

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #654

Held while the President was seated in his automobile,
immediately after leaving the Presidential Special Train
at Hyde Park Station, New York,
June 21, 1940, 9.40 A. M. E. D. S. T.

THE PRESIDENT: They said, "What did you hurry us for?" (Referring to Miss Lehand and Mr. Hopkins, seated in the car with the President, who had not known that the Press Conference was to be held.)

Did Bill (Mr. Hassett) give you those? (Referring to release which the Press was then reading, as follows:

"FOR THE PRESS IMMEDIATE RELEASE POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK
JUNE 21, 1940

"STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

"Our discussions have gone forward in regard to action designed to advance the economic relationships in the Western Hemisphere and to create new means and bases of economic cooperation among the American Republics. In some of its essential features, this program of cooperative economic action by the American Republics and possibly by other countries is being undertaken in response to new -- but, we hope, temporary -- developments in international relations. It is not intended to replace the program of reciprocal trade agreements which has been steadfastly pursued by the Government of the United States. We continue to believe that the basic principles of that program offer the most effective basis for mutually beneficial economic relations among nations, and we are determined to work, as circumstances permit, for their fullest possible application.

"The program of action now being formulated involves a proposal, which is being placed before the American Governments for their consideration, to create by mutual agreement an appropriate inter-American organization for dealing with certain basic problems of their trade relations, including an effective system of joint marketing of the important staple exports of the American Republics. We intend also to proceed promptly and vigorously through many existing agencies to deal with various immediate difficulties now facing some American Republics. Appropriate legislative proposals necessary to make possible certain of the operations in connection with the projected program will be submitted to the Congress in due course.

"These measures are a part of a program of economic defense designed to supplement our military defense program. They are

intended as a further safeguard for the peace of this Hemisphere and as a means of protecting our economy and the economies of the other American Republics from the repercussions of the disturbed international situation.")

That is just a statement about the economic thing on the American Republics report made and that is the summary of it. It is not very long. The actual report is about three pages. I think the only important thing to add to it that isn't brought out clearly in the way this was summarized is that in the second paragraph, "an effective system of joint marketing of the important staple exports of the American Republics." That means, obviously, a joint marketing of those important staples outside of the American Continent. But, unfortunately, there are some people that are crooked enough to say that this means the immediate importation of the whole Argentine beef crop and similar things. Well, of course, it does not. It means that we pool staple crops which we grow in common and get them off this continent.

Q Mr. President, can you give us anything on the mechanism by which this would be accomplished? That is, the corporate mechanism or if it would be done --

THE PRESIDENT (interposing): Yes. Probably, I should say offhand, some corporate mechanism, with representation in that from the different countries affected. That is a thing that is too early to go into detail because we would have to wait until this conference is over. In other words, if you, for example, had a series of corporations, each one dealing with a specific staple commodity, or it might be one corporation with subdivisions, each one of them dealing with a specific commodity. That is a thing I don't know yet.

Q Mr. President, you speak in here of various immediate difficulties now facing some American Republics. Could you elaborate a little on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, in the last six months the exports of meat from the Argentine, Paraguay and Brazil to Europe have fallen a very large percentage. The export of coffee from Brazil to Europe has fallen. When I say "a very large percentage", in most of those cases it is more than half. And, the same way, beef from the Argentine and wheat from the Argentine -- and cotton from the United States.

Q . Is it too early yet to say, Mr. President, what the paid-in capital of this corporation or corporations might be? We have had figures of a billion and then, also, two billion.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no; nothing like that. You see, you can add with a corporation -- you can ordinarily add anywhere from five to ten times as much volume of business as you have in your capital structure. And the total amounts of all of these crops I don't suppose runs more than two billion dollars all told.

Q Two billion, did you say?

THE PRESIDENT: That is just as a guess. That is a very rough guess.

MR. HOPKINS: It is just over a billion outside of the United States and, including us, it gets up --

THE PRESIDENT (interposing) Counting cotton it is under two billion.

