

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #758,
Held in the President's Study
at Hyde Park, N. Y.
July 25, 1941 -- 11.10 A.M., E.D.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what's the news? I haven't got anything. I never have any news up here.

Q Have you talked to the State Department this morning, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am going to - quarter before one.

Q To Mr. Welles?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Mr. Welles?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That works pretty well. By that time he has seen the press, got the news in the State Department -- it will be a quarter before twelve in Washington - ideal time -- so that they can -- he can tell me what is happening.

Q Er -- in this morning's Times Mr. Krock commented on the great clarity with which you set forth our position on the Japanese situation.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw that.

Q I confess that I am not so certain as Mr. Krock is. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Are you going into a controversy with him?

Q No, I think not. (laughter) But the supposition has been, sir, that some measures will be taken as a result of the Japanese move into Indo-China.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw the headlines this morning in three papers, and not one of them was based -- this is off the record -- not one of them was based on the news story that happened. As a matter of fact, and as a matter of news, all three headlines were based on the words, "Roosevelt

hints^a. Now, that's not news. (he laughs)

Q Mr. President ---

THE PRESIDENT: Each holds, however.

Q Did you read the text of your speech yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Did you read the text of your informal speech yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. Afterwards. (laughter) I edited it, too. (more laughter)

Q Mr. President ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) What you got was not what happened at all. It was edited.

Q Mr. President, in your remarks of yesterday, you referred to our policy in the Far East in the past tense.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Sure.

Q (continuing) Which could have been ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Describing what had happened up to the time -- approximate time that that speech ---

Q (interposing) It left the intimation that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Now, wait a minute. Wait a minute. (he laughs)

Q (continuing) The intimation I got from it was this policy might be one that was over. Therefore, for two years it had worked.

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't say anything about that.

Q We noticed that ---

Q (interposing) That's what we are trying to get today.

THE PRESIDENT: And you won't get it. (laughter) I don't think there is any news at all. (pause here) I don't know.

Oh, I know -- I know -- I wrote it down, for the benefit of two new gentlemen here today, representing the New York Herald Tribune and the New York Times. (he laughs) Er -- somebody asked me the question, did I have anything to say about what the Secretary of War said about Senator Wheeler, and my comment was that I agreed with the headings of two editorials that I read this morning. One of them said, "On Dangerous Ground," and the other one said, "Mr. Wheeler Goes Too Far." I think that covers it. And I had to ask the question!

(laughter)

Q We were going to get around to that. (loud laughter)

Q Give us a chance.

Q Mr. President, if there is any action in the Far East, will it be announced from Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends entirely where I am.

Q That would mean then, sir, that that would be announced through you?

Q Through you?

THE PRESIDENT: Not necessarily. I think I can only give you -- I think that there will be something out of Washington tomorrow, but I don't think that will come out here.

Q We would like to have it here.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q We would like to have it here.

Q It would be a good story.

Q Mr. President ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't believe it can. It's one of those documentary things.

Q Asking a very blunt, direct question, sir, the American people, at least

I, and I think everybody else are interested in this Japanese standpoint in one thing. What does that mean to this country's neutrality? Can you say anything about ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The Japanese thing?

Q The Japanese situation, what does it mean to our neutrality?

THE PRESIDENT: What part of it?

Q The Japanese move into Indo-China and its implications?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a terribly 'if' question.

Q Yes. Certainly is. But I think that is to the interest of every American in this situation.

THE PRESIDENT: You see, so many things haven't happened. That's about the size of it.

Q Yes, but there are so many horrible things looming, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I know, but you can't talk about things that haven't happened yet. If there was some one definite line that we could bank on, of being the line that would happen, then perhaps we could talk about it. But that's not the situation.

Q But -- it is an 'iffy' question, but don't you think it is a valid question, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's the answer. If there was something specific that we could count on happening, then we could talk about it, but that isn't the situation.

Q Well, the move yesterday, sir, was a specific, direct move, and was branded by our Government as a danger to our security.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, so far as yesterday's move went. And I don't know what today's move is, or tomorrow's move, or the next day. Quite frankly -- I mean that really is the fact.

Q Yes.

Q Mr. President ---

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Mr. President, in the case of the freezing orders on the Continent, the formula was that when troops entered -- German troops entered other countries, either by invitation or otherwise, there was the element of duress. Therefore the freezing order was slapped on.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) Well, Mr. Welles used the term 'duress' twice in his remarks yesterday. I wonder ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know. I don't know. But off the record, don't do too much anticipating. But -- but off the record you are getting a little warm, as they call it. (laughter)

Q There is a report from the Treasury, Mr. President, that only four Japanese ships were left in the American harbors. Does that have any ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know. No. I didn't know that myself.

Q After today, Mr. President, will this Government follow the policy which you outlined yesterday? Will it continue to follow that policy?

THE PRESIDENT: That I can't talk about.

Q That policy as you outlined seems to be pretty good beyond certain conditions, sir, which are no longer existent. Therefore ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I can only tell you about it off the record, which will save a lot of questions. I think your intimation about -- off the record -- just so that you can get the idea -- the intimation about it is good. I don't know how many additional steps could be taken. None have been decided on at the present time, and it depends on future developments. There are all kinds of steps, as you know,

that could be taken, and some steps have been taken in other countries, other steps which apply more to the specific area. But frankly, there isn't anything that has been decided on, except this 'hush-hush thing' that is going to happen tomorrow.

Q I assume, sir, that we are free to speculate on our own what might happen tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you can, yes -- what might happen tomorrow, but I wouldn't go beyond that, because frankly I don't know what the next steps will be.

Q That seems to resolve the Japanese situation, sir. I noticed in the New York Times -- a day or so ago -- a dispatch from London which indicated that there was some difficulty, or some dissatisfaction in the relations of this country with Great Britain, in so far as the Lend-Lease program is moving along, and they felt that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't think that is so at all.

Q Not so?

Q Have you received any report from Hopkins on the cable or telephone?

THE PRESIDENT: Not for two or three days. He telegraphed everything is going all right. He is seeing heads of different departments over there in regard to general working out of aid. There wasn't anything specific about it. He is getting along all right.

Q Do you expect him to come back via Hyde Park? I noticed he was in Canada yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: Hopkins in Canada?

Q The United Press carried that story, but they admitted that they were pretty shaky on that. (laughter)

Q It must have been two other people.

THE PRESIDENT: He would have had to have hurried.

