

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #842
Executive Office of the President
August 21, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

Q Good morning.

Q Good morning, sir.

Q (aside) Some work. (indicating mimeographed releases in front of the President)

VOICE IN THE BACKGROUND: Hurry along. Hurry along.

Q Okay.

(pause as newspapermen continue to file in)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you the most important thing first, which is a warning to the enemy nations. I am making it in the form of a statement, because I think probably that is as good a way as any.

(reading): "The Secretary of State --"

-- Steve will give you a copy of this afterwards, so you needn't take it down ---

(continuing reading): "The Secretary of State recently forwarded to me a communication signed by the Ambassador of The Netherlands, and the Ministers of Yugoslavia and Luxembourg, on behalf of the governments of Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and the French National Committee in London, calling attention to the barbaric crimes against civilization -- civilian populations that are being committed in Occupied countries, particularly on the Continent of Europe."

Of course, we had hoped that the -- this is not in the statement --

we had hoped that the barbaric acts against civilian populations would decrease. On the contrary, they seem to be increasing. And I just give you the example of the -- the shooting of hostages, not only in France but very recently five or six very important citizens in -- in The Netherlands, and a good many people in Norway. Well, it's just an illustration. We don't get much news out of the other countries, but it is probable that similar -- I call them atrocities on the part of Germany still exist in those other countries like Poland and Czechoslovakia that we don't get much news out of.

(continuing reading): "In this communication, attention was invited to the declaration signed in London, January 13 this year, by the representatives of nine governments whose countries are under German occupation. This declaration affirmed that acts of violence thus perpetrated against the civilian populations are at variance with accepted ideas concerning acts of war and political offenses, as these are understood by civilized nations; stated that the punishment, through the channels of organized justice of those guilty and responsible for these crimes, is one of the principal war aims of the contracting governments; and recorded the determination of the contracting governments, in a spirit of international solidarity, to see to it that those guilty and responsible, whatever their nationality, are handed over to justice and tried, and that the sentences pronounced are carried out.

"The communication which I have just received from the chiefs of mission of The Netherlands, Yugoslavia, and Luxembourg, states that these acts of oppression and terror have taken proportions and forms, giving rise to the fear that as the defeat of the enemy countries ap-

proaches, the barbaric and unrelenting character of the occupational regime will become more marked, and may even lead to the extermination of certain populations.

"As I stated on October 25 last:

"The practice of executing scores of innocent hostages in reprisal for isolated attacks on Germans in countries temporarily under the Nazi heel revolts a world already inured to suffering and brutality. Civilized peoples long ago adopted the basic principle that no man should be punished for the deed of another. Unable to apprehend the persons involved in these attacks, the Nazis characteristically slaughter fifty or a hundred innocent persons. Those who would 'collaborate' with Hitler or try to appease him cannot ignore this ghastly warning.

"The Nazis might have learned from the last war the impossibility of breaking men's spirit by terrorism. Instead they develop their 'lebensraum' and 'new order' by deeds of frightfulness which even they have never approached before. These are the acts of desperate men who know in their hearts that they cannot win. Frightfulness can never bring peace to Europe. It only sows the seeds of hatred which will one day bring fearful retribution."

And this is new --

(continuing reading): "The Government of the United States has been aware for some time of these crimes. Our Government has constantly received additional information from dependable sources, and it welcomes reports from any trustworthy source which would assist in keeping our Government -- our growing fund of information and evidence up to date and reliable."

In other words, we want news -- from any source that is reliable -- of the continuation of atrocities.

(continuing reading): "The United Nations are going to win the war. When victory has been achieved, it is the purpose of the Government of the United States, as I know it is the purpose of each of the United Nations, to make appropriate use of the information and evidence in respect to these barbaric crimes of the invaders, in Europe and in Asia. It seems only fair that they should have this warning: that the time will come when they shall have to stand in courts of law, in the very countries which they are now oppressing, and answer for their acts."

Well, I think that's clear enough. I don't think it needs much comment.

Then I -- Steve has got for you a copy of a letter that went out yesterday morning to the head of every department and agency of the Federal government in regard to talking too much. (laughter)

I won't read it. It's fairly long. You can get it from Steve. But the object is to prevent the people, from the top to the bottom in these different agencies, and so forth, from talking too much, thereby creating false impressions, and in many cases taking opposite sides of a policy argument out in public which hasn't been passed on in any way, trying to make you good people decide that this is going to be the policy of the Government, and then citing somebody who has talked too much, and -- Oh, well, you can understand why it's done just as well as I can.

The third thing I have is that Mr. (Wendell) Willkie -- you have -- he told you about it yesterday -- is going out to the Near East, and -- and Russia.

Well, the Near East -- I think you can make a fairly good guess -- includes Egypt, and Arabia, and Palestine, and Syria, and Turkey, and Iraq, and Iran, and in addition to that -- Moscow.

And he is going as -- Oh, I don't know -- I don't know exactly what -- what his title would be. At any rate he is going for me. He is going -- I suppose the best thing to call him is a Special Representative of the President. He will carry letters to the various Americans, and so forth, out there, and to some of the other people too.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) May I revert ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And he will be back by the 15th of October.

(laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I wanted to ask you whether you would -- you could commit, in this very judicially-minded statement of yours about the retribution, if you could commit those folks over there in these ravished countries to acting through courts of law, when they got a chance at them? You -- you are speaking for the -- for the Government of the United States?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: You are not committing those people to stand up there, are you?

In other words, I don't see how those fellows could stand going in a law court if they got a hold of these guys.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, I can't talk for them, but I express the hope that there will be a judicial process.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q Mr. President, have you heard the remark of some of the representatives of the Occupied countries: "Give us one week"? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I have. And I hope that they won't carry that idea out. I think sober judgment would be distinctly -- all over the world -- in

favor of the judicial processes, when we win the war and can give it back. We don't want to kill innocent people.

MR. GODWIN: Then the form of it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

MR. GODWIN: I don't mean effecting another form, but may I ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) We had a very good example of it here ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- two or three weeks ago. That was not just a form. That was a definite judicial process that was carried up to the highest court.

MR. GODWIN: Well, do you care -- you mentioned Iraq and Iran and a lot of those Near East countries ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Is there anything you could say about what you desire him to do there? Information? Or is there anything more than that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you could -- I think you could say this: that, of course, in each country there are special tasks, depending on the country. I am not talking about Russia. I am talking about the other countries in the Near East.

I should say that his principal task would be to tell the truth to them, representing the titular leadership, or leadership of the minority party in this country. What he says will carry a very great weight on what the United States is doing to win the war. In other words, that we -- we have unity, and that we are going all-out.

And we talked for a while about one phase of it, which is perhaps an unintentional result, but a great many people all over the world get

from our dispatches that originate in the United States the idea that our production is being hurt to a very, very large extent -- remember I talked about this last week -- there will be a threatened strike in one small plant, and it lasts 24 hours -- there will be another shutdown by management in some small individual plant for 24 hours. That is so handled by the news agencies as to make the outside countries think that that is the rule instead of the very rare exception.

I have had British labor people come in here, saying, "Oh, it's terrible. It's perfectly terrible. Why all these strikes, all these shutdowns?" And so forth and so on. "You are not carrying out the program." And when I tell them what this country knows pretty well, that the total of delay in war production caused by strikes or shutdowns is an infinitesimal percentage of the total, they are very much surprised. Now it isn't a great -- a lot of people in Britain think that, because of a -- what shall I call it politely? -- a disproportionate exposition of the news.

It is also true, probably, in the -- in the Middle East -- Near East. And of course our enemies seize it -- they grab it. Probably some of you know -- have access to German newspaper dispatches, or dispatches from newspapers from, say, Paris. Why, Heavens above! -- if ten men walk out, that's front-page stuff for them. And the enemy, that is part of his propaganda, perfectly obviously. They just magnify something that doesn't exist. Well, the result is that you get false information to the people all over Europe and the Near East.

Well, that is -- that is one of Mr. Willkie's tasks, to tell the truth about the United States.

And another matter that I asked him to -- to mention when he gets

to these different places is the comparison between an Axis victory and a United Nations victory, as to what would happen to them.

Now you might say that one side or the other is going to win, and therefore those nations which are not actively at war at the present time ought to begin to think about what is going to happen to them in the case of either victory, in the one case being reduced to the status of a puppet state, totally controlled by Germany and Italy, and in the other case a -- a reasonable opportunity for autonomy, and independence, and development, under certain principles. Well, just for example, the principles of The Atlantic Charter.

And they ought to realize -- begin to realize over there the implications of a victory by the Axis powers, versus the implications by the United Nations. I don't think that we have expressed that enough to the individual governments and peoples of those -- of those nations. Now that is one of the jobs for Mr. Willkie to do.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, have you asked Mr. Willkie to report to you when he comes back?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes.

Q Mr. President, you said that he would carry communications to some of the leaders of the governments that he would visit. Could we presume that they would include one to Mr. Stalin?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Oh, Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In fact, Mr. Stalin knows he is coming.

MR. GODWIN: In your illustration there -- the dissemination of news -- you brought up the strike. Would you care also to include -- and it isn't

mine at all -- the fact that the statement is made that production is falling off by competent authorities, labor leaders ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Right.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- who blame the dollar-a-year men, and some Member of Congress who will make the statement on the Floor. It is not always -- it arises as a legitimate matter of news sometimes, so far as reporting is concerned.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. If you go -- it depends, of course, a good deal on what paper you work for. Of course, you can always write a story any way you want it. And of course, the principal problem at the present time is getting the raw materials to these plants, where you have -- it isn't an easy thing -- you have got literally thousands and thousands of plants. And with the best intentions in the world, the W.P.B. and the Army and Navy make priorities. Well, sometimes those priorities that are made at the beginning of the contract don't work out the way we expect them to. And we also know, in addition to that, that the very use of the word "priorities" means "not enough material to go around." And those are the principal causes of slowing up at the present time.

MR. GODWIN: Well, as a general over-all matter, are you satisfied with the progress of the manufacture of munitions, and the distribution of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I never will be.

MR. GODWIN: Dissatisfied?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Are you blue about it? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. No.

I think those are the only things I have.

Q Mr. President, on the same subject, we -- United Press -- get letters and cables from places like Buenos Aires, complaining that we don't have enough in our naval victories and other military victories, that we don't exploit them sufficiently to help our friends who are really in favor of the United States.

THE PRESIDENT: I wonder where those originate? It certainly -- certainly the civilian impression of that from down there wouldn't amount -- wouldn't be worth printing. I always -- I always wonder where they originate. Now an Army or Navy officer -- it probably is not worth printing, because they haven't got all the facts that we have. It's all very lovely.

Of course, we always have to remember another thing, that is that every nation in the world on our side, or the neutral side, would like to have all of the munitions that we turn out. Therefore, we have to have priorities, again, on the distribution of munitions.

Same way on the follow up. I suppose I am as close to the question of follow up as anybody. It's a world war. Don't always have enough -- enough of the implements of war to follow up in every area. I would like to have a million men in Australia at the present time -- Americans, plus all the Australians. Can't get them there.

Q Mr. President, have you discussed your anti-inflation program with Judge (Samuel I.) Rosenman?

THE PRESIDENT: I have been talking it over with, I suppose, about 40 or 50 different people, and I think that he probably could be listed among the 40 or 50 different people.

Q (interposing) Can you tell us ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) So you could just -- you could just say Judge

Rosenman. He is one of the 40 or 50.

Q I meant, sir, that he was a fact-gatherer?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I get a lot of facts from other places too. I wouldn't call him that.

Q Could you tell us what progress you are making, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Pretty good. I would say -- well, this is not a promise, it's a hope, that within a week or two we will have something on it.

Q Thank you.

Q Could you confirm the published stories, sir, that one of the plans under consideration would create an economic stabilization authority of about seven men?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No, I couldn't.

Q (interjecting) Is that talking too much?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It might be wrong.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, still on the home front, if I may, can you tell me the effect yesterday afternoon in New York will have on the conduct of the war? (referring to the nomination of Jim Farley's John J. Bennett, Jr., over the President's James M. Mead, for Democratic nominee for Governor of New York State)

THE PRESIDENT: I thought somebody probably would ask that, -- (laughter) -- and so this morning, while at breakfast, I was reading a piece by Mark Sullivan, which has a lot of wisdom in it. (picking up the New York Herald Tribune for August 21) I shall -- I shall read this. He is talking about a press conference that Bob Patterson had on the -- the commando raid.

(reading): "The newsmen asked if Mr. Patterson had any comment.

The question was asked in a manner which suggested that the questioner really didn't have much hope of an answer." -- (laughter) -- which I think is very nice.

Then Mark goes on. He says this:

"By thus setting his expectations below his hopes, he escaped disappointment." (more laughter)

This is one of the grandest things I ever read.

(continuing reading): "Mr. Patterson said merely that he had no worth-while comment. If Mr. Patterson has no copyright on those four short words, 'no worth-while comment,' they could be advantageously used by some other Washington officials who face press conferences. If all officials were as immune as the impassive Mr. Patterson from feeling that courtesy or other motive requires them to satisfy the newsmen with something interesting or amusing -- in that event the quantity of words that go out of Washington would become at once diminished -- (laughter) -- and more informative." (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. Sullivan ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I wanted to read that because I want that to go into the record of the Press Conferences that will come out some day.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. Sullivan is with us today, if you care ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes? Is Mark there?

MR. SULLIVAN: Always here, Mr. President. (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Now it's going down in the Presidential papers to be issued later on.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about it?

Q Mr. President, ---

VOICES: (interposing) Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

(Notebook IX-PC -- page 158 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #843
Executive Office of the President
August 25, 1942 -- 4.30 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Sounds as if we are having trouble getting them in. (upon hearing voices in the background, "Hurry along, please. Move along, please.")