Q Mr. President, is the South American debt problem to come into this picture at all -- their bonds?

THE PRESIDENT: I doubt it. I doubt it. Except, of course, it may be discussed for the simple reason that most of those countries would like to clean it up. One of their chief desires in settling the old debts -- which are not from government to government but government to private individuals -- is, in making the settlement, to have the money paid spent in the country that owes the money, and there is rather definite progress being made along that line.

Q I take it, Mr. President, that any capital involved in this plan would be United States capital?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. Oh, no. Everybody is coming in.

Q Have they got it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It is not a very large amount.

Q (Mr. Belair) Mr. President, don't look now, but Mr. Landon says your appointing of those two Republicans to your Cabinet means you won't run a third term. (Laughter) Any comment?

THE PRESIDENT: I saw all kinds of things -- all kinds of things -- this morning. If I started commenting on one, I'd have to comment on I don't know how many different things because I think the only comment I can make is what I was thinking last night after I went to bed -- and a good many other people were thinking, too -- and that was some sort of a difference between different kinds of people who really, honestly do think in terms of their patriotic motives and people who think in terms of partisan motives when a very difficult time is on. Further than that deponent saith not.

Q Can you say, Mr. President, whether those appointments yesterday just about complete your Cabinet appointment plans?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as I know.

Q Does that statement answer the general charge that you are creating a war party and a war cabinet?

THE PRESIDENT: I think from what I said I could doubt it very easily, and also what I wrote yesterday.

Q Did you happen to read an editorial in Tuesday's St. Louis Star-Times on your defense program?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Sentiment in the Middle West.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you mean to say the editorial writers assumed to speak for sentiment in the Middle West? (Laughter)

Q There seemed to be a controversy up there as to who was speaking for them. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Durno) I think we have done better than we usually do at 8.30. (Referring to E. S. T.)

THE PRESIDENT: I think, George, you are looking extraordinarily well this morning.

Q (Mr. Durno) I do, too. I planned it this way. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: It takes intestinal fortitude.

Q Mr. President, do you plan to stay the week end, if possible?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I hope not to go back until Sunday. I don't know, of course. I am always subject to call -- I never can tell. The old train will be spotted up there in Albany or Troy and ready to come down here in an hour and a half.

Q Haven't any local plans -- dedication or anything of that sort?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Anything new on the Vanderbilt property?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is all done.

Q It is except, apparently, the deed has not been passed, I don't think. Has it?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't checked. I think it has but I am not dead sure.

Q At any rate, there isn't anything to prevent it?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as I know, there isn't anything to prevent it.

Q Has the appropriation anything to do with the proposition?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the deed has been cleared. Whether it has been recorded or not, I don't know. Better ask the County Clerk.

Is there anything in line for announcement concerning Mr. Forrestal of Dillon

Read, who was a caller at the White House not so long ago?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. You have got plenty of news today.

Q Do you expect to see Colonel Stimson or Colonel Knox while here, Mr. President

THE PRESIDENT: No. They will be down just as soon as confirmed.

Miss LeHand says she is hungry.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Otherwise, I don't think there will be anything. If there is,

I will let you know.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #655,
Executive Offices of the White House,
June 25, 1940, 4.12 P. M.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, how is everything?

Q The throne (indicating the chair usually occupied by Mr. Earl Godwin) is unoccupied today, I guess.

Q Mr. President, I have been asked to give you this as a present. I do not know whether it will be of practical use to you or not.

THE PRESIDENT: Good -- Gracie Allen -- that is all right.

Q Read the first page -- not the introduction but the first page.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. I wish Gracie would put her name in it for me.

Q Her publisher brought it. Read just the first page -- not the introduction but the next.

(The President was reading)

That is the introduction, isn't it? There it is (indicating).

THE PRESIDENT: That is a new one -- "stujent." (Laughing) That is perfect.

"A complete nut." It is all right. I like them that way.

Q I will tell the publisher to get her to write her name in it.

