

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #668,  
Held in the Study of the President's Home,  
at Hyde Park, New York,  
August 9, 1940, 11.00 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Doris (Miss Fleeson), how are you?

Q (Miss Fleeson) Fine, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Coons) Good morning.

Q (Mr. Coons) Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: How are you getting on?

Q (Mr. Coons) All right.

THE PRESIDENT: I have been looking at your programs lately; they are pretty good.

Q (Mr. Coons) Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: I was just saying to Bill (Mr. Hassett) I do not know a single thing I have got. I haven't anything at all in the way of news.

Q Did you and Mr. Wallace (Secretary Wallace) decide the date on which he would accept the nomination?

THE PRESIDENT: The twenty-ninth.

Q At Des Moines, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Did you make any plans for after that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, and I did not hold any conference.

Q You think Wallace might resign shortly after the twenty-ninth?

THE PRESIDENT: Just as I told you before, whenever he starts off on any campaign trip. We do not know that either.

Q Mr. President, we have a report in Washington, apparently from State Department sources, this morning that the Administration is abandoning

the cartel plan. Is that based on fact?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of except that the "cartel plan" is a misnomer on it and the general objective has not been changed.

Q Methods for reaching the objective been changed?

THE PRESIDENT: They are still working on it. It is one of those things. You never could use it didactically.

Q I couldn't, Mr. President. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, it doesn't go with the news. The style is wrong. I do not know what another word for it is.

Q Mr. President, as that thing stands now, we have the credits that are to be extended under that special Act (relating to financing of credits by the R.F.C.) and will that, do you think, be complemented by similar financial backing from the other American countries, or --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think so.

Q Ours is \$500,000,000.?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Of course each case stands on its own feet. There would probably be no two cases that are exactly similar in method. That is all right. Anybody can write that. It is the same idea.

Q Emanating from Willkie's headquarters in the last few days have been several interesting stories about the Hatch Act. Mr. Willkie, yesterday or the day before, said that in his opinion the Act should call for registration of assets of a man when he enters the Presidency and the same registration when he leaves. Have you any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: None at all except that I am a poorer and a wiser man than when I went to Albany in 1928. That is the easiest way of putting it.

Q Are you gratified that Mr. Willkie likes the New Deal farm program?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I had not read it.

Q He said at Des Moines he did.

Q We are not making much progress. (Laughter) What is the name of your new dog, the Scottie you had in the car?

THE PRESIDENT: His name is Falla. He is named after one of the Scotch ancestors. He was a delightful gentleman by the name of Murray (?), the outlaw of Falla Hill. So this dog will be Murray (?), the Outlaw of Falla Hill. He is named Falla for short.

Q Why was he outlawed?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I guess most of the old Scotchmen got outlawed in those days. I do not think it was unusual.

Q Mr. President, is there anything new to report in the arrangements of the Library?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except the stuff is coming in. We had a vanload Wednesday night and I have been spending spare moments in trying to sort the material, because some of it is purely family personal material, which does not go to the Government.

Q Is there any possibility --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Of course the great bulk goes to the Government.

Q -- any possibility of your inspecting defense bases on the West Coast sometime this summer?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that would violate one of the absolute essentials and that is that I have to be within very easy striking distance of Washington at all times under present conditions. In other words, what I am trying to do is never to be more, if I can help it, than twelve or fourteen hours from Washington. Things happen so fast it is not safe.

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HdS

Q Has Secretary Knox arrived yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No, he is coming up this afternoon and we will have a full shipload. Oh, I will tell you who is coming up with him and going to be on the train and going down on the POTOMAC: Bill Donovan (Colonel William Donovan), so he can tell me what he found on the other side when he went over. I have not seen him yet but he will not -- he will get off the boat (the POTOMAC) tomorrow afternoon. There is no bunk for him.

Q Can you give us any indication of the nature of Donovan's mission abroad?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot and he won't tell you.

Oh, I will tell you what! Here is a lovely human interest story for you: On the way down from Portsmouth to Boston, I hope to stop in -- not "off" but "in" at the little cove at Nahant and see my youngest grandchild for the first time.

Q What is the child's name?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven.

Q Mr. President, are you likely to make any informal remarks at any of these various stops on the trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so, any more than I did at the Norfolk Navy Yard. I said, "Thank you very much; everything looks lovely."

Q We had a pretty good story down there, sir.

Q Make it nine months this time.

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

THE PRESIDENT: George, are you exhausted already! (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Durno) I am not really trying.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot think of another thing.

Q I notice in the accounts of the conscription vote yesterday that Senator

McNary voted for the amendment which would have restricted the National Guard operations to the Continental United States. Have you any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Frankly, I just barely glanced at it. The story I saw did not say that. It said, "Continental United States and American possessions," didn't it?

Q Yes, sir.

Q Perhaps so.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a very different thing.

Q It excluded --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q The intent was to exclude South America.

THE PRESIDENT: Central and South America. There are the Philippines, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands. Of course the simple answer to it is this: In terms of betting odds, it is a hundred to one that they would never leave the United States or American possessions, but to restrict -- but one little restriction of that kind might tie up something in a very great emergency, some temporary thing in a great emergency. It is not a matter of any great public interest with these odds of literally about a hundred to one -- not five to one or ten to one but a hundred to one.

Q Mr. President, have we ever sent the regular Army or the National Guard outside of the United States except after the declaration of war?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe we have and I see no reason for doing it.

Q In 1916 the regular Army went to Mexico, did it not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and I do not know whether there is any power to send them (National Guard units) to Mexico or not. I think some units of

the Guard did.

Q They went to the Border.

THE PRESIDENT: That was the Villa expedition. They marched right in and turned around and marched right out again.

Q They just did Border duty, the National Guard?

THE PRESIDENT: Did they?

Q They have always referred to it as that.

THE PRESIDENT: I think some of the National Guard units actually went into Mexico and there wasn't any declaration of war at that time.

Q The War Department reports that they did not and that they did not even use them to maintain supply lines between the regular Army unit that went across and the Guardsmen who stayed behind.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we are all guessing.

Q Do you expect, Mr. President, to get up to see the Troop Maneuvers around Plattsburg?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know yet. The next trip isn't even planned on.

Q (Miss Fleeson) Go during August because my daughter is in camp near there. So if you go, go this month, so that I can see her.

THE PRESIDENT: Where is she?

Q (Miss Fleeson) Mountain View, near Malone.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's right in the middle of it. I will try to work that, Doris.

Q Thanks.

THE PRESIDENT: The only date I have ahead I think is the thirty-first of August, a Saturday, for the annual meeting of the Roosevelt Home Club on Mr. Moses Smith's lawn.