Q Big house.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only news I have is that the Prime Minister of New Zealand (Peter Fraser) gets here tomorrow afternoon, and there will be a little dinner for him at the White House tomorrow night. And I imagine he will be here -- Oh, what? -- a week or ten days, looking over things. He comes at my invitation, which I sent about a month ago. And I hope also that sometime later in the year we will receive visits from the Prime Minister of Australia (John Curtin), and the Prime Minister of South Africa (Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts). No dates are yet set.

Q Have you invited them, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any special significance in the invitation of the Australian Prime Minister?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I invited them all -- over a month ago.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, can you tell us what Archbishop ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- (Edward) Mooney (with Monsignor Michael J. Ready) was here so long about?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we talked about a flock of things.

Q Any Detroit problems involved?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Q Can you tell us what some of those were?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think the only thing I could say on the particular Detroit problem must be said off the record -- completely off the record. And that is this, that they have, of course, a problem like a great many other places: a very large influx of population, and the problem of housing. And one portion of the problem -- not the whole of it, a portion of it probably -- a great many new workers -- is the colored problem; and the effort to -- on the part of a great many people -- to create trouble.

Well, of course, in all human probability this influx of population in Detroit is not a permanent thing, any more than it was at the time of the last war, or as it was at the time of the boom of nineteen hundred and twenty-nine. And after that -- both those cases -- the population that had come in, a very large portion of it, went back home.

And -- well, about the only thing you can say on it is a word of advice to treat this as a temporary problem -- do the best we can. We are all living together in turning out munitions -- and especially to avoid creating trouble.

That's about all there is.

MR. EARLY: Is all of that off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's all off the record.

Q Mr. President, will you support (Attorney General John F.) Bennett (Jr.) for the New York governorship?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Will you support Bennett for the New York governorship?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think that I haven't had any release from Mark Sullivan on what he told me the other day. I can't talk without a release from Mark. And Mark hasn't thought it over and talked it over with me yet. So we are not ready to move. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, have you been informed about the meeting of the A.F.L. and C.I.O. with the Labor Division of the W.P.B. (War Production Board)?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I think I am seeing Mr. (Wm.) Green (A.F.L.) and Mr. (Philip) Murray (C.I.O.) tomorrow. I haven't heard anything.

Q Mr. President, does that meeting with Mr. Green and Mr. Murray have a bearing on the so-called -- the new plan against spiraling the cost of living?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Oh, Yes.

Q Have you now progressed to the point where you can show to these leaders a specific program?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am still at the talking stage, that's all. You might just as well make up your mind whatever goes on in the meeting will not be final or definitive.

Q There have been reports, sir, that you might go on the radio with a Labor Day address. Is there any basis for that report?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Maybe. I don't know whether it will be Labor Day, or before Labor Day, or after Labor Day. (laughter)

Q What does that depend upon, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q What does that depend upon, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I suppose it depends on my making up my mind. (laughter)

Q Well, Mr. President, will your speech, sir, deal with your new anti-high-cost-of-living program? Is that the thought?

THE PRESIDENT: Part of it probably would, ---

Q (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Yes. But I wouldn't say that speech will, because that will only be part ---

Q (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- of the speech. It probably will take in a lot of other things too.

Q (interposing) Including the progress ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Of course, the problem of the "cost of living" -- which as you know I prefer as a term to the word "inflation" -- it's a very, very serious matter before the country, affecting people's lives and -- and affecting very definitely the actual active conduct of the war. Therefore, it will probably be one of the subjects.

Q Mr. President, in -- in addition to the labor angle of that, Mr. (Claude) Wickard (Secretary of Agriculture) the other day, I am sure you noticed, made a statement in favor of the repeal of the 110% ceiling on farm prices, in favor of certain ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, all right. I will tell you what I will do. I will give you a sort of a -- sort of an idea for a story.

Q Swell. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: In this -- in this problem, remember there are quite a number of points to be taken up, savings, buying bonds, and so forth and so on; and the -- the -- an effort, this is largely on the financial end, to prevent people from bidding against each other to get all kinds of things, which they have got to do without -- simply have to. It will upset the whole war effort if they don't make certain sacrifices in the things they buy.

However, that part of it is rather distinct from two of the points which I made in that last talk, two points on which I have a sort of a feeling that the country is being a bit whipsawed between two so-called groups. They are not. They are all American citizens. They are really all one group. But as part of the Democratic process, people are apt to simplify it down overly and call them two separate groups. Well, they are not. And yet they try to make it appear so. They very often appear as if they were two different groups.

One is Labor and the other is Agriculture.

Now, after a good many months of effort it looks as if it wouldn't be fair to impose certain restrictions on one group without imposing restrictions on the other group. And I think from the point of view of national defense, and the conduct of the war, we have got to do both, one way or another. And these conferences today relate to the methods of imposing certain sacrifices on everybody, including both of these so-called groups.

Now one of the first things to point out -- reiterate what I said about their really being one group -- take, for example, the agricultural family. You can't over-simplify it and say that the agricultural family lives off the farm, because it doesn't. Now that's just a plain fact that I think has been greatly overlooked. The agricultural family buys an awful lot in the store. The agricultural family, most of them, buy a lot, for example, of canned goods, and clothing of various kinds, and household needs of various kinds. So of course they are very deeply affected if the price of those needs goes skyrocketing. And it will hurt them, perhaps not altogether as much as the city family, but pretty close to the city family, if consumers goods in the store go up in price.

And I think that if the farmer's wife all the way through the country were -- had it explained to her -- about the cost of living to her, I think the farmer's wife would appreciate it, and understand it, and go along with the effort to stabilize the cost of living.

But you can't stabilize wages without stabilizing farm prices. Nor can you stabilize farm prices without stabilizing the cost of wages. And that's the thing that we are working on, to bring about a result of a stabilized cost of living, in so far as it is possible to do it.

Now there is no use talking about individual instances, and examples, and methods, because we haven't -- we haven't -- nobody in this country has got the thing absolutely clearly in mind yet. We are making definite progress toward it, and we have made very great progress since last spring in keeping the cost of living -- what will I say? -- not keeping it down, but in very greatly reducing the speed of the increase. So that in the last -- I have forgotten, what? -- I told you a few weeks ago -- in the course of the last -- what? -- five or six months, the actual cost of living has only gone up a fraction of one percent. But you can't do that permanently. And if you can start it going up by increasing price ceilings in a store, for example, then you are on dangerous ground, and the whole spiral may gather speed again. But we are trying to stop it.

Q Mr. (Leon) Henderson said it might be that food prices might go up 30%, if they do it at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ a month.

THE PRESIDENT: Perfectly possible.

Q Do you think your plan will minimize that 30%?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's the whole point. That's the objective: Reduce it down as far as possible to an absolute level. That's the objective.

You can't always reach it ---

Q (interjecting) The ideal?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in every article.

Q Mr. President, to revert to the visit of the Dominions' Prime Ministers, is there anything you can tell us -- any specific purpose of their visit?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, just talk about the progress of the war. There is nothing specific. We haven't got one specific item.

Q Mr. President, in this attack on the problem of the acceleration of the cost of living, do you still think, or do you think that this might require legislation for the new attack which is shaping up?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not sure that we would have time for it.

Q In the specific question of stabilizing farm prices, you would need legislation on that specific ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not necessarily. In other words, time is -- is -- is a very important element in this. The whole situation might get out of hand in 30 days.

Q Well, then, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) It's automatic now, isn't it though, sir? How can Mr. (Leon) Henderson, for example, act to hold it down if he hasn't authority to do it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's something that is being studied at the present time. That's one of the -- you might call it almost a -- a method instead of an objective.

Q Mr. President, will the announcement be made on the wage stabilization and the farm price stabilization at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: I should think so. I think it's a fair thing to do.

Q Mr. President, could you explain a little more what you mean by wage stabilization -- clarify it as to whether it does mean the holding of its present level, or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Essentially. After all -- after all, let's talk about it in a -- in a common sense way. Suppose the cost of food was to go up 30%. Do you think we should keep the national wage scale down to where it is now? I don't. But, on the other hand, you keep the cost of food down to where it is now, why should Labor get an advantage? We are all in the same boat, and we are going to make some pretty tough sacrifices -- on the part of everybody -- before we get through.

Q Would the method of approach be somewhat similar to the War Labor Board's approach to the Little Steel formula?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Now you are coming down to details.

Q How soon, sir, might we anticipate something concrete -- definite on this?

THE PRESIDENT: As I said before, Labor Day, or before Labor Day, or after Labor Day. I can't be any more specific.

Q Around Labor Day, Mr. President? (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. If I can get enough time to write it.

Q (interjecting) Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's largely a question of enough time.

Q Has the Justice Department, sir, worked on your powers to act without legislation, or have you asked for such an investigation?

THE PRESIDENT: They are studying it too.

Q Mr. President, is there any probability that this speech of yours that you are contemplating would be the occasion of announcing this stabilization -- completed plan of yours?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it probably would be a good idea. (laughter) Of

course I think also, probably, if I did that, I would probably notify the Congress at the same time -- send a Message up.

Q About this angle of economic authority that was -- has been spoken of in two or three reports. Is that under consideration?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I wouldn't put it that way, but there has been -- of course, necessarily, machinery is under consideration. I wouldn't call it "economic authority."

Q (aside) Let's go.

Q Mr. President, getting back to the New York governorship -- (laughter) ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q Getting back to the New York governorship, has any wire of congratulations been sent to (Jim) Farley or (John J.) Bennett, (Jr.)?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I don't think anybody has had time to.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #844

Executive Office of the President

August 28, 1942 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

Q Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

Q Don't emphasize that "good." (Mr. Early's birthday party was yesterday)

Q With reservations.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Nice. Just grand. (the weather was perfect today)

How is John Henry getting on?

Q Better.

Q Better.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q Lauch(lin) Currie can tell you more about him than we can.

Q He was quite sick.

Q He was sick for a while.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q He was sick for a while.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, sure. One of those damn bugs.

Q 16 pounds off.

THE PRESIDENT: What? 16 pounds off? Oh! I think that's one of those places down there in Africa where there are 11 types of malaria, each one a different mosquito -- different type. You know, two Greek aides who came here, spent one night in -- way down in one of those places, and they came in with a temperature of 104. We got them to the Naval Hospital in Brooklyn. They stayed there about three weeks -- four weeks. They had been bitten by a mosquito in one night, and they each had a different type. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got two or three things, none of them of major importance.

I signed a Proclamation, giving the right of eminent domain to acquire the necessary lands, and so forth, for a pipeline to be built by a thing called Project Five Pipeline Corporation, for national defense purposes, about 150 miles, originating in the vicinity of Eldorado, Arkansas, and extending approximately 150 miles in a northeasterly direction to the Mississippi, in the vicinity of Helena, Arkansas.

Well, I thought I would say something off the record, or you can use it for background.

I am a little bit worried this morning, and yesterday and the day before, lest the press of the country lead the country to believe that we have had a great, smashing, major victory in the Southwest Pacific. Well, for instance, one of the papers this morning (The Washington Post) says, "Japanese Offensive Smashed." Well, I wouldn't call it an offensive. There have only been two things really that have happened since we occupied Tulagi and Guadalcanal (Islands in the Solomons). The first was a combination of the landing of 700 Japs on Guadalcanal, which was wiped out, and a series of -- of small attacks by Japanese planes. As you know, in that we have done pretty well, knocking down about -- I don't know, what? -- 30 or 32 of them, at a cost to us of about 4 planes. But those were all minor operations.

The second thing that has happened since the occupation of the Islands has been -- might be called a series -- I should call it not a full scale offensive on the part of the Japs but a reconnaissance in force. And we think that that reconnaissance has withdrawn. We have hit some ships. Perhaps -- we hope we have sunk a few of them, but I don't think

that the press should give the idea -- the idea to the country that we have won a great major victory, that it was a major offensive in any way. And I hate to have people over-estimate what essentially are minor victories. That's the best -- the best expression is that it was a reconnaissance in force. I think you could use those words. And, well, that's about all there is to it.

MR. EARLY: Mr. President, the last time that you used the background category---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

MR. EARLY: The last time ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't want it attributed to me.

MR. EARLY: That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: That's the point. I don't want it attributed to me. It's just for your office information really.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, you have seen Navy communiques, of course?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: They are cagily written, and necessarily so. Many people -- many men on newspapers of course don't have the benefit of an explanation like yours ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- like you are giving now, and frequently the Navy or Associated Press would tip fellows off to the fact that they could be optimistic or pessimistic.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) I think that's true.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) They are -- they arise out of that very fact, that the Navy communiques cannot give exactly ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think that's true, Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- that implication.

THE PRESIDENT: Then the other thing is sort of a -- I thought I would tell you about something that hasn't got anything to do with the war, because after all even in war-time you have to think about some of the nicer things of life.

When Professor (Carleton J.) Hayes went to Madrid as our new Ambassador there, just when he left, I said to him, "Will you, after you get settled down, let me have some information that I don't know anything about -- very few people do in this country, or in the Americas. After all, Spanish culture of all kinds is the main background for a very large percentage of the population of the Western Hemisphere, and we have heard very little about how much destruction there was of things like great paintings, and books, and manuscripts, and other precious objects of art -- furniture, and even buildings -- how much destruction was caused by the civil war in Spain. And I would like to know something about it."

I said, furthermore, "In the back of my head I have got the idea that one way of helping Spain to get on her feet after these very great trials, after the war is over, is to encourage tourists from all of the Americas to go to Spain, to help them improve their facilities for handling tourists. Spain never specialized in tourists, and yet a great many people from the Western Hemisphere, searching for this background of culture, have gone there under rather difficult conditions. And why wouldn't it be possible, after the war period, to help Spain get on her feet by having a great many tourists from the Americas go there?"

Well, it was just one of those shots in the dark. And I got a letter from him a few days ago, in which he said on the first point that considering the severity of the civil war, it's amazing how much in the

[little?]

