

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #863
Executive Office of the President
November 24, 1942 -- 4.10 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin as he sat down) How do you do?

MR. GODWIN: How do you do.

THE PRESIDENT: Little stranger!

MR. GODWIN: I had to go to New York.

MR. EARLY: Mr. President. (calling attention to policeman's badge on Mr. Godwin's waistcoat)

MR. GODWIN: I am a cop. One of Russ Young's cops.

THE PRESIDENT: One of those stage scenery things. (laughter)

MR. EARLY: Kinda glad to know he is one of them, though.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Two parking tickets since I got it. (more laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

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

Q Mr. President, there have been some conflicting reports recently on wherein lies the final authority on our production program. I wonder if you could tell us whether Mr. (Donald) Nelson, or the Army and Navy have the final say on production schedules, and the allocation of materials?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess the answer is that they work it out together.

Well, just -- I will give you an example -- I think I have mentioned this before -- I won't give you the figures because I think I will hold it for a more important occasion than this; but -- (laughter) -- but on the production of airplanes -- airplanes, as I suggested to you before, changed very greatly in character since last January. They are -- each one is weighing a great deal more than its type did a year

ago. Each one has more wing-spread than its type had a year ago. Each type had a -- each one has more horse-power than its type did a year ago. Each one takes a great many more manhours to make than it did a year ago.

All right. We are -- you can say that on the basis of work -- workmanship, we are going to spend more workmanship on planes in the calendar year '43, a great deal more than we are doing today, or than we have done in the average of this year. In other words, a constantly stepping up -- an increasing program in terms of workmanship.

Well now, you come down to certain totals. These totals are that we have raised our sights, not on the total number of units, but on the -- on the total workmanship that goes into planes. And there you get a problem. This man, who is a production expert, says you can do so and so. Another man, who is a production expert, says you can't do as much as that; you can only do less. And then comes the problem to the Chiefs of Staff. What are you going to do with them when you get them? Have you got the men to man them? Do we have to man all that we make, or can we turn them over to somebody else that has more men than they need, for their own production?

Now all those things have to be worked out between the staff people and the actual production people. The question of -- of shipping comes into it. We can fly today a great many more planes, and more types of planes under their own power, to the theatre of war -- different theatres of war, than we could a year before. Well, that means that every month that goes by almost, the transportation of -- of planes in -- in ships is -- is changed. I won't say simplified, because there are so many more that are coming out.

And then comes the question of, when we get them to the theatre of war in increasing quantities, can we at the same time get in the ships the spare engines, the spare parts, the gasoline to make them fly, the ground crews, and everything else for the theatre of operations? Now those are things that are -- it's -- it's a constant day by day problem of reconciling all of these factors and all of these opinions. And the reconciliation of the new factors and the latest opinions is going on every single day; and it is getting on extremely well.

Of course, we have to reckon -- now this is not derogatory -- suppose one of you fellows goes to one man who is concerned with, let us say, the training of a special -- a special ground crew, and he says that, By Gosh, he doesn't think that they can get out enough ground crews. Then you go to somebody else who is a specialist on it, who disagrees personally with the other fellow. What do you do? You get those two stories. Now it's machinery that is working every day for the reconciliation of all these different points of view.

And therefore, from the -- from the point of view of truth then, about the only thing you can do is to see whether the stuff is actually coming out as well as it reasonably can be hoped. That means the material into the services of repair, spare parts, the flying personnel and everything else. Well, on the whole, it is going along pretty well.

Q Mr. President, almost every day we read that you plan to put one man over all these activities. Would you be able to reconcile the differences of these individuals better that way, or not?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is merely -- you know what it is. I can -- I can take two blueprints of exactly the same kind of organization, and those

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two blueprints won't look like each other at all.

Q Well, sir, specifically, is there anything in the works ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q (continuing) --- on giving one man ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's just -- it's just like sitting down and drawing -- what do they call it when a fellow sits and draws a figure ---

Q (interjecting) Doodling?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Doodling?

THE PRESIDENT: Doodles, that's it. Now they are just engaging in doodles.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) 90% of the time they will draw new pictures; and "doodle" is a very good word for it.

Q Mr. President, in relation to this reported conflict over production and scheduling, has your attention been called to this question of an aircraft committee headed by Charles E. Wilson (former president of General Electric Company), which Mr. Nelson announced he had appointed, and which the Army and Navy have declined to countersign?

THE PRESIDENT: Not in that form. Mr. Wilson is going to have general charge of production. Well, just for example, on the production of planes there are -- Oh, I suppose half a dozen out of a -- out of a hundred places where in individual plants, or individual parts of an airplane, the thing is not clicking -- half a dozen out of a hundred. Now they have got to be eliminated.

Put it in another practical way, a plane is finished by -- Oh, what? -- the Douglas (aircraft) people. The minute it's ready at the Douglas plant, the navigational instruments ought to be ready for it.