Q (Mr. Durno) Those are some meetings.

THE PRESIDENT: And then I am going to try -- I haven't got any date yet -- sometime in September to go down and carry out that thing we planned -- how many times before? -- the dedication of the Great Smoky Mountains Park.

Q Didn't we do that once? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: We tried to three times and then another Nation fell and we had to give it up.

Q Mr. President, reports out of Shanghai this morning say that Great Britain is withdrawing her troops from the international area there --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Did they really?

Q -- which would leave the French Marines and the American Marines as the sole guardians of the international concession. Would such a movement have any effect on our policies over there?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea. I couldn't answer the question.

Q Are you having any local callers today?

THE PRESIDENT: I am having Mrs. Maud Smith Rundall, District Superintendent of Schools, from Amenia, New York.

Q Any special purpose for her visit?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I suppose it is to talk over the opening of the three famous Hyde Park new schools.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about the plan to bring refugee children to the United States? The Senate has passed that bill.

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't anything new. They were here, spending the night, the Clarence Picketts. I hope to see them now. They were spending the night with Mrs. Roosevelt and I haven't seen them. They got in awfully late last night. It is the Friends -- the American Friends.

Q The News protested editorially against merely bringing British children and suggested refugee children from the other nations?

THE PRESIDENT: It is not a question of theory. It is entirely a question of practicability and safety, which I have kept repeating.

We got on the air -- I think it was day before yesterday -- that story of a British ship having been sunk with children. Well, apparently it was not true. But nobody, no government, wants to take the responsibility of loading a ship with refugee children and taking them through that war zone unless, first, the safe conduct was obtained and, secondly, there was a reasonable assurance it (the safe conduct) would be lived up to.

Q (Mr. Durno) Do you want me to say "Thank you" again?

THE PRESIDENT: I think George has got a date. I do not know what it is but he obviously has a date.

Q To play golf.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we will all meet on the train tonight and I do not know what arrangements have been made to go down from Portsmouth to Boston.

Q Train.

THE PRESIDENT: It will take me five or five and a half hours so you will have plenty of time.

Q They have a lovely arrangement. We take the bus at six, so we have to get up at five A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Where is that?

Q Providence, Rhode Island.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't see why. I assure you I am not going ashore until ten o'clock. I do not see why you have to do that. It is silly. I won't go ashore until a quarter of ten at the earliest because in two

hours I can see everything there is at Newport.

Q Including the --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) There is no hurry. So, if you figure to get down there at half past nine, there will be plenty of time.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Press Conference #669,  
Held just prior to leaving the Watertown,  
Massachusetts, Arsenal,  
August 10, 1940, 5.15 P.M.**

(Note: The President had left Hyde Park on Friday, August 9, 1940, at 9.30 P.M., E.S.T. He arrived at Portsmouth, N.H., early in the morning and, following an inspection tour lasting about one hour, he left Portsmouth on the U.S.S. POTOMAC and arrived at the Boston Navy Yard shortly before 3.00 P.M., D.S.T., where he debarked. During his tour of inspection at the Navy Yard, he stopped briefly alongside the CONSTITUTION and then at the fitting shop where, in response to three cheers from the workmen assembled there, he said, "It is like the old days."

From the Boston Navy Yard the President and his party motored over to the Watertown Arsenal, arriving at about 3.40 P.M. He was met at the Arsenal by Colonel Roland Case, commanding the Arsenal. He inspected and there was demonstrated to him the operation of the 37 mm. antiaircraft carriage and gun and the new 90 mm. antiaircraft gun. He then motored through the machine shops and assembly lines where there were, in course of construction, a railway carriage for carrying an 8-inch gun, the emplacement for an 8-inch gun, and an emplacement for a 16-inch gun. Superintendent Fowler explained to the President the various operations being conducted in the machine shops.

During the entire trip there were seated in the President's car Secretary Knox and Senator Walsh of Massachusetts.

The Conference with the Press took place just prior to leaving the Watertown Arsenal.)

**THE PRESIDENT:** Well, what is the news?

**Q** We are seeing quite a lot.

**Q** We are impressed.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Well, I was telling Colonel Knox that I had not been here in Watertown Arsenal since I was a sophomore in college and I knew one of the majors here, and his family, and I used to come out occasionally and dine. There has been a tremendous expansion, of course, since then. I was very glad to know that the Arsenal is running about 75 per cent of total capacity.

COLONEL CASE: About 75 per cent.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and building up all the time. And what you saw speaks for itself, those new types of guns.

Of course you saw the (Portsmouth) Navy Yard this morning. They are working also nearly to capacity and I do not think there is anything more to say about it.

Q Any extraneous questions permissible?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. You can always try.

Q (Mr. Durno) Did you see the statement made by Mr. Willkie this morning to the effect that certain persons had approached him suggesting an agreement between you and himself on international policy and he thought --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It was in the morning papers?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen the papers since yesterday.

Q Will you say whether anyone connected with the Administration has approached Mr. Willkie on matters of foreign policy?

THE PRESIDENT: I just said I hadn't read any papers since yesterday morning so I cannot discuss it.

Q Have you and Mr. Knox anything to say about Mr. Donovan's (Colonel William J. Donovan's) mission to Europe?

SECRETARY KNOX: May I answer the question?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

SECRETARY KNOX: He went over as my eyes and ears to see what he could find.

Q Anything to say, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you see it is his mouth.

Q Your eyes and ears and Colonel Donovan's mouth? (Laughter).

Q Mr. President, as a matter of human interest, what about the grandchild?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. A grand grandchild.

SECRETARY KNOX: But he could not get it to smile.

THE PRESIDENT: It is the first time.

Q The grandchild must be a born Republican. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That was the first time he has ever been on a ship.

Q Was he?

THE PRESIDENT: He came out to the POTOMAC.

Q How old is he?

THE PRESIDENT: Two months.

Q My goodness, two months and never been on a ship?

Q Is Mr. Murphy going to be the next Governor of New Hampshire?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my Lord! Why can't you cut out politics and talk about something else? You know I don't say anything about local politics.

I do not believe there is any other news. You have seen just as much as I have.

Q There is a story from Washington that the Secretary of Commerce is going to resign?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no, that is just probably a Washington rumor.

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: It sounds like it.

Q It happens to be a radio rumor and not a press rumor.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that is all right. (Turning to a representative of the Columbia Broadcasting Company) You heard that?

Q This is not a rumor -- Mr. Farley is going to sell Coca-Cola.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I always drink it in Georgia. You know, it is a funny thing -- this is off the record -- I love Coca-Cola in the South -- I love it in the South and don't like it in the North. Isn't that funny? Gosh, down in the South -- you have seen that.