Q When do you expect him back?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet. As a matter of fact, he was in London last night.

Q He was?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Would you care to add anything else to this Stimson-Wheeler controversy?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I think that's a nice compliment -- two very nice papers -- New Deal papers. (laughter)

Q Did you see the text of Mr. Stimson's remarks in advance of their publication?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Anything about this priorities controversy between Mr. Knudsen and Mr. Henderson?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, just as background, I suppose the easiest way of putting it is this: that -- not awfully far apart, as I said in the Cabinet meeting -- one is for the shift over from civilian and private automobiles up to a certain point -- er -- with a little bit -- of course, tying the things -- making it a gradual thing -- er -- doing the gradual process a little faster; and the other one is for the shift over or gradual process a little slower. (he laughs) So, you see, it isn't that they are both after the same thing. One wants to go a little faster than the other, and well, things will be worked out, of course.

Q Mr. Knudsen said, sir, in his press conference yesterday -- day before yesterday -- two Executive Orders were on your desk which he said would clarify the situation. I checked with somebody in Henderson's office and they said they didn't know that they had been proposed.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, again background. I suppose people have got half a dozen different Executive Orders in draft form -- just tentative and none of them are satisfactory. They are being worked on. Meanwhile the work is going on pretty well. That is the main thing.

Q There will be a reorganization more or less though?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't call it a reorganization, because that sounds as if it is from the top down. It's a working out of something so far down the line that it doesn't affect general organization.

Q Do you think, sir, that the American public is aware of the international situation in the Far East?

THE PRESIDENT: No, any more than they are sufficiently aware of the international situation in the West.

But, and this again is background, I have got yesterday certain reports from people who have been out around the country -- er -- one or two of them -- one -- one newspaperman and two magazine writers -- one Member of the Cabinet -- and a couple of other people, and they had been out previously in March or April -- clear across to the coast.

Er -- it so happened all these reports came in the same day, and they all agreed that there has been a tremendous change since March or April. The people are far more cognizant of the international danger, and the world situation, than they were in March or April, and increasingly so. I don't think they are sufficiently aware yet, but there has been a very marked change in three months.

Q What -- what might be done to sharpen their awareness?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what I said just before -- if you want one example out of a dozen -- LaGuardia's Committee came in yesterday, on --- what was the name of the Committee?

Q Volunteer Participation Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. That is one of the things I said to them. I think that is the one I edited. (laughter) Of course, those people, as you know, they will be -- there are five from each corps area. That means that they will have in each corps area literally hundreds of committees under them. That is why I emphasized getting it to every community and every home. (adding) And to the unfortunate people who don't have homes.

Q Would you say, sir, that the events in the Far East have sharply accentuated the dangers of the international situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I put it this way. Put it -- the events in the Far East are bringing a greater awareness on the part of the public to the dangers of the world situation.

Q Mr. President, on account of the world situation, do you expect to come back here occasionally, like you are doing now?

THE PRESIDENT: Whenever I can get off.

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Except that I would very much like to get a little sea air sometime this summer, and that is rather difficult these days.

Q I would like to have ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) How about that Tom? (Mr. Tom Reynolds)

MR. REYNOLDS: I am in favor of it, sir.

Q Sea water?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Sea water?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, not chlorinated water. (laughter)

MR. REYNOLDS: As the founder of the 'Forty Fathom Club', I am in favor of it.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (laughter) Anybody that can fall into the Pacific Ocean -- of all oceans in the world -- and have the Ocean rise --- (laughter)

Q (interposing) Mr. President, did you hear about Fred Pasley's test of the chlorinated water?

THE PRESIDENT: What is it Fred?

MR. FRED PASLEY: Some of the boys took a bath in it, Mr. President. (laughter)

MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you, Mr. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Anything happening in Poughkeepsie?

Q We haven't had time, sir.

MR. J. EMSLEY: Nothing startling. The political situation is coming along.

THE PRESIDENT: Is it? Is it? (laughter)

MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Shipman gave me an interesting report on the Library.

I haven't had a chance to talk to him. I don't know how the attendance is.

Q Seven thousand.

THE PRESIDENT: Have they worn out the grass yet?

Q No, they have been pretty orderly.

THE PRESIDENT: Have they stolen any of my corn?

Q They haven't got through any of the cornfield. We will keep them out.

MR. F. PASLEY: Good-bye, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Good-bye, Fred.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #759,
Executive Offices of the President,
July 29, 1941 -- 4.05 P.M., E.S.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Did you have a good time, John?

MR. JOHN HENRY: Pretty well. Good copy.

THE PRESIDENT: We avoided some heat here.

MR. GODWIN: Yes. Why did you come home?

THE PRESIDENT: You are looking a little pale.

MR. GODWIN: Terrific.

MR. JOHN HENRY: They had a good party in Philadelphia, too. And was that a party! It ended in a tie. (relating to a singing contest party with George O'Connor singing bar-room ballads)

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh, and even after my telegram. (he laughs)

MR. JOHN HENRY: They said they will have to fight it over again. They are going to.

THE PRESIDENT: Why don't they pick a Christian spot to pull it off on? That Watergate, where they have the musical festivals, that would be all right.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

MR. JOHN HENRY: All they are waiting for is somebody to pay the check.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

I don't know what anybody's coming in today for. There isn't any news.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: No news. Haven't you got anything, Earl? (Mr. Godwin)

MR. GODWIN: Have I anything?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Any news?

MR. GODWIN: I was just going to ask ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, go ahead.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- What do you think of Mr. Churchill's statement that the United States is on the verge of war?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't read it.

MR. GODWIN: If you had read it?

THE PRESIDENT: If I had read it? (he laughs)

Q What was your answer, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: That I hadn't read it.

Q That's what he said, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q That's what he did say.

THE PRESIDENT: That I hadn't read it. Try another one. I am afraid -- I am afraid this heat's got you people here in Washington. It's bad.

Q Mr. President, could you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Up in Hyde Park we had a grand time -- lots of news and nice cool weather. Haven't any of you got any questions for me? Did you say "Thank you, Mr. President" Earl? (he laughs)

MR. GODWIN: No. I will ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, could you tell us anything about this price control?

THE PRESIDENT: The what?

Q Price controls?

THE PRESIDENT: Er -- no. Nothing on that. I was thinking about priorities. They go up tomorrow.

MR. GODWIN: Price control?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The priorities.