AcB 3-5-57

way of historic paintings, and manuscripts, and so forth, were actually destroyed. They were pretty well taken care of. They were hidden away.

But in the -- in the preservation, the saving of them, a great deal of work ought to be done to -- I won't say restore them, but repair any damage, clean and varnish the paintings, fix up the frames, repair the books and the manuscripts, and even rebuild certain damages to buildings which are -- buildings not wrecked, but perhaps some of the columns, and so forth, were destroyed.

And he said that it ought to be done pretty soon, before the damage gets so far that it won't be easy to repair. And also, that he thought that the Spanish people, and the Spanish government, would be very much interested in having more visitors from all over the world -- after the war -- go and see them.

So I talked with Nelson Rockefeller the other day, just before he left for South America, and told him about it. And after all, this is not -- not a United States proposition. It relates to all of the Republics of -- out of the 21 Republics, 18 have as their fundamental background the ancient Spanish civilization. Portugal, of course, has a Brazilian civilization and background. Brazil -- (laughter) -- has a ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Vice versa.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Portugese background. And Haiti has, of course, a French.

So Rockefeller down there, on his trip around South America, is going to talk to various people on this subject, and see whether all of the Republics could get together and help Spain out in the care of their paintings, and architecture, and manuscripts, and so forth. And after the war, in the ~~same~~ way get together and help Spain to -- to make facili-

ties for tourists more -- more easy. Spanish transportation, for example -- railroads -- have been pretty -- pretty difficult for -- for tourists. Trains didn't run on time, and they ran very slowly. Roads were not always good. And a great deal can be done along those lines.

Well, of course, it would be a voluntary matter. It would be a matter of gift, in the sense that we have done in the Americas a great many things like that in the past, in improving facilities in -- in countries which because of war or stress or something else did not have the money to do it themselves.

Now of course this is all predicated on the assumption that Spain remains neutral in this war -- (laughter) -- which I hope that Spain will do. However, it's worth explaining. And I think it's a little touch in the middle of war that is rather a nice thing to contemplate.

Q This wouldn't be calculated to keep Spain neutral? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. It has nothing to do with that. That would be an unfair thing, because to put it in that way would impugn the motive, which is a decent motive.

Q Mr. President, do you think there will be many people who will object to helping the Franco government in any way at all?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. After all, a very ancient culture transcends any government of any particular period. It survives through all kinds of changes of government.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, when you speak of gifts, do you mean seeking individual gifts, or a gift by governments?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It will depend upon what each Republic wants to do. And I think in this country, possibly, some of the Foundations might help,

through individual gifts.

Q Wouldn't be an appropriation by government?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Oh, No. No. No, no. This is -- this is under the good auspices of the 21 governments, that's all.

Q Mr. President, have you given it a personal touch? Were you in Spain at any time ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- when you were in France?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Did you ever go to Spain at any time?

THE PRESIDENT: I have only been a hundred feet into Spain in my life, up in the Pyrenees, ---

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- a good many years ago.

Q Mr. President, as long ago as when Mr. (Claude) Bowers was over there, he was working to make this more attractive ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- to American countries.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's right.

Q (continuing) I remember one of the recommendations he made was that they should cut down on the use of olive oil by three-quarters, and garlic by nine-tenths. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: There are some Americans who like it. (more laughter)

I don't think I have got another thing.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, have you had a report yet from the Department of Justice on your war powers?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, Pete.

Q Mr. President, can you say anything about your talks the other night with the Prime Minister of New Zealand (Peter Fraser)?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, it was a renewal of an old friendship. And we talked about literally everything.

There was one -- there was one thing along that line which -- I only think of it because Australia and New Zealand produce a great deal of meat, and because there have been various stories of the fact that a meatless day in this country was being considered.

I think it probably amazed most people in this country, as they knew that it was not a question of Australian meat, or New Zealand meat, or American meat that has to be shipped to people who haven't got any meat. It's a question of shipping, of saving ships.

And I haven't got any final figures yet, so make it clear that the figures are not final, but it looks a little as if a meatless day in this country would enable us to save the use of 30 or 40 ships, which is a very amazing statement. In other words, a great deal of our meat could go to places where they have to have it on the other side. And of course that would save, in the sense that that would not use as many ships to bring meat from Australia, and New Zealand, and the Argentine. It is a matter of ship mileage.

Now nothing has been decided on it yet. We are working on it solely from the angle of trying to save ships. Well, My Lord! -- if we can save 30 or 40 ships, that's an awful big help to a very serious problem.

MR. GODWIN: Is that one meat day?

THE PRESIDENT: One meat day, not counting Friday. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: One other?

THE PRESIDENT: One other.

Q Would that be 30 or 40 ships a week, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: That would save the use of 30 or 40 ships.

Q Over a year's time, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: At all times.

MR. GODWIN: At the moment?

THE PRESIDENT: At all times. In other words, we are taking 30 or 40 ships out of a given trade of the moment, and using them for something else.

Q That's over a year's basis?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a year. At all times. See what I mean? Say there are a hundred ships that are carrying -- that are carrying meat today. Well actually, of course, we could take 30 or 40 of them under the present figures and turn them into carrying guns, airplanes, tanks. That is, again, at all times, not over a given period, but at all times -- this month, next month, next January, next summer. It's a net gain of so many tons of ships.

Q That is, Mr. President, provided the meatless day extends through the period?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q When would it be likely that this meatless day might be started?

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't got to that yet. We are still studying how much saving there will be made of shipping.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, to return to the anti-inflation problem, can you tell us what question you posed to the Justice Department?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. Too many of them. Take me an hour.

Q Well, specifically can I ask, sir, whether one question is your power as Commander in Chief in time of war to make certain price restrictions ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I suppose -- I suppose powers enter into

any question -- every question.

Q (continuing) --- to make these restrictions in spite of the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I wouldn't write it didactically like that.

(laughter)

Q How would you write it, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't write it. (more laughter)

Q Mr. President, when Mr. Green and Mr. Murray left the White House this week, they said they would be back next Thursday.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) Do you suppose, sir, one of the specific problems was wage stabilization before them at that time?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think so. They are still talking in generalities.

Q They seemed to have left ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They probably will talk in generalities until my Message goes up on Labor Day.

Q They seemed to leave with the impression that there is no inflexible freeze Order in sight, but rather an attempt to stabilize wages by stabilizing the ratio between wages and the cost of living.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Also stabilizing farm prices in the same way.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (continuing) Stabilizing the ratio between farm prices and the general cost of living?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (continuing) Would that be based on the -- on something like the Canadian system ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. No.

Q (continuing) --- on certain ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. No.

Q Are you and Mr. (Leon) Henderson in accord on your views on ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes.

Q (continuing) He keeps hammering on that subject.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, you said when the Message goes up. You mean you are going to make one Message to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- I think I will do it like I did before, Pete. I will send up a Message to Congress explaining the whole procedure, and then probably go on the air that night, just like I did before.

Q Mr. President, in generalities, did Mr. Murray and Mr. Green seem to accord with your views?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. The objective.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And a good many of the farm people have too. I haven't talked to Ed O'Neal (American Farm Bureau Federation) yet. I talked to a good many of the others, and the objective is pretty generally accepted.

Q Sometime ago you talked to Mr. (Louis J.) Taber of the Grange ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) He reported the conversation which he had with you touching on the whole question of scrapping the entire concept of parity which he said was not a real yardstick. Has any specific ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That's a detail, as I said, I wouldn't be able to write on, because it's a pure matter of detail. He had -- Oh, Mr. (Albert) Goss (National Grange) had the idea that the present formula --

it's a detailed formula -- is not realistic, and he had an idea that we could get another formula. In fact, he went over and talked to Agriculture about his formula that he was proposing as a substitute, and they are still talking about it.

Q He also had the idea, did he not, that 110% of parity as a formula for prices for farm commodities was strictly inflationary and dangerous?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think it is.

Q And you agreed with him on that point?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, back to the meat question for a minute. Have you given any thought to the changes that that might make in the economies of the countries from which you get the meat -- would seriously hurt them?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it would be a very good thing for them.

Q Can you explain that a little more, please?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would say: My own problem of keeping my figure good -- (laughter) -- reasonably good. I don't think that the country's economics are going to be thrown very much out of gear by not eating meat on some specific day in the week.

Q It's the countries that supply the meat ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q It's the countries that supply the meat was what he was referring to.

Q In the Argentine.

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think that can be handled pretty well. Of course, Argentina is not nearly as far away as some of the other countries, like New Zealand, and Australia. I don't think that the production of meat down there need be cut out at all. May have to -- may have to store some in various places, maybe in refrigeration. And then of course, we are working on other things. We have a lot of ships that are going down

there that haven't got -- they are not refrigerator ships -- that are taking troops, and guns, and planes, and things like that.

And with Mr. Fraser we are working on the definite objective of having those ships come back with as much in the way of products of Australia and New Zealand as they possibly can, not having them come back empty. And it's working out pretty well.

Q Mr. President, ---

VOICES: (interposing) Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #845
Executive Office of the President
September 1, 1942 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Come in. Anybody got anything today? (asking the Administrative Assistants, et al)

(the President nodded to Earl Godwin as he sat down)

MR. GODWIN: How do you do.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I asked all the boys on the "roost" if they had anything, and they unanimously said, "No." (laughter) I haven't got a thing.

Q Mr. President, is there anything you would care to say on the third anniversary of the war?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I said something about it yesterday. I think that will do.

Q There's a story out of New Delhi, Mr. President, quoting General (Joseph W.) Stilwell -- it's for five o'clock release ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Where from?

Q New Delhi -- quoting General Stilwell as saying there are Japanese defensive preparations in Indo-China and China which indicate they are preparing for a northern campaign, and the chances are pretty good that they will attack Russia. Have you any information?

THE PRESIDENT: None at all.

Q Mr. President, he also, in that connection, said that the situation in India was such that supplies for the United States troops there were being delayed.

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. I hadn't heard a word about it.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, have you received a report from the War Production Board on the plans of the C.I.O. and the A.F.L. for more partici-

pation in the war effort? They want a member on the War Production Board.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't remember that, Pete.

MR. P. BRANDT: (Donald) Nelson had talks with groups of the A.F.L. and C.I.O.

THE PRESIDENT: About a week ago, wasn't it?

MR. P. BRANDT: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I have seen Nelson since then, two or three times. He hasn't mentioned it.

MR. P. BRANDT: Hasn't mentioned it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, have you received a report yet from the Justice Department on the legal questions involved in attacking the cost of living problem without additional legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I would say I have had -- I have had a great many verbal discussions. I haven't had anything final in writing.

Q Can you tell us, sir, whether in general they think you can proceed without new legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I couldn't tell you that.

Q Can you tell us Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: Too general. I will tell you Monday.

Q Mr. President, in view of the threatened fuel shortage, do you plan to make any appeal to the country to conserve fuel this winter?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, haven't I done it once or twice before? I think so. I haven't got any special appeal in mind. I can tell you everybody knows what the situation is.

Q Reducing the temperature in the house, saving 25% of fuel, and so forth?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's awfully difficult to -- to make a hard and fast

rule. Some people cannot get on with mighty little -- less heat than they are using now, and other people can get along with a whole lot less heat -- probably will have to, in certain portions of the country, probably will have to reduce the total of fuel they have available in certain portions by 25%.

Q Mr. President, is any new position being considered for General (Patrick J.) Hurley, or will he go back to New Zealand as our Minister there?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing has been talked about at all.

Q Mr. President, what significance can be read into the resignation of (Shigenori) Togo, the Japanese Foreign Minister?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I would have to -- first of all, before I even talked about it, I would have to get a verification. The story I heard was a report.

Q Rather difficult to get a verification out of Tokio these days. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That's right -- or reasonable reports.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Sorry. It just "ain't."

MR. GODWIN: Things aren't good today.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #846
Executive Office of the President
September 11, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe I have got anything today, except that you have read the Baruch (Rubber) Committee report, and I expect to have a "name" on Monday.

Q Could you give us any initials today, Mr. President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. And more than that I wouldn't guess, just on the doctrine of experience. (more laughter) Excuse the subtlety of that.

Q Does that mean, Mr. President, that you are appointing the rubber administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: Well now, Mr. (Donald) Nelson (W.P.B.) is appointing him, but we will agree on it. (laughter) I have already talked to Mr. Nelson and several other people since Noon yesterday.

MR. GODWIN: Is it part of Nelson's organization?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's the part it recommends.

Q Mr. President, in your speech to the International Students Assembly last week, you praised the resistance of the people of Serbia. This has caused some concern, with some reports that several persons have taken your use of the word "Serbia" to mean that you no longer recognize the existence of Yugoslavia. Did you perhaps mean to say "Yugoslavia"?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will have to confess it came from the fact that when I was younger I used to collect the stamps of Serbia, and it was a slip for that reason. I would have said "Yugoslavia," but having been a stamp collector in my very early days, I said "Serbia."

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, are you a stamp collector or a philatelist?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am just a "common garden" stamp collector.

MR. GODWIN: Just like the rest of us, all right.

Q Mr. President, do you think the 18 and 19 year olds will be needed before the first of the year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so, because I think we are taking in, under the present law, about as many men as we can actually train under the present facilities up to the first of the year.

Q Mr. President, do you think it will be wise to get enabling legislation before the first of the year for that purpose?

THE PRESIDENT: I am talking about that with the -- with the War Department.

MR. GODWIN: Now it may not have reached you, sir, but there is some talk in draft board circles, and Hershey's office, about the possibility of stopping all enlistments of these young men in the Navy, so that the Selective Service can pick them for whatever branch of the Service most needs them. Do you know anything about that at all, or have you anything to say about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Under discussion. The Navy now, in enlisted personnel, is up to -- well, to a few days ago it was up to 694 thousand -- I think you can use the round figure of 700 thousand -- plus, of course, a very large officer increase also. And that is a matter that is being talked about.