Well, there are all kinds of navigational instruments. It may be one type of plane where somebody hasn't kept up to his time schedule, and there it will sit, maybe for a month -- two months -- before the special gadget that is to go into that special type of airplane is ready for it. Now that's another job which Mr. Wilson is to coordinate and work out kinks of that kind, on timing.

Q Mr. President, the -- that timing situation, I believe, develops as a matter of scheduling, to a large extent. Of course the schedule was changed all the time. And I think the issue now is who shall have the final authority as to say whether a thing will be settled this way or that way, the Army or Mr. Wilson, who is supposed to be acting for Mr. Nelsen in production?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is one of those theoretical things, and none of you are experts on scheduling, any more than I am. I suppose it's a little bit like doodling. It depends who has the pencil and the piece of paper.

Q That's the question.

Q That's it.

Q Does Mr. Wilson have the pencil?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Does Mr. Wilson have the pencil?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I would say they all do mutually, and they are supposed to agree. And if they don't agree, then I'll put them in a room and I'll say, "No food until you come out in agreement." (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) That's the way.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's a practical thing. It isn't a thing to write a story about. None of us knows. Not one of us here in this

room knows how to do a thing like that the best way, because there are half a dozen ways. You people who were with me on the trip know that we went -- I won't name any names -- through four different ---

Q (aside) Don't keep rubbing that in. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- aviation plants; and all four of those plants had different methods of putting an airplane together. Well, there had been an awful lot of "touting" of one particular method. From the layman's point of view it sounds awfully attractive: start something on a belt, and as the belt moves on, the plane takes form like a little old Ford car. (laughter) Well, it sounds awfully attractive to all of us, but you take these engineers, they are specialists. They think, some of them, that Mr. A's way isn't as good as Mr. B's way, which is not the continuous belt but is some other kind of belt that goes by fits and starts. And another fellow says No; you ought to do only half the operations by belt. And still another fellow says the belt method is silly; start your automobile on a place on the floor, and finish it right there. Now who is there among you, or myself, that knows which is the best?

The point is in actual production they are all working -- these different methods. Some are working better than others. It doesn't mean that they are -- that it is the fault of their method. It may be the fault of some other factor that enters into production. We are all children. You are all children. I am a child when it comes to engineering.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) But on the whole it is going along pretty well. There are one or two plants that still have got bad kinks in them.

Q Mr. President, when you saw Mr. Nelson yesterday, did he raise with you the question of Mr. Wilson's authority in the aircraft field?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. Never mentioned it.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President -- Mr. President, back there in the beginning of your talk, I think you said they are raising the sights on total workmanship. Did I understand you to say that the total of planes had not been increased?

THE PRESIDENT: No. But you get much more per plane.

MR. GODWIN: The reason I asked, I thought sometime ago that you had asked for an increase in planes, and I thought ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, look, I will give you the illustration. Which would you rather have, 30 five-dollar -- 30 five-dollar gold pieces, or 20 ten-dollar gold pieces?

MR. GODWIN: Oh -- one is 200, and one is 150.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (laughter) Well, in other words, which would you rather have, a plane of the type that we turned out in January last year -- 10 thousand of them; or would you rather have 8 thousand that were twice as good?

MR. GODWIN: The latter, of course.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Well, that's the answer.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q It isn't a question of actual number of planes.

MR. GODWIN: I simply asked to see whether ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- I had noted it right, that's all.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, do you expect any action soon on acquiring a successor to Mr. (James F.) Byrnes on the Supreme Court?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing on that yet. You can say: soon. But then I said that last week too. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, are you ready to move on your manpower solution yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Soon.

Q Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about your discussion with President (Carlos Alberto) Arroyo (Del Rio) (of Ecuador) last night, after the dinner?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we had an awfully interesting discussion, as I have had with a number of other heads of American governments. We talked about two things.

The first, of course, was the immediate and present problem of the war, and the general solidarity of the 21 nations, which is a very high percentage of solidarity -- I won't put it any other way.

And secondly, about the future, about trying to get an economy for the North and South Americas -- Central America -- which will raise their standards -- the standards and the wealth of the poorer nations, and the smaller nations, without hurting our economy or the economy of the larger or richer nations as they exist at the present time.

I may have something to say, later on, in regard to that subject, on the part of certain elements of thinking in this country: that we are trying to debase our economy merely to build up other people's.

But of course the general -- the general thought -- I can give you an illustration right here at home -- back in the old days, when I went South -- the deep South -- Oh, what? -- 15 -- 20 years ago --

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the whole standard of earnings was so low that those people down there -- this is background, 24 or 5 (meaning around 1924 or 1925) -- was so low that they couldn't buy anything at the store. And a great many Northern people -- including Southern people -- failed to realize that if their purchasing power down there in the South was higher -- increased relatively faster, let us say, than the Northern manufacturing districts, those people down there would acquire purchasing power for the purchase of things that were made in the North, and therefore would put a whole lot of people to work in the North, and thereby increase the purchasing power of the North too.

