

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #578,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 12, 1939, 4.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, how is everybody?

Q (Mr. Godwin) I cannot read any papers today. (Referring to the fact that the President's desk was clear of mail)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that (indicating) is a sheet of unused stamps; that is valuable.

Q What stamps are they?

THE PRESIDENT: They are the new Panama Canal stamps.

Q United States?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Then, of course, the Canal Zone got out a special series of their own down there that are awfully nice. The man who invented it told me about it the last time we were down there and he asked me what to put on it and I told him two series of pictures, one before and one after. In other words, a picture of the Cut before there was any water and now a picture of the Cut with a ship going through -- like that.

Q Is that the whole series that run up, one, two, five and ten?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I forget how many there are, seven or eight, I think.

Q I am glad you got James Whitcomb Riley on that series. A lot of people do not think he is a poet.

THE PRESIDENT: I know it. He is a Hoosier philosopher.

Q He is peculiarly American.

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh, there are a lot of people who should have gone on that we did not have room for.

Q The worst thing they will never forgive you for is putting Frances Willard on there.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have to grant about every one hundredth request that comes from women. That's a fact. I turn down ninety-nine and have to give them something.

Q (Mrs. Black) We are listening.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think I have got anything that is real news.

Q Mr. President, Congressman Sabath this morning gave the impression, although he did not say so, that there would be a special session and that it would begin about the first of October?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I suppose his guess is as good as yours. I do not know yet but I think probably that you can make the guess that there will be an announcement soon. And do not ask me to define the word "soon" (pronouncing it s-o-o-o-n) or "soon" (pronouncing it s-u-n).

Q May we quote that word, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: The word "soon"? Yes, put it in quotes. (Laughter)

Q Does that mean that there will be a special session?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Does that mean that there will be a special session? (Laughter)

What else could the announcement say?

THE PRESIDENT: What will we do, Fred (Mr. Essary)? It is a good guess.

Q In connection with the announcement of your Executive Office at Hyde Park -- I believe it was said that the brain trust is out

of the window -- is there any change in the status of Mr. Corcoran and Mr. Cohen --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Your question brings up -- I suppose we may as well tell the truth just here in the family. Up at Hyde Park the boys got some mighty good stories on Saturday, darned good, so they had plenty to write, but Sunday came along and Steve didn't have anything at all for them except the fact that I had gone to church and it was raining, and so they had to write something. There they were. And so they said to themselves, "What will we write about? First, the President is going to announce, call a special session, sometime during the coming week." That was perfectly all right because if it were the following week or the week after, they could write it once a week and eventually it will be right. (Laughter)

That was all right, but they said, "That is not enough. We have to send in something more," and the office was clamoring for copy, et cetera, so they said, "Here is a chance: We all know that down inside of our hearts we had set up a banshee, a sort of two-headed banshee. We know he was a banshee. He only appeared when one had bad indigestion and things like that but, nevertheless, he was a banshee, a very indigestible banshee." Then came this new Executive Order of the President. They said, "Why, here is our chance. Having set up a ghost, we cannot just let him roam through the world through all eternity. We have to kill him some day, a two-headed Corcoran-Cohen banshee, so here is our chance to prove that there was a banshee by killing it." And there is the origin of the Sunday story. (Laughter)

Q For the benefit of the non-Irish, would you mind spelling banshee?

THE PRESIDENT: Banshee -- b-a-n-s-h-e-e.

Q What newspapermen are telling you our secrets?

THE PRESIDENT: They did.

Q Did the expression, sir, out-the-window come out of the imaginative minds of the reporters?

THE PRESIDENT: Out the window?

MR. EARLY: No.

THE PRESIDENT: No, that was one of Al Smith's old phrases.

Q They quoted White House sources?

THE PRESIDENT: Out-of-the-window was invented by Al. However, another phrase was, of course, out of the mind of Fred Storm. You remember that phrase, "old potato" which, of course, was never said but it was good copy; it was all right.

Q Is there any change in Mr. Corcoran's and Mr. Cohen's position?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Is there any change in their status from what it was before?

THE PRESIDENT: No, just the same as it was before.

Q I am a little uncertain what the status was?

THE PRESIDENT: I should think you would be. A lot of other people are, too.

Q Mr. President, yesterday the British Ministry of Information, speaking officially, said you extended the Monroe Doctrine in your Kingston speech and had spoken of the interest of the United States of America in the preservation of the integrity of Canada from invasion. That places Canada in a special designation. Is there anything you can say as to that, as to the

interpretation to be placed on that at the present time?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I do not know whether I want to because it would take the implementation of a lot of notes on history.

When you come down to it, to put it in the simplest way, there was a good deal of conversation in Europe at the time that a number of portions of Central and South America had already won their independence and set up republics, and some of them were still fighting for their independence. There was a good deal of talk in Europe about some kind of a coalition or combination of powers to reestablish European sovereignty over portions or all of Central and South America. That was really the time of origin of the Monroe Doctrine and there was a great deal written about it at the time and, if you will examine the writings about it, you will find that the Monroe Doctrine, as accepted by the country in those days, included a definite thought that no European power should reestablish sovereignty over any territory which had gained its independence and that that also applied to the changing of European sovereignty over those portions of the Americas which had not revolted and established their independence. Well, those portions, of course, were not very large either in number or territory except in the case of Canada. They represented a number of islands, most of them relatively small islands. Cuba and Puerto Rico remained Spanish. They were the largest of the islands. There were a number of French islands, Dutch islands, English islands in the West Indies and, on the continent, there was British Honduras in Central America and the three Guianas, Dutch, French and British, in

South America.