Q Mr. President, have you seen the report in this morning's paper that Premier (Pierre) Laval (of Vichy France) had offered to send Jews rounded up -- transport them to the United States rather than Germany?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, if by October 1st it appears that your anti-inflation bill is on the way in Congress, but has not yet passed, in that case will

you wait and give them a chance?

THE PRESIDENT: What was the first word of that question? (laughter)

Q The first word was "if."

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about this?

Q Mr. President, after the first of the year can you give us any time element at all on the 18 and 19 year olds?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Oh, Yes. I can't -- I can't tell you yet what it is going to be. It's under study. It will be -- something, I suppose, will turn up this fall, before the first of the year sometime. I can't tell you what it will be, because it's under study.

Q Mr. President, I have been asked to ask you about a statement that came out in New York sometime ago, which indicated that Jim Farley would like to have a little closer political rapprochement with you, perhaps to return to the old basis?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, somebody asked a question about politics -- I don't know what it was -- two weeks ago, and I haven't thought about it since. So I am no wiser now than I was then.

Q On this rubber survey, Mr. President, you said yesterday that the recommendations would be put into effect as rapidly as possible.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I hope by Monday.

Q Does that include all of the recommendations?

THE PRESIDENT: Practically all of them.

Q There may be some exceptions?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think so. Not that I know of.

Q Would that include nation-wide gasoline rationing too?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Yes, ---

Q (interposing) Roughly how long ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- but it isn't gasoline rationing. You are all wrong. Yesterday I saw the headlines. They are completely wrong. It's a mileage rationing.

Q Mr. Baruch said it was a conservation program, but he did refer to gasoline rationing.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. It isn't gasoline rationing, it's mileage rationing.

Q Roughly how long will that take to prepare ---

Q (interposing) How are you going to arrive -- excuse me ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q How are you going to arrive -- what is going to be the administrative device by which you arrive at this mileage rationing?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they gave a rule of thumb thing in the report, which was 5 thousand miles, which would be a saving of about 25% over the average mileage today.

Q What I meant, sir, wouldn't you do it by some such method as curtailing gasoline sales in order to restrict mileage?

THE PRESIDENT: There are lots of ways of restricting mileage. One of them is to only give enough gasoline for the mileage allowed to the car, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) That's what ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- that's right.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- we would call rationing ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's a tire rationing thing. It's a mileage rationing thing which was arrived at. A lot of people, of course, have talked about reading peoples' meters (speedometers). Well, the trouble is that there are too many people in the country that know how to fix

their meters. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) To fix them, Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) So some other method has to be adopted, that's all. But it is essentially a mileage rationing thing, that's right.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, do you see any necessity for any legislation on this -- that it won't be necessary to have any legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: To have what?

Q Legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think legislation is necessary on it.

Q Well, Mr. President, you said that some of these -- that practically all of these will be put into effect Monday. Will the mileage rationing plan be put into effect Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Heavens, you can't start a thing until you set up the machinery to do it. And essentially the machinery will be through the local boards, necessarily. It's a thing that shouldn't be handled from Washington. It has got to be done by a fellow's neighbors. A fellow's neighbors are the best judge as to whether he is using his car properly, much better than having it done from Washington.

Well, I will give you an illustration. You know, there has been a plea that has gone out from all over every State -- it has gone out from me, and everything -- to limit speed. Well, the other day, when I was in Hyde Park, I made a little test. I ---

MR. EARLY: (interposing) Was the President at Hyde Park, or Shangri La?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, call it Shangri La. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I got onto the main highway up in Rhinebeck, a

distance of 12 miles --- (loud laughter interrupting). This is terrible. I don't know how I am going to --- (more laughter interrupting).

Q (interjecting) Let's go back to Hyde Park. (again more laughter, and cries of "Sh--Sh")

THE PRESIDENT: And I ran 12 miles down the main Post Road. Well, as you know, it has been the case --- (more laughter interrupting) --- I think it's all right, I have escaped from there.

MR. EARLY: All right.

THE PRESIDENT: As you know, the Secret Service car is behind me, with machine guns all bristling, and so forth, and the State Troopers' car, all of them within about 50 feet of me, as usual.

I worked out something with them. They don't let under the rules -- their rules, not mine -- they don't let any car pass me on the highway, and they never have. So there forms when I go very slowly, there forms behind my car that I am driving a line of other cars that are going faster.

Well, I came onto the Post Road, and there were no cars behind me. And I -- as a test -- kept my car going as evenly to 35 miles an hour as I possibly could. And when I got to my gate and turned in, there were 22 cars that had piled up behind me. In other words, every one of those 22 cars had been going more than 35 miles an hour. And in 12 miles, 22 cars had piled up behind me.

Now there's an illustration of the fact that people are not living up to the request of the Governor of the State, and the President of the United States. And we have got to enforce the thing some way.

Q Have you any idea how you will do it, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is up to the new "fellow" who comes in on Monday.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Roughly how long will it take, sir, to get the mileage business in effect?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You will have to ask the "fellow" on Monday.

Q Mr. President, the Baruch report said there was an inexplicable failure to accept Russia's offer last February of synthetic rubber information. Will that be attended to on Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: Whose offer?

Q Russia -- Soviet Union?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes. (laughter, evidently the expression on the President's face)

Q Mr. President, do I understand now that -- that Hyde Park is on the record, or is it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes. You can leave it -- this time -- on the record.

Q Thank you, sir.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #847
Executive Office of the President
September 15, 1942 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Sometimes I think I am clairvoyant. One of you present today is going to ask me a question, and I might as well tell you what the question is and answer it. Mind you, I don't know who it is, except that I am told a little bird out there tells me that he is going to say, "Mr. President, as a householder, have you got together your scrap pile for the new collection campaign?" My answer, prepared by Steve (Early) -- (laughter) -- is as follows:

"About three months ago the White House and the Executive Offices were searched for scrap metal and other needed scrap materials. Three big Navy Yard trucks were called and took this salvaged scrap to the Navy Yard. The search was continued for additional scrap around the White House, and about a week ago another truckload was collected and sent to the Navy Yard. In all, about 5 tons of scrap metals have been collected and turned in. Except for some additional scrap that may be found in the new east wing when construction there has been finished, those in charge of the search for scrap materials say the White House attic, cellars, offices, and store-rooms have been thoroughly cleaned out."

So, you see, we are trying to set a good example in this scrap metal campaign. And I am perfectly sure, from personal observation at the various Shangri Las that I occasionally occupy -- I am not going to get rebuked by Steve again -- (laughter) -- that people have not completely searched up to the present time, in the average home. There

is still an awful lot of scrap metal lying around in practically every home in the United States, large or small. And that is why I very much hope that this new campaign for scrap is going to help a lot more. We haven't got to the point -- period in the country where we have to take doorknobs -- (laughter from May Craig, who brought up that question before) -- and ornamental ironwork, but if people don't hurry and get the other kind of scrap that really is scrap -- get it in -- we will have to be a lot more drastic and just plain take it away.

So I hope that this campaign will be the success it deserves.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, with respect to that campaign, public -- much -- many members of the public have piles of scrap, and it seems the local organizations haven't got to the point of properly collecting ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's right.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) That's another thing, if you care to get in on that. That would help.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And I think also, very much, in any community that hasn't got adequate collecting organizations, that the people who have got the scrap and know that the local organization collecting it is not up to what it ought to be, they ought to write in and tell about it.

Q Mr. President, has it come to your attention that some of these local organizations have written to the War Production Board, protesting the feature of the present plan for tin can scrap collection, which ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q (continuing) --- provides that the brewers and soft-drink bottlers will get a little "take" out of this scrap collection that may amount to as much as 100 thousand tons of tin scrap, which would seem to be quite a large item.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe anything like that amount. Of course -- what's this for, caps for bottles?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, there are lots of soft-drinks that are put up with caps.

Q That's what I said -- the brewers and soft-drinks.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I suppose one of the simplest things to say is this: that we don't want to prevent people from drinking soft-drinks in the country. (laughter) And I think it is part of our civilization to drink soft-drinks.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Certainly.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And if somebody would invent a bottle cap that was not made of metal, they would have the everlasting thanks of the soft-drink drinkers throughout the nation. Nobody has discovered it yet.

Q Including ---

Q (interposing) Do you think Mr. (James A.) Farley (Chairman of the Committee for Export Division of the Coca Cola company) would like that?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Do you think Mr. Farley would like that? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Along the same lines, sir, I understand that if you add this -- this scrap that they are getting, plus the black plate -- the virgin black plate they are getting between the brewers and soft-drink operators, plus the old bottle caps they are using, that they have considerably more steel than they used in the peak of 1941.

THE PRESIDENT: Why more?

Q Well, they just are getting it.

THE PRESIDENT: They are getting it?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, all those things are only, you might say, small details in the use of -- in the use of metal, but they all add up to something. I suppose that we can all find 50 different kinds of examples -- special industries -- special needs. The main thing is we want the scrap.

Q Mr. President, in your Labor Day Message to Congress you said that the calculation of parity -- farm parity must include all costs of production, including the cost of labor. Did you mean the only -- only the cost of farm labor, or all labor costs?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news on that today, because the matter is in the hands of the Congress, and if I started to explain, which I probably couldn't, many of you wouldn't understand it anyway. And in other words, that is a kind of a question that takes very technical knowledge. I think we had better let the thing be worked out by the Congress this week.

Q Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I have only got one other thing. We have tomorrow for the second time a ceremony which will be just like the previous one when we turned over the sub-chaser -- the patrol craft -- to the Queen of The Netherlands. We are doing it again tomorrow at -- when is it, 12 o'clock?

MR. EARLY: 12.30.

THE PRESIDENT: 12.30 - to the Norwegian navy, down in the Navy Yard. It is just like the previous ceremony.

MR. GODWIN: Turning over of the ---

Q (interposing) Same type of ship?

THE PRESIDENT: Same type of ship. I make the same kind of speech, and the Crown Princess of Norway makes the same kind of speech. She goes on board and inspects the ship, and they run down one flag and hoist the other flag. Some of you were there. Just the same thing.

Q Are we all invited?

THE PRESIDENT: Ah, I couldn't tell you. (laughter) Have you got your badges to the Navy Yard?

Q We can get them.

MR. EARLY: They were last time.

THE PRESIDENT: Were they last time? All right then, you can come again.

*You didn't do any material damage the last time. (laughter)

Q (aside) They couldn't sweep up.

Q Mr. President, is there any news on the rubber administrator?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, No.

Q Do you expect it today?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q Mr. President, last week Chairman Olds made a speech up in Northern New York ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Who?

Q Chairman Olds of the Federal Power Commission made a speech in Northern New York, urging immediate construction of the St. Lawrence Waterway.

Does that mean, sir, that the Government is going ahead with that now?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether they have finished the surveys that they have got the money for or not.

Q Chairman Olds said the surveys were completed.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will have to look into that. Of course, it's a very,

very much needed thing. And the power is very much needed. Unfortunately, there has been a delay of over a year in starting the construction. And that has raised, of course, the question as to whether -- you all know it takes three years to finish power production -- even three years and six months, I think it is, to finish the navigational end -- and whether at this time -- we, having been blocked in starting it when we wanted to -- we can properly start something that will take raw materials at this particular time, on the assumption that the war is going to last three, or three and a half years longer. It's a matter that's open to debate, always remembering the fact that the thing would be nearly half finished by this time, if they had gone ahead when we asked them to start it.

Q Is this a question, sir, of including -- of starting the power works as well as the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, of course.

Q The whole project is involved?

THE PRESIDENT: Power and -- primarily power at this stage. We are going to run into a shortage of power all through there -- New England and New York, clear down to New York City. However, the water has gone over the dam with the passage of time, and it's a question now of whether its worthwhile to go ahead and use the raw materials. Not -- not our fault.

Q I was going to ask, Mr. President, if what you said a little while ago, that we have been held up on (the St. Lawrence project) -- could you elaborate a little bit on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think you know I recommended to Congress a year and a half ago, and I recommended to Congress two years ago, and three years

ago, and four years ago.

Q Mr. President, you mentioned the assumption that the war is going to last three and a half years longer. Is that ^a minimum estimate?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't think it's either a minimum or a maximum. It's a guess.

Q Mr. President, (Rear) Admiral (W.H.P.) Bland, or Blandy (correct), has made a statement at Secretary Knox' (Press) Conference, that our Navy now holds the balance of the power in the Pacific, and is prepared to repel anything the Japanese can send. Do you agree with him, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen it.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #848

Executive Office of the President

(Thursday) October 1, 1942 -- 5.05 P.M., E.W.T.

(this Press Conference was held upon return of the President from a two weeks' tour of the United States, September 17 to October 1, inclusive)

THE PRESIDENT: Come right in, "Pa." Elmer (Davis), how are you?

Q We blocked out the Press Associations. They are behind.

THE PRESIDENT: Where is everybody?

Q We blocked out the Press Associations. They are behind.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q We blocked out the Press Associations. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Great big bunch of kids. Is that right, Jim? (more laughter)

Q (to Mr. Early) Steve, been away?

MR. EARLY: Got your letter.

Q "Having wonderful time. Wish you were here." (laughter)

Q The Press Associations are in the back row, Steve.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I asked you all to come in today because -- because I just got back to the White House at 12.30 (P.M.). I have seen a lot of people already. I thought it would be easier for all of you to hold the Conference today instead of tomorrow morning. And there isn't any news, except the news about this trip, which you can now print because obviously I am here.

We started two weeks ago tonight, and went out to Detroit -- and I will try to summarize this part of it if I can, because all the papers have got it already. Anyway, I went out to Detroit and saw the -- first the tank plant -- the Chrysler company -- which I thought was a very

amazing example of what can be done with proper organization, with the right spirit of carrying it through, and proper planning. Shortly before we got there, they shifted over the whole plant essentially from making M-3 tanks to making M-4 tanks, a different model, and they didn't stop the output one single hour in doing it.