THE PRESIDENT: I know a lot of nuts but they are not complete nuts.

Q Yes, it takes a complete one to be good.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing I have got is worked out this morning, the complete plans for the training of candidates for line officer commissions in the Naval Reserve. Steve (Mr. Early) will give you a mimeograph on this afterwards.

Roughly, it will mean the enlistment of 5,000 young men who have had a minimum of two years of college education and -- to go into the

Naval Reserve and be given, this summer and fall, a month of training at sea, similar to the routine used through the ROTC boys a good many years. At the end of this training cruise of a month, conducted on a competitive basis, selected candidates will become eligible for an appointment in the Navy as Naval Reserve Midshipmen. Thereupon, upon such appointment, they would be eligible to take a further course of three months' special instructions on shore, leading to qualifications for commissions as ensigns in the Volunteer Reserve for general line duty. These midshipmen, during their three months' course, would receive the same pay and allowances as midshipmen at the Naval Academy and the three-months' special course after the cruise could, of course, be deferred if the young man had to go back and finish college. He could take it next spring or, in the event of national emergency, leave college and take it then. In other words, it doesn't have to follow, of necessity, after the training cruise.

We are making available three battleships in the Atlantic for this cruise. It will begin about the middle of July and run different classes of them until the middle of January next. They would be given a regular training in gunnery, navigation, engineering, communications, standing watch and so forth, and they will be paid their railway fare and get free board and lodging, together with food, with their necessary uniforms, books and equipment. They would not receive regular pay on this cruise, not until they were selected to be midshipmen and took the 90-day shore course.

The first 90-day course for the first batch who finish the month's cruise would be conducted on the USS ILLINOIS at New York, starting about the middle of August and, in case the number of applicants for this instruction exceeds the capacity of the ILLINOIS, we would give further

instruction, first in the Chicago area, second in the California area and fourth (third) in the Gulf Coast, the New Orleans area.

Also, next February we will have room at the Naval Academy because of the graduation of the class of 1941 in February. We will have room for 500 Naval Reserve midshipmen for the three-months' course there.

Those who graduate from this 90-day course will be given commissions as ensigns, Volunteer Naval Reserve, and, of course, then will be eligible for -- as long as we have a limited national emergency -- for service on active duty in the fleet, with full pay and allowances, just like the many Reservists who are now already on active duty.

They have to be American born, nineteen to twenty-six years old, and they have to be unmarried. They have to present abstracts of college records and recommendations from responsible citizens. If they are under twenty-one, they have to get the consent of their legal guardian and the physical requirements are the same as those for Naval Academy graduates.

Applicants may begin on Friday, June twenty-eighth, three days from now, and apply at headquarters in any Naval District or Naval Reserve Unit or Navy Recruiting Station nearest home to make out their application forms and take the physical examination.

Well, that is about all there is to it. Steve (Mr. Early) will give you the same thing, mimeographed.

Q Isn't that substantially the same program as you started in 1917?

THE PRESIDENT: Practically the same thing, yes.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the movement of the Fleet from Hawaii?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No news.

Q Is there any thought being given to establishing a South American Squadron of the Fleet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q There has been some draft legislation introduced on the Hill. Would you care to say anything about the advisability of that step at this time?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think that I can say anything more on it than that it is in the study stage and, of course, on various lines of it we are moving ahead, like on this training course for officer material in the Navy. But, on the general subject, we are still studying it.

Q Thank you.

Q Mr. President, there seems to be a little confusion about this Fleet movement. Secretary Hull, in his Press Conference at 12.30, was asked about the matter and he said that at that hour the State Department's information was that the Fleet was still in Hawaiian water.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there is no news at the White House. (Laughter)

Q The story is being carried that Secretary Perkins is resigning, effective July 1. Is that correct?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I have been reading that for almost every first of July since 1933. I guess it falls into the same category as the previous stories.

Q Is the Postmaster General going to resign?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I had not even heard that one. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, is there anything you would like to say on Governor Stassen's speech last night?