Well, as time went on, the sovereignty of those European nations over those islands in comparatively small places was pretty well accepted by the Hemisphere because we never had any trouble over them. In other words, the continued possession of these small pieces of land, islands and a few on the mainland, during 120 years, roughly, never bothered any American nation. There was never any demand to extend the sovereignty and practically the only case where there was any serious dispute was over a boundary question between British Guiana and Venezuela in the days of President Cleveland and we immediately, at that time, exerted -- I shall put it rather mildly -- our interest in the case and it was settled, settled by arbitration, as I remember it. But, during these 120 years, these nations that have had these small bits of territory have never given the Americas any trouble and, if you go back to the early discussions about the Monroe Doctrine, you will see on many, many occasions the interpretation of the Doctrine as including the objection to the transfer of any of these sovereignties to other European nations. As long as they remained in the possession of the existing powers and did not give anybody any trouble, why that was all right.

So you might say that the speech which I made up in Canada last year about Canada itself was merely not a new statement but a restatement of the original intent of the Monroe Doctrine and that, if it applies to Canada, it applies equally to Dutch Guiana and Curacao and the Bahamas and the British Honduras and

Guadeloupe and Martinique, Saint Pierre and Miquelon up on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and so forth and so on. They are all right the way they are but it might represent a different situation to the Americas, all the republics, if the sovereignty of those places were transferred to any other non-American nation. That is all there is.

Q Mr. President, the sentence I was particularly interested in was the one in which you said, "I give to you assurance that the people of the United States will not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil is threatened by any other empire." I have no doubt that that was the statement.

THE PRESIDENT: Right. That is exactly what I said and exactly what I meant. It applies to all of the Americas. Nothing very new in that.

Q No, that is true, but there is a report that at the present time there is in Canadian-American waters joint operation of a patrol and so on. Is there anything being done along that line or at the Sioux locks?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We are patrolling, as you know.

Q But it has not been increased, the number of patrol vessels?

THE PRESIDENT: We want to know what is going on in all American waters and that is all it is. Nothing more and nothing less.

Q Mr. President, the prices of some of the major raw resources and commodities have been going up. Are you watching that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Do you see any profiteering there?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean profiteering on the production end or the

retail end? You see, there is all the difference in the world.

Q Either end.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course the retail story is an entirely different story from the production end. On the production end, it depends entirely on what raw material you are talking about. For example, take the simple case of cotton: The present world price of cotton is so low that the South will go broke on it. They are implementing the price by soil erosion payments and we are getting rid of some cotton as well through the export subsidy method and the price of cotton, we hope, in spite of the world, very large world carryover, ought to go up.

In the case of wheat, we all know the word "parity" -- parity -- at the present time the present price is way below parity but, on the other hand, parity is not \$2. or \$3. or \$5. The Department of Agriculture has the figure but, as I remember it, it is around \$1.15 or \$1.20. Also, there is the fact that, if we went up to the parity price, the actual cost to the consuming public of bread would go up a very unappreciable amount.

Q Mr. President, Governor Phillips of Oklahoma has announced he has asked you to stop work on the Dennison Dam project in Texas because of damage to about 100,000 acres of Oklahoma soil. Have you any comment?

THE PRESIDENT: I got the letter and I referred it to what? -- the War Department, Agriculture and, I think, Interior; I am not sure.

Q Secretary Woodring has already replied that Congress has directed it be built and as far as he is concerned --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, it has got to be built; Congress

said so.

Q Will any order or any action be taken on any other commodities besides sugar?

THE PRESIDENT: No; nothing at the present time.

Of course, among the non-agricultural, I am watching the price of copper a little bit because, as everybody knows, we can produce an awful lot of copper in this country at a very nice profit at around $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ and we know that, during the World War, it got up as high as 28%, and we do not want a recurrence of things of that kind because, eventually, it comes out of the taxpayers' pockets.

Q Is that true also of steel?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not very much concerned about steel because I have not heard anything of the price going up.

Q Anything besides anti-trust action that can be taken to stop it?

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

MR. GODWIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #579,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 15, 1939, 10.45 A.M.

Q (Mr. Godwin) See that? (Showing the President a small, silk American flag, labeled, "Made in Japan.")

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Isn't that funny?

THE PRESIDENT: I was sitting around last night -- this cannot be used -- after dinner. There was an ash tray that somebody gave me three or four years ago. I was playing with it. It was marked, "Made in Germany." I turned over another one, looking to see where it was made, "Made in Japan." Can't use it.

(Quite a number of correspondents were coming into the room.)

I do not know why everybody is coming. There isn't any news.

Q Mr. Borah made news, that is why they are here.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have any news. The SQUALUS was actually put in dry dock at 6.00 o'clock this morning. That is the only recent thing we have.

Q Mr. President, are you familiar with what Senator Borah said last night?

THE PRESIDENT: I have got to confess that I have not read it nor did I hear it.

Q Would you let me ask you a question about it if I read a sentence?

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid I ought to read the whole thing.

Q Will you present your Message on the first day of the session, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know, Fred (Mr. Essary).

Q Do you know whether you will present it in person?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, the Message will either be read by me up there, or sent up on the first day, on Thursday, but I do not know whether I will go up yet.

Q Mr. President, do you plan to ask for anti-profiteering legislation in the special session?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I expect to.

Q I did not understand?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not expect to.

Q Does the statement still hold, Mr. President, that there is nothing in the way of legislation except the neutrality?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q No deficiency appropriations?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Any war risk insurance?

THE PRESIDENT: No, what?

Q War risk insurance?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are doing that without further legislation.

Q No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Aren't they?

Q No deficiency requests?

THE PRESIDENT: No, regular session.