And then we went on to the (Ford) Willow Run plant, which is one of the latest. I think we have to remember that most of the plants that I saw -- it is worth noting the fact that nearly all of these plants were authorized and started a great many months before Pearl Harbor. In other words, they are the result of the program of preparedness, which turned out to be so much needed after the Japanese struck us at Pearl Harbor. This took a great deal of time by the forelock. That was the reason, for example, for the Willow Run plant, which I think was started in April, 1941. They are not yet in production. They are very nearly ready to go into production.

Then we went on, that night, to the Great Lakes Training Station (Great Lakes, Illinois) --- Friday night -- got there Saturday morning in a drizzle, and saw the -- what is today the largest naval training center we have, I think; and doing, of course, excellent work. It is already larger than the same training station had been expanded to in the World War, and it still has about 15 thousand trainees to go.

Then we went on to Milwaukee -- the Allis-Chalmers plant -- and saw some work there on all kinds of things. You couldn't say it was any one specialty. They are doing a great deal of work for the Navy, and a good deal of work for the Army, running from very large, heavy munitions down to the smaller things. That's a case of an old plant with only one -- I think one new building in it, which, however, has been turned almost

exclusively into Government work, and is getting on very well.

Then we went up to a cartridge plant (Federal Cartridge Corporation, New Brighton, Minnesota) between the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. And there they are not yet up to their full production capacity. But that also was a plant that was started well before Pearl Harbor. And they still have one unit to build that was authorized a short time ago. They are turning out 30 calibre and 50 calibre ammunition. And we hit the night shift, getting there at 11 P.M., both in that plant and in the other plants.

Really, the result of the first two days of inspection -- the thing that I think that struck all of us most was the large number of women that were employed in machine work, and that means not merely running the small, what might be -- what shall I say? -- the sewing machine type of machine, but also some of the largest and heaviest machines, which require great skill and great accuracy, and at the same time do not require heavy manual labor. The reason is that they are -- the big machines are operated largely by push-buttons. They are turning out cartridges at an extremely heavy rate, helping us to get on -- well on, considering their problem of small arms munitions of various types.

We left shortly after midnight and went right on to -- to a place called Pend Oreille (map spelling). I had better spell it for you because everybody else misspells it. (as heard by this reporter): P-E-N-D d-'-O-R-E-I-L-L-Y -- meaning, of course, in the early days of the French explorers out there.

And here I went -- it's a great lake out there. That and the Coeur d'Alene are the two largest lakes in Northern Idaho; and because we have tried, as you know -- to disseminate the congestion which has

always existed on the east coast and the west coast for Navy facilities -- to put this naval training station inland. They just -- they had gone into commission 5 days before I was there, and they already had about a thousand trainees who were coming in at the rate of 2 or 3 hundred a day. It's wonderful country, and it's a good lake. It doesn't freeze in the wintertime. And it's going to be of very great assistance in providing the naval personnel that are necessary, especially out in the Pacific area.

Then we went on to a place just outside of Tacoma (Washington) -- Fort Lewis -- which is one of our principal Army Posts on the west coast. We saw a Post, which I had known before as a relatively small Post, multiplied four or five times in its capacity for -- for troops. It is the main Army Post of the whole of the northwest Pacific.

Then from there we motored to the Bremerton Navy Yard, and saw wounded ships and wounded men. There again the Yard had been enormously expanded two or three times what it had been in the World War. There was a little old golf course up on the side of the hill that I used to play on, now covered with buildings and machinery for repairing and building ships.

And we went across by ferry to Seattle, and saw the Army embarkation unit, consisting of a number of piers, and a great amount of storage, from which, of course, embarkations are taking place all the time for operations off-shore in the Pacific.

And then we went to the Boeing plant (in Seattle) and went through that. They seem to be in very good shape turning out planes that are steady at a very high rate.

Then I went and had supper with Anna and John Boettiger, took the

train again that night at ten, and went on down into the next morning to Vancouver, which is opposite Portland, and saw the (Alcoa) aluminum plant, because aluminum -- one of the chief reasons was I knew it was working well, but I had to find out something about how aluminum is made. I think I can put it this way: Just with an ordinary brain, it was so complicated, and so much chemistry in it, that I came away knowing a little bit more than I knew before, but still -- not being a technician -- still neither quite understanding how you make aluminum.

However, the fact remains that aluminum is coming out. And that was one of the rather interesting sidelights of the whole trip, that there does not seem to be any appreciable shortage of aluminum in the actual building of planes at the present time. Of course, as the program steps up -- might say doubles -- there will be need for the new aluminum plants to get into operation and turn out a lot more stuff.

Then we went across to the (Henry J.) Kaiser yards and saw a ship launched, and saw the method of building those merchant ships. And there again the speed of production, I think, was interesting to all of us. That was only one of several plants -- with 6 plants that Kaiser has out on the coast. But the fact remains that the ships are going over-board and are being placed in service.

Of course you understand that when you read about launching a ship in 10 days, it does not mean that the whole ship has been built in 10 days. A very large number of sections of the ship are built in the -- in the plant, and are then taken to the ways and put together.

However, there is another phase that hasn't been emphasized enough. After the ship was launched -- and by the way it was launched with steam up, blowing its whistle -- (laughter) -- it was then taken around to a

pier on the other side of the plant, and will be turned over complete for actual use in, I think it was 13 days more. Am I right, John (McCrea), on that?

CAPTAIN McCREA: Less than that, sir. 11 ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

CAPTAIN McCREA: 3 or 4 more days ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Then they average 13 -- 4 days. That particular ship we actually turned over to a crew that was going to take it to sea.

From there we went down to the Mare Island Navy Yard, and saw again a Navy Yard just about 3 times as big as it ever had been before. We saw the Jap two-man submarine which had been captured at Pearl Harbor, and we saw one of our own submarines with 9 Japanese flags painted on the conning tower.

From there we went down to the Army embarkation port at Oakland, which is an enormous organization from which a large portion of our supplies of men and materials go out to many parts of the Pacific.

Then down to the Naval Supply Base, which is right along side of it, and in many ways serves the same purpose.

Then from there down to Los Angeles, and we saw the Douglas plant (at Long Beach, California), on Saturday morning -- Friday morning, I guess.

And then by train down to San Juan Capistrano, which is the place that the old Mission is, and where the swallows come to every spring on a -- on the same date.

Right back of that was this famous old Spanish land grant ranch that belonged to the -- what? -- go on, tell me the name of it? Pio Pico, wasn't it?

CAPTAIN McCREA: I am not sure, sir.

Q (interjecting) Santa Margarita?

THE PRESIDENT: Right. Santa Margarita ranch, owned by the Pio Pico family in the old days, and that we purchased a short time ago. And the Marines are already in there, using it as their main training center for the whole of the west coast. They only have about 5 thousand men there now, but that will be rapidly increased to probably -- what? -- 20 or 25 thousand.

Then, from there down to San Diego, we saw the naval hospital, and a lot more wounded men from actions in the Pacific.

Then to the naval training center.

Then to the old Marine Corps base (Camp Pendleton), and from there to the Consolidated plant, where they are stepping up production all the time; and dined with another son (Lieutenant John), and his wife and family (at Coronado), and left that same night.

Mind you, we spent 14 nights on the train, and not one night ashore.

And from there on to Uvalde, Texas, where I had the pleasure of seeing my old friend Jack (John Nance Garner), who was just the same, and by the way, sent his love to all his old friends in Washington. He is in fine shape, and mentioned that -- I asked him in passing what he thought about farm parity and the prevention of inflation. And he agreed -- with every other person that I had talked to all the way out and down the coast -- that the people as a whole were a bit jittery in regard to an increase in the cost of living, and anything we could do to stop the cost of living would remove one of the fears that people have all over the country. In fact, one of the major fears all through

that whole section, both in the larger cities and in the country districts, seems to be a fear of a rise in the cost of living.

Then from there we went to San Antonio, to Kelly Field and Randolph Field, and saw -- of course that is the main aviation training center of the country. There are a great many others that take up certain special lines, but this is the training in preliminary and basic work, not the final finishing touches that pilots go other places to get.

We also stopped at -- at Fort Sam Houston (Texas), which is an old Post, which has not been greatly enlarged, but which -- where I had the pleasure of seeing for sentimental reasons the old -- I think it is all right to give out the name of that division -- the old Second Division, which I saw on the other side in the summer of 1918. Over in those days the Marines had two -- that was my excuse besides wanting to see something of the fighting abroad -- had two regiments of Marines in it. But as we are constituted today, it's all Army. There are no Marines. The Marines have got up sufficient strength to have divisions of their own.

Let's see, where did we go then? Then we took the train overnight to New Orleans, the (Andrew J.) Higgins (Shipbuilding Corporation) Yard.

MR. EARLY: (interposing) Forth Worth.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Forth Worth, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Forth Worth. That's right -- Fort Worth. And got there in the morning, and went out to see daughter-in-law (Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt) and her family. And in the afternoon to the (Consolidated)

bomber assembly plant, which is -- I should say it is just getting into production, but they are not anywhere near up to what they will be in, when they get the spare parts and materials from other plants. They are not to make all of the parts that go into an airplane. They are primarily an assembly plant.

Then from there, overnight, to the Higgins yard in New Orleans, where I saw a great many small boats being built.

And from there on to Camp Shelby (Hattiesburg, Mississippi), where we reviewed another division, and saw the -- how that Camp had been expanded. I had never been there before.

And yesterday we turned up at Camp (Fort) Jackson, just outside of Columbia, South Carolina, and saw -- reviewed another division, which was in a different stage of training from any that we had seen before.

And well, here we are!

Now I have got some highlights. I think I had better tell you what I gave to the Press Association boys.

Number one. I really do want to express my thanks to the press, and the radio people, and the newsreel people, and the photographers, because of the fine way in which they have cooperated in delaying the publication of the news about the trip until it was over -- until I had got back to Washington. As you know, the 3 Press Associations were along (Douglas Cornell for Associated Press; Merriman Smith for United Press; J. William Theis for International News Service). And they were given -- I think they will be the first to admit -- complete freedom on the trip. And the 4 Navy photographers made pictures, which of course -- some of which have come here, and all of which have got to pass through a -- the censorship, because laymen and even Navy

enlisted men might not realize what some of the pictures were showing. We saw a lot of stuff, of course, that was confidential.

And number two. Of course, there was no suppression of news on the trip, only this confidential stuff, mostly photographs. I think the Press Association boys, knowing the regular censorship news, had absolutely no trouble in -- in writing their stories. I can say that there was absolutely -- I think I am right in saying that there was nothing cut out of the stories, and there was nothing in their stories which would have been considered dangerous to give out.

Q Were they subject to censorship, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Were they subject to the censorship laws?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I read them over, that was all -- (laughter) -- and cut out nothing.

Q Did you add anything? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I did. (turning to Mr. Early) I added several touches, didn't I?

Incidentally, in this -- in this method, which has been so well lived up to by the newspaper publishers and all of the others, is an illustration that we are giving you prompt publication of the news, as fast as it can be properly given, and that is being lived up to. There are various items -- various elements that enter into it -- into a trip of that kind, including placing in jeopardy the lives of our relatives and friends who are in the naval services.

Now, on impressions on the trip, I have spoken about the large number of women workers. It's an amazing thing how they are working into the production of munitions with very great success. In some of

the plants we saw -- this is not just stenographers in the office, these are women running machines, and inspecting parts as they come out of a machine. And some plants run 20%. Some of the airplane plants are running 30%, even -- I think one of them -- 40%, and ---

Q (interposing) Is that skilled or unskilled labor?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Is that skilled or unskilled female labor?

THE PRESIDENT: Very highly skilled -- very. And it is getting up, according to the -- to the managers and operators of these plants, so that probably within another year in very many of the plants, half of all the labor in the plants will be women labor.

Then I am going to create an awful disappointment in the ranks of a few people who put a thing down, not as a guess, an erroneous guess, but as a fact. The only people I saw on the trip who were remotely connected with politics, but with whom I did not discuss politics at any moment, were the 11 Governors of the 11 States that we passed through. (Michigan - Wisconsin - Minnesota - Idaho - Washington - Oregon - California - Texas - Louisiana - Mississippi - South Carolina). Nobody running for Congress, or the Senate, or for local or State office. No chairman, no committee member. Nobody at all but the 11 Governors.

Q Did you say no committee member, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No committee members.

Q Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: All of whom we saw at the plants and said good-bye to at the plants. So I am sorry to have to shock the readers of certain -- writers. (meaning: So I am sorry to have to shock certain writers).

As we come down to the question of labor and management, I would

say that labor and management both are going along magnificently with the whole objective of output, as fast and as good as we can get it. There are -- there are certain -- I would say as a whole -- I think I said to the others that I am very well satisfied, because the production is so nearly up to the -- not the estimate but the goal. Every once in a while you find a plant that isn't clicking quite as well as it should. Occasionally the labor is not as efficient as it will be when it gets more trained. Occasionally the -- there are small shortages of materials which prevent an operation from going through as fast as it would be otherwise, but -- same sentence -- I would say offhand that the production as a whole through the country is around 94 or 95% of the objective.

And remember that last January, when I talked about the objective in the Message to Congress, there were a great many "doubting Thomases" who said we couldn't do half of it, people who deliberately sabotaged -- mostly deliberately sabotaged the program before it got started. Well, I think 94 or 95% is an objective that covers the working out of a great war. It's a pretty darn good record.

Q Mr. President, do you think it's going to reach 100 by the end of the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. No. It's impossible. That would be impossible.

Q Impossible?