Well, it sounds awfully simple the way you say it, but I don't know -- nobody -- nobody ever acted on it until we began to get -- this is not political, it's merely historical -- it did happen after 1933; the purchasing power of the South began to go up by leaps and bounds.

In rural Georgia, for example, back there, there was hardly a local store that was solvent, quite aside from the banks. They didn't turn their stock over. There was no -- there was no -- there were no buyers on Saturday afternoons in the country districts in the South, and there the stock remained.

Well, I don't know -- maybe one or two are still here that accompanied me down to Georgia in those days. But if you remember the local stores down there, if you went in to buy a hat, you would find it was an 8-year-old vintage -- (laughter) -- there was no turn-over. That meant that the fellow was losing so much interest on his -- the money he had borrowed to buy his stock with, and each year he was going deeper into the red.

Now since then, in the whole of the agricultural South, they have

had a greater turn-over, because they have had more buying power. Now it certainly hasn't hurt the North. It has given the North, and the manufacturing districts, the opportunity to make things and sell in the South that they had never done before; just for example, before this war.

Now the same thing can be worked out in those nations -- we are working at it -- which today have got practically no purchasing power. It is going to help them enormously, but it is going to help us too. It's a perfectly obvious thing; and yet there are a lot of people in this country, they can't see the value of putting other people onto their feet.

Now you will begin to find in the United States quite a group of people that will say, in regard to the appointment of Governor (Herbert H.) Lehman (Director of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, Department of State), the other day, "Is the United States going to shell out our food and our clothing? Are we going to spend our good money to -- to rehabilitate other nations? What's the big idea?" Now you will find that an increasing -- from now on -- slogan. It will be put out all over the United States.

Q Are we going to, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Sure, we are going to rehabilitate them. Why? All right. Not only from the humanitarian point of view -- you needn't stress that unless you want to -- there's something in it -- but from the point of view of our own pocketbooks, and our own safety from future attack -- future war.

Q Would you say that their production should be increased commensurately also, to offset our production?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, sure.

Q Mr. President, when do you plan to say something on that, and in what manner will you make it?

THE PRESIDENT: I will do it over the radio. In this case I want to reach a different audience. (laughter) It's all right.

Q Mr. ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, would you tell us a little bit about what you said about Ecuador last night, and your remarks at the dinner?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- I never have my remarks taken down -- I suppose I should -- I was talking about the general thought that the -- irrespective of politics or party, that the -- what we sneer at, some of us, as a Good Neighbor Policy is becoming ingrained in all of the Americas. The people are beginning to believe that if we continue through another 10 years or 20 years to maintain it as a continental policy, that it will work. And I mentioned the -- the illustration that they have got the idea, the Democratic form of government -- Democracy -- all through there.

What happened at the end of 1936, when I went down to Rio (de Janeiro), and Buenos Aires, and Montevideo? Great crowds were in the streets, and the crowds were yelling; but I was interested in what they were saying. There were some of them that were saying, "Viva Roosevelt." But the great bulk of them were saying, "Viva La Democracia." Now that -- that meant something. They were talking about Democracy as they saw it. And it's something that was worth living for and worth fighting for.

And why -- then why don't -- and I said that -- as I said before, I didn't think there was much question that the -- that the policy is

part of the national policy here, regardless of what the political complexion of the Administration is here. Same way down there. In all the other Republics, whoever the president the next time, whoever is the government in different places, they will go along with the idea of "Democracia," and the thought of the Good Neighbor.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I think that was all, as I remember it, something like that.

Q Mr. President, is there any comment you would care to make, sir, on the current Russian offensive?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think all I can say is that I got an intimation of it several days ago, and that I am delighted that it is going so well.

You can say dee-lighted, if you want to. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #864
Executive Office of the President
December 1, 1942 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

Q How do, sir.

(the President nodded)

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Early) What have you got?

MR. EARLY: Can't find anything that's useful, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: You haven't got anything ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Nothing?

MR. EARLY: (continuing) --- that I know that you are ready to talk about.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's terrible.

MR. EARLY: Maybe questions will bring out something. Invite them.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

MR. EARLY: Well, that's what I thought. There's nothing around here.

THE PRESIDENT: (to the front row newspapermen, who were whispering to

Miss May Craig) You are not putting any ideas ---

MR. DONALDSON: (interposing) All in.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in May's head, are you?

Q Trying. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says that there is nothing ready to serve. Quite a lot -- quite a lot of food that's on the -- on the range, but it isn't cooked for you yet.

Q Mr. President, do you plan to name (present Secretary of the Interior Harold L.) Ickes Secretary of Labor?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Do you plan to name Mr. Ickes Secretary of Labor?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh -- nothing -- nothing on the fire.

Q Nothing on the fire, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (laughter)

Q Maybe it has been cooked, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: It isn't cooked.

Q That isn't on the range, Mr. President?