Q If I am not mistaken, sir, there is one of the Committees of Congress that has some war risk legislation before it, I think.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q The Maritime Commission claims they need new legislation before they can provide insurance for shipping.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know, frankly. I am ignorant on the subject.

Q Mr. President, is there any place I can find a summary of what our neutral rights are under international law?

THE PRESIDENT: I would read the last revised edition, in four volumes, of John Bassett Moore's work on international law. (Laughter)

Q But I did ask for a summary.

THE PRESIDENT: Most of people have tried to summarize it. Now there is a real chance to make a name for yourself. Do the summary yourself.

Q What is the American Government's definition of territorial waters -- how far out?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as our interests need it to go out.

Q As far as what?

THE PRESIDENT: Our interests require it to go out.

Q That is no better than we got from Steve (Mr. Early) the other day.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a hot one off the bat. Nobody ever defined it that way before but it is a pretty good definition.

Q Does that reach to the Rhine, Mr. President? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am talking about salt water. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, at this conference you will have with the leaders on Wednesday, will the details of your program be worked out then or have you formulated one?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I have not got to thinking what we will talk about.

Q Will you send a Message down to the Panama Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Are you familiar with the Secretary of State's statement of yesterday,

possibly?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q A question arose in my mind which may be foolish but he mentioned there was a difference between our rights under international law and what our own national laws had done to them -- they had proscribed or modified them, cut them down. I think John Bassett Moore probably would show at times when a nation makes a stand or makes a modification, that eventually that becomes a precedent or part of international law.

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on what nation does it.

Q Would you say there is any danger of our rights being modified permanently by our continued stand?

THE PRESIDENT: International law has been built up by the acceptance of certain modifications which come along with changing times and the development of new instruments of war, new instruments of commerce, and no one nation can change international law all by itself. But if certain things which were adopted by any nation or group of nations at one given time come to be accepted by the world as a whole over a period of years, that becomes what they call international law.

Q Yes, sir.

Q Mr. President, if all the neutrality legislation on our statute books were repealed and our reliance placed purely on international law, would that satisfy the Administration viewpoint?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, now you are coming down to my Message to Congress, aren't you? And it has not been written yet. You see, you are gradually narrowing the thing down. Any answer to that question

would be a complete giveaway of what I am going to say. (Laughter)

Q When a belligerent nation stops the ship of a neutral nation and seizes the cargo destined for another belligerent, is that any violation of international law?

THE PRESIDENT: Read John Bassett Moore, Volume 2, Chapter 5, on blockade. Also read the history of the Civil War, the American position during the Civil War, the blockade of the Southern Coast. It is very interesting and quite pertinent today. Of course, a great many things have been changed in methods of warfare but the position taken by this country, I should say by the North -- these are shipments from Europe -- it makes an interesting study. Of course, as you know, in international law the question of blockade depends largely on the effectiveness of the blockade.

Q Mr. President, have you given any thought to the question of the Ministership to Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, Fred (Mr. Wile).

Q Do you contemplate the issuance of any further Executive Orders under your Proclamation?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q There is a general assumption that you want the arms embargo repealed in order that we might help England and France. Is that assumption correct?

THE PRESIDENT: You will know more about it on Thursday next.

Q Mr. President, have you any recent reports on economic conditions and the state of unemployment in this country?

THE PRESIDENT: I asked for that yesterday. I asked Mr. Carmody and the Labor Statistics Bureau to check up on that because we have

not had a check for about a month.

Q Mr. President, is there any possibility or has there been an order issued placing a time limit upon all Public Works allocations?

THE PRESIDENT: All Public Works allocations stopped last December.

Q Some had a time limit and some did not.

THE PRESIDENT: On the question of starting them or completing them?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. As far as I know, practically all of them are under way.

Q But there has been no order issued from here placing a time limit on completion?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The only changes at the present time -- for instance, John Carmody brought in yesterday, oh, about twenty of what they call those books of approval -- sometimes a book contains one project, sometimes fifteen or twenty -- and we have to have an "O.K., F.D.R." on them.

And the list yesterday, oh, I suppose there were forty or fifty different projects, and some of them, the grant or the loan and grant, were cut down, reduced. Well, that gave you a minus sign on the total of appropriations. Others, because of various conditions, had to be slightly increased, but they were all going projects. The pluses just about cancelled the minuses. There were no new projects, just those pending on P.W.A. now.

Q I see that Frederick Davenport is on your list today. That brings to me a picture of personnel improvement. Is there anything you can tell us now for the benefit of the local papers or the rest of them that is interesting on that subject?

THE PRESIDENT: Only, as you know, that we are going ahead as fast as we can to put as many agencies as possible that are not under civil service under civil service. We have got to the point now where practically all that can legally be put under civil service are being put in. There are some agencies that Congress has said we could not put in civil service.

Q Can you tell us anything of the work of the Reed (Mr. Justice Reed) Committee that you appointed?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q The committee headed by Justice Reed, wasn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: I understand they are very nearly ready to report. They have not reported yet.

Q Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about the significance of this Pan American Conference at this point in world --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You had better let it develop itself.

Q This may bore some of those national columnists but it is quite important to us. You and Louis Brownlow were here twenty-five years ago, in 1914, and you saw the effect of the World War on Washington and on the personnel of the Government. Louis Brownlow has been in here constantly and it brings up to my mind a picture of possible plans or suggestions that you might be getting ready for some such emergency. Maybe I am way ahead --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I won't even say "way ahead" because the actual situation is that there have been no plans or even consideration of plans for Washington that would be even distantly connected with our being in the war.

Q Anything on the Budget?

THE PRESIDENT: I have forgotten the date or what was due. Ask the
Director.

Q Going back to the definition of territorial waters, is the fact that
our ships are patrolling two hundred miles out any indication that
our territorial limits --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, they are out there for information,
nothing else.