THE PRESIDENT: Why, sure.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In other words, you take anything -- you take a newspaper office. In a newspaper office, if you are running a big paper, if you have efficient men on the mechanical end to the tune of

94 or 95% efficient, wouldn't you call that a pretty good record? If you had a hundred reporters, and a hundred out of the hundred reporters were satisfactory to the desk, wouldn't you call that impossible?

(laughter)

Q A miracle.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) There, you see it? You can't have anything that's perfect, but when you get up to 94 or 95%, that's a pretty darn good record.

Q Could you indicate where there is diversity of causes for the 4 or 5%?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes, all kinds, little and big. Some of them, of course -- I wouldn't say that -- I would say the majority of them are completely unpreventible -- completely.

Q Mr. President, I want -- I wonder if my question was misunderstood? What I meant was if 100% of the January objective would be reached this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, it will be, as to the totals of -- totals of units to be produced. It is going to be greatly exceeded, because I think I can give you this tip-off that that January objective -- I am going to ask for more, certainly within the next few months ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- an even greater production than we are getting up to today. Of course, we are not up to the 94 or 95% of the January objective of production. Nothing like it.

Q Mr. President, even -- even before now, you have asked for a larger production in 1942 on some of the things you mentioned ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's right.

Q (continuing) --- in January?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, did you say that we aren't up to 94% of the January production?

THE PRESIDENT: Of the January goal? No. Nothing like it. Heavens, No.

Q Which January are you talking about?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope that we will get it by the time set, which is December.

Q That goal is for January, 1943, and we are 94% of that objective?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. The goal was in two parts. For instance, on airplanes it was a total of, as I remember it, a total of 60 thousand, at the rate of 60 thousand by December, 1942. Well, we are going to come pretty close to it, but we are not up to it now, not even 94 or 95%.

Q Did you not ask for 60 thousand planes?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- rate of. That was perfectly clearly understood. And in 1943, by the end of the year, at the rate of -- what? --- 125 (thousand)?

Q 125.

Q 125.

Q 125.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Which of course included all kinds of types of planes -- trainer planes, and so forth. And I think that it's no particular secret to say that the trainer plane facilities have been so greatly met, that the rate of production of trainer planes next year will slow down, and their places will be taken by other types of planes, at, of course, a -- a slower rate of units, because a trainer plane is much easier to build than a fighting plane.

Q Mr. President, what is that 94%? I wasn't able to -- I was confused, too, on that 94%.

THE PRESIDENT: Of efficiency. You can say all objectives as of the date of this trip. And, well, just for example, you take the cartridge plant up there in the northwest. They are up to schedule, which means as of the last half of September, 1942. They are not up to the -- to the rate of units that they will be getting out next month, or the month after, or the month after that.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, may I put it another way, Mr. President? Of the January objectives -- planes, tanks, guns, ammunition, and so forth -- can you say now that -- what percentage you expect to be attained? What rate of production do you expect ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The objective.

Q About 94 or 95% by the end of the year?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Then, on the question -- now, going back to reactions of people, I think it can be said that the people of the country as a whole have got the finest kind of morale. They are very alive to the war spirit. I am making no invidious distinctions between sections. Everywhere I went the spirit was -- was excellent. The understanding was good.

Even on things like -- Oh, a certain amount of trouble in working out, as for instance, I would say, down in the southwest, where they have a lot of -- of oilwells, when because of the shortage caused by lack of transportation, of getting gasoline up to New England and New York, we had to ration gasoline there. There was a tremendous howl from people who couldn't understand, because they were out living next to an oilwell, and they didn't want to be rationed. And finally, as it is working out, as you know, we are coming to a rationing of mileage

all over the country, and the people down there understand it, and are wholeheartedly behind it. That's a change in attitude because now they understand it.

I would say, on the other hand, that there is less understanding in just one place in the country --it's a lot less -- Washington, D. C.

Q Any particular part in Washington? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I was afraid you would ask that question. Well, I would say in three ways. You know I am always brutally frank. I have been around the country, and very, very few of you could have.

Q That's not our fault. (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we would have had -- what? -- 3 special trains, I guess, if we had taken you all -- just about -- including the photographers, and so forth, and the radio people, and all the others. It was physically impossible.

I would say, in regard to Washington, D. C., that there are three situations in this town which are not good. And I will put the two most important ones first, and the less important one third.

The first is the fact that we all know that -- and it is perfectly natural, I would do the same thing, so would you -- in the Congress you have a great many people who want to justify their help to the war effort. And it's a tendency that isn't new at all. It was a tendency which started with the provincial Congress -- the Continental Congress in 1775, and it has been going on ever since. A perfectly obvious, understandable and human effort to take part in the war by looking into this, that, and the other thing, which they can't possibly have opinions about that are of any great validity, because there are so many facts in a war which either are based on military information, or which cannot

be explained to a lay mind. They are essentially facts for trained military and naval officers, who are responsible primarily for the conduct of the strategy and operation of the war. As I said, it's a perfectly normal, natural development, dating back to 1775. And of course, there are literally hundreds of examples in our past history.

Then the other factor in this is the press, which doesn't seem to know the country, and like the Congressman is very apt to think in the local terms of the papers that they represent, giving out sententious views -- perfectly honest views, which are nevertheless sententious -- because of the fact that they don't know. That's the radio too, the radio announcers. Not all -- of course not. Not all of the news stories by any means. Most of them, I would say, are straight news stories. But there is an unfortunate minority of news stories which just "ain't" so. They just are not based on fact. And more than that, they tell people in the country things that are not in existence. Some of them are honestly written. Some of them are written for other reasons, which perhaps we need not go into. They represent a minority, but at present they are doing infinite harm to the country. The majority of press stories that go out from here, especially the news stories ---. The greatest offense of course is in the -- among the commentators, and the columnists, in both the press and the radio. It's -- it's a sort of a ---.

Then the third point ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, do you have ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- a concrete illustration of this latter point?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think No. I could give you a very great many, but it

involves personalities, and it would merely inflate the person mentioned. In many cases.

The third point relates to a great many people in the Administration itself, who are very apt to rush into print or hand out stuff. Well, they may be the fourth or fifth man down the line, or they may be seeking publicity. If they are the fourth or fifth man down the line, probably they don't know the whole story, except their own version of the little individual piece of work which they themselves are doing for the Government. They haven't got a rounded view. Sometimes it's in a speech which seeks to be picturesque. Sometimes it's with the perfectly honest belief that their particular "ism" -- specialty -- is not being properly handled. We have that type of person, of course, in the Administration. And so there you have those branches of the Government and the "fourth estate," all of whom are guilty to a greater or less extent.

Q Did you say that the third class was the least important?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say so, because it's largely created by you people.

You see, you are very apt to go to the fourth or fifth man down the line ---

Q (interposing) We would like to go to the top but that's as far as we can get.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- to get the story. And then, you know, the attribution, which is an old, old story, "from reliable sources," and so forth.

Q Mr. President, in that connection, we have had 4 speeches here in the last week by high Government officials, all along exactly the same theme, that we are losing this war, largely by reason of our failure to produce

as rapidly as we should.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) In the light of your report here, those reports seem to be exaggerated. I gather you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't seen all four that you refer to. I have seen two or three, and let me put it this way: If I had been in their place, I would not have said it.

Q Mr. President, does that include the Rear Admiral (Ben Moreell, Chief of the U. S. Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks) who suggested that labor unions be abolished?

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't heard about that. (laughter) Then ---

Q (interposing) Did you say the goals would be exceeded, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q I understood you to say at one time that some of the last January's goals would be exceeded.

THE PRESIDENT: That what?

Q I understood you to say that some -- some of last year's January goals would be exceeded, and then, generally, that 94 or 95% of the January goals would be attained.

THE PRESIDENT: Both. Both of those statements are true.

Q I see.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, with the progress of the war, some of the January program has been slowed down deliberately, because we don't need so many of any particular type of article. Now, on some other instrument of war we find that our estimates are not sufficient. Because of the progress of the war they need to make more of them. So something else is cut down and will be below, and something else will

be above, because it's found more essential.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, I am not quite clear in my mind. What is the complaint about the press?

THE PRESIDENT: May, ask the press.

MISS MAY CRAIG: I mean your complaint about us.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, ---

MISS MAY CRAIG: (interposing) I mean it quite seriously.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I would ask the press. They all know.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Well, I don't.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's very simple. I am saying that about certain elements in press and radio that are hurting the war effort. And we all know. I don't have to particularize on it at all. You people know better than -- even better than I do who the fellows are, who the owners of the papers are. You know far better than I do.

Q Mr. President, Mr. (Donald) Nelson said yesterday that production was nothing to brag about.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Mr. Nelson said yesterday, or the day before, that production is nothing to brag about.

VOICES: Louder, louder.

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing to brag about? Well, what else did he say? Did he say where?

Q He was speaking generally, he said, although the figures are impressive.

THE PRESIDENT: I have said over a year ago I am not satisfied. You know, you have asked me that question three or four times, and it has always been "No." If it could be twice as fast, twice as big, I will never be satisfied.

Q August production was off 15%.

THE PRESIDENT: That what?

Q August production was off 15% of the goal.

THE PRESIDENT: August production off 15% of the goal?

Q Well, that was short of the goal, short of the level set at the beginning of the month.

Q Mr. President, (September) production was 14% below the goals or estimates.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would like to see the breakdown of those figures.

You see, they may not be all-inclusive.

Q Mr. President, would you care to deal specifically with any one community where you visited?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I think they were -- all stand out as having a perfectly grand spirit. And that -- that, incidentally, applies not only to the munitions plants but to almost all the other things as well.

Agriculture! The number of stories that I heard about how they are getting the crops in, with half of the hired hands gone. Those Communities where -- small communities where they haven't got enough men to pick the -- what? -- fruit, and they -- they then decide on three days, or four days, and the banker, and the editor of the paper, and the drugstore fellow, and the garage man, and the children, they all give up what they are doing and go into the fields for three or four days, and -- By gosh! -- get the crops in.

Now that's the kind of spirit that we lack in Washington, D. C. You've got the reporters, you've got everybody else going into the fields, and they have got the crops in as a result. It's a community effort. We need more of that. That is true -- that is true about

everything.

Q I would like to deal, sir, with two or three rumors that have been brought up as a result of your visit to Minneapolis, if you would care to talk about it. Can I ask you about ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) One is that at the Twin Cities ordnance plant, scores of workers were called in for that night only, in order to make a good showing. Do you know anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: That is not true. What they did was to ask the 11 o'clock shift -- which is the time that the shift changes -- to be there at 10 o'clock, that was all, so that they would not be in the middle of shifting a shift.

Q Another, if I may ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- proceed with this, another is that a worker came up to you to show you some shells, and he got a little excited, and turned around and ran, and the guards were apprehensive of any sudden action and hit him. Do you know anything as to that?

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard of it at all. (to Mr. Early): Did you know of any episode of that kind?

MR. EARLY: No, sir, I didn't see it.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think anybody did.

Q I merely ask you this ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- to set it at rest, because they are current.

THE PRESIDENT: One of the funniest things -- in most of these places they hadn't got the foggiest idea that I was coming there, and we would drive

down the middle of a great big plant, and -- and here is a compliment for the ladies. There would be men and women working at tools of all kinds, and there was a vague impression of the party. I think that they saw out of the corner of their eye a big car coming down through the center, and probably said to themselves, "I wonder who this is?" And I should say that more women stuck to their work and didn't stop than men, -- (laughter) -- showing that the old idea of the curiosity of a woman is ill-founded.

MR. J. WRIGHT: Mr. President, I don't want to be captious about this at all, but in the early part of the conference you complimented the press on the way they had not printed anything.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. J. WRIGHT: (continuing) Now you complain of the -- some of the things that are being printed.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no relationship.

MR. J. WRIGHT: Honestly, I don't know what certain elements of the radio or press are hurting the war effort.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, ---

MR. J. WRIGHT: (continuing) I don't know who they are, or what you know about them.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- well, I am not going to elaborate any further.

MR. J. WRIGHT: I don't understand, Mr. President. I am sorry.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we won't go into names.

Q Do you think, Mr. President, you should put that last point first?

THE PRESIDENT: What last point?

Q The point which is about the Administration officials shooting off?

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q Mr. President, what can be done about that last point?

THE PRESIDENT: Get a bit of a different spirit in Washington. Button -- there's an old -- an expression, "Button up our mouths." Don't use as many pencils.

Q Mr. President, I think that Mr. (Edward F.) Ryan (Washington Post) has the impression that there was a connection between your remarks about the attitude of the press towards your trip, and your remarks about the attitude of a portion of the press.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, no relationship between those two at all.

And I think probably the only other thing I can say is that the trip worked so well, better than any inspection trip I have made. I am thinking, as soon as I can -- I don't know when, maybe next spring -- of taking another trip, or trips, to other parts of the country that I did not visit this time.

Q Mr. President, may I ask if any speeches were made at any of these ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The -- you have copies of them. I think they were about four sentences long. I got into the Bremerton Navy Yard, which is an old stamping ground of mine, and they asked me to say a few words -- they had all the workmen, most of the workmen, end of shift -- and I did. I think I spoke for a minute and a half, and talked a little bit about wounded ships and wounded men.

And then the next day, at the time the ship was launched, there was quite a ceremony, and all of the Kaiser employees -- employees were out there. And the bottle of champagne was duly broken. And everybody -- I was up on a platform -- and everybody began yelling, "Speech -- speech -- speech." So I said, again, about three more sentences. I don't think

you will find those two speeches -- which were not speeches -- were thrilling, or even pieces of news.

Q Mr. President, did you get any particular impression at the Higgins Shipbuilding (Corporation) in New Orleans that you might mention?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that they are turning out small boats at an incredible rate.