Q Can we quote whether you drink it in Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because you see the Pepsi-Cola people might object and I cannot play favorites.

Q Mr. President, I am asked to inquire whether you are satisfied with what you saw?

THE PRESIDENT: Very much. Very much. Going along awfully well. I am very well pleased with everything that I saw today, starting with Portsmouth and the Boston Navy Yard and then at Watertown Arsenal. It shows we are really getting into our stride. I hope by late fall, in all the Government Navy yards and arsenals we will be in full production because the cheapest way to produce war materials is to run at full production -- that is right -- so we save money by doing it.

Q By that do you mean three ships, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends entirely on the thing being made. Sometimes it is cheaper not to, on certain articles, and sometimes it is cheaper to do it. It depends on the article.

COLONEL CASE: That is right. At times there are certain departments in which it is best to run three full shifts and other departments where you cannot do it.

THE PRESIDENT: For instance, at the Navy Yard the third shift is

being run primarily to speed up the bottlenecks, that is to say,  
the bottleneck element in the construction of any one given thing.

That is right?

COLONEL CASE: That is right.

THE PRESIDENT: Kannee's wrist is getting tired, so let's quit.

Q Right.

THE PRESIDENT: Right. I will see you Monday morning.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference #670 (first session),  
Held in front of the U.S.S. CONSTELLATION,  
at the U. S. Naval Training Station, Newport, R.I.,  
August 12, 1940,

(Note: The President disembarked from the U.S.S. POTOMAC at 10.00 A.M. at the Torpedo Station. Following his inspection of the Torpedo Station, he boarded a Naval launch and transferred to the U. S. Naval Training Station. At the Training Station he viewed the new construction work (barracks, et cetera) going on, thence over to Coddington Point (Coaster Island) to inspect the expansion possibilities. The President then motored back to the Naval Training Station and his car stopped in front of the War College where the officers and enlisted men were drawn up for review. Following the review the President motored to a position in front of the U.S.S. CONSTELLATION where this Press Conference was held. Accompanying the President in his car were Secretary Knox, Senator Walsh and Admiral Kalbfus. When his car was alongside the CONSTELLATION, the President was greeted by Captain John Davis (USN, Ret.), in command of the CONSTELLATION. In the course of his conversation with the President, Captain Davis, in the hearing of the Press, asked the President to put the CONSTELLATION into commission. The President turned to Captain Callaghan:)

THE PRESIDENT: Dan, we have a request that the CONSTELLATION should be put into commission. It is pure fiction; it does not cost any more to carry her as a commissioned ship.

CAPTAIN DAVIS: Pretty soon I will be sixty-four and do not know whether you will put me back on the shelf again.

THE PRESIDENT: Not these days.

Q Mr. President, how did your visit impress you?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. Fine. It carries me back to 1917 when, you people of Newport remember, we made this one of the main training centers for the increase in Navy personnel, and we are doing it again. It is a very excellent way. You saw those boys in review. It was a very good showing.

Q The Torpedo Station, Mr. President, do you want to comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: It is well up to schedule.

Q Do you plan to further expand it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there are certain physical limitations there.

It has been, of course, a good deal expanded. The main point is to keep it running maximum capacity.

Q How about this Coddington Point?

THE PRESIDENT: When we get all this finished it will be up to all we need. That will be about a thousand more men, roughly.

ADMIRAL KALBFUS: Yes, a thousand more men.

Q Any new appropriations likely to be recommended in the near future for Newport?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we are spending an awful lot of money now. I cannot look much further ahead than that.

Q You have 4500 at work there now at the Torpedo Station.

Q The Captain said 4100 in that handout (he gave us).

Q How many recruits (at the Naval Training Station)?

THE PRESIDENT: Nearly 2,000.

CAPTAIN WALSH: 2100 right now.

THE PRESIDENT: And with the new capacity we will get up to 3,000.

Q Did you spend the night in the Bay (Narragansett Bay)?

THE PRESIDENT: We got in here about 1.00 o'clock in the morning.

Q Any luck fishing yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, got lots of fish.

Q Did you fish yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: Not officially.

Q Were you in contact with Mr. Astor's yacht at all --

THE PRESIDENT: (speaking contemporaneously with and not in response

to the question) But the Senator, you see, and the Secretary of the Navy, by mistake they caught some "litty, bitty" mackerel. It was purely an accident.

Q What did you catch?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I hounded them on. Because we had no food on board, we had to catch something for breakfast.

Q There was a story in the paper yesterday that the workers at the Electric Boat Company are going to present a protest to you on giving contracts to a concern under fire from the Labor Board. Do you expect to meet any delegation down there?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. They have a perfect right to do it if they want to, and it will be looked into.

Q This your first trip to Newport?

THE PRESIDENT: What? -- (Laughter)

Q I mean, in recent years?

Q It is the first in six years.

Q Somebody said it was the first President this century that has visited Newport.

THE PRESIDENT: I was here for the cup races in 1934.

Q I meant, on shore?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not go ashore, no. Yes, I was here for the cup races in 1934 and passed by the mouth of Narragansett Bay several times since.

Q Presumably you were here during the war as Assistant Secretary of the Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: Off the record, I built the damned place.

Q We could find no record last night of any other President visiting

Newport.

SENATOR GREEN (of Rhode Island): Washington visited Newport.

Q Teddy Roosevelt came here as a candidate in 1912.

THE PRESIDENT: Really?

SENATOR GREEN: George Washington visited Newport.

THE PRESIDENT: Did Coolidge come here on the MAYFLOWER at any time?

SENATOR GREEN: I know President Arthur came.

Q Your memory would be pretty good. That is probably the last visit of a President.

THE PRESIDENT: That is very interesting.

Q That would be in the 1880's somewhere.

Q You are not going to stop at Quonset?

THE PRESIDENT: I will just sail by.

Q Is that (referring to a rectangular piece of wood taken from the CONSTELLATION, with a suitably engraved plate thereon, which had been presented by Captain John Davis) going on the Presidential desk at the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: That is going into the Library at Hyde Park with pieces of timber from quite a lot of other ships. It is the first one I have had from the CONSTELLATION. It will be in the Naval Museum up there (at Hyde Park).

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Press Conference #670 (second session),  
 Held while the President was seated in his car,  
 parked alongside of the Presidential Special Train,  
 at the Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut,  
 August 12, 1940, 6.00 P.M., E.D.S.T.