Q Does the Administration contemplate strengthening the forces of the
Far East to enforce this neutrality --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

MR. GODWIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #580,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 19, 1939, 4.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Have a good time?

Q (Mr. Russell Young) Oh, fine. Did you see the pictures? Those
cartoons of General Watson? I showed some to Steve (Mr. Early).

THE PRESIDENT: I did not see them. Pictures of Pa?

Q (Mr. Young) Sure. The General Goering of the White House. (Turn-
ing to General Watson) Where is that General Goering picture?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, the one you had of Pa. That was a peach.

Q Does your mother have a birthday this week?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Thursday. It is to be celebrated the next time
I get home.

Q When will that be?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q Think you will go up this week?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. I am not making a plan until after
Thursday.

Q Eighty-three?

THE PRESIDENT: Five (meaning eighty-five).

Q You had better get up there.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Where is Earl?

Q Having his semi-vacation.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we are all glad to see Major General Young back.

Q (Mr. Young) Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Outside of that society note, I haven't got anything.

Q Did you hear Mr. Hitler's talk on the radio?

THE PRESIDENT: I started to and then I had some people come in and I heard about the first three minutes.

Q No comment?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, there are reports in Rome that the Pope has communicated with you, asking your cooperation in some move against the partition of Poland. Have you received such communication?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Will you remark, sir, upon the visit of the mayors who just left?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they brought in a fine Resolution. They talked about city planning and that was about all.

Q What Resolution are you referring to, the one on neutrality?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything in advance of Mr. Tobin's (Mr. Daniel J. Tobin, Vice President of the A.F. of L.) visit this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Dan Tobin?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that he was coming in for the last three weeks and this is the first chance I have had to see him.

Q Do you contemplate a peace message -- a message of labor peace to the American Federation of Labor Convention that happens next week?

THE PRESIDENT: I had forgotten it was next week. I will send a message. I do not know what it will be. It will probably mention

labor peace, that is a good guess.

Q Can you comment on city planning -- and what was discussed?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think possibly Better (Paul Better, Secretary of the United States Conference of Mayors), or whoever it is, will take care of it with you.

Q Will Russia's entrance into the war make any change in your neutrality program?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better ask the State Department about that.

Q Mr. President, I just asked you unofficially but for the matter of the record, do you think you will go up to your mother's birthday this week end?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe we will get off this week end but we are going to celebrate the birthday the first time I go up.

Q She is eighty-five?

THE PRESIDENT: Eighty-five on Thursday.

Q Is there any study being made of the possibility of reducing the Cuban sugar tariff by Proclamation or any other means?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. You had better ask Henry Wallace. I do not know whether he is making a study or not. I have not heard anything about it.

Q Stories have been published that Administrator Andrews (Wages and Hours) has resigned and is going to be succeeded by Colonel Fleming. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: No news on that.

Q Anything you can tell us in advance of your conference tomorrow with the legislative leaders and Governor Landon?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. You know as much about it as I do.

We are going to discuss Congressional action on the so-called
Neutrality Bill.

Q I suppose you got started on your Message today, did you not, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Comparatively long or short?

THE PRESIDENT: Comparatively short.

Q Compared with what? (Laughter) State of the Union? (Laughter con-
tinued)

Q Compared with the state of the Union Message?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, compared with -- of course my Messages on the state
of the Union were almost the shortest on record. Well, this will
be shorter than that.

Q Mr. President, have you decided whether you will deliver the Message
in person?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I am going up.

Q Have you fixed upon an exact hour for going up to Congress, if you
do?

THE PRESIDENT: We are talking now with the Speaker and the leaders of
both Houses about the possibility of two o'clock but you had better
not put that down as certain. Can we?

MR. EARLY: It is all right.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says we can; two o'clock on Thursday.

MR. EARLY: That is tentative, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: That is tentative.

Q Any resurvey being undertaken in the light of happenings abroad?

THE PRESIDENT: Not resurvey -- continuing survey. Nothing new because

they are going on all the time.

Q Do we have to find out about tomorrow's conference the way we found out about the Military Committee's conference?

THE PRESIDENT: Which was that?

Q The secret time you had the Military Committee in here for a conference?

Q Frontier on the Rhine?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think you know all about it, everything I know. You know who is coming.

Q But afterwards?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, afterwards I hope we will get out a very simple four or five-line, maybe ten-line statement, the way we did after the meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee last July. And then you good people will run around and catch them in the hotels or in the barrooms (laughter) or back in the Congress, and then you will try to worm out from each one something of what happened and you will add them all up together and get the lowest common denominator and then you will write your story. Well, that is all right because it is customary.

Q That is what we'd like to know.

Q Would you like to receive us after the conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not. (Laughter)

Q That will keep us out of the barrooms, Mr. President. (Laughter)

Q Instead of the barrooms, why cannot Mr. Early make a nice summary?

THE PRESIDENT: That is what we are going to do, eight or ten lines.

Q (Miss Fleeson) You do not believe you can take that long with so many Senators and Congressmen and condense it in eight or ten lines?

Q General Pershing has advocated expansion of the Army to full peacetime strength. That comes on top of your recommendation. Would you care to comment on his --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) All I can say at the present time is that I have no further plans at this time. Whether it will be necessary in the future is something that is now in the lap of the gods. I can go up from the 227,000 that I have authorized to the 280,000 -- I think it is --

Q (interposing) Approximately.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, approximately 280,000, but no plans for doing it at the present time.

Q Is it still your idea to confine the session to the one purpose?

THE PRESIDENT: I am making that the only recommendation.