Q Mr. President, you spoke about these three bad situations in Washington. I understood what you said about the press, but could you be a little more specific about Congress? (laughter) I understood you to say that certain Members don't understand, that only experts could. But where you -- you said about this minority of the press that was hurting the war effort, would you also apply that to some Members of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know that I could give any specific examples. I don't think that would be quite fair to the Congress any more than the press. But we know, for example, that during the past 3 weeks we had a very important matter relating to the war effort and the safety of the country, and it did take 3 weeks to get it through -- get something through. I don't know yet what is going through, because probably, I think, they don't meet until tomorrow -- the conferees.

But I keep thinking that in the old days, in 1933, when the country was economically on its back, and people's pocketbooks were being hit, we were able to get absolutely essential remedial legislation to save the economics of our own people at home -- nowhere else. We were able to get legislation of all kinds, some in 24 hours, some in two or three days, some in a week.

Now, of course, I think that where the very existence of a nation is threatened from the outside, that it is of even more importance to

have speed than it is in the case of an internal, economic matter. And in 1933, those of you who were here know that we were able to get things done at that time without any delay. And yet we know that today in the Congress there has been delay.

Q Mr. President, aside from the time element, are you satisfied with what Congress has done on that issue?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I couldn't tell you. I only got here at 12.30.

Q You don't know what is contained in the compromise amendment?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q You don't know what is contained in the so-called compromise amendment?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think I am having a conference tonight.

Q Could you tell us who is coming to this conference, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- maybe largely by telephone.

Q In connection with your remarks about the press, sir, would you care to put it in percentage of how many -- what portion of the press ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q Mr. President, 94 or 5%?

Q Thank you.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you going to put it in terms of circulation? That's a nice question. You see how impossible it is to answer your question?

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Thank you, sir.

(Notebook X-PC -- page 48 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #849
Executive Office of the President
October 6, 1942 -- 4.05 P.M., E.W.T.

Q Good afternoon, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Hello. Hello.

MR. GODWIN: (to Mr. Early) I have got some information for you, after a while.

MR. EARLY: Is it good?

MR. GODWIN: About half and half.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Godwin) Well, how are you? I haven't seen you for quite a long time. All right?

MR. GODWIN: I am all right. How are you? Where did I see you last?

THE PRESIDENT: All right. (laughter) (then to the newspapermen in the front row): His figure would have suffered.

MR. GODWIN: I lost an inch.

Q All that running.

THE PRESIDENT: All that running around.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought I would tell you that I am talking -- I have talked with Steve (Early) and Elmer (Davis) about going on the air for a rather brief talk sometime -- week or ten days. Oh, there are half a dozen to a dozen different things to talk about, possibly all of them in the same talk. And we haven't got any date yet. And that's as far as it has got.

Q Can you tell us what some of the half dozen or dozen things are?

THE PRESIDENT: I think Steve has a list of requests for subjects to be talked on that -- 30 or 40 different subjects, and I suppose I will

select from them.

Q Could you tell us who made the requests? Are they Governmental requests,
or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Suggestions, not Governmental requests. Just
suggestions -- individuals.

MR. GODWIN: Coming from the public, by any chance?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Do they all come from the public by any chance?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. EARLY: Several from editors, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says some from editors. I don't know whether you
would call that general public or not. (laughter)

Q Will there be a sort of survey of the war?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Will there be a sort of survey of the progress of the war?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe so.

Q No?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That isn't news.

Q Will there be a resume of your trip, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I suppose I may devote a paragraph to it, something like
that. There isn't enough news left on that. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, on that subject, we understood that in the 12 States where
you made inspections, you conferred with the Governors of those States
in all except one instance. That one was Dwight (H.) Green of Illinois.
Is there any reason, sir, why you did not confer with Governor Green?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I guess probably he was left off. I don't know. You
see, the only place I went to in Illinois was the Great Lakes Training ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Great Lakes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Station. Actually I did not set my foot onto the ground of Illinois at all.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, in your -- have you noticed the news, some colloquy and discussion of Wendell Willkie's remarks on the second front?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: You did not know that was going on?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I had read some headlines, but I didn't think it was worth reading the stories.

MR. GODWIN: Would you care to make them worthwhile ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- by saying something?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q (interposing) Did Mr. Willkie speak as your representative?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That's purely speculative stories.

Q Could you comment, sir, on the statement which the Russian leader, (Josef) Stalin, made to the Associated Press (Henry C. Cassidy) in Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think so.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us a little about the operation of this 25 thousand-dollar provision in the Economic Stabilization Order?

THE PRESIDENT: No. You would have to ask the Treasury Department on that, because I don't understand the details of it myself, and I don't -- I haven't read anybody who had written on it who understood any more than I did. You had better go right to the Treasury Department.

Q Mr. President, do you intend to name a successor soon to Mr. Justice (James ~~F.~~) Byrnes?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q How soon, Mr. President? In the next few days?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got the faintest idea. To be honest, I haven't thought of it. I have been too busy on other things.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) May be several weeks before I get around to it.

Q What will Director Byrnes' salary be?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the usual -- Oh, what? -- 10 ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) 10 or 12 (thousand dollars per year).

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- 10 or 12.

Q Mr. President, do you have in mind the men you are going to name as his non-governmental members of the Council, that is, farmers ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't -- I haven't seen him since Sunday, and he is going to look into it and talk to me about it, which will be soon.

Q Well, are they -- how are you going to solve the farmers ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know. I haven't talked about it.

Q Will it be farmers and labor and business? Is that the three ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think so, Yes.

Q Mr. President, after his call this morning, the new Chinese Ambassador (Wei Tao-Ming) said that China was fighting more with courage than with weapons. Do you think that events of the next months might change the situation, or they might get more weapons?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q Is there any hope of immediate positive developments?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you if there were, obviously. I can merely express a hope.

Q Mr. President, do you care to comment on the return to this country of

Admiral (Wm. H.) Standley (our Ambassador to Russia)?

THE PRESIDENT: On what?

Q The return of Admiral Standley from Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: Has that been announced?

Q It was on the ticker this afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, nothing except he is coming -- coming home to report, and go back there as soon as he has done it. There isn't any particular news in it -- just coming home to report, as they all do. I think we have the -- I think (Laurence A.) Steinhardt (our Ambassador to Turkey) is on his way, or got here, to come home and report and then return.

Q Mr. President, did you talk about New England fuel with Mr. Ickes today?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I don't think we did. I am sorry. If you had only given me a "chit" to remind me, I would have. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #850
Executive Office of the President
October 9, 1942 -- 10.55 AM., EWT.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I seem to have only two things.

The first -- I think some of you have got both of them -- the first is in relation to Ethiopia. Sometime ago I got a cable from the Emperor of Ethiopia, saying, "My government and people are anxious to assume the obligations of the United Nations Pact. We, the first nation to gain its freedom and independence -- regain its freedom and independence, wish to place the military and economic resources of the country at the disposal of those nations who gladly sacrifice all for liberty and justice."

And after consultation with the other nations, I sent the Emperor a reply yesterday, saying,

"I have received Your Majesty's telegram, and so forth. It is gratifying to accept the adherence of Ethiopia to the Declaration by the United Nations, to welcome as one of the United Nations the first state to regain its territory after temporary occupation by an Axis aggressor. You may be sure that there is deep appreciation for your offer to place at the disposal of the United Nations the military and economic resources of Ethiopia for use in the struggle against the common enemy."

The other one is a Message, for release when read in the Senate or the House. I think the House is not in session today, so it will be read in the Senate.

"To The Congress: We are going to win this war, but winning will

require the best efforts of every individual. Among those already making full contribution are those physically handicapped people who have been rehabilitated. Upwards of a million persons are now waiting for services of the type that only a fully developed rehabilitation program can give them. We know there is nothing wrong with the spirit of these people, but without special assistance they may become a social as well as economic liability. With an adequate program in their behalf they will become a national asset, ready to serve in war industries, agriculture, and other essential occupations.

"In addition, the increasing participation of this nation in the war is resulting in an increase in military casualties, and will result in a greater increase. Because of the tremendous strides in medical science of the past two decades, a much larger proportion of these casualties will be non-fatal and will require rehabilitation service.

"Our present provisions in this field are inadequate to meet this task. They need to be strengthened and standardized through the creation under the Federal Security Administrator of a Rehabilitation Service. Provision should be made not only for persons now handicapped but also for persons disabled while members of the armed forces, and for the increasing number of accident cases that are accompanying the rapid expansion of our war industries. In order to secure the most effective utilization of the capabilities of the physically handicapped, it is important that a single Rehabilitation Service be established for both veterans and civilians.

"Veterans, after receiving the benefits and services provided by the Veterans Administration, would be certified to the Rehabilitation Service for vocational rehabilitation whenever this is indicated. While

the present plan for Federal-State cooperation should be preserved in this field of training, where it has chiefly operated, the Rehabilitation Service should look after the other aspects of this problem, and discharge what is plainly a Federal responsibility -- the provisions of service to all persons whose disability grows out of the conduct of the war.

"Such legislation should permit the establishment of a program adequate to our present needs, and should at the same time provide the experience and personnel which will be able to meet such additional burdens as the war may bring."

Both of them explain themselves.

Q Mr. President, do you have any estimates as to how much money would be involved in the operation of such a program?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q Did you enjoy the show yesterday afternoon, Mr. President? (Irving Berlin's all soldier show "This Is The Army.")

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. Grand.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I wish everybody could see it, because I understand they are going to Hollywood when they get through with their present engagements, and get filmed out there so that we can send the show to the picture places all over -- all over the world where our forces are.

Q Will that be soon?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q That will be soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are going there early in November. I suppose

it will take two or three weeks to film the thing, and then get it off, I hope by Christmas-time.

Q Mr. President, I want to ask you a question in regard to the St. Lawrence.

I don't want to bring up an old thing, but you made a statement about three weeks ago to the effect that the St. Lawrence Seaway should be postponed. The background on this question is this: The Democratic platform at Brooklyn came out for the Seaway. The Republicans at Saratoga Springs said nothing. Mr. Poletti last week was up in Massena and Watertown, up-state New York, in which he came out for it. Mr. Bennett (Attorney General John J. Bennett, Jr., Democratic Nominee for Governor of New York State in the coming elections in November) spoke Monday night in Watertown, in which he said that his policy would be just the same as it was during the Smith, Roosevelt and Lehman administrations. The Republicans are answering that by saying there is no necessity for the Seaway now, the President has thrown it down. What your friends in Northern New York want to know, sir -- and you have plenty of them, as you know -- is whether or not you have?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the easiest way to answer it -- you have been very frank and fine in giving me the background.

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) The background, of course, is the political background ---

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in the State of New York at the present time.

And I have long ceased to think of this subject as a political matter ---

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- between two parties, or between two regions.

It has seemed perfectly obvious for a great many years -- 20 years at least -- that the nation and the Canadian nation between them have, in the St. Lawrence -- regardless of politics, regardless of what party is in power, regardless of what one community thinks -- a great river, connecting the largest inland bodies of water in all the world with an ocean. Now that's the real background. It goes back -- Oh, more than that, it goes more than 20 years -- it goes 40 years back. And it is a physical situation which, because of certain rapids and waterfalls like the Niagara River, we are unable to use our own commerce, and Canadian Commerce, and world commerce, over what is always the cheapest form of transportation, that is water transportation.

And again, entirely aside from politics, there is no question in the world that if we win this war the time is going to come, after 40 years of a great deal of spilled ink and a great deal -- great many words, there is no question that there will be, some day, access from the Great Lakes to the ocean. It's not just for the State of New York, or a state bordering the Great Lakes. It's a matter for the whole nation. It's bound to come, because man has the scientific mechanical ability to overcome a handicap of nature. At the same time we all know that power in one form or another -- a great many different types of power are probably all needed in the development of the nation. We are getting to the point scientifically where we can transmit power very, very long distances.

Now at both the Niagara Falls, where we harness only a small portion of the power, and in the St. Lawrence river, science will give us, for a reasonable price -- cost -- a very large additional pool of power. And therefore, if -- if the country, including northern New York, and

Buffalo, and New York City, would all think of this in national terms, there is absolutely no question that in time -- I don't say now, because that becomes purely a military question during this war. I doubt very much whether, under the present production circumstances of steel primarily, and manpower, whether we can go ahead at the present time. But that doesn't in any way change the broad aspect of the need of opening the Lakes to the ocean, and of developing the power as soon as we are able to.

Well, I think that's about all there is.

Q That's the position Bennett took in his speech up there.

THE PRESIDENT: I know nothing about the political angle of it whatsoever.

I am talking about the broad national aspect.

Q So it isn't dead then?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q It isn't dead, as far as you are concerned?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, have you decided what you are going to speak about in your radio talk ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q (continuing) --- next week?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q It will be next week?

THE PRESIDENT: I told Steve (Early) this morning the date hasn't been -- hasn't been set. I don't know whether he has done anything about it since I told him this morning to go ahead and pick a time.

MR. EARLY: I think you might as well tell them.

THE PRESIDENT: What? You have done it for Monday? What time?

MR. EARLY: Ten o'clock.

THE PRESIDENT: Monday, at 10 o'clock.

MR. EARLY: (adding) Eastern War Time.

Q How long?

MR. EARLY: Half an hour.

THE PRESIDENT: Half an hour.

Q Mr. President, now that the conference is accounted for, is there anything you can tell us about the mission of Mr. Myron Taylor to the Vatican?

THE PRESIDENT: He is not back yet.

Q No, he isn't back.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen him. I don't know -- I don't know what happened any more than you know.

Q Mr. President, about several weeks ago you said you did not believe the drafting of 18 and 19 year-olds would be necessary before the first of the year. Has anything happened to change that?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me put it this way: there isn't anything on it today.

Q Mr. President, could you clear up the question to what extent and where Mr. (Wendell) Willkie is your representative?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think that will be used merely politically. Everything is all right, so far as I am concerned. It has been used politically last week, and why make that angle of it the preponderant angle? There are bigger things than that.