Q Nothing on the range, Mr. President?

Q Would you say that was one of the things not on the range?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you could say it's not on the range. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) What do you mean by that, Mr. President? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) What? The first thing I know somebody will start singing "Home On The Range." (more laughter)

Q Mr. President, could you tell us if you have conferred with Mr. Ickes today either in person ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, I conferred with lots of people today.

Q Mr. President, Oliver Lyttelton told us yesterday he thought the war could be won by June of next year. Do you think that's a little too optimistic? That is the European War. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's perfectly all right for Mr. Lyttelton to make his guesses. You have noticed I haven't made any guesses yet, have you?

Q Mr. President, are you preparing a directive to define the W.P.B.'s (War Production Board) power over production schedules?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I wouldn't -- I wouldn't write much of a story about that. There was a problem there as to the -- what might be called the fringes, in between W.P.B. and the military end of production. There were certain places where there was overlapping. And I told you last

week what the answer was -- and it still is the answer -- and that was that on these fringe questions, they would go into a room and settle it. Well, it has been done. That's all there is. It has been done.

There isn't very much story in that, except that there is an awful lot of a story in it. (laughter) In other words, it hasn't slowed up production -- this question. It's a practical question which didn't get down the line to the factories while it was going on, and then it was settled. Now that -- that really is -- is a big story in one sense, because it ought to overcome false impressions which were created in various quarters, trying to raise that particular question to a star of the first magnitude, which it wasn't.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us when you expect some sort of settlement on this manpower policy?

THE PRESIDENT: Soon.

Q When that question is settled, Mr. President, will it also settle such questions as hoarding labor in plants, absenteeism, and kindred questions?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so. I don't know very much (about it). Where for instance?

Q Sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Where?

Q Well, I hate to have to be a local reporter, but there have been some reports of it in Buffalo, both hoarding and absenteeism.

THE PRESIDENT: What do you mean by absenteeism?

Q People taking time off because they made too much money. People taking time off for other reasons. People taking time off for promoting

sales, and one thing and another, when they should be keeping production up.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And there is a certain amount of absenteeism of girls who get too tired to work the sixth day. Oh, I don't know, those -- those are details which are generally handled in localities. And I haven't heard any -- any widespread complaint about absenteeism. I don't think there is any widespread complaint about it. We may find some enthusiasts in some local plant that will call an absence from the machine on a given date absenteeism. I don't think it's a very widespread failing in this country. Any other places?

Q Not that I know of, sir. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, have you had confirmation of the Vichy report that all of the French fleet was sunk at Toulon?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We have had no -- what shall I call it? -- conclusive report. There are various reports, all of which differ from each other. We are not ready to form a definite conclusion at this time. Now that is -- that is -- that is literally all there is to it. We don't know how many ships were sunk, and how many ships escaped, and how many ships are still sitting there afloat, either badly damaged or not damaged at all. It's just one of "them" things. I would tell you if I knew, but I don't.

Q Mr. President, there have been reports floating around today that General (Charles) DeGaulle is coming over to see you. Is there anything definite on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- I don't -- well, I will tell you frankly, I don't know. But I was asked if I would receive him if he came over, and I said Yes, that I would receive him. Now some people said that I had

invited him over. That does not happen to be true. So if he does come over, I will see him. Now that's -- that's accurate language.

Q Thank you.

Q Who asked you to receive him?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Who asked you to receive him?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have said all along that I would see anybody that came over here -- just about. (much laughter) As a matter of fact, I think I do.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, there was a report that you would ask for legislation to cover all income, so that it would be brought down to 25 thousand net?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that, you know, I recommended last year.

MR. P. BRANDT: Yes. But I mean this is a re-recommendation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't written my Message yet. I haven't thought of it.

And incidentally, on that, Pete, I wish you would get the idea across to everybody, and that is that there are -- there is a way of saying something to the public which is -- what shall I say? -- letter correct, but conveys an erroneous impression to the public of the United States. And I have seen it happen. It's a matter of -- I don't know, what? -- carelessness, of talking about a 25 thousand dollar limit on salaries when actually, of course, it isn't a 25 thousand dollar limit on salaries, it's a 67 thousand, 200 dollar limit on salaries. Now that's correct. And that takes -- will take a lot of explaining to the public, and I will probably have to say so on the air.

It isn't a 25 thousand dollar limit, it's a 25 thousand net. But if you don't say it's a 67 thousand, 200 dollar limit, the public gets the wrong impression. They get the idea that a fellow is limited to 25 thousand dollars, and then out of that he has to take half of it or more to pay his taxes. I am just -- I am just talking in the interests of accuracy in the minds of the public.

Now, of course, there is one other thing, which I think has been forgotten. Back in '33, the railroads of the United States were just about "bust." Most of them would have been "bust" if it hadn't been for the R.F.C. Act, by which the Government of the United States lent them enough money to tide them over, in some cases for 6 months, in other cases for a year.