Q Priorities go up tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Wait a minute -- I have got them mixed up. Henderson has been working on the actual ---

Q (interposing) Price control?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Are you familiar with the other issue of asking -- answering questions on farm products. Is that taken care of?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not sufficiently familiar. Of course, Leon is bringing in the things here, late this afternoon or tonight. The Message isn't even written.

Q Mr. President, can you discuss export control in relation to the Far East?

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

Q Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) In that connection, are the prices being eased up on Japan?

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

Q Or any news on the priorities Executive Order?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. I haven't been back long enough.

Q Mr. President, has there been any naval action since the statement discussed by Secretary Knox?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

[David I. Walsh?]

Q Mr. President, yesterday Chairman Wallace of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee -- er -- said that Richard Wheeler, the son of the Senator, after he had passed the examinations for a commission, had been told by an admiral that "The Navy has no use for you," -- after he had said that he agreed with his father's opinions on foreign policy. Now, in your opinion as Commander-in-Chief, is the loyalty of anybody suspected of treason -- suspected because of that?

Feb 10-11-56

THE PRESIDENT: Obviously, the question is entirely improper, the way you have put it. Obviously, I would refer you to the Secretary of the Navy, because I know absolutely nothing about it, except what I read in the newspapers.

Q I meant as a general policy, sir. Would agreement with the isolationist or non-interventionist standpoint bring any question ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) As I know nothing about that, how can I answer the question? That is equally clear.

(pause here)

Q Mr. President, would you care to make any comment on the Japanese expansion into French Indo-China?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I can. It still is a very current matter. That is the easiest way of putting it. I guess probably at the present time we had better not say anything.

Q I wonder whether you saw any difference in the Vichy government's action, in connection with Indo-China than in connection with Syria, in view of the fact that they were eager to defend Syria?

THE PRESIDENT: That is pretty hard to answer that.

MR. GODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Presi---

Q (interposing) Mr. President -- Mr. President, about two months ago the publication of oil figures was suppressed, at the request of the State Department. There have been reports that there still have been some fairly heavy oil shipments from California to Japan. In view of your remarks the other day, could you say whether there has been an attempt to curtail them? Is that the reason for withholding those figures?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what the reason was. I didn't even know they had been withheld.

Q About two months since they have been issued.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, it's a fact that up to a very few days there were ships going out with oil. I know that.

Q Mr. President, do the rumors concerning Secretary Stimson's resignation have any foundation in fact?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The usual answer.

MR. GODWIN: Thank you, Mr. President. (gets up)

Q Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President ---

Q (interposing) The Attorney Generalship -- are you near a decision?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us anything at all about any proposed plans to correlate the power program under Secretary Ickes?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the whole thing is being studied. I don't know that there will be anything on it for -- oh what? -- three weeks.

Q Mr. President, I wonder if you could outline something for us in regard to oil shipments to Japan?

THE PRESIDENT: Same thing. Best not to discuss that at the present time.

Q Mr. President, so far as you know now, do you expect to sign the flood control bill passed yesterday by the Senate?

THE PRESIDENT: The what?

Q The flood control bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen it. Does it include only the defense projects, or is it ---

Q (interjecting) No.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Or does it include authorizations for others?

Q It includes authorizations for others.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Well, as you know, on the general subject of authorizations in the -- the thought is that the things which are not connected with defense matters will be merely authorized but not appropriated for, and that appropriations would only obtain for those that are essential to national defense. In other words, the build-up of the back log or projects to be used at the end of the emergency.

Q Well, the biggest item from it is the \$45,000,000. on the Allegheny Reservoir at the head of the Allegheny River, and the one thing it would produce is power -- power for defense.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether that was called on the defense project or not.

Q Mr. President, may we ask you for some background? The -- the -- power is one of the most important items in our national defense program at the present time. We ask you to give us just a little bit of background and knowledge regarding what we are up against, so far as power is concerned.

THE PRESIDENT: I can't give you the details because I don't know. It depends a little bit on the location in the country. Some parts of the country you have got enough power; other parts of the country you have ^{not} got enough power. There are two -- there are three ways of building up the deficiencies in those parts that need more power. One is by certain plants, that is, coal and oil; another by additional water power, especially if it can be quickly built -- like putting in your turbine for instance, on the Columbia River. That is an example of where you have the dam, and what you have to do is put your additional turbine into the dam. And the third thing relates to the con-

necting up of the various transmission lines to bring power from nearby regions that -- where there is not a shortage, and all of those three being tied in together by the Federal Power Commission and other agencies that are connected in regard to needs -- like, for instance, O.P.M. O.P.M. will tell the Federal Power Commission where they think there is going to be a future shortage of power. I don't know that there's anything else.

Q Can you tell us, sir, about the Olds plan that was submitted to you?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because part of it is in effect, and part of it on organizational matters is being studied. There are certain financial aspects relating to -- it's an old subject called 'holding companies' which is related to providing the money. Er -- there would probably have to be some modifications of that, which is more complicated than the holding company situation. Things of that kind are still under study.

Q Mr. President, last week, after talking to you, Governor Maybank of South Carolina announced that you had approved two projects in South Carolina -- large oil properties known as Clark's Hill and Lyles Ford Project. Do you know how they are to be taken and by what agencies?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. One of them, the Clark's Hill Project has been approved for quite a long time.

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: For authorizations.

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet been authorized, I think.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: And that probably would be done by Army engineers. But it

is the headwaters of the Savannah River that the Army has been handling, all the way up as far as Augusta, and the other one is a part of the big South Carolina project. And that again -- I don't know who would run that, but I imagine the South Carolina authority that is building the main project.

Q Mr. President, Senator Clark of Idaho was quoted today as saying that our good neighbor policy was defeated here, and he believed he should take over control of all Latin America and Canada. Do you have any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I read that in the afternoon papers, and I think that -- all I can say is, I hope that none of our friends in South America or Canada will take that seriously.

Q Thank you, sir.

Q Mr. President, now we have got by the most important national problems, I would like to go on to New York State, if I may. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Come with me next time. (more laughter)

Q Er -- there has been some suggestion in the House Rivers and Harbors Committee that because of the Appalachian case, the St. Lawrence power belongs to the Federal Government, and not New York State, and that there might be a suggestion of producing a modified T.V.A. organization up there, instead of the local power authority.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me talk to you -- almost off the record. I guess you can use it as background. I find myself in one perfectly terrible position about that.