Q In the event that it is taken up in the Senate, as everybody expects, what will the House do?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to ask them.

Q There is a proposed industrial mobilization provided by the War and Navy Department. Have you studied that and has it your approval?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know which one you are referring to, the one that goes back to 1920?

Q The 1939 one, which is a revision of the 1936 plan.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I have not seen that.

Q Will there be any deficiency estimates, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I think not; I do not think so.

Q Mr. President, you have occasionally indicated, I believe, that you would like to see our neutrality based entirely on the principle of international law. Would it satisfy the Administration if the

present Act were repealed outright?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better wait until you see the Message on that.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #581,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 22, 1939, 10.50 A.M.

Q (Mr. Godwin) How do you do?

THE PRESIDENT: Did you have a good holiday?

Q (Mr. Godwin) I spent it out here in the Press Room, mostly, listening to the radio. (Laughter)

That was a good show up at the Capitol yesterday. (Did you see it? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. When you were away last week there were all kinds of ribald remarks made about your absence. It was all right.

Q (Mr. Godwin) I know it; I got a report on it.

Q (Mr. Young) The Boss made a couple himself, too, Earl. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No quarter, isn't that right?

Q (Mr. Godwin) Do you remember Ham Lewis (Senator James Hamilton Lewis, of Illinois) said, "Mention me, kindly if you will, but mention me."

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

I think I am almost completely devoid of news.

Q Any idea when you are coming back (from Hyde Park)?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably Sunday afternoon or Sunday night.

Q The girls want to know if that is a new suit (that you are wearing) or not?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is (examining inside coat pocket).

Q Has that a date in it?

THE PRESIDENT: '36. (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

Q I said it was at least a year old. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: It is what you might call a perfect thirty-six.

(Laughter) That ought to hold you.

I do not think I have anything this morning. We are going up tonight and coming back -- going up on the night train and coming back Sunday afternoon or Sunday night, probably, subject to change, because up there I am really not on a twenty-four-hour basis of the Treasury Department but a three-hour basis; in other words, the length of time it takes to get the train down from Albany to Hyde Park or Highlands.

Steve (Mr. Early) says the Secret Service does not want definite times of train departures or railroads put down ahead of time in the press, not tonight. I do not know how you are going to disguise that but --

Q Past tense.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think we have any particular news outside of that. As a matter of public information, vessels have sighted a submarine, nationality unknown but not American, off the southern boundary of Alaska, where it joins the Canadian territory, in what they call the Inside Passage, and a submarine, nationality unknown, has been seen off Boston, about sixty or seventy miles south of the tip end of Nova Scotia and about half way between there and Nantucket Shoals.

Q Mr. President, what do you do with that information?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Is the Maritime Commission informed of all those?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Anyone else?

THE PRESIDENT: The Coast Guard, of course.

Q Was it sighted by American ships?

THE PRESIDENT: We never will disclose any of these sources for perfectly obvious reasons. Nowever, they are perfectly reliable. May be anything.

Q Is the Neutrality Patrol in that vicinity?

THE PRESIDENT: There is a patrol all the way from our northern border, roughly, down to and including the Carribbean and the Gulf of Mexico.

Q We cannot hear back here.

THE PRESIDENT: I was asked whether this was in the neighborhood of the Neutrality Patrol. Well, it is a little difficult to say because we are maintaining a patrol all the way from Eastport, Maine, to and including the Carribbean and the Gulf.

Q That is on the Atlantic side, but what about that submarine on the Pacific side?

THE PRESIDENT: There is no regular patrol over there, no.

Q Were they within our territorial waters? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know my definition of them the other day. I guess that is good enough.

Q Are our proper interests involved by these submarines -- by observance of these submarines?

THE PRESIDENT: What kind of submarines are they?

Q They are not American.

THE PRESIDENT: No. They might be Swiss. (Laughter) Don't get too noseey.

Q Mr. President, is it possible they might be Canadian submarines?

THE PRESIDENT: Might be Bolivian or Afghan. You will get it if you keep on. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, what reaction have you had thus far to your speech of yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had anything except a large pile of telegrams. I think Steve (Mr. Early) has told you about them. I have only seen a number, a small number of them.

MR. EARLY: I have not seen the Press today, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea how many there are. I was simply told there are a large number. I have seen only forty or fifty myself; they have only sent the ones from governors or personal friends.

Q The story from the Hill that we are getting is that there is a large and increasing volume of telegrams and messages against your proposal. You are aware of that?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

Q How did yours run, do you know?

THE PRESIDENT: Do you know at all, Steve (Mr. Early)?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir. I know from the tabulation kept by the telegraph office last night and up to ten o'clock this morning, they were pro, with the exception, I think, of, he said, eight to ten and two of those were not in exact opposition. They told me that they began to come in spontaneously; they were enthusiastic and the volume was in excess of any received after any of your recent speeches.

Q Did you get an idea as to how many there were?

MR. EARLY: Yes, I asked him and they said they had not counted them.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. GODWIN: Snappy work, Mr. Young, snappy work. (Laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #582,

At the site of the new Library,

Roosevelt Estate, Hyde Park, New York,
September 23, 1939, 11.50 A.M.

(The President was seated in his car. He had just been photographed, watching the steam shovel which was digging the site for the foundation.)

Q (Mr. Durno) Have you heard about this Landon interview? (Mr. Durno had received the following telegram:)

"New York, N. Y., Sept. 23, 1939.

"George Durno, I N S

"Landon issues statement which given all press associations saying 'Greatest single contribution President Roosevelt could make in present troubled situation would be to tell country categorically he does not want third term and would refuse nomination if offered him,' says favors adjourning all party politics but up to President remove himself from picture to insure that result. Try to get reaction.