Now in that tiding over, when we loaned Government money to keep the railroads out of the hands of receiverships -- Oh, and there were lots of them -- Jesse Jones (Secretary of Commerce now) came in to see me one day, and he said, "You know, some of these salaries on these roads -- which are public services -- these railroads," he said, "they are too high."

"Well," I said, "what are they?"

He said, "In some cases they are 150 thousand dollars a year, and in other cases they are 125 thousand."

And probably the average salary of a railroad president or chairman of the board is way up around 100 thousand a year.

And he said, "I don't think a railroad which is borrowing money from the Government to keep going, that they ought to be allowed to pay 100 to 150 thousand dollar a year salaries."

So I said, "I think you are right." I said, "What do you think

should be the top limit?"

"Well," he said, "I think 50 thousand dollars a year."

And I said, "How can you -- can you enforce that?"

He said, "Perfectly simple."

I said, "It isn't a law."

"No," he said, "it isn't a law, except that I am the lender, and I have the right to state what the terms of my loan will be. And I am going to tell these roads that are coming to the Government to keep out of the bankruptcy court, that they can't pay in all conscience -- they can't pay those large salaries. They have got to come down to 50 thousand."

Well, there was an awful howl -- perfectly terrible -- on the part of the railroad executives.

So Jesse came in to see me one day, and he said, "I think that this whole thing can be cleared up if we put a top limit, not of 50 thousand but of 60 thousand."

And every president of every railroad except one agreed, in the interest of his stockholders, to come down to 60 thousand a year maximum salary.

Now that was the emergency of the bankruptcy of a road. Today we have an emergency which is more serious, and that is the bankruptcy of the nation through the loss of a war, or the saving of a nation by the winning of a war.

And under this particular ruling we would put the maximum salary, not at 60 thousand dollars, which was the old thing that was done by executive action, but at 67 thousand, 200 dollars.

Now that's another way of putting it, and I wonder very much how

that story would be written.

Q Mr. President, do you anticipate making a radio address in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, probably some time this month.

Q This month? Thank you, sir.

Q Mr. President, what would be a similarly ---

THE PRESIDENT: (adding) In other words, before January 1st. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, what would be an accurate statement of the income limitation as applied to income from sources other than salary?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, there's an awful lot of kick going around the country about the fellow who has got his income more or less fixed because he is getting a salary, and the fellow who is getting a much larger income just out of invested or inherited securities not being held down at all. That is a very widespread complaint all around the country, and I am very curious to know what the Congress is going to do about it.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Miss May Craig and Tom Reynolds) Isn't that wicked?
Isn't that wicked?

MR. T. REYNOLDS: Yes, very wicked.

THE PRESIDENT: And that all goes down in the record! (laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #865
Executive Office of the President
December 4, 1942 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to the newspapermen as they filed in) Good morning.

Good morning.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have only two things this morning, both of them of very little importance.

There is one that might be considered an example to other branches of the Government, and to individuals -- companies -- in every part of the land. We have been trying -- honestly trying, since last -- beginning of the year, to cut down on gas. And the White House automobiles which -- including Mac's, Steve's and everybody else's -- in 19 -- in November 1941 traveled 18 thousand, 403 miles, in November 1942 traveled only 10 thousand, 733 miles. In other words, as I say, charity begins at home. That doesn't mean just my home, it means your homes too. It's a cut nearly -- nearly in half.

Q Mr. President, how many cars is that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there have been -- there have been 2 given up. One wasn't used -- two of them are not used. That's a net gain of 4, and there are --- (to himself): 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13 --- 13 cars.

Q Mr. President, does that include the mail cars?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes, it does.

Q Is that 13 left without the 4 not being used?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

The other thing is a letter to (Major) General (Philip B.) Fleming, head of the Public Works (Federal Works Agency).

(reading): "In my annual message to the Congress 7 years ago, I outlined the principles of a Federal work relief program. The Work Projects Administration was established in May, 1935,...."

You remember that followed the emergency measures of '33 and '34.

(continuing reading): "The Government accepted the responsibility..."

Wait a minute.

(continuing reading): ".....and it has followed these basic principles through the years. The Government accepted the responsibility of providing useful employment for those who were able and willing to work but who could find no opportunities in private industry.

"Seven years ago I was convinced that providing useful work is superior to any and every kind of dole. Experience has amply justified this policy.

"By building airports, schools, highways, parks; making huge quantities of clothing for the unfortunate; serving millions of lunches to schoolchildren; almost immeasurable kinds and quantities of service of all kinds, the Work Projects Administration has reached a creative hand into every county in the nation. It has added to the national wealth, repaired the wastage of depression, strengthened the country to bear the burden of war. By employing 8 millions of Americans, with 30 millions of dependents, it has brought to these people renewed hope and courage; maintained and increased their working skill, enabling them once more to take their rightful places in public or private employment.