When I was Governor of New York, in order to get something done, I tried to get the previous administration to further the thing. They wouldn't do it, except at the expense of turning over the power, in

some way, to the Niagara and Hudson Power Company. In order to block it, and in order to get something done, I took the legal position -- which was perfectly correct -- that the bed of the St. Lawrence river half-way out is in the State of New York. In other words, I was fighting for cheap power, and was being blocked by the Federal administration.

And then I come down here, and in a very short space of time the shoe goes on the other foot. And I am in a sense precluded from saying that the State of New York hasn't got title to the bed of the river half-way out, by what I said for four years as Governor. Er -- however, we are getting on extremely well on it, and are working out with the State of New York -- after this legislation goes through -- some modus operandi, by which the question of title will not arise in any way. In other words, we are taking it as what it is -- a national emergency -- necessity, and treating the construction of the dam -- power -- as a necessary project for defense, in such a way that rights -- the ultimate rights of the State of New York would be fully guarded. I haven't got things worked out yet. The first thing is to get the legislation. I expect no trouble at all, though, with the State of New York.

Q Mr. President, may I ask one more international question? I wondered if you considered the Japanese situation at the present time as more serious, from the point of view of this country's interest, than the European situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think that that is -- if you don't mind my saying so -- I don't think that a question like that means anything relatively.

Q I wondered whether the situation out there is the more serious as it affects this country's interest at the moment.

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't put it on a comparative basis. I don't think
along those lines.

MR. GODWIN: (loudly) Thank you, Mr. President. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You got your way, Earl. (Mr. Godwin)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #760,
Executive Offices of the President,
August 1, 1941 -- 11.00 A.M., E.S.T.

MR. D. CORNELL: Would you still like to get some of that sea air?

THE PRESIDENT: The what?

MR. D. CORNELL: Would you still like to get some of that sea air?

THE PRESIDENT: You bet.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Mr. Early) tells me I have nothing at all.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us whether you have had any word from Mr.

Hopkins since he arrived in Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: Only a report of his arrival. That's all.

Q Er -- could you tell us whether there is any possibility of him coming

back by way of China?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't the faintest idea.

Q Would you care to comment, sir, on the Russian resistance up to the present time?

THE PRESIDENT: I think only -- only in this way: that it is magnificent, and frankly, better than any military expert in Germany thought it would be. (laughter)

Q Could we quote that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q A direct quote, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, if you want to.

MR. T. REYNOLDS: Does that include outstanding German military experts?

THE PRESIDENT: Now don't go and spoil it. (laughter)

Q Thank you.

Q Thank you, sir.

MR. T. REYNOLDS: May we take it that means the Germans have done some tall lying? (laughter)

Q Mr. President, could you tell us whether -- how Mr. Hopkins got to Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: On his own two feet. (laughter)

Q Could you say that he went in an American machine?

THE PRESIDENT: Machine? Machine? I haven't -- I didn't say anything about a machine. I said his own two feet.

Q Airplane?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It's like the movement of ships and the movement of planes these days. It's much better not to talk about methods. That is for human safety.

Q Anything new in the Far East, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think so. I haven't seen the dispatches this morning, but I guess I would have been told if there was anything.

Q Mr. President, there is a definite impression that July marked a very definite turn in the war.

THE PRESIDENT: That what?

Q That July was definitely -- marked a very definite turn in the war, with Russian resistance up much more. Would you care to comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think so.

Q Mr. President, does the new Economic Board that was set up yesterday have anything to do with the domestic defense plan, or what?

THE PRESIDENT: No; foreign.

Q Mr. President, do you have any immediate travel plans?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my hope is -- I remember about ten days ago hope was springing, and it is a little bit more hopeful now. I really do hope

I can get off early next week up the coast somewhere, where at least the nights will be cool. And -- er -- I think I will take a week off.

Q Does that mean, Mr. President, that the international situation ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, of course, I am always ready to go back ---

Q (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- on twenty-four hours notice.

Q Can you say how far up the coast you are going?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea.

Q Would it be as far as Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether you call Campobello Canada or not. My mother's up there. It is actually in New Brunswick, you know, about a mile.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, what progress is being made on the second lend-lease appropriation?

THE PRESIDENT: On the what?

MR. P. BRANDT: Second lend-lease appropriation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there will be anything, Pete, on that, until Harry Hopkins gets back.

MR. P. BRANDT: You mean, sir -- in other words, that it may include large amounts for Russian aid?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there will be any determination made until he gets back.

Q Mr. President, on this entire matter the general understanding has been that Russia has not -- did not come under the lend-lease bill.

THE PRESIDENT: That is correct.

Q Does that cover the future as well as the present?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I am not a guesser, but it certainly hasn't, and I see no check on buying things.

Q Mr. President, could you give us a picture on the Attorney Generalship?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on the armistice announced last night between Ecuador and Peru?

THE PRESIDENT: Except that it is extremely satisfactory that the fighting has -- has ceased, and that I have very definite hopes that this boundary dispute, which as you know has been in existence for a good many years, will be settled peacefully, even if it takes some time.

Q Mr. President, do you have any plans to form a black-list of Japanese firms, similar to the Germans?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q It was printed that you did.

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard of it.

Q Mr. President, is there any particular reason why Russia should not come under the terms of the Lend-Lease Act?

THE PRESIDENT: They are able to pay.

Q Yes.

Q Is Russia excluded by the terms of the Act?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Russia is not included by the terms of the Act?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have no idea. They are able to pay, and that is the only thing that is before the House.

Q Mr. President, is there any possibility of lend-lease aid to the Free French forces?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard about it.

MR. T. REYNOLDS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Mr. President -- can you tell us anything about oil shipments to Japan?

THE PRESIDENT: No. You will have to find out from the Treasury or State.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #761,
Held on Board U.S.S. POTOMAC
at Rockland, Maine,
August 16, 1941, 3:15 P.M., E.D.T.

ACB 10-16-56

THE PRESIDENT: I am glad to see you. How are you?

PRESS: Very well, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, all of you got here all right.

PRESS: The question was whether we would get here -- the stories you carried. Did you bring back any distinguished guests?

THE PRESIDENT: Look at that over there in the corner. There are a lot of local boys here. What are they, fishermen? Sit down over here, (M.C. Hennesy, Boston Globe) [M.E. Hennesy?] Mike, and keep me straight. You kept me straight for about 50 years.