(Note: Following the President's inspection of the Naval Training Station at Newport, R.I., the President boarded the POTOMAC via Naval launch, the Press being embarked on a destroyer which at first followed and then preceded the President's boat in order to disembark the Press before the President's arrival at the Submarine Base. During the cruise from Newport to New London the President watched the maneuvers of a number of submarines.

The President, following disembarkation from the POTOMAC, inspected the Submarine Base. Seated with the President in his car were Governor Baldwin, Senator Maloney and Commander Jensen. The President looked at a number of submarines, including the newly commissioned TAUTOG.

Following the inspection of the Submarine Base, the President motored to the nearby shipyard of the Electric Boat Company, arriving there at 5.30 P.M., E.D.S.T. He was met at the plant by Mr. L. Y. Spear, Vice President of the Electric Boat Company, and Mr. O. P. Robinson, General Manager of the yard. The President was shown a number of submarines under construction, including several which were evidently in the last stages of completion. Just prior to leaving the shipyard, Secretary Knox got into the President's car. The party then proceeded back to the Submarine Base, where the Press Conference was held.)

THE PRESIDENT: Who got seasick?

Q Not one of us. A

THE PRESIDENT: Will you guarantee it? You (speaking to Mr. Durno)  
 are the dean of them all.

Q Not the oldest.

THE PRESIDENT: (turning to Miss Fleeson) When did you come out on  
 the ship?

Q (Miss Fleeson) Fine; it was grand.

THE PRESIDENT: You know it is against the law for a lady to ride  
 a Navy ship?

Q (Miss Fleeson) It took me a long time to get that over, but I finally got on one.

THE PRESIDENT: You see it can be done.

Q This is going to swell our (expense) accounts terribly, putting in for that boat trip today.

THE PRESIDENT: I know it. Those destroyers, you take them by the hour. Were the photographers on board too?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't any news. I have been talking with Governor Baldwin and also this morning with Bill Vanderbilt in regard to this question of organizing a State Guard to take the place of the National Guard when and if they are called into training service. Governor Baldwin tells me an interesting thing, that under an unusual statute they already have the nucleus of a State Guard, which they are already expanding.

Q That is in addition to a National Guard?

THE PRESIDENT: That is in addition to a National Guard.

GOVERNOR BALDWIN: We already have two companies in camp.

THE PRESIDENT: That's very good. As far as I know, it is the only state that has done it.

Well, you have seen the progress here and of course it is, still again, in the development stage. We are not up to 100 per cent. We are getting there fast. Over at the Electric Boat Company they are making plans for about twice as many submarines as they have ever built before.

Q How many will that be? Did they give you any idea?

THE PRESIDENT: They have an objective of getting out one a month, if

Senator Maloney gets them enough money.

SENATOR MALONEY: Senator Maloney will.

THE PRESIDENT: That is their production objective.

Q Any aviation at Newport?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We went by and looked at it (Quonset) through the glass, that new Quonset Point which, of course, is in the preliminary stage, but it looks like a good location and I imagine -- I am not dead sure -- that some of the contracts have been let or are about to be let for Quonset Point.

Can you think of anything else? I can't.

Q Any politics today, Mr. President?

(The President did not respond.)

Q No?

THE PRESIDENT: None at all. (Laughter) Isn't that right?

GOVERNOR BALDWIN: That is right.

THE PRESIDENT: There was one fellow down here -- I will have to tell you this -- who recognized the Governor (Governor Baldwin). He was the only Republican we saw in this ride. Isn't that right? (The Governor nodded assent.) The Governor called attention to it himself. It is all right. (Laughter)

Q Well, you can let him have one, can't you?

GOVERNOR BALDWIN: Shall I tell them the one about how you asked me when I got on the Willkie band wagon?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. This is good.

GOVERNOR BALDWIN: The President asked me when I got on the Willkie band wagon and I said, "Mr. President, we had the Willkie band wagon."

THE PRESIDENT: That is what I call a faux pas on my part.

GOVERNOR BALDWIN: Not at all.

Q (Mr. Edward Bates) You are going back quite satisfied?

THE PRESIDENT: Very well satisfied, Ed.

Q Do you want to tell your plans for next week?

THE PRESIDENT: Not until I get in there tomorrow. I will be able to tell you at the Press Conference but I have various things to check up first.

Q Anything you are going to tackle immediately as a result of this inspection?

THE PRESIDENT: Mostly a week's accumulation of work.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #671,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
August 16, 1940, 10.50 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: How is Claude (Mahoney) this morning?

Q (Mr. Mahoney) Very good.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Why, there he is! Who let him out?

Q (Mr. Reynolds) Who let him in?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not ask that. I asked who let him out?

Q (Mr. Godwin) Where did you think I was? (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Reynolds) They are big ones (referring to peaches on the  
President's desk).

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, they are from Georgia. They are ripening on the desk.

Q (Mr. Mahoney) From your farm, I suppose?

THE PRESIDENT: They are not, unfortunately. I cut all mine down.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, the War Department authorizes the announce-  
ment this morning that General Emmons and General Strong -- Major  
General Delos C. Emmons, of the G.H.Q. Air Force, and Brig. General  
George E. Strong, Assistant Chief of Staff of the War Plans Div-  
ision, are at the present time in England, as observers, at the  
invitation of the British Government, and you also know that Admiral  
Ghormley and several members of his staff are in England, also as  
observers, at the invitation of the British Government --- and  
somebody will ask me about destroyers so you might just as well  
know now --

Q (interposing) How long have they been there?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you. Recently -- "recently" is a very good word.

This has nothing to do with destroyers in the sense that the quid pro quo is under discussion, but I am initiating, holding conversations with the British Government for the acquisition of Naval bases and Air bases for the defense of the Americas and particularly with relationship to the Panama Canal. If you want to put that in quotes, you can put it this way: that the United States Government is holding conversations with the Government of the British Empire in regard to the acquisition of Naval and Air bases by the United States for American Hemisphere defense, with special reference to the Panama Canal -- end of quote.

Furthermore -- you can put this in quotes too -- The United States Government is carrying on conversations with the Canadian Government, looking towards the defense of the American Hemisphere.

They are two separate things.

Q Did I understand you to say, Mr. President, that they had no relation to destroyers?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not use it on destroyers if I were you. That is just a little private tip.

Q You would not use it, Mr. President, in the Canadian end of this story or the United Kingdom end of it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they are two separate things.

Q As I understood it, there is a group of officers, Army and Navy, in England, and that is one story?

THE PRESIDENT: That is one story.

Q Then we start over again --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Start it over again.

Q -- and this is a matter of destroyers?

THE PRESIDENT: It is not a matter of destroyers. That is exactly the point.