THE PRESIDENT: Not on the record. (Laughter)

Q Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I wish -- this is off the record and just between us -- somebody gave me an excerpt from a story written by a very good friend of ours, an old friend of ours. I have not read the speech -- I wish everybody in the country would read it, though, and see whether they interpret the speech the way Ray Clapper did. I would really like to

have a cross section to see whether the country -- don't write all this stuff down, this is off the record --

Q (interposing) Sometimes you put it back on.

THE PRESIDENT: -- to see whether the country as a whole, on reading the speech, agrees with Ray's interpretation because I think it is a joy. It says this: "Ray Clapper says in his column today, 'Governor Stassen pointed out the challenge of the hour called for the Republican Party to rise above narrow partisanship.' He goes on and says, 'Governor Stassen was not merely stringing words together when he said it is the duty of the Republican Party to place the future of this country above all other considerations, including the desire to win.'"

Well, all I can say is that if Ray is right, it is the most extraordinary event in American politics in the last 150 years.

Q Mr. President, doesn't Governor Al Smith have a word for that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he had several words for it.

Q Would you reconsider your construction that that should be off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no; that is off the record. (Laughter) In other words, that is talking about a member of the family and we do not do that on the record.

Q Are you ready, Mr. President, to announce any more Executive Assistants, or rather, Administrative Assistants?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Would it be desirable for the national defense, in your opinion, that the 1917 statute, which prevented your carrying out of this torpedo boat thing, would be repealed?

THE PRESIDENT: You do not mean torpedo boat, you mean motor launches. It is an entirely different thing.

Well, of course, that is a matter of opinion. It seems to me it

would have been a damned good deal, from the point of view of national defense, to put through. Obviously. In other words, instead of getting these twenty small boats in the course of this summer, with an inadequate torpedo, of which we have very few, by delaying the deliveries a few months, we would get a much better boat with a standard torpedo. Well, there, of course, it is always a question of judgment. I think, from the point of view of the Navy and national defense, it would have been a damned good trade.

Q Do you think any of the officers of the Navy might try to bring the Senate and House Committees around to that point of view?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. It is just a matter of common sense, I should say. As you know, I am supposed to be a pretty good horse trader.

Q Mr. President, what progress is being made on the inter-American economic development -- cooperation?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean on this --

Q (Interposing) The program you spoke about last week.

THE PRESIDENT: The program I talked about on Friday up at Hyde Park?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they are going ahead with it. I talked this morning with the Secretary of Agriculture and Milo Perkins about it. I suppose we will have something in the course of the next week or two on it that is fairly definite.

Q You are not going to extend the stamp plan to South America, Mr. President?
(Laughter)

Q Have you had any reports from Knudsen on the progress of procurement planning you can tell us about?

THE PRESIDENT: Not since I saw him last Thursday. He seemed satisfied we are making pretty good progress -- he did then.

Q Is there any possibility this Government might withdraw its recognition of the French Government at Bordeaux?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard anything about it, one way or the other.

Q Will any consideration be given to recognizing the French Government that has not surrendered?

THE PRESIDENT: Same thing; I have not heard anything about it.

Q Are you planning to ask for an expanded health program as part of the national defense plan?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. On the question of health -- in other words, you put it the wrong way.

Q All right; you put it right.

THE PRESIDENT: It is still, again, in the study stage. We are making national defense plans that relate to health and education. Well, I always remember, for example, in the World War there were a number of communities that suddenly doubled, tripled or quadrupled in population. In other words, new munition plants were put up in these existing communities and workmen moved in there, in many cases with their families -- wife and number of children -- and the Government went ahead, because this thing had not been sufficiently planned for, and put up houses for these people to live in, and sort of trusted to the community and God for the necessary health and educational facilities. Well, in some cases the communities, because they were fairly large, were able to provide those facilities and, in other cases, the community did not, and there was a great deal of trouble. There were not enough schools to take care of the children and the additional population and, in the same way, there were not enough hospital facilities to take care of the additional population.