PRESS: (Mr. M.C. Hennesy) Fifty-two, to be exact.

THE PRESIDENT: Mike says he hasn't got any news.

PRESS: Have you, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Awfully glad to have you see the cabin of the POTOMAC. There is a gentleman over here behind Mike, Harry Hopkins, just back from Moscow. There he is.

PRESS: Could you tell us where this conference with Mr. Churchill was held?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot, for obvious reasons. I had better make one or two things clear in the beginning. Names of ships are out. I suppose it has been published. The Prime Minister was there on the PRINCE OF WALES and I was there on the AUGUSTA, but outside of that, nothing about ships, nothing about times, dates, and nothing about locations. All those things for perfectly obvious reasons, which I don't have to explain. Just for example, I wanted to slay a gentleman that said I was coming to Rockland today, because it's merely an invitation.

Things of that kind cause trouble, if you make known the exact location on the high seas of the President and the Prime Minister. However, it was foggy between North Haven and Rockland, and while it's open season out there, no submarine fired a torpedo at us as far as we could see, and we are here safely.

You want to know certain things, I suppose. The easiest thing to do is to give you what we might call the impressions that stand out. I think the first thing in the minds of all of us was a very remarkable religious service on the quarterdeck of the PRINCE OF WALES last Sunday morning. There was their own ship's complement, with three or four hundred bluejackets and marines from American ships, on the quarterdeck, completely intermingled, first one uniform and then another uniform. The service was conducted by two chaplains, one English and one American, and as usual, the lesson was read by the captain of the British ship. They had three hymns that everybody took part in, and a little ship's altar was decked with the American flag and the British flag. The officers were all intermingled on the fantail, and I think the pictures of it have been released. I am not sure. The point is, I think everybody there, officers and enlisted men, felt that it was one of the great historic services. I know I did.

PRESS: That was on the AUGUSTA?

THE PRESIDENT: No, on the PRINCE OF WALES. Conferences were held between -- you know who was with me, there is no reason why that shouldn't come out now: The Chief of Staff, General Marshall; Chief of Air Corps, General Arnold; General Burns, he is in charge of the Lease-Lend program; and Colonel Bundy of the Army.

PRESS: Who is he, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he is War Plans, Army War Plans.

PRESS: Do you know his initials?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't. Then from the Navy: Admiral Stark, Admiral King, Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet; Admiral Turner, of the War Plans Section, Navy Department; Captain Sherman, Operations; and then, of course, my own staff, General Watson, Admiral McIntire and Captain Beardall. And two civilians, Mr. Hopkins and myself.

PRESS: Your two sons?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that was just pure luck. Happened to catch them after we got there.

PRESS: Mr. Elliot and Franklin, Jr.?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Also Mr. Harriman, and Mr. Welles from the State Department.

PRESS: Jimmie Forrestal?

THE PRESIDENT: No. And the British, of course, had what might be called "opposite numbers" in practically every case in that list that I have mentioned. The conferences were held between the opposite numbers in groups, but they were held partly on the AUGUSTA and partly on the PRINCE OF WALES. Actually the conferences between the Prime Minister and me were all held, except one, on the AUGUSTA. It was a little bit difficult for me in getting over on the PRINCE OF WALES.

PRESS: How long was Mr. Churchill actually with you?

THE PRESIDENT: That I can't tell you for obvious reasons.

PRESS: May we assume more than a day?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't assume.

PRESS: Can you tell us the genesis of the whole plan, who originated it?

THE PRESIDENT: Al, the thing has been talked about since last February, and would have taken place a good deal earlier, had it not been for the campaign in Greece, and the campaign in Crete. You might say it was somewhat delayed, about three months, over the original intention.

PRESS: Was it your idea, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say it was our joint idea.

PRESS: Mr. President, the announcements after the conference spoke of peace aims. The conferences themselves seemed to be conferences of possible procedure in defense of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think that is a bit of a narrow way of looking at things. Put it this way: that the conferences was primarily an interchange of views relating to the present and the future -- a swapping of information, which was eminently successful.

I think one of the subjects which perhaps all overlooked, both in the statements and comments, was the need for an exchange of what might be called views relating to what is happening to the world under the Nazi regime, as applied to other nations. The more that is discussed and looked into, the more terrible the thought becomes of having the world as a whole dominated by the kind of influences which have been at work in the occupied or affiliated nations. It's a thing that needs to be brought home to all of the Democracies, more and more.

PRESS: Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the actual implementation of those broad declarations, now?

THE PRESIDENT: Interchange of views, that's all. Nothing else.

PRESS: We might assume that you have complete understanding with Mr.

Churchill on all aspects of the world situation, including the Far East?

THE PRESIDENT: When you come down to localities, I don't suppose there is a

single section or a single continent that was not discussed at one time or another, in all the conferences you ever heard of.

PRESS: Are we any closer to entering the war, actually?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say, no.

PRESS: May we quote directly?

THE PRESIDENT: No, you can quote indirectly.

PRESS: Mr. President, is Russia bound to subscribe to this eight point program?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

PRESS: Will she be?

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody ever suggested it until you did.

PRESS: Can you tell us anything about aid to Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: You know just as much about it as I do, or Mr. Churchill, for discussion. Last year two commentators entirely overlooked two factors -- one was geography, and the other was goods and munitions.

We did discuss the fitting in of Russian needs to the existing production program, and we also discussed what might be called the fact that the Russian needs might be divided into two categories. The first is material which is immediately available, to get there during this summer's campaign, and on the assumption that winter will bring at least a partial halt to campaigns in Russia. The other part is the materials and munitions which can be got to Russia by the time the spring campaign opens, and the fitting in of all of that to our own domestic needs and other Lease-Lend orders.

PRESS: You have no doubt the Russian resistance will continue into winter?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess from that there is a sort of an assumption in there.

PRESS: Mr. President, do you plan to go on the radio or deliver any message to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: That depends largely on you fellows.

PRESS: How so, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: If you give the country an exceedingly correct picture, I probably won't go on the radio.

PRESS: You can rely on us, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose you won't print that.

PRESS: That's what he thinks.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's all the news. I have to get back to Washington tomorrow.

PRESS: (interposing) May I ask you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I have no plans.

PRESS: May I ask whether another Lend-Lease appropriation is in sight?