Q The quid pro quo --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) This is a quid pro quo for the acquisition of American Naval and Air bases.

Q Destroyers are out?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. I do not know what the quid pro quo is going to be.

Q Well, you mentioned destroyers in introducing the subject, sir, and that is what I meant.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because somebody over here was going to ask about destroyers, that is all.

In other words, the emphasis is on the acquisition of the bases -- that is the main point -- for the protection of this Hemisphere, and I think that is all there is to say.

Q I suggest, as a matter of reporting, we had a White House statement here yesterday in which we had a certain story, as it appeared, and we got a statement that "That is just another one." It had to do with destroyers and so-called conversations.

THE PRESIDENT: The point of this story is the acquisition of Naval and Air bases for the protection of the Americas.

Q I do not want to be insistent, sir, but I wrote such a story, signed by my name, that a certain thing had been denied by the White House and I wondered whether the prior denial yesterday still stands?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably, as written. (Laughter)

Q All right.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, the general intent of the story may have been perfectly good in your mind but the way you handled it was not so good.

Q All right.

Q On the same line, there was one report came in this morning that in the discussions, one point of discussion that has been offered by the British Government is a 99-year lease on such bases as we may require.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot give you any more information than I have given you here.

Q You did not say what the reciprocal arrangement was?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q In that Item 3, would you discuss destroyers as separate and distinct from the missions in England and also the conversations?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not discussing destroyers, so there isn't any Item 3.

Q You are not going to discuss it?

THE PRESIDENT: To make it perfectly clear, there are two items, entirely separate from each other. The first relates to officers in England. All right -- draw a line -- finish.

Separate story: We are conducting conversations with the British Government in regard to the acquisition of Naval and Air bases for American defense. Got it?

Q Can we draw another line and --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) And then you can start a separate story about Canada. (Laughter) Now, that is all you can do. That is it.

Q Could we assume that the quid and pro are rather large?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not do any assuming. I would stick to the news facts. That is tough. (Laughter) It is awfully tough.

Q It is impossible.

Q Can you tell us whether you agree with the opinion of three and a half columns that appeared in the New York Times by Thatcher and Dean Acheson as to your authority now to transfer destroyers?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not the faintest idea. I saw the thing but I did not read it.

Q It was a very long legal opinion.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I saw it but I did not read it.

Q It said you had the authority now?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot discuss the details at all. What I am trying to do is to acquire American bases. Let us make that clear.

Q While you are in a good humor, may I ask you (interrupted by laughter) --

THE PRESIDENT: Earl (Mr. Godwin), I told you your intention was good. I told you your intention was good.

Q (Mr. Godwin) That is right. If I didn't ask you this question I would not get paid next week. (Laughter) Have you had any chance to examine into this deeper subject of District suffrage? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, it is still under study.

Q After his call here yesterday, the Finnish Minister indicated there was still a good deal of need in Finland. Is there any possibility that a part of the 50 million dollars appropriated for Red Cross distribution might be used in Finland?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a thing I asked, after he was here yesterday. I asked the Red Cross and the State Department to find out whether I could use any of the 50 million dollars. They do not know.

Q No decision yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No decision yet.

Q Are you going to Buffalo to inspect airplane plants this week end?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Will your inspection trip, Mr. President, make it impossible for you to hear Willkie's acceptance speech?

THE PRESIDENT: I imagine -- I do not know what time he is speaking. Is he going to speak in the afternoon?

Q I think so.

THE PRESIDENT: I will be with the troops from the moment I arrive.

Q Do you intend to make any speech of any sort up there, at the Maneuvers?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not think so.

Q Do you go through Syracuse on your way to Watertown?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so.

GENERAL WATSON: You do not go to Watertown.

Q Ogdensburg, I mean?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know which way the route is. It is either from Utica or Syracuse.

GENERAL WATSON: It goes through Utica.

Q Is Mr. Tom Corcoran leaving the Government service?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q Have you anything, sir, to say --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) To tell you the honest truth, I have heard nothing about it.

Q Anything on Louis Johnson, anything to say on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think you have a grand story on the acquisition of bases. (Laughter)

Q That letter that Mr. Wallace said he left, was that a letter of resignation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Effective when?

THE PRESIDENT: Whenever I want. In other words, whenever he decides what day he is going to start out campaigning.

Q Which of these separate stories does the mission of Admiral Green to Martinique relate to?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think it relates to any of the stories I have told.

Q Can you tell us the purpose of his trip down there?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you tell us whether the Attorney General has given you an opinion on the destroyers?

THE PRESIDENT: No, there has been nothing from him at all.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Thank you. We got a good story.

THE PRESIDENT: Run fast, Earl (Mr. Godwin). (Laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #672,

Held at the entrance to the Ogdensburg Free Academy, which was being utilized as Public Relations Headquarters for the Army Maneuvers in Northern New York State, the President being seated in his open car with Secretary Stimson, Governor Lehman of New York, and General Drum, Saturday, August 17, 1940, 6.00 P.M., D.S.T.

(Note: The President had left Washington Friday evening, August sixteenth, and arrived at Norwood, N.Y., about 1.00 P.M. D.S.T. The President immediately began his inspection trip. Seated in his car were Secretary Stimson, Governor Lehman and General Drum. His itinerary follows:

<u>ROUTE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIST.</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Norwood	1:10 P.M.		5 min. to detrain. 5 min. for honors
Enroute 43d Div.	1:20-1:24	2 mi.	
43d Div.	1:24-1:35		11 min. computed as follows: 2 min. for gun salute; 4 min. for flourishes and ruffles and National Anthem; 1 min. to bring command to salute and to order; 1 min. to introduce Div.Comdr; 3 min. for remarks by Pres.
Enroute I Corps Trs.	1:35-1:37	1 mi.	No stop for I Corps Trs.- slow down.
Enroute 1st Div.	1:37-1:54	9 1/2 mi.	
1st Div.	1:54-2:05		Inspection.
Enroute to luncheon.	2:05-2:07	1 mi.	
Luncheon.	2:07-2:37		
Enroute to 26th Div.	2:37-2:42	2 1/2 mi.	
26th Div.	2:42-2:53		Inspection.

Enroute to 22nd Cav. Div.	2:53-3:20	15 mi.	
22nd Cav. Div.	3:20-3:31		Inspection.
Enroute 27th Div.	3:31-3:39	4½ mi.	
27th Div.	3:39-3:50		Inspection
Enroute 44th Div.	3:50-3:54	2 mi.	
44th Div.	3:54-4:05		Inspection.
Enroute to Army Trs.	4:05-4:10	3 mi.	
Army Trs.	4:10-4:21		Inspection.
Enroute 29th Div.	4:21-4:40	10½ mi.	
29th Div.	4:40-4:51		Inspection.
Enroute 28th Div.	4:51-5:14	13 mi.	
28th Div.	5:14-5:25		Inspection.
Enroute to Ogdensburg.	5:25-5:50	14 mi.	