So we are studying the best way of setting up -- I won't call it a program, but a plan which could be put into effect in case of need, by

which, where there were any new plants or movements of population from one place to another, we would be able to take care of the health of the people who come into those new places and, at the same time, take care of the education of the children belonging to those people.

Then, of course, there is a further step on the health end of it, which is the surveying and the working out of a plan in case there should be an epidemic of large proportions. We all know that in the history of things wars that cover very large areas are often followed by epidemics of one kind or another. With the help of the three medical Services of the Government -- Public Health, the Army Medical and the Navy Medical -- and with the help of the American Medical Association and, I suppose, other groups of doctors and hospitals, we are working out a complete survey of the facilities and needs and ways of meeting them to take care of anything like a general epidemic in better shape than we were able to take care of the flu epidemic in 1918, because we made practically no preparations for that flu epidemic.

Q Any ideas of a permanent tax program, now that the Tax Bill has been signed?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Any information on a permanent tax program?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is anything on that. I have signed the Tax Bill.

Q There won't be anything further?

THE PRESIDENT: There won't be anything further until I talk to some of the people next week, when they get back.

Q Can you tell us about your conference yesterday with Mayor LaGuardia?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we talked about everything, including the kitchen stove.

Q Any possibility that Mr. LaGuardia might appear ultimately in your Cabinet?

THE PRESIDENT: We did not talk about that (laughter) so that is an exception.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #656,
Executive Offices of the White House,
June 28, 1940, 10.50 A. M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am sorry to be late this morning but I tried to get downstairs and the elevator was not working. Somebody had turned the power off and I hope it is not a connotation of what happened in Philadelphia last night (referring to the nomination of Wendell Willkie by the Republican Convention at Philadelphia). (Laughter)

Another step in the defense program: Donald M. Nelson has been appointed Coordinator of National Defense Purchases. In association with the National Defense Advisory Commission, he will be responsible for coordinating all purchases of various Government agencies that may be involved in the defense program.

And then Steve (Mr. Early) has outside for you a page and a half release showing the various details of this purchasing coordination.

So, what else? I have asked Dan Tobin to be an Administrative Assistant and he is coming down Sunday afternoon to talk it over with me.

I think that is all.

Q Will Mr. Tobin be in charge of any specific functions in case he accepts?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no; general handy man.

Somebody will probably ask the question: We had this meeting yesterday of the four Cabinet officers who have been working in their departments on the economic problem of the American Republics. We made further progress yesterday and I have asked -- I have not actually asked him yet, I am going to in a few minutes -- Jim Forrestal to act as my legs and ears on the coordinating of this particular program -- just for me.

I think that is all I have got.

Q Mr. President, any indication of when that may be ready for submission to the American Republics?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we are working on it very hard. I cannot give you any specific time or specifications on it. We are making good progress.

Q On that, there have been some reports that the original corporation idea has been abandoned. Anything in that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well -- still haven't got to it yet. I do not think so. You would have to have some corporate entity to handle it.

Q Along that line, it is also reported that there may be several corporations to deal with different commodities such as wheat and coffee?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is a matter of pure detail that is not the least bit important. That is machinery. Nobody knows. It is a matter of convenience more than anything else.

Q Do you have any preliminary reactions from the other governments in a very general way as to their idea of this thing?

THE PRESIDENT: I would say very general interest.

Q Could you give us anything as to the raw materials which may be involved besides agricultural products?

THE PRESIDENT: Everything.

Q Everything?

THE PRESIDENT: Agricultural and mineral and vegetable and animal.

Q Mr. President, in the absence of May Craig, could I ask if you would like to discuss politics this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. I have been very busy on other things.

Q Did you have any thought of getting in touch with Mr. Willkie on a common approach to foreign affairs?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I would be very glad to talk to him if he wants to talk about it, naturally.

Q Is there any news of the Fleet movement yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Of what?

Q The Fleet movement?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no news at all. (Laughter)

Q When might we expect some news on the Fleet, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q Have you any idea of where it is? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if you mean by latitude and longitude, no.