THE PRESIDENT: The answer is just what it has been for the last month. We are still studying it. And regarding the place where we will ask for more money, there is a certain amount of the present fund which we cannot allocate at this particular time. Certain sums have been set aside by act of Congress for things like food, and of course food supplies don't have to be -- like wheat for instance -- don't have to be manufactured months ahead of time. A certain amount of money is being withheld from the first Lend-Lease appropriation to take care of agricultural needs during the next few months. We haven't got up any list of things. They have been working on it.

PRESS: Mr. President, will Russia get Lease-Lend aid now?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

PRESS: Is that because she has the cash to pay?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the same thing.

PRESS: Has Mr. Churchill any idea of coming to the United States?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. Neither have I any intention of going to Britain, for a while, anyway.

PRESS: Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about the French situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not fully up on it. Only had telegraphic reports. I will see Mr. Hull tomorrow very shortly after we get in.

PRESS: Far East, too?

THE PRESIDENT: Same thing -- Far East.

PRESS: Mr. President, maybe I shouldn't bring this up, but we are confronted with difficulties about train departure if we leave at four o'clock. Is there any possibility the train could be held for a time?

THE PRESIDENT: Bill, how about it, hold it for a while?

MR. HASSETT: Could give them a half hour.

PRESS: One thing, Mr. President, were any steps taken to document this meeting for history, from the American point of view?

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to talk off the record -- not for use, literally, not for use. There is no reason why you fellows shouldn't know. The reason I can't use it is that it would be discourteous. The whole point of the original arrangement was, as you know, secrecy, for perfectly obvious naval reasons, and I didn't take you three fellows or anybody else. Neither did I take any cameramen. But when we got there we found that there was a moving picture man who goes around with Mr. Churchill, and he says he is very different from ours. Mr. Churchill travels with no newspapermen whatsoever, but he does travel with a regular Ministry of Information motion picture man, which is the regular British custom, and I think he is a Government employee and not a press association, and nearly all the moving pictures that you see of

Mr. Churchill were taken by Government men and then given to the press. We found that he had this man who customarily travels with him, and I was able to find, from Navy personnel, one or two people who took some pictures which were sent down to Steve and have been released.

On the question of writing, why I never assumed for a minute that there would be an official historian, and the Ministry of Information in England, at the last minute, had sent two gentlemen who they insisted were not newspapermen, they were people who wrote books. I said, "Good God, I've got a whole lot of people who are not only newspapermen, but have written books too!" If I had known, I would have done it too. So they are two gentlemen who were literary gentlemen. They were told very definitely by me, and they acceded to it, if these two literary gentlemen ever wrote anything over there inside of a year, about this conference, that they were to give it to the three American press associations, in London, free of charge. That was about the best I could do. If they do write anything, the three press associations will get their stuff. That is the agreement, whether they are going to write for publication or British Naval Archives. I have protected you as best I could, having been taken by surprise.

I think on the three press associations, there is no particular reason why you shouldn't let your London offices know that you are aware of the fact that there were two literary gentlemen who were put on board by the British Ministry of Information, and that they have agreed with me that any release from the pens of either of those gentlemen goes to our three press associations. I couldn't think of any better way to cover it. I can't say, "Mea culpa," because it was the other fellow's "culpa."

PRESS: May the three press associations leave here first?

THE PRESIDENT: Bill?

HASSETT: O. K.

(This Press Conference reported by Francis Terry, Navy
Department)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #762,
Executive Offices of the President,
August 19, 1941 -- 4.10 P.M., E.S.T.

MR. GODWIN: (to the President) How do you do? (The President waves his hand)

THE PRESIDENT: Have you recovered?

MR. GODWIN: What?

Q Nothing to recover from.

(pause here)

Q We inspected the new Cabinet table this afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT: Very nice. We may be able to see everybody now.

Q There are rumors that Jesse Jones (Secretary of Commerce) made it in the basement of the Commerce Department himself, at night. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. What did he ever do with that aquarium -- swimming pool was it? -- no, aquarium. What did he ever do with it?

Q Still down there.

MR. GODWIN: Still down there.

THE PRESIDENT: He should turn it into a swimming pool.

MR. GODWIN: Not for humans.

THE PRESIDENT: It's a pity.

(pause here)

THE PRESIDENT: Get rid of that! (throwing away some newspapers)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what's been happening here in the last couple of weeks? (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Surmises.

THE PRESIDENT: (punning) Sir who?

MR. GODWIN: Surmises. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have anything.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us anything about the Japanese situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There's no news. No further news today.

Q We understood that a message from Ambassador Grew was coming in on the tape at the State Department. I wonder if anything had come over yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Could you tell us whether any further steps are being taken to bring home those one hundred Americans?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You would have to ask the Secretary. Not that I know of.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your conference with Lord Beaverbrook?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about the general problems of need and supply. And I told him that I had asked, before I left -- oh, about three weeks ago -- er -- our own Army and Navy to make another -- er -- survey of actual production deliveries -- needs and deliveries -- not only through 1942 but also for 1943, and that I would be very glad if the British would do the same thing. We probably will have the -- certain Chinese needs and certain Russian needs.

In other words, try to get, as of this time -- late summer -- in 1941 -- a new -- a new picture going further into the future than we have gone up to the present time. We had a survey, of course, of that kind -- er -- about a year ago, and -- er -- it's time that we had a -- a new picture, a year having gone by. And the British will give us their figures pretty soon, and I will get our own figures pretty soon. Then we will put the whole thing together and draw a line and add it up.

Q The final military part on production and needs?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q The final military part on production and needs?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Oh, yes.

Q Mr. President, does that assume that this war is going to go through 1943?

THE PRESIDENT: If necessary.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, would you care to take up with your Press Conference anything in connection with your high-seas conference. In other words ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't think there is ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) You must have seen or heard of reports. Is there anything that you care to clarify?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think so. If you will -- I don't think it is necessary for me to go into any criticism such as I think Alben Barkley is making this afternoon on the Senate floor -- in regard to certain newspaper articles. That is neither here nor there, but on the whole I do want to say this: that the whole -- the whole idea of my getting away without telling you people about it was, from my point of view, based on the security and safety of the Prime Minister and his staff; and the joke was that his consideration of secrecy was based on his conception of the safety of the President of the United States and his staff. (laughter) And you might say that between the two there was agreement that it should be kept secret.