On arrival at Ogdensburg, the President's car proceeded to the entrance of the Ogdensburg Free Academy. There had been set up two maps, the larger one showing the scope of the maneuvers and a smaller one to be used for demonstrating the tactics to be followed by the air forces. Colonel Wilby, utilizing the larger map, explained the scope of operations to the President. General Chaney, utilizing the smaller map, explained the methods by which "enemy" airplanes would be spotted and offensive and defensive operations conducted by the air force. The Military Attaches of foreign countries were then introduced to the President. The Press Conference followed.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you have seen everything I have seen. It is all right.

Q We are not going to hear everything you hear?

THE PRESIDENT: You heard about all I heard. I think the important thing is that this is the largest gathering of American troops, General Drum and I have decided, since the close of the Civil War when we massed a large army, after the Civil War was ended down in Texas. Right?

GENERAL DRUM: That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: In peacetime.

Q That was the occasion of the French incident down there (referring to Mexico), sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. But, certainly, in peacetime, in our recollection we do not remember any gathering of a hundred thousand men. There are about 94,000 men here and 6,000 in this area making preparations.

Outside of that I have absolutely no news at all. I have been under surveillance by the people in the rear car all the time, so you know just what I have done.

Q Anything on your talk with Prime Minister MacKenzie King tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there will be anything tonight. There may be something tomorrow but I think it will be too late tonight and we had better sign off -- don't you think so? -- for tonight, after you get your stories in. Does that please you?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: After you get these stories in, there won't be anything until tomorrow.

Q Willkie, in his acceptance speech, apparently challenged you to a series of speeches (debates) from place to place throughout the country on major campaign issues. How does that strike you?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have not heard anything today. You have seen me all the time.

Q Also there is another report that Germany has refused to afford safe conduct to the AMERICAN LEGION to bring American refugees from Petsamo.

THE PRESIDENT: That was a problem yesterday and we do not know -- we have not heard anything about it today. Obviously, she has to get home.

I think the State Department is still working on it. Isn't that right? As I remember it, that was yesterday and I have heard nothing today.

Q Mr. President, could you throw any light on the nature of the discussion you will hold tonight with Mackenzie King?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think anything beyond what I said yesterday -- Pan-American defense.

Q Does that reflect some specific defense proposal?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably.

Q A specific course of action?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably.

Q Anything to do with Navy compacts -- a tieup with Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: Greater ties than we have had in the past.

Q Will we do anything about the defense of Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: It was just two years ago today, wasn't it? that I was over in Kingston and said something?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is good enough. It is still good.

Also I hear the bridge is paying. (Laughter)

Q That is important.

THE PRESIDENT: That is important.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Have a good evening.

(Following the Press Conference the President had a talk with Lieut. General Bullard and, following honors, returned to his train. Prime Minister Mackenzie King arrived and boarded the President's private car about fifteen minutes later.)

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #673,  
Held in the Study of the President's Home  
at Hyde Park, New York,  
August 20, 1940, 10.45 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think I have got any particular news this morning.

I have got this White House pistol team that I think I would like to get a little publicity for because I am very proud of them. The shooting at Teaneck, New Jersey, Friday through Sunday, on slow fire, time fire and rapid fire, the four members of the White House team scored 1196 out of a possible 1200.

Q 1196?

THE PRESIDENT: 1196 out of a possible 1200 and won the championship of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Cuba.

Officer John Cash won a perfect score of 300 out of 300, as did also Officer Warden, E. L. Warden. Officers E. Reynolds and R. P. Hallion -- it ought to be Hellion, but it is all right -- each scored 298 out of 300, and there were 135 teams participating in the tournament.

I am very proud of the White House team.

Q Is that H-a-l-l-i-o-n?

THE PRESIDENT: H-a-l-l-i-o-n.

Q Where was that?

THE PRESIDENT: Teaneck, New Jersey.

Q Over this past week end?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That is some shooting.

Q Mr. President, we hear reports from Washington that Secretary Morgenthau may go to Canada on some sort of a mission?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no mission. I think he has gone up there - I do not know

whether with Mrs. Morgenthau -- for a week's holiday. That is all.

Q What part of Canada is he going to?

THE PRESIDENT: What is that place that everybody goes to?

Q It is up near Ottawa.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- back of Montreal or east of Ottawa.

Q Have you any new developments on your Board (referring to the Joint U.S.-Canadian Board of Strategy) to tell us about this morning, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing at all. I don't think there is a thing on that. I hope to make an announcement on Thursday.

Q Mr. President, there seems to be some sort of assumption in Ottawa that the new agreement may involve eventually the use of some American World War destroyers in Canada. Is that a possibility, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess it is a newspaper story.

Q The Naval Minister in Canada was almost directly to the point of it yesterday --- but nothing to be said?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe he was. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, will this Board act merely in the capacity of formulating recommendations and reports and so on, or will they have power to take action to carry out --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They will do just exactly what it was said it would do the other day and nothing more.

Q (Mr. John O'Brien) Mr. President, there has been a great deal of speculation in the newspapers as to the identity of the man you had in mind when you said in your acceptance speech that one person had not cooperated in the defense plan. Do you care to say who you did have in mind?

THE PRESIDENT: Which story are you referring to?

Q (Mr. O'Brien) It appeared in two or three newspaper columns that Roy

Howard was the culprit.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not see any that said he was a culprit.

Q (Mr. O'Brien) That he was the man you had in mind as the one person who had not cooperated.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, hadn't you better get down to brass tacks and say that the newspaper story had said that he had been offered -- not offered but asked to take on a definite assignment for the Government at the time -- and that was true? The rest of the story, that he had been assigned to form a propaganda bureau in South America, was not true.

Q Could you tell us what you did have in mind for him?

THE PRESIDENT: No particular reason (why I should not). I asked him to go down by plane -- it would have taken about forty days to go down -- and meet all of his old friends. When he started the U.P., he got to know all the principal newspaper owners and editors in certain of the main capitals of South America, Central America, and he also got to know, during that period, many of the people prominent in Government. I asked him to go down and talk to them confidentially, on behalf of the United States, to find out what their own personal opinions were on fifth column activities, as we call them, in various South American republics, because he knew them all, knew the owners and editors of the principal papers. He seemed best fitted for it. And that was all. He did not go.