"Faris 8.10 AM"

THE PRESIDENT: I would have to get the whole thing, George. I cannot answer any questions. It is a telegram that may be just partial quotes. Sorry, but I have to protect myself.

MRS. JAMES ROOSEVELT: I should hope so.

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't that right? You would, if you were in my place.

(There was a slight pause.)

I will give you a line, off the record, just as a lead for your stories.

Q We could use it.

THE PRESIDENT: Not attributed or anything like that -- that I have,

ever since -- what was it? -- the third of September, or something like that, pleaded that the country should keep politics out of this very serious world situation. That is a good lead. Right?

Q We could --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, you cannot even attribute it. Or, you could use one of the old gag lines, "Sources close to the White House"; that is Bill (Mr. Hassett).

Q Sources close to Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: Sources close to Hyde Park, that is all right.

Q Mr. President, what about the birthday celebration?

THE PRESIDENT: Just a family dinner; family and neighbors tonight and nothing planned for tomorrow.

Q Church?

THE PRESIDENT: If I wake up in time but, having had very little sleep, as you know, I won't guarantee anything.

Q Any plans on returning?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know when. Of course that is dependent mostly on news from Washington.

Q Is there any news from Washington this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not talked to them yet. I will, around lunch time.

Q I presume that you have talked to Mr. Hull since you arrived?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not talked to anybody.

Q No one at all?

THE PRESIDENT: Chiefly, I breakfasted and shaved.

All you people look very well. The French call it soignee. You are looking in the pink of condition. You probably went to

a beauty parlor. I think it is so nice to see people who have been to a beauty parlor.

Q That old bee tree (referring to the large oak tree in the center of the field, situated at the edge of the foundation pit) over there, that is not going to be disturbed?

THE PRESIDENT: We are going to avoid touching it except we will have to cut off on three branches on this side about five feet off the end. That won't hurt much at all. That is a historic tree that has got to be preserved.

I am going over to the sample now. If you want to take a picture of the wall, it is all right. (Referring to the sample panels of field stone pointed up with mortar in two styles to demonstrate how the exterior of the new Library would look.)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #583,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 26, 1939, 4.07 P.M.

Q Russ Young is not working today.

THE PRESIDENT: Where is he?

Q Has a bad cold.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: You remember last spring the Congress passed an appropriation for the purchase of what they called "strategic" or critical materials that were needed in this country as stock piles. The Secretary of War and the Acting Secretary of the Navy have suggested that I call attention to the fact that there are, at the present time, a few attempts -- they have not gone beyond the attempt stage -- being made by foreign purchasers to secure stocks of some of these strategic and critical materials which are essential to American industry and materials which we do not grow or find in this country, and that the principal ones of these are crude rubber, ferro grade manganese ore, ferromanganese -- I do not know the difference -- pig tin, metallurgical chrome and several others. Obviously, we do not want to export any of these from our own stock piles because we are actually trying to increase our own stock piles.

They suggest that it ought to be sufficient, at least for the present, to call this situation to the attention of those who are in a position to control it and that will be enough to stop it.

Q Can you identify these foreign purchasers by nationality?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, sir, could you explain the workings of this ninety-day credit discretion which you have in the neutrality bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I wish I could but it is beyond my powers. I do not know anything about it.

Q Who could tell me? I have tried two Administration Senators.

THE PRESIDENT: I would try the people who are in charge of the bill.

Q I have tried two or three, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: It is a very complicated subject and I do not know enough about it to talk about it intelligently. I am sorry I cannot help you. I would if I could.

Q Could you say this: The bill has been drawn as a cash-and-carry bill. There is an extension, in your discretion, of a ninety-day credit, changing that from a title-and-carry to a credit-and-carry bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not the faintest idea. I have not, probably, near as much idea as you have.

Q I have none. We are in the dark. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot help you; I do not know.

Q Mr. President, the Assistant Secretary of War has written a foreword to a book by a man named Cherne ("Adjusting Your Business to War" by Leo M. Cherne, Executive Secretary of the Tax Research Institute of America) on war mobilization plans. Can you tell us whether that represents officially the Government's war plans?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the easiest thing to say is that I never heard about it until three-quarters of an hour ago, when the Secretary of War told me about it. I never heard of the book. There

is no book on Army, Navy or military prognostications which has the -- I think the correct word is imprimatur -- of the Administration; furthermore, that ninety per cent of all books on those subjects are written by people who know less than nothing about the subject.

Q You have never seen the book?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I never heard of it until half an hour ago.

Q In regard to these strategic materials, did you say that the foreign purchasers were trying to buy from our stocks?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, some that we have here now and, of course, we are actually trying to bring more in to add to our stock.

Q Buy our military stocks already accumulated or in the open market?

THE PRESIDENT: No, they are trying to buy in the open market, things like rubber.

Q How will that be stopped?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we hope they will stop it themselves.

Q You mean the sellers?

THE PRESIDENT: Let's put it this way: This is what I have in the memorandum and I will read it to you: (Reading)

"I believe that it will be sufficient, at least for the present, to call this undesirable situation to the attention of those who are in a position to control it."

That is all. Period, end of the paragraph.

Q The Government controls what it has already purchased?

THE PRESIDENT: Controls what?

Q The Government controls that which is being purchased now, does it not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but we have got only a drop in the bucket. We are buying rubber in exchange for certain things like wheat and lard and certain things.

Q Cotton?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Now, that is going into a Government stock pile which is being renewed from time to time. We never had a stock pile of rubber and now we are getting one.

Q The stock buyers cannot control that?

THE PRESIDENT: This, to put it in plain language, is "A word to the wise is sufficient" -- at least, we hope so.

Q Is there any authority by which the Government can conserve such stock?