And there were a great many reasons why the press should put two and two together, on the ground of the absence of certain people from their usual haunts. And I of course have not the slightest objection

to stories that were based on -- er -- guesses and -- er -- implications that something was happening, because these people were away, because those guesses were all stated in the press that they were guesses. There wasn't any assertion, except one or two radio commentators that I happened to hear. There was no assertion -- er -- that either the Prime Minister or I had definitely gone to a certain place.

There were surmises. Well, surmises are perfectly legitimate if they are labeled surmises. I think that the press ought to be congratulated on the restraint that they showed during that blackout week -- er -- in using only -- er -- the surmises, and nothing else. On the whole -- the whole thing was very well kept. And of course there was a great difficulty afterwards in keeping certain details as to location and times, and so forth, until the British Prime Minister could get home.

Well, now, he is safely home, so the thing is all right, except that I think it was generally agreed that the actual timing, and the actual location, should not be given out until a good while later, possibly the end of the war, for the reason that there are so many -- what shall I say? -- scientific considerations to be taken into consideration -- er -- radio signals, just for example. It is better not to give information which would be of advantage to the Axis powers.

Q Mr. President, were the accounts of your meeting with the Prime Minister correct enough to foreclose the necessity of your going on the air to explain it to the American people?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it is necessary to go on the air. I think the accounts are pretty good from here. There were one or two highly

imaginative accounts that I read out of London, but I think the general public realizes that they were imaginative.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, I think a great many people have the idea that the war -- as carried on between nations at war -- on our side -- will be -- there will be more to it -- more punch to it -- more actively engaged. Is that a good surmise?

THE PRESIDENT: Help for the Democracies of the world, yes.

Q As a result of this conference, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. In other words, it clarified many, many things. It discussed operations. As I said the other day, in practically every section of the whole world -- and -- er -- it has -- it's brought a -- what shall I say? -- a better meeting of the minds on needs, and the fight that the Democracies are putting up against Nazi-ism.

Q Mr. President, what high officials are going to Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have no idea. We haven't talked about it.

Q Mr. President, can you bring us up to date on the Federal Shipbuilding strike?

THE PRESIDENT: No. They are talking this afternoon, and I haven't had any reply.

THE PRESIDENT: Who is 'they', Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Korn -- ?

VOICE: Korndorff. (L. H. Korndorff, President of the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Kearny, N. J.)

THE PRESIDENT: And Mr. Green. (John Green, President of the C.I.O. Shipbuilders Union)

Q Mr. President, there is one published report that Secretary -- Vice President Wallace is going to head the new defense setup.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Pure invention. That's all.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, could you tell us ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Not on the Vice President's part -- (laughter) -- or any responsible person on the Hill. I happen to know -- not anyone here.

MR. GODWIN: Along with the invention, it came a pretty well built-up story of streamlining the office of defense -- more efficiency, and so forth, as if there would be a reorganization ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, no. Not reorganization, or anything like that. We are conducting, as you know, daily -- have been for what? -- a year -- studies, for the ironing out and smoothing over of new difficulties as they arise.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us whether the Prime Minister seemed confident that Britain can win the war, without our entry?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think that that kind of a question is a useful kind of a question, because it is too -- it is too 'headliney', without any substance to it. You know what I mean. I can tell you, off the record, what the answer is, but I think it would be a great mistake to quote me as quoting Winston Churchill that they are going to win the war.

Off the record, I can say: Yes -- that he is extremely confident, in the long run -- in the very long pull. But at the same time -- mind you this is off the record -- at the same time, both he and I did talk over -- er -- a tendency in -- that goes with Democracies for the population as a whole -- the peoples that make up Democracy -- to be on the crest of the wave one minute, and in the depths of despair the next minute. It comes from our type of civilization. You don't

find that in -- er -- dictatorship countries, where individual thinking is almost entirely eliminated, by decree.

As an example, there was, as we all know, one reason for this vote the other day -- mind you this is all of the record -- (he laughs) -- there was -- er -- there had been a feeling growing actually, because Russia had done a lot better than anybody expected, not only the press but the generals. (laughter) And there was general 'hooray boy' stuff that Russia was doing so much better than expected. Thereupon, everybody in the lightness of their hearts under the Democratic system said: "Oh, isn't that perfectly grand! Now let us -- let us slow up a bit. Everything is going to be all right. Russia is going to come through."

Now of course that is a terribly, terribly dangerous tendency. And there was a little of that feeling, I think, over in England itself -- as much as to say: "This thing is all right now."

And of course that can't be justified, if you know all the facts. On the contrary, when you're winning, or when you're -- things look a little bit better, that's the time for you to redouble your efforts. If you think the thing through, there is a chance to redouble your efforts and go a little bit faster.

And -- I wonder if I have got it -- I have got an interesting thing -- you might like to use it. See if I can find it. (looks through the papers in his workbasket) It's a thing I dug out of Carl Sandburg's Lincoln (The War Years) the other day, something he said to some ladies who came in to see him at the end of the first year of the war, in 1862. If you will bear with me for a minute, I will try to find this. (still looking) Here it is.

This is Sandburg's Volume One. 1862. Statement of Lincoln --
I will get Steve to have this for you, if you want it. I will just
read it to you.

MR. EARLY: On the record now?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, this is on the record. (reading)

"1862 -- to Mrs. A. Livermore, Chicago. 'I have no word of
encouragement to give!' was the slow, blunt reply. 'The mili-
tary situation is far from bright; and the country knows it as
well as I do.'

"The women were silent. They knew it was a heart-to-heart
talk, that he was telling them what he could not well tell the
country, that he was frankly relieving the burden of an over-
weighted mind. It was a silence of a moment, but 'deep and
painful', said Mrs. Livermore.

"The President went on: 'The fact is the people have not
yet made up their minds that we are at war with the South.' --
mind you, this is a whole year later -- 'They have not buckled
down to the determination to fight this war through; for they
have got the idea into their heads that we are going to get
out of this fix somehow by strategy! That's the word --
STRATEGY! General McClellan thinks he is going to whip the Rebels
by strategy; and the army has got the same notion. They have
no idea that the War is to be carried on and put through by
hard, tough fighting, and that it will hurt somebody; and no
headway is going to be made while this delusion lasts.'"

That is rather an interesting parallel. Lincoln's belief that
this country hadn't yet waked up to the fact that they had a war to
win, and Lincoln saw what had been going on. Well, there are quite
a lot of things for us to think about in this -- in this day and age.

