library-Museum,
North Field, Hyde Park, New York,
July 24, 1939, 1.00 P.M.

(Mr. Farley sat alongside the President, in the President's car,
during this Press Conference.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if I were writing the story, I am afraid I would have to make it very uninteresting because I am afraid I could not speculate and, I am afraid, I would have to stick to the truth, which is that we just had another of our regular talks that we have been having since 1928. This will be the eleventh year of them. They continue along the same tenor as they have for eleven years and there isn't very much story in that except that the results have been, on the whole, fairly effective and I think will continue to be fairly effective. What you can get out of that I don't know.

Q (Mr. Harkness) I know what we can get out of it.

THE PRESIDENT: It is a very good statement, isn't it, Jim?

MR. FARLEY: Perfect.

Q (Mr. Trohan) We will get a fine crop of speculations.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, sure. Of course you people who play the market speculate right along. You know what happens, don't you? It is all right. Nobody minds.

Outside of that, I do not think that either of us will tell you anything more. I think you are just up against it.

MR. FARLEY: Yes, I am going to see to that. There is nobody going to catch up with me.

THE PRESIDENT: That is right. It is going to be a very famous trip.

There will be Jim and the girls and Johnny (Roosevelt) and Ann (Mrs. John Roosevelt), John Hamilton, Jouett Shouse, who else?

MR. FARLEY: Joe O'Mahoney, (laughter) Ham Fish (laughter).

THE PRESIDENT: It is going to be a great boatload and if somebody is not thrown overboard before they reach Southampton, I miss my guess, but it won't be Jim.

MR. FARLEY: If all the questions of state aren't solved after that, they will never have a chance.

Q Looks like a pretty tough crowd.

THE PRESIDENT: Jim is quite capable of taking care of our crowd, on the whole, all along.

MR. FARLEY: Well, I will have to be moving. Good-by, Boss. I will be in touch with you.

THE PRESIDENT: Fine, good-by.

(Mr. Frank Walker reported to the President that Dr. Connor, Archivist, had had an attack of indigestion. Mr. Walker reported that he was in the library and had recovered.)

The President then told of a radio report about which he had been told to the effect that the lights were on in the Roosevelt house long after midnight. The President told the Press that everybody, including himself, had gone to bed about eleven o'clock.)

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't it amazing, the stories that go on? Luckily, the American people know, so it is all right.

I am coming back here right after Congress adjourns. That will be not next week but the following week.

Q Are you going to the West Coast?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but later on. What I may do, probably, is to come back here for five or six days after Congress adjourns and finish up all the bills, the last-minute bills, and then go off on a cruiser up north to get some cold weather after a summer in Washington, for about a week's cruise, and then come back here and then go out to the Coast, toward the end of September.

Q North to Campobello?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and probably beyond that, so as to get some early cold weather.

Q And the trip to the Coast will be just directly to the Fair, I presume, and no big swing?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will you go by way of Asheville?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I will go by way of Asheville, see Mac (Mr. McIntyre) and dedicate Great Smoky Park and then out to San Francisco, up to Seattle and back.

Q That will be late September, then?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q What cruiser, Mr. President; do you have any idea?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably the TUSCALOOSA.

Q Is that one of the new ones?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That is one of the new light cruisers, just in commission. And, incidentally, do not say there is fishing because there isn't any fish up in those waters except things like cod and flounders. That does not mean I won't catch any, but it is not sport fishing.

MR. BELAIR: Thank you, Mr. President.