THE PRESIDENT: I said, "Period, paragraph."

[Resources?]

Q When do you expect a report from your War Industries Board?

THE PRESIDENT: I believe in ten days or two weeks that their studies will be complete and I will thank them very much for having done an exceedingly good job and they will then disband.

Q Mr. President, do you envisage asking Congress to finance the \$10,000,000. which is available for buying war material stock for these strategic materials?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at this time.

Q A question arises on the possible constitutionality of what I think is the opening sentence in the neutrality law, which permits Congress to find that a state of war exists, whereupon you are compelled, theoretically under the law, to issue a proclamation. The discussion between Mr. Krock and several other newspaper writers is going back and forth --

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THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I should call it at the present time a moot question. It might come up to some Attorney General and some Supreme Court of the United States in the dim, distant days when perhaps all of us will be out of the Government or out of newspaper work or out of Washington, so do not let us worry.

Q A steamer off the eastern seaboard radioed this afternoon that it had sighted a submarine approximately off Ocean City, Maryland. Have you received that report?

THE PRESIDENT: I have received that report -- what was it? -- the I.N.S. I have nothing else from the patrols except (laughter) except a very -- I suppose we might call it a typical example of the use of the patrols. A couple of days ago, somewhere off the coast of Cuba, the patrols picked up a merchant ship, I think she was a tanker, and she had been painted gray, war gray, and her water line had been painted out. More than that, her name on the starboard and port bow had been painted out and her name on the stern had been painted out, and she was not flying any flag. Now, in time of peace or in time of war, a seagoing vessel operating under those conditions is an object of suspicion. Anybody that goes to sea knows that a ship with no name and no flag and no Plimsoll mark or anything else is an object of suspicion. So we followed her until we obtained information about her and we found out that she was proceeding on a peaceful and legitimate voyage. In other words, we ran down that case. What nationality she actually was is not my business to disclose to the Press, or what her name was or where she was headed. There was a ship acting under extraordinarily suspicious circumstances fairly close to

our own coast; we ran it down and it turned out to be nothing, a false alarm.

Q How far out was that, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, what? -- within the two thousand mile limit, something like that. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, we could not hear very well when you talked about the War Resources Board. Did you say they were going to disband after they made their report?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will there be another body to take their place?

THE PRESIDENT: They will have finished their work.

Q Will they be called back?

THE PRESIDENT: Not for the same thing. The work is done. In other words, they have graduated.

Q There is a report today from Berlin on the news wires that says that Germany is considering returning an ambassador to this country and that some overtures have been made to the American State Department.

THE PRESIDENT: That may be on the cables but there has been nothing through up to a couple of hours ago; I have not heard.

Q Did you discuss neutrality legislation with Senator Maloney today?

THE PRESIDENT: What kind of legislation?

Q Neutrality?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You would not want to elaborate on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter) And I doubt if he does too.

Q He does not.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on the widespread rumor that Maury Maverick is to receive a high appointment in the War or Navy Department?

THE PRESIDENT: No. And just off the record, I would not, if I were you.

Q Mr. President, I have a sort of double-header question. First, have you any plans for preventing profiteering in munitions if the embargo is lifted; and, second, what do you think will be the effect on our internal economy if a lot of industrial plants, which are now making things for domestic consumption, peacetime products, are geared to war trade?

THE PRESIDENT: What was the name of the book that you said had been written?

Q Cherne.

THE PRESIDENT: You had better read him.

Q He was the first one.

THE PRESIDENT: Cherne?

Q Cherne.

THE PRESIDENT: And who was the other expert, Major Fielding Eliot? You had better read them.

Q That is too much home work; much too much home work.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #584,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 29, 1939, 10.42 A.M.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Oh, look at that little sweetie! (Referring to the Red Cross doll which had been placed on the President's desk as a symbol of the Red Cross drive currently taking place.)

THE PRESIDENT: That is little Doris. (Referring to Miss Doris Fleeson)

Q That is cute.

THE PRESIDENT: Little Doris.

Q Doris?

THE PRESIDENT: Little Doris Fleeson.

Q Oh, is that Doris Fleeson? Where is she? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Earl (Mr. Godwin), I wish you would change your time.
(Referring to time on the radio)

Q (Mr. Godwin) I will fix it.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, fix it, make it 9.00 o'clock instead of 8.30.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think I have any news at all. There have been, as usual, a number of reports of the presence of submarines of unknown nationality near the Coast, but they have not been verified and that is all I can say about that.

Q Has the Neutrality Patrol sighted any tankers from which the belligerent ships might be refueled?

THE PRESIDENT: Only the tanker report I told you about the other day.

Q Mr. President, within this 300-mile zone that is proposed at Panama, would merchant ships of belligerent countries engaged in inter-American trade be protected from belligerent action?

THE PRESIDENT: That you would have to ask Panama.

Q Mr. President, does the arming of belligerent merchant ships affect their status in American ports?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better ask John Bassett Moore.

Q I don't know if that is a news question -- I did not hear it.

THE PRESIDENT: Something about international law and armed ships.

Q The Maritime Commission announced the other day the chartering of about sixteen ships to the United States Lines. Are those steps being speeded up to avoid any possible incidents at sea by Government-owned ships?

THE PRESIDENT: I heard that story myself and I don't know anything more about it than you do. My recollection is that it is an application made last March.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on the form of a neutrality bill approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is it satisfactory to you?

(The President did not answer.)

Q Do your reports show any two members on either side in agreement on the whole bill?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better go and ask up there. You cannot get me into a discussion. You might just as well quit trying. (Laughter)

Q Is there anything you care to say about that neutrality bill or anything connected with it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Any comment to make on the statement of John Hamilton (Republican National Committee Chairman) this morning objecting to the adjourn-

ing of politics?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it speaks for itself. You have read my Message.