Q Mr. President, would that very narrow vote on the Draft bill indicate
that perhaps there are others who hadn't waked up to the war?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there are a lot of people who haven't waked up to
the -- the danger. A great many people.

Q Mr. President, if you were going ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q Mr. President, if you were going to write a lead on that, how would you

do it? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I'd say, "President Quotes Lincoln" -- (laughter) -- "And
Draws Parallel."

Q May we quote that, sir?

MR. GODWIN: Will that ---

Q (interposing) You mean there is a parallel situation in this country ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- in the world today?

Q Including this country?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, sure.

Q Mr. President, if we could get back from Lincoln to the defense setup --
(laughter) -- I wonder if you could tell us a little more about Judge
Rosenman's job in drawing up this new plan?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not drawing up any new plan. Just making studies.
Just part of a continuing study business.

I will read you something else which will be good for your souls.

(he laughs) This is a letter I got this morning from an old friend
of mine: (reading)

"Inevitably, constant misuse can rob some phrases of their noble
meaning. Therefore, regard for truth compels one to say that
somewhere in the Atlantic you did make some history, and like
all historic events, it was not what was said or done that de-
fined the scope of the achievement. It is the forces, the
impalpable, the spiritual forces, the hopes, the expressions,
and the dreams, and the endeavors that are released. That's
what matters. And so all that is implied is the fact that you
and Churchill met in the circumstances under which you did.

"The aims for which you met, that is the vital achievement
from all -- from which all else will flow. We live by symbols and
we can't too often recall them. And you two in that ocean, freed
from all the tawdry accompaniment of cheap journalism" --

(laughter) -- I told you this is good for your souls -- some of you,
I mean --

"--in the setting of that Sunday service, gave meaning to the conflict between civilization and arrogant, brute challenge; and gave promise more powerful and binding than any formal treaty could, that civilization has brains and resources that tyranny will not be able to overcome.

"All this talk of press and picture releases, and what not, are the merest trivia."

That's what I was coming down to -- "the merest trivia." Now that applies, in the last analysis, to whether so and so's going into O.P.M., or somebody's going into O.P.A.C.S. That's trivia. There are so many bigger things, and the more we can get away from the trivia, in trying to get out of this great world danger, the better it will be. (continuing reading)

"The deed and the spirit and the invigoration breathed there in the hearts of men will endure and will kindle actions toward the goal of ridding the world of this horror."

So much for the trivia.

Q Who was that, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: A friend. (loud laughter)

Q Mr. President, who is going to determine what is trivia?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Who is going to determine what is trivia?

THE PRESIDENT: Why, you fellows. Who else?

MR. GODWIN: There is a great deal of it gotten out.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Perfectly true.

Q Mr. President, here is a real, trivial question. Can you say anything about the new War Department building in Arlington? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is of interest to not only the Washington papers. I think it ought to be of interest to everybody. I haven't got the bill yet. And I have talked with Director of the Budget about it, and I have had a number of memoranda, a number of pleas on one side. And

tomorrow I am going to see General Somervell, (Brehon B. Somervell) to hear the story on the other side.

My present inclination is not to accept that action by the Congress. I don't say it is the final -- er -- decision, because I haven't heard the other side yet, but there are some of you that I told over a year ago an old story to.

When I first came down here in 1933, I said I didn't think I would ever be let into the Gates of Heaven, because I had been responsible for desecrating the parks of Washington. Back in the fall of 1917, the Navy Department needed space, and I took up with President Wilson the possibility of building a temporary building -- wooden building -- down here on the Oval. And he said, "Why do you select that site?" I said, "Mr. President, because it would be so unsightly right here in front of the White House, that it just would have to be taken down at the end of the war." "Well," he said, "I don't think I could stand all that hammering and sawing right under my front windows." He said, "Can't you put it somewhere else?" So I said, "Of course. Put it down in Potomac Park." "Well," he said, "Put it down there and we will get rid of it."

And then came up the question -- that located it in the park -- then came up the question of the dangers of a wooden building. And the President decided it should be a fireproof building; and I got hold of the Turner Construction Company, and they did a perfectly amazing job, as you know. Well, that was finished in the Spring of 1918. That is 23 years ago, and the building is just as solid as the day it was built. There was nothing temporary about it; and then it was so good that we went ahead and put the Munitions Building right alongside.

It was a crime -- I don't hesitate to say so -- it was a crime, for which I should be kept out of Heaven, for having desecrated the whole plan of, I think, the loveliest city in the world -- the Capital of the United States. Now, a part of that plan, of course, as it developed over the years, created the great National Cemetery. Er -- General Lee's old place. And Arlington is known and loved throughout the length and breadth of the land.

The whole scheme of things was that people on this side of the river -- I don't know how many tens of thousands of tourists there are every day here in this town -- they go along down here by the river, and they look across to this -- er -- lovely waterfront on the other side, and an unobstructed view of Arlington Cemetery -- the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier -- Lee's Homestead, and everything else.

And here it is -- under the name of emergency, it is proposed to put up a permanent building, which will deliberately and definitely, for one hundred years to come, spoil the plan of the National Capital. Quite aside from any question of access to it, or where people live, how you get across the bridge, or anything else, I think that I have had a part in spoiling the National Parks and the beautiful waterfront of the District once, and I don't want to do it again.

There are various other ways of handling the problem of space in the District. I'm going back to the -- to the consideration of another possibility. As you know, the plan -- oh, what was it? -- six or seven years ago -- was accepted to build the new War Department on this side of the Naval Hospital, and build the Navy Department on the other side of the Naval Hospital. And I sort of felt that I was -- er -- perhaps squaring myself with the Good Lord by building those two buildings

during my Administration, and being able to take down the present Navy Building and Munitions Building in the park.

Now, I am perfectly willing for the War Department, which does need space very much, to go ahead and add some more at the present location for the War Department, and start right in and build the building which has been labeled for the Navy Department on the other side of the Naval Hospital hill. Turn that new Navy Department building over to the War Department until peace comes in the world. And when that time comes, the Army of course will cut down tremendously on its employees, and the Navy will be able to go back to its own building. Actually on footage -- square feet -- the thing can be worked out pretty well. This building that is proposed on the other side of the river is much larger actually than we need in Washington. Besides which, it spoils the planning of 150 years.

MR. T. REYNOLDS: (Loudly) Thank you, Mr. President. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: There you are. You got it.