MR. GODWIN: May I ---

Q (interposing) Could you elucidate on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I don't know, and I don't think you had better either, because I don't think the country is interested particularly in elucidation.

tions of things that are not strictly true.

MR. GODWIN: The reason I am interested in that, Mr. President, is this.

I think that everyone who deals with the public, either in speaking or radio, is getting a great many interested letters on the subject, and they are political, I assure you, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- as far as I am concerned. And if we could be as frank as you and Mr. Cottrell were about that thing, it might help, and it might -- I would like to know about it, whether it's a good thing to lay off or not?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what there is to say, except that I have no further information than you have got. I am assuming that Mr. Willkie is carrying out extremely well just what I asked him to do. I think that would cover the whole thing.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about this thing?

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) What?

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #851
Executive Office of the President
October 13, 1942 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Where are my glasses?

MR. EARLY: Here they are, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I signed an Executive Order this afternoon terminating the -- one of the agencies of the Government, the Electric Home and Farm Authority, which was set up back in 1935 to finance the distribution, sale and installation of electric and gas appliances. And with the coming of the war, the limited production of such appliances became so obvious that the -- that there was no more financing. And we are terminating the Authority -- the corporation -- and turning the whole thing over to the R.F.C. for liquidation -- administration and liquidation, making no more loans of that kind.

Q Did they make a report? Is that a profit-making organization?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Was there a possibility of profit in that organization?

THE PRESIDENT: Theoretically was to be run at cost.

Q They didn't turn back any profit?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what the accounting is.

Q They haven't made their final report?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Oh, No. It will take some time, I suppose.

Q How many people involved, do you know, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you.

The only other thing is Mr. (Wendell) Willkie gets in, I think,

sometime this evening. And I have sent word to him that I would be delighted to see him at his convenience after he gets here.

Q Is he flying in, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Q Does that mean you may see him tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: I just said any time he wants. If it's tonight -- I happen to be free -- it's all right with me. Also tomorrow morning.

Q I was wondering on the "watch" we would make for him if we could meet him when he comes in town ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- to interview him -- the Press?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea.

I don't think I have got anything else. Is there anything else, Steve? I haven't anything.

MR. EARLY: Questions.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Well, --- (laughing)

Q Mr. President, where are you sending Patrick J. Hurley, the Minister to New Zealand, whom we understand is relinquishing that post?

THE PRESIDENT: Pat Hurley?

Q Pat Hurley.

THE PRESIDENT: He is going back there.

Q He is going back there to New Zealand?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, whatever happened to your suggestion about meatless days to save shipping space?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, Pete. I don't know what they have done on that.

Q Mr. President, could you tell where Bill Donovan is now, or what he is doing?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Might be something secret. (laughter) I would hate to lift the veil. (more laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us whether your conference with Grenville Clark dealt with the over-all manpower problem?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Yes. Talked about it in general terms, that was all.

Q Anything specific that you could tell us?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Oh, one thing -- I think I could mention I got a telephone call from the Speaker of the House (Sam Rayburn), in which he said that the Military Affairs Committee have decided to proceed immediately to take up the lowering of the draft age to 18. And they are having a meeting for that purpose tomorrow morning. And the Speaker wanted to know if the Secretary of War, and the Chief of Staff would appear. So I telephoned to them, and they are going to appear there at nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

Q Mr. President, in your fireside chat last night, you projected a possibility of more rigorous legislation in case the voluntary -- the volunteer system ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- of manpower controls was not successful.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's right.

Q (continuing) Do you see any indications in the present system of voluntary controls that might indicate that such legislation would be coming?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. That's the whole point. I would not ask for the compulsory legislation unless the voluntary thing doesn't work, that's all.

Q Have you any time limit on the volunteer system, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q Mr. President, is the volunteer system working satisfactorily today?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Could you elaborate on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. Lots of things. I think I suggested some of them last night that could be done without legislation -- start that at the present time.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, I hate to do it -- laughter) -- is there anything more on the New England fuel oil?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think probably they all talked this morning, Mr. (Congressman John W.) McCormack, (of Massachusetts) Mr. (Joseph E.) Casey (of Massachusetts), and the six Governors. (Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts; Sumner Sewall of Maine; Robert A. Hurley of Connecticut; J. Howard McGrath of Rhode Island; Robert O. Blood of New Hampshire; and William H. Wills of Vermont). I guess they have told you all there was.

Q Mr. President, were you anticipating any further questions on the typewriter strategists? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I thought somebody would like to know the -- the -- about the reference to General Robert E. Lee. I got the -- I got the book that it came out of here. (laughter) It is called "Lee The American," by Bradford, I guess. Yes -- Gamaliel Bradford. On page 234 and 235. There's a lot of stuff I didn't quote that I could have last night. One sentence was this -- I think it's rather nice: (reading): "I have done the best I could in the field, and have not succeeded as I could wish. I am willing to yield my place to these best generals, and I will do my best for the

cause -- editing a newspaper." (laughter)

You ought to get it out and read it.

Q Are there any armchair generals?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Are there any armchair generals in the War Department?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess there are some there who could edit a newspaper.

Q Mr. President, I understand that Mr. (T.V.) Soong is going home. I wondered if there was any message that you were sending?

THE PRESIDENT: I sent him various messages to the Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-shek) this morning.

Q Is there anything you could tell us of the import of those messages?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MISS MAY CRAIG: (aside) Let's go.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #852
Executive Office of the President
October 16, 1942 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have something of some importance this morning. I am afraid it's frightfully dull to most of us. And I am very much interested to see how it is handled by everybody. This Message goes up at 12 o'clock to Congress. And I might as well read it for you. It's for release only after it has been read in the Congress. And Steve (Early) will have copies of the whole report for you at the end of the conference.

I say to the Congress: (reading): "In recent months you have demonstrated through the activities of regular and special committees keen interest in reducing non-war expenditures in the Federal Government. Undoubtedly reports by the special committees have helped to stimulate the large volume of letters that I have received from citizens in all walks of life. Some of the letters protest against recent cuts in various appropriations. Other letters urge reduction of Federal expenditure to the amount expended in the fiscal year 1932, and characterize such a reduction as a 'Federal contribution toward helping win the war.'

"I therefore recently requested the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to prepare a report on just what has happened in the field of non-war expenditures since I assumed the Presidency. The report is attached.

"Inasmuch as total war enlists all our resources, you will recog-

nize the very great difficulties of segregating "war" from "non-war" expenditures. Moreover, the text in many places can only hint at the extent to which so-called non-war expenditures are now integrated with the war program.

"Nevertheless, it does show the important reductions that have been made without sacrificing humanitarian considerations. In addition, the report should be especially useful in further legislative and administrative consideration of budget policy."

Well, you can all see the size of this thing. (holding the report up) It's a whole lot of figures. It's a little bit like one of our Budget (Press) Conferences. You will want to, if you are interested, study all of the figures with a good deal of care.

I have had a one-page summary made. It's a 96-page report on the Trends in Non-war Federal Expenditures in the fiscal years 1932--1943. It segregates "war" and "non-war" expenditures, discusses trends in non-war expenditures, Government corporations, credit agencies, and Federal developments in the field of management.

The total estimated 1943 expenditures, excluding Government corporation and credit agencies, are divided into four categories. That is for this current fiscal year.

And by the way, after -- I asked Mr. Wayne Coy to come here in case anybody wants to ask any questions that I don't know about.

For the war, 74 billions. The interest on the Public Debt, a billion, 850 million. Non-war, the Old Pre-1932 services, 2 billion, 225 million. And New services since 1932, 1 billion, 969 million, giving total expenditures of 80 billion.

The total non-war expenditures shown above -- 4 billion, 194 mil-

lion -- this fiscal year, show a cut of 35.6% from the 6 billion, 516 million peak in 1939. It also shows a cut of approximately one billion dollars over last year. The reductions were made despite many expanding war duties of non-war agencies, including such general service functions as budgeting, accounting, and personnel work.

New Services of the Government added since 1932 show 4 New services -- unemployment relief, agricultural adjustment, social security, and railroad retirement. They are each of them, in this report, discussed separately, because they reflect modern economic problems of security. Other New services with small expenditures are included on the table below under Old services. Non-war expenditures of the New services since 1932 were at a peak in 1939, 3 billion, 916 million. Those have been cut in half to 1 billion, 969 million, this year of 1943.

The Old Pre-1932 service. Non-war expenditures of Old services are estimated this year at 2 billion, 225 million, or a cut of 29% from the expenditures of 1932, which were 3 billion, 139 million.

In regard to the Government corporations and credit agencies, they are estimated at expenditures this year of 4 billion -- 4 billion dollars for war.

What's this, a minus 59 billion? How do you spend a minus 59 billion dollars? (laughter)

MR. WAYNE COY: The income exceeded the outgo on the non-war side of the picture.

THE PRESIDENT: 59 ---

MR. WAYNE COY: (interjecting) A profit.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that's a profit. A profit of 59 billion for non-war

purposes.

The report reviews the reorganization plans of recent years to improve management, with examples of reduction in cost.

As they say, take it away! (laughter)

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, is that 74 billion a new figure?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Is that a new figure, Wayne?

MR. WAYNE COY: That represents the later revision of the expenditures for the fiscal year 1943 for war purposes. The revision was made in early October.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, as you know, Pete, quite often in the fall of the year, almost always, we make a checkup up to that time, and try to date it in the fall, two or three months before the Annual Budget Message to Congress in January.

MR. P. BRANDT: Well, I thought one time you said you would have over 32% of the national income in the war effort. Now this 74 billion is a very high percentage of the national income. I just wondered whether that was ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The answer to that, Wayne?

MR. WAYNE COY: It's a new figure, and it represents an increase of about 15 to 20 billion dollars over the estimates that were made in the Annual Budget Message in January.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, may we ask Mr. Coy a question? Is that 74 billion actually money spent out -- actual money out of the cash drawer into the hands of ---

MR. WAYNE COY: (interposing) This is an estimate, Earl, for the expenditures for this fiscal year that we are now in. This is the revised estimate for the expenditures for this year.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Is it the actual spending ---

MR. WAYNE COY: (continuing) This is what we estimate will be ---

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- of money taken out of the Treasury into the hands ---

MR. WAYNE COY: (continuing) This is what we estimate will be expended this year.

THE PRESIDENT: Well now, does that mean ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Spent?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Just a minute now. Does it mean -- I don't know -- contract obligations, or cash out of the Treasury?

MR. WAYNE COY: It is what we will estimate -- cash out of the Treasury.

MR. GODWIN: That's right.

Q Mr. President, could you tell how you classified such a relatively fixed item as the Veterans aid growing out of the last war? Is that a war or non-war ---

MR. WAYNE COY: (interposing) That's a non-war expenditure.

THE PRESIDENT: Non-this-war expenditure. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, has not it been possible to reduce your non-war expenditures because of the employment created by the war?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) I mean, for instance, the C.C.C.?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, very much.

Q (continuing) Is there any estimate of that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. C.C.C., I believe, is now completely gone.

Q (interjecting) W.P.A.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) W.P.A. is now way down.

MR. WAYNE COY: You will find a detailed discussion of it in the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. WAYNE COY: (continuing) --- report.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, do you -- do you know the latest national income figure -- estimate for the same?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't. You would have to ask the Treasury.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, as a result of Mr. (Wendell) Willkie's visit around the world, and report and conversation, do you -- would you anticipate any change in our military strategy?

THE PRESIDENT: I think all that I can tell you is this, that we had an exceedingly successful and a very interesting talk the other day. I cannot disclose military secrets. Very excellent time we had together.

MR. GODWIN: All right.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I am afraid that I can't work up a controversy for anybody.

MR. GODWIN: I didn't mean have a controversy.

THE PRESIDENT: No, but -- I wasn't thinking about you here. I was thinking about somebody else who would ask a question.

MR. GODWIN: Lots of newspapers and others are deluged with this matter. It might be that you would have something to pour a little oil on the waters.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. I thought I did -- a little oil, not gasoline.

(laughter)

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, to revert to the Budget Message, could you tell us whether the increase of 14 billion dollars, or whatever it was

in this estimate, is related in any way to Secretary Morgenthau's statement that we should have 6 billion dollars more in taxes raised during the year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. This doesn't go into that question at all. That really is a different -- a different -- a different subject in a way. In other words, this is a purely budgetary thing, ---

Q (interposing) Well, I wondered ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and I have got nothing from the Treasury on the other subject.

Q This no longer I suppose would cause an increase in the need for taxation, and I wondered if that was reflected already in the Treasury's request?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't -- I haven't "boned" up on that subject, so I ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, is this ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- can't say anything about it.

Q Is this a report to the Congress, sir ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- for its information?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's right.

Q Have you asked them to do anything?

THE PRESIDENT: It's for their information.

Q Mr. President, the A.F.L. convention this week passed a resolution asking you to remove Governor (Rexford G.) Tugwell from Puerto Rico. Would you comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't heard of it.

Q No change in governor status?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't heard any report, and no change contemplated.

Q Mr. President, do you anticipate any action toward ending voluntary enlistments in the Army and Navy under the new Selective Service legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think we had better go into that until we get our bill passed.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about Secretary Morgenthau's trip to England?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing.

Q Mr. President, do you know why the Censorship Office refused to allow your remarks about Willow Run to be sent to England?

THE PRESIDENT: To be sent to England?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: My remarks about Willow Run?

Q Yes. After you had visited it?

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't made any remarks then about Willow Run.

Q At your Press Conference.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q At your Press Conference.

THE PRESIDENT: What did I say about Willow Run?

Q That it was not in production yet -- the assembly line.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know why it wasn't sent to England. I suppose everybody in Detroit knew it when I was there.

Q Mr. President, have you as yet decided upon a successor to Justice (James F.) Byrnes?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is there anything new on manpower, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook X-PC - page 115 - JR)