Does that cover it all right?

Q (Mr. O'Brien) Yes, but that still leaves the question up in the air as to whether he was the person you had in mind when you made your reference to that matter in the Chicago speech?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes. I cannot tell a lie, like "George the Wash."

Q Mr. President, when are you going to start your debates with Wendell Willkie?

THE PRESIDENT: George (Mr. Durno), you had better reduce it to a mimeographed copy and give it to Bill (Mr. Hassett) every morning.

Q (Mr. Durno) In Washington, you mean?

THE PRESIDENT: You know what the situation is on that just as well as I do, all of you. I told the people, told the Convention that night on the air, about midnight, that whether I like it or not, I happened to be the President of 130 million people, the United States and dependencies -- territories -- and things are in such shape this year that it is, of course, perfectly obvious that I cannot do any campaigning, as you -- all the same sentence -- as you all know.

I think that covers George (Mr. Durno) all right.

Q To get back to the Defense Board for a moment, have you made any selections at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q There has been some speculation on the possibility that this defense planning might involve, perhaps, joint occupation of certain strategical territories?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, sure, "unadulterated" speculation. It is a good word that has not been used for some time.

Q I wondered if you had been following at all the progress of the census in Dutchess County?

THE PRESIDENT: Of the what?

Q The census in Dutchess?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't, not since I was here last time and saw people who were claiming more population. What do they do in that case, refer it

to the head of the region, or the State?

Q Well, the census people here have given the people more or less latitude on that. They said that where the questionnaires are not filled out, they may send them into the local or regional directors or directly to Washington and, without any reflections on their capacity to handle a job, there is some question as to the completeness of the thing. It is very interesting because Dutchess County has a population now of about 105,000, according to the census, and if they had some 450 more people, it would give the County 120,000 (Stenographer's note: I do not know what system of addition the local reporter used, but the above were the figures as given by him several times.) and that has an interesting connotation because if Dutchess County had 120,000, it would change the capacity of the courts. In other words, the Children's Court would probably be a full-time court and the County Judge and the Surrogate also would not be able to practise privately.

THE PRESIDENT: Practise law and things like that?

Q And it gets the structure according to the number of the population. I wondered whether you might be interested?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't -- I do not know even what the procedure is. I would have to check on that.

Q It is a sort of cursory check that we had. We had some 200 people who voluntarily told us they had not been checked, that they had not been taken care of, and then, at the time that the census people left here, there were 90 of those 200 they had taken in and accounted for, and then the county or regional man said they only lacked 450 to make that 120,000. Now the question arises as to whether you might be interested in some sort of re-check to make it more complete, if possible.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it works both ways, doesn't it? In other words, if we got the 450 more or 490 more, we would have -- the taxpayers would have to pay more for the County Judge and the Surrogate. Isn't that it?

Q Well --

Q (Mr. Coons, interposing) Not necessarily. They might get some stooges in.

THE PRESIDENT: It works both ways. I do not know whether we want the extra 450. Do we?

Q Well, we always want more people. That is just, of course --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It is a nice question. It would cost us an awful lot if we got 450 people more.

Q The whole thing is quite interesting, I think. I wondered whether you might be --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I do not know what the rule in Washington is as to how long they can go ahead and hold these figures up for correction. I imagine any sharp discrepancy any time during the year would be, obviously, corrected, wouldn't it? I should think so. That is an offhand opinion.

Q Of course it would take some time to get them all in. I supposed you would follow the thing with some interest because it is your own county.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, you announced in your Press Conference in Washington that this Government was holding conversations with Great Britain on the matter of Naval and air bases. Are these conversations proceeding satisfactorily?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you tell us when you expect some developments, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you yet because you may be disappointed. But

they are proceeding.

Q Is there any possibility from that that you might have anything to say on the question of the sale of World War destroyers to Great Britain?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think you had better speculate on it. Just like last Friday.

And what my plans are? Oh, you can't tell. I can't tell yet. I may go down and carry out what I tried to do three times before, and that is to dedicate the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. I still hope to do it.

Q Labor Day?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Go from here direct down?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably, but that is very vague. I am not at all sure I can get off -- I mean, leave here on the first and get there on the second. If I am able to do it, I will.

Q You have an engagement up here with the Home Club.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and we have an engagement that afternoon too. The Press, photographers, et cetera, et cetera -- tea that same day. That is Saturday the thirty-first. So we may push off the next morning.

Q What are your plans for this week end, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Washington.

Q Down the river?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I suppose Saturday night and come back Sunday afternoon. Same old story.

Q (Mr. Durno) Thank you, Mr. President.

Q May I ask just one thing? You are going to the Fair?

THE PRESIDENT: Again, it is just one of those tentative things. I will try

to go on either -- I don't know what day I will get back here next week, but some day, if I get back in time, I will try to go to the Fair.

Q You have not heard as to whether there would be some military feature?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better tick down to Pa (General Watson) and find out. Will you do that, Kannee? It depends on whether they get through with the maneuvers, et cetera, and can get something on the way through.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #674,  
Executive Offices of the White House,  
August 23, 1940, 10.42 A.M.

Q It looks like a real big one coming up? (Referring to the press release in front of the President)

THE PRESIDENT: I am not going to bother to read it to you. It will save time. You can read it outside.

Q Thank you.

Q I am supposed to report Godwin's absence. He is covering District suffrage.

THE PRESIDENT: You (speaking to Mr. John Henry) are in the way of everybody. Come and sit down in the chair. (Mr. Henry did so.) Isn't that better?

Q (Mr. Henry) I do not have to say some of the things that Earl (Godwin) says, do I? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't even caught up with reading yesterday morning's papers. That's awful, isn't it?

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got any news this morning except the release that Steve (Mr. Early) will give you afterwards, a statement on the signing of the Investment Company Act of 1940, which is accompanied by the Investment Advisers' Act of 1940, legislation that both Houses of the Congress passed unanimously. And this is a great clarification; it is an aid to small business; honest business, and part of the regular Administration program in improving social legislation that was very much needed, as shown by experience from time to time. It is about a page and a half long and I am not going to read it to you. Steve (Mr. Early) will give it to you. It has all kinds of details.

There isn't any news. You saw the appointment of the permanent Joint Board on Defense yesterday. They are to meet on Monday in Ottawa for organization purposes and start to work.

There is no news whatsoever on conversations with Great Britain in regard to bases or destroyers or anything else. Just plain ain't no news. It will save you all time.

Q (Mr. Charles Hurd) Mr. President, would you care to comment on the wisdom of this Senate proposition to postpone conscription to January first and give the volunteer system a further trial?