"Every employable American should be employed at prevailing wages in war industries or farms, or in other private and public employment. The Work Projects Administration rolls have greatly decreased -- through the tremendous increase in private employment, assisted by the training

and re-employment efforts of its own organization -- to a point where a national work relief program is no longer necessary. Certain groups of workers still remain on the rolls who may have to be given assistance by States and localities. Others will be able to find work on farms or in industry, at prevailing rates of pay, as private employment continues to increase. Some of the present certified war projects may have to be taken over by other units of the Federal Works Agency, or other departments of the Federal Government. State or local projects should be closed out by completing useful units of such projects, or by arranging for the sponsors to carry on the work.

"With these considerations in mind, I agree that you should direct the prompt liquidation of the affairs of the Work Projects Administration, thereby conserving a large amount of the funds appropriated to this organization. This will necessitate closing out all project operations in many States by February 1, 1943, and in other States as soon thereafter as feasible. By taking this action there will be no need to provide project funds for the Work Projects Administration in the budget for the next fiscal year.

"I am proud of the Work Projects Administration organization. It has displayed courage and determination in the face of uninformed criticism. The knowledge and experience of this organization will be of great assistance in the consideration of a well-rounded public works program for the post-war period.

"With the satisfaction of a good job well done, and with a high sense of integrity, the Work Projects Administration has asked for and earned an honorable discharge."

Q Mr. President, do you recall what the appropriation was for this current

fiscal year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't -- but nobody knows.

Q Roughly around a billion (dollars), I think, sir.

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

Way below that, I think. I don't know, it may have been up to that.

I am not sure. You had better look it up.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us anything about manpower?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Soon.

Q Mr. President, have you given out any instructions yet as to how much, if any, holiday Government employees may have Christmas?

THE PRESIDENT: As I remember it, the Director of the Budget and I agreed it should be (just) Christmas Day.

Q Mr. President, have you any comment on the House passage of a bill to include farm wages in parity prices?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than what I read in the papers. Of course, the first thing to do is to find out what effect it will have on our cost of living.

Q Mr. President, will you comment sir, on some of the printed criticism -- (here the President cupped his hand to his ear) -- will you comment, sir, on some of the printed criticism that there has been, regarding the advisability of revealing on December 6 many of the details on the Pearl Harbor incident, on the ground that it would give the Japanese cause for exultation, or celebration?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better ask -- ask Elmer. (laughter)

Q Where's Elmer?

Q Where's Elmer?

Q Ask him now? (Mr. Elmer Davis was sitting behind the President)

THE PRESIDENT: I think he is coming through with a story pretty soon.

He has got that look in his eye. (turning to Mr. Davis): Maybe a couple of stories, right?

MR. ELMER DAVIS: A couple of stories.

THE PRESIDENT: A couple of stories. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, could you tell us anything about the forthcoming visit of Mr. -- Prime Minister -- Prime Minister -- Mr. (W. L. Mackenzie) King of Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: He arrived this morning. I got talking to him, that's why I am late. (laughter) And we are going to have just a nice, quiet weekend -- just a very old friend -- talking about a great many things, including -- including some of the deeper problems of humanity -- human life in the days to come after the war; remembering always that the people of Canada and the people of the United States essentially have the same problems.

Q Aside from those problems, you might also give thought to economics, or some further elaboration of the Hyde Park agreement?

THE PRESIDENT: Not details. Objectives.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on the immigration phase of your war powers request, to which there seems to be some objection in Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is anything much to talk about. All we want is the right -- Oh, I suppose two or three dozen people in the year -- bring them in here for strengthening the war effort, that's all. I can't imagine anybody saying any more than that. That has been stated, and I don't care how it is worded. That -- again, the objective.

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Q Is that what all the shouting is about in Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: That's all. That's all.

Q Mr. President, may we expect anything on the food administrator ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) May what?

Q May we expect anything on the food administrator shortly?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Soon. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, could you define that word "soon"?

THE PRESIDENT: Soon! (more laughter)

Q Mr. (William) Green (A.F.L. president) said yesterday, "very quickly."

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe very quickly.

Q (interposing) He went so far, sir, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I won't make any promises.

Q (continuing) He went so far as to say "a matter of a very few days."

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope you are right. I will -- I am going to try

to make you right, but I won't guarantee it. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #866
Executive Offices of the President
December 8, 1942 -- 3.05 P.M., E.W.T.

Q (to Mr. Early) Any work today?

MR. EARLY: Got some. Did as much as I could for you.

THE PRESIDENT: Did you see the picture in The New Yorker of the backs of all your heads? (an excellent cartoon by Gluyas Williams, page 18, issue of December 5, 1942)

Q We appreciated it very much. (laughter)

Q Better picture of you, Mr. President.

Q There were a lot of indignant denials of that picture too.

THE PRESIDENT: Were there some who recognized themselves?

Q No. Other people recognized other people. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think your necks are stretched.

Q Not today, sir.

Q Craned.