Q Would you go so far as to say, Mr. President, that it is still in the Pacific Ocean?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know we have been working on -- we have been working to see if we could not develop lots of wings and put them on battleships so that they would be able to fly across the Continent just the same way we have been working on the beautiful suggestion that came from out of Colorado that we dig a tunnel through the Rocky Mountains so we could ship the Fleet from ocean to ocean.

Q Mr. President, do you contemplate using the powers referred to in your Proclamation of yesterday to take vessels or to detain such vessels as the NORMANDIE in American waters?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think the way to explain that is merely the fact that under that Proclamation any foreign flag ship that there is any question about would be held for clearance by Washington. It makes it easier for the different local people in different harbors. It enables them to hold the ship, if there is any question, until they get some kind of clearance from Washington, and that is the only objective, really, of the Proclamation. Each case is determined on its own merits.

Q Mr. President, I notice that the Espionage Act, under which the Proclamation was issued, begins "Whenever the President by Proclamation or Executive

Order declares a national emergency to exist, he has such and such powers."

Has that finding been made?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You had better ask the Attorney General. All I got was clearance from the Attorney General. I do not know the details.

Q (Mr. Belair) He ain't talking. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, reports persist around the War Department that the Army is drafting a new request for authorizations and funds that might run into very large figures. Has such a program been brought to your attention?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the only way to explain that is this: that when new production facilities are created, it is cheaper in the long run to give a sufficiently large order to keep them going, at least for a while. That is the thing that is being determined at the present time, whether in some particular fields of procurement, or production, it would not really save us money if we increased the orders now so as to give assurance to industry, on the planning end, that they, at least, will get part of their money back through a larger order, so that they take less risk of making a pretty heavy loss.

Now, that may involve a request for additional appropriations for these particular things that may be involved in it, with the feeling that it will pay to do it in the long run.

Q Figures have been mentioned in that connection that run into the billions of dollars, sir. Do you think it will run --

THE PRESIDENT (interposing): I have no idea from preliminary studies on it. It might -- well, just for example, on airplanes it might mean actually ordering more planes than we have got appropriations for at the present time, working toward the objective of 50,000 even though it did not reach the whole 50,000. It is a matter of study as to how many more we ought to order, and good business principles in order to break even.

Q Does the plan for coordination of purchases extend to the purchases of American and foreign governments, or is it only our own?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is only our own.

Q Mr. President, you said the other day --

THE PRESIDENT (interposing): Well, of course actually it does work in because on the foreign government purchases, that clears through the Treasury and the Procurement Officer of the Treasury coordinates that with this Coordinator.

Q Mr. President, have you got anything to say on the cooperation of industry in expanding our defense program?

THE PRESIDENT: All I can say is that yesterday, at the Council meeting, everybody seemed to be extremely happy and to be making extremely good progress and they were very well satisfied with the way industry is coming forward.

Q How is your Hyde Park Library coming, sir? Are you going to dedicate it on the Fourth of July?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. The dedication of that -- this is not the time to dedicate. The dedication will be deferred until next spring when we are hoping to have the exhibits in place and to admit the public. You see, today it is just an empty building. But we may, on the Fourth of July, have the legal procedure of turning it over to the Government from the Corporation. I won't go into any more details because it is a good story for later on.

Q We could use it up there.

Q Have you authorized the National Defense Council to take over the new Social Security Board building and the Railroad Retirement Board building?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; yes. In other words, we have asked the Social Security and what is the other one?

Q Railroad Retirement.

THE PRESIDENT: Railroad Retirement to stay in Baltimore and not move into Washington because we need their space.

Q We did not get the answer back here to that question on authorization. Has a state of national emergency been declared?

THE PRESIDENT: I told Felix (Mr. Belair) he would have to ask the Attorney General.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: And Felix says the Attorney General won't say anything, so I don't know. (Laughter)

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q (Mr. Belair) I tried him.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a new one on me.