THE PRESIDENT: Personally I am absolutely opposed to the postponement because it means in these days -- and we all know what the world situation is -- nearly a year of delay. We have to remember, furthermore, that while we have been concentrating this summer on letting orders for new equipment, a very large portion of that equipment will begin to be delivered late this autumn or early in the spring, and while we knew beforehand that manpower without equipment was no use, we are getting to the point now of saying that equipment without manpower is no use.

The Secretary (of War) gave me some points -- I asked him for some points in regard to this legislation, I mean, the selective draft as a whole. He points out that to fill up the present units of the Army to full strength, that is to say the regular Army and National Guard and the Reserves, will require nearly 400,000 men and that even at the present high rate of voluntary recruiting this will require a year. Now, we cannot afford a year. In other words, time is of the essence. In addition to filling up present units, we need another 400,000 men to create the additional necessary supporting troops in the shape of corps troops, Army, and G.H.Q. troops that are necessary to make the combat division of

the regular Army and the National Guard function as an organized team. To recruit these additional 400,000 men would take nearly a year more on the basis of the present high basis of recruiting.

Then, on the present maneuvers that we saw a portion of -- of course we have them in the South, too, and the West -- one of the important factors that was shown was not the willingness of the men -- they were completely willing and earnest in their work -- but we have proved one thing pretty conclusively this year and last year, and that is that we have too many men that are soft. In other words, put it this way: that a 15-mile march is a terrible physical strain and we know that on the other side of the ocean there are certain armies that are perfectly capable of marching thirty miles a day. In warfare that means an awful lot -- an awful lot -- hardness, physical stability.

Then he makes the other point that if we put off increasing the Army to the definite needs, until sometime next spring, it is going to put off the whole defense program, as a whole, about a year, nearly a year, because of the fact that we have the equipment for all these new men now. I will give you a very simple example, if the ladies will pardon me. It is very nice to be able to order special Army B.V.D.'s. (Laughter) You know what B.V.D.'s are?

Q (Miss Craig) Yes, I have heard. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Now, it does not make an awful lot of difference whether we have a special Army order for B.V.D.'s or whether we go into the average -- what do they call it? -- haberdashery store and buy them. There are plenty of B.V.D.'s in the United States. The same way with shoes. It is awfully nice to have completely uniform shoes for everybody in an army -- delightful -- but there are plenty of good marching and working

shoes that are in the stores of the United States. So, any question about not having the equipment for them is just plain nonsense. Now, when it comes to rifles, we know that we have plenty of rifles in reserve for all the men that would have to be taught to drill with rifles. Furthermore, on this training question, there are large numbers of things in modern war which people do not realize. For instance, you fellows, you would not be, most of you, any good whatsoever, because you do not know any of these technical trades; besides which, you would, nearly all of you, be soft. (Laughter) Well, we all know it -- I am soft too, -- for defense purposes. But there are all kinds of things that a modern army has to know about, a vast number of men, for instance, who have got to learn all about the use of "walkie-talkies". Now, that is not a movie term, it is an Army term. The "walkie-talkie" is a portable field radio set, that you carry on the back of a man and you are able to talk through that portable field radio set to the Colonel in command of the next regiment or, if it is an extended operation, to the Lieutenant Colonel or Major in charge of your nextdoor battalion, which may be a half mile away, beyond the range of voice, and you can talk to him through one of these little portable field sets. There isn't anyone in this room knows how to run one of those, and there are darned few people in the country. We need to train them.

Take, for instance, one of those new detectors to detect approaching airplanes. Well, we are going to have detectors but it takes a lot of technical training to be able to run one of those detectors. Furthermore, they open up a wide field, all of these things, in cooperation between the different units of an army and these new instruments open up a new line to American troops, and they have to be trained to use that line.

We have the new problem of cooperation between air troops and ground troops and our progress is rudimentary. I use the word advisedly -- "rudimentary" -- at the present time. There is no use to train ten men when you have to have a thousand. That is the easiest way of putting it. You have to have actual trained manpower.

And then, finally, all of this new training they say is thorough and novel, and the Secretary of War says the Army cannot practise efficiently as a team until it is filled up to full strength and until the men are physically hardened. (Reading)

"To inject a large number of untrained men at a later date will serve to postpone by just that delay the effective development of the Army as a team."

Well, it is a little bit as if old -- who? -- old Rockne, to give you a good illustration, out at Notre Dame, suppose he had had, at the beginning of the season, instead of forty-four men, which is about four full elevens, that are all considered good enough material for a Notre Dame team, suppose he had started his season with nine men, two less than one eleven? Well, Notre Dame would not have had a good football team. That is the answer. And, incidentally, as a result, Notre Dame would not have won. And, if we get invaded on this Continent, we want to win. It is better to have a good football team than none at all.

Well, the gist of it is that if we do not get a bill right away, this fall, -- I don't mean this fall, I mean in the next couple of weeks -- we are going to have a real delay in getting our team together. They have had discussions on this, in Committee and in the House and Senate, as I remember it, since the twentieth day of June. Is that right?

Q Right.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the bills were put in on the twentieth day of June

and they are still talking about it. There has been no action on either one and it is the twenty-third of August, and that is why I am asking for action now.

Q (Mr. Hurd) Thank you. May I impose one other question on you?

THE PRESIDENT: All right. I may give you an equally long answer; I can't tell. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Hurd) I think we can survive it. Have you had any reports about the discovery of Nazi bases in the Caribbean area?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Steve (Mr. Early) told me about the story. I did not even read it. We are checking up. The only thing I can say is that the checkup may disclose something and perhaps it won't, because we have checked in the past a lot of similar stories and they have turned out to be fictions of the imagination. Maybe this won't.

Q Mr. President, in that connection, we have a report that there are United States destroyers off the Galapagos Islands. Do you care to say if it involves anything?

THE PRESIDENT: There may be; I don't know. I never heard of it until you mentioned it.

Q To get these figures straight, does this contemplate an army of 1,200,000 a year from this fall?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't got the tables down here but I should say so, offhand -- about. Of course you have got about 400,000 now and need two more increments. It would be about a million and a quarter men.

Q According to the announcements, you are going south over Labor Day?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope so; I don't know.

Q Of course we understand it is always conditional, but have you thought beyond Labor Day as to when you will go to Pennsylvania to open the

turnpike?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea.

Q I understood --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I want to go, if I can. The date has been postponed, as I understand it, until later on.

MR. JOHN HENRY: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is anything else.

Q (Mr. Henry) I was jumping the gun on Mr. Godwin. (Laughter)