Q Mr. President, do you plan any further comment on the suggestion of Governor Landon that the third term question should be removed from further consideration?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think not.

Q Well, I will try one, Mr. President. Do you think it is right to keep the general public from hearing the Senatorial debate on neutrality unless they get a card from a Senator? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that is the women's organization that tried to get in yesterday.

Q Oh, no; it is the general policy. No more public galleries in the Senate. You have to get a card.

THE PRESIDENT: Are they afraid of wild women?

Q I would not know. (Laughter)

Q Have you seen the War Department's mobilization plan?

THE PRESIDENT: Which one? We have had one every year since 1921.

Q It is the same one dressed up each year. This one is 1939.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not; I think the last one I saw was 1936.

Q They brought that one up to date, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Have they?

Q Have you any objection to this latest report being made public?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it does any good to make it public because, since 1921, there has been a new plan every year under the law and, after all, we are not in the war and I don't think we are going into the war and therefore I don't think it is a matter of great public interest at this time.

Q The Senate yesterday passed a Resolution asking for the enumeration of your emergency powers under the Proclamation. Can you tell us what your emergency powers are?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Attorney General has a list of all statute references and there are a good many dating back a good many years and I think he has a list of statute references, and that is all one can give. I do not think there is any more story in there.

Q Senator Bailey yesterday took up the tobacco situation with you. Would you care to say anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better ask the Secretary of Agriculture. That is why I had him in here, because it is a long, complicated thing, between bright tobacco and four or five different kinds of tobacco and what kind of tobacco is going to be used on the other side during the European War. I told them I hoped it would be better tobacco than you could buy on the other side during the World War. I had some experience with that.

Q Chairman Dies, of the House Committee investigating un-American activities, said the other day that he had reliable information that the Administration had ordered the dismissal of 2,850 known Communists and Fascists from the Federal Government payroll.

THE PRESIDENT: I am waiting either for a statement saying where the reliable information came from or a list. It is all news to me. I only saw it in the paper.

Q The report from London says that Germany and Russia are about to make a peace move and hints that we may have been approached on it. Is there anything in that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is a word in it.

Q Can you tell us now -- will you be able to tell us now whether the report of the War Resources Board will be made public?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably not, any more than they have been before.

Q The 1936 report was made public, was it not?

THE PRESIDENT: I have seen it in printed form; I do not know whether it was made public or not.

Q What, in general terms, was that War Resources Board to report about?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let us give you some examples: There was a report on the possibilities of necessary industrial expansion -- and that checkup is made from time to time -- as to the location and stepping up of industry, as to the relationship of increased production with transportation, the relationship of stepped-up production with additional power facilities and, down the line, various forms of administrative handling of stepping up industry, the relationship of industry to agriculture -- a dozen different things. There is no story in it except an effort to make a controversy out of it and there isn't any controversy.

Q How about prices?

THE PRESIDENT: How about what?

Q Prices. Does it undertake --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Prices. I do not think they have done anything more about prices than has been done in all reports for the last twenty years. We want to keep prices from going through the roof. We want to keep the cost of living down as close to the present cost of living as possible. But all of this stuff is the usual precautionary measure. I do not think there is any great interest to the American people at this time because it is based

on the thought of our being in war and we have not got that thought.

Q Maybe the frightening document might make people not want to get into war?

THE PRESIDENT: There is nothing frightening. You know, perfectly well, the Army General Staff and the Navy General Board every single year are preparing, every year in our history, I imagine for 150 years, preparing and bringing up to date defense plans. The General Board of the Army and Navy do the same thing and, from time to time, there are special boards created -- there were a good many in the last six years -- to take up phases of national defense that fit into defense plans of the United States. Now, that is literally all that is in it.

Q The report of this War Resources Board, is that report to be made to the Chief Executive or to the Joint Board?

THE PRESIDENT: It will probably go to the Board.

Q For the use of the Joint Board?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and for the use of the Chief Executive too.

Q Would the War Resources Board be recalled in the event of an emergency?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, heavens, that is such a remote and "iffy" question, I cannot answer it. I do not expect an emergency; that is the answer.

Q Would it be permissible to ask if any of your information indicates that there is a possibility of a peace move to be made now?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any idea.

Q It has been widely reported that you are trying to shift the Wages and Hours Administrator to another post and replace him with

Colonel Fleming?

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to say what I said about a week ago, that there isn't any news on that now.

Q Now.

Q Have you discussed the possible shortage of shipbuilding facilities with Navy men?

THE PRESIDENT: That is one of the things, of course, we are trying to keep up to date with all the time. We have been studying the total shipbuilding capacity of this country, not only for Navy ships but for merchant ships.

Q Have any of those studies had any bearing on the possible reopening of now idle facilities?

THE PRESIDENT: Are there any now?

Q In Philadelphia.

THE PRESIDENT: What yard is that?

Q Cramp Shipyard.

THE PRESIDENT: That is right. I suppose they have studied it, but I do not know.

Q I was wondering if they brought it to your attention?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you any week-end plans that are of interest?

THE PRESIDENT: I am going down the river tomorrow afternoon and coming back Sunday afternoon if everything is quiet tomorrow afternoon.

Q Would the creation of a safety band around Pan America require the expansion of the United States Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: That is too "iffy." I wish I could give you news but there isn't anything except speculative stuff.

Q Mr. President, who do you like in the World Series? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am -- like in the Army and Navy football game -- I
have to be entirely neutral. I know who I'd bet on, though.

Q Is that your home state pride?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Thank you, Mr. President.