THE PRESIDENT: That picture had them all stretched out.

Q Just craned. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: There's an old phrase about sticking your neck out, and you ought to know it by this time. (much laughter)

Q That's the best thing we do.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Actually I have two or three things today.

I have a letter -- which Steve has had mimeographed for you -- from the Alien Property Custodian, that gives quite a clear picture in regard to foreign patents; and I think on the whole it can be generally approved. It seems to be a pretty good pattern for the handling of enemy patents, not only at the present time but also for

the -- for the future. Steve will have that for you. It's too long for me to read -- it's 3 pages.

Then I have -- I just want to give you a memorandum that I wrote out. Have you had that mimeographed too, Steve?

MR. EARLY: It's ready, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: You can -- it's to get rid of a certain amount of misinformation and worry on the part of workers in war industries or shifting to war industries.

It says, "One of the ways in which we can encourage skilled workers in civilian industries to shift to employment in war plants, is to see to it that when victory has been won employees can return to their peacetime work without loss of all of the seniority rights which they have accumulated over the years.

"All of us are conscious of the great need for additional manpower to make munitions of war, which our own forces and those of our Allies so desperately need. All our people want to do their part, and realize that a job in a war industry is making a direct contribution to winning the war. Many workers have, over the years, accumulated valuable rights to their jobs. Seniority privileges have become an institution in American history -- industry.

"This was recognized when the Selective Service Act was passed. It was thought by the Congress only fair that men who gave up their jobs to enter the Army and Navy should have the maximum protection, so that when they returned they could step back into their jobs with a minimum loss. Valuable re-employment and seniority rights are protected under the Selective Service Act. And I think the same protection should be accorded to a worker wherever possible who leaves

his job to accept employment to help with the war effort, frequently away from home, and at times under less favorable conditions. I think that employers in civilian industries would -- will be willing to give the same assurances to their employees who leave for war work as they are giving to employees who are leaving to join the Armed Services. By so doing they can perform a great service to the Government at this time."

I think that ought to be said, because there is a great deal of misconception in regard to it.

Then the other thing I have is to you people, to correct a wrong for me.

There have been an awful lot of statements given out that lead to a wrong impression all through the country, in regard to the number of civilians that are being employed by the Government of the United States. In other words, we have seen figures that there are two and a half million people on the Government rolls -- civilians -- with the implication, which is the falsehood of it, that all of these people are -- I don't know, what? -- "brass hats," or employed in nice, soft Government jobs. That is definitely the -- the principal implication in these stories that are given out from time to time.

So I asked the statistics people to let me have a little breakdown. And, for example, even reading just a few items in this breakdown will give to the people of this country a more true picture, and disabuse their minds of certain white lies that have been told them; it's a half-truth, but not all the truth.

It is perfectly true, there are about two and a half million people out of civilian life that are employed by the Government. Of

these, a million of them -- actually it's -- it's 60%. It's just under a million, and the other figure is just over a million and a half. 60% of them are working at production jobs for the Army and Navy, and others are working in production jobs for other departments of the Government. That list of two and a half million includes all the workers at all the Navy Yards, and all the workers at all the arsenals, and so forth, that are working three shifts a day turning out munitions. Well, Garand rifles -- 90% of all the -- all the Garand rifles are being made -- are made by Government employees. 90% of our -- No, 75% of our battleships are being built in Navy Yards, just as examples.

Now, in Washington, which is often cited as the sink-hole of iniquity -- (laughter) -- maybe in some ways, but not on employment -- (more laughter) -- only 12% of all the Government employees are in Washington; 88% are outside of Washington. Since Pearl Harbor, the number of employees in Washington has only increased by 80, thousand; and in the same period the increase outside of Washington was 920 thousand. And nearly all of those outside of Washington, of course, are engaged in production.

However, there are certain other things we have to remember. You take the Services of Supply in the Army and Navy, and so forth. There are about 890 thousand civilian employees in that -- only 5% of them in Washington. The Army Air Force we think of as a uniform force, but it had 220 thousand civilian employees to keep it going, nearly all of them outside of Washington.

Taking the Navy, we have 518 thousand civilian employees, of which more than 90% are employed in the shipyards, all the air stations,

and the torpedo stations, and the naval manufacturing plants. Only 9% of all the civilian employees of the Navy are located in the metropolitan area of Washington, including the Washington gun factory -- Navy Yard. Of course, by civilian use, I mean not Army or Navy.

317 thousand people are in the Post Office Department, which is not an increase over former days, but they run the mails and the delivery of the mails. That hasn't gone up, but it accounts for quite -- quite a substantial portion of all the Government employees. We have to remember that nearly -- that a very large number -- most of the Veterans' Administration employees are in a civilian capacity. They haven't increased; though of course very soon they will, to take care of the veterans of this war.

And so all (I want) -- I have got a whole lot of figures here that are not of tremendous interest -- is to point out to the public that they shouldn't believe the story when they are told that the Government has just taken on these added hundreds of thousands -- several millions of civilian employees who are holding down soft, desk jobs. Most of them are actually at work on production, just as much as civilian employees in a private munitions plant are at work on production of the things we need to win the war.

So you can go ahead and make any old story out of that, but try to get the idea across.

Q Mr. President, could you review one figure here, where you said 60% of some number is employed in production jobs?

THE PRESIDENT: Over a million and a half, which is the same as saying over 60% of all of the civilian employees are working at production jobs. Now that doesn't include Services of Supply, running the mails, and so

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forth and so on.

Q Mr. President, today General (Francisco) Franco (of Spain) made a speech, in which he re-affirms Spain's ties with Germany and Italy -- their solidarity with Germany and Italy. And in view of the message which he sent you after the occupation of Africa, I wondered if you would have any comment?

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

Q Mr. President, have you anything you could say about the use -- regarding the French fleet both at Toulon and Dakar, now that you have --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I thought the Secretary of the Navy had answered the question last Friday when -- I think it was when I said that I had no figures to give out. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, Montgomery Ward (and Company) today refused to accept your suggestion that they include a maintenance of membership provision in their contract, unless the words "we accept this under duress" are included; and the Labor War has refused to permit that. Do you have any comment?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about it, except ---

Q (interjecting) It just happened.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- about two weeks ago when I wrote them a letter, they said on this they would do what I asked.

Q They refused this morning.

THE PRESIDENT: They had accepted ---

Q (interposing) They had accepted your proposal, and when it came to negotiating it, they insisted on the words "we accept under duress."

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about it. Did they accept, or did they reverse their position?

MIR 3-14-57

Q They reversed their position.

THE PRESIDENT: I see. I will have to find out about it.

Q Mr. President, have you received a communication from the Colorado Congressional delegation, regarding the Thompson Canyon project? The W.P.B. (War Production Board) has canceled it.

THE PRESIDENT: That tunnel thing?

Q I think that's it. I am not sure, sir, the exact description of it, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q (continuing) --- but they wrote a letter to the White House asking that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't heard from them, but as to the tunnel thing, I did have word from the Secretary of the Interior on it, to this general effect.

As I understand it, the W.P.B. withdrew that from the list of Government projects that they were to go ahead with. And I got a letter from the Secretary of the Interior -- I guess this is the same thing -- pointing out that the tunnel is to be -- it's a water tunnel -- to be 13 miles long, and they have done 10 thousand -- 13 miles long, and they have done 10 miles of it; that they don't need any more materials, but they do want to hole through the other 3 miles, because if they don't the upper end of the tunnel -- the western end -- will get full of water, which would seriously -- might seriously damage it -- cracks and everything -- unless they keep it pumped out; and if they once hole through the final 3 miles, they won't have to pump it out, because it will drain itself.

And he recommends that it would be cheaper for the Government

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to finish the 3 miles, and not have to pump, than it would be to stop where we are now and have to keep it free of water. Well, that's -- that's where the thing is at the present time. It's being reviewed.

Q Mr. President, have you had any further information about absenteeism in Government war plants?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not since you asked me the question.

Q Well, sir, these figures have come to my attention -- in a Douglas, California, plant that is two months old -- that indicate, sir, that 780 thousand manhours were lost out there in October, which would be enough to build 41 Boston bombers; which indicated to me, in view of Mr. Donald Nelson's remarks about being a little disappointed in aircraft production, that you might have some comment?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because the figures may mean something, and they may not. In the Washington Navy Yard, or the Willow Run plant, or any other large organization, it is perfectly possible to figure out that the turn-over in labor at all times -- good and bad -- would build 41 bombers, or 2 railroad trains, or 50 thousand cravats, or what-not.

In other words, the figures mean nothing unless you will bring them to me after this, and let me have them, and then I will analyze them -- get somebody, I won't do it myself -- and I will analyze them for you.

Q Thank you, sir. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook XI-PC - page 142 - JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #867
Executive Office of the President
December 11, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (looking up from reading as the newspapermen filed in) I haven't finished my homework.

Q Yes, sir. (laughter) (the President continued reading as more newspapermen filed in)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am sending up to the Senate and House today the Report of Lend-Lease Operations for the period ended December 11, (1942). You will have to do a little work to dig out what you can from it.

There are two things here that rather struck me, that we have got up to 2 billion, 367 million for the past 3 months' period, which is a third higher than the figure for the previous quarter.

And there is a mention in here of the fact that by the end of this month we will have more than one million men over-seas.

If you are interested in more figures and things, you will have to dig them out.

MR. GODWIN: That's all in there, isn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

Then I have appointed a special committee which will probably be able to do its work -- won't take very long, I think -- perhaps a month -- on draft deferment of Federal employees, consisting of three gentlemen, in order that they can work out a uniform, nation-wide policy and practice, to govern the requests for occupational deferments from induction in the military service, especially those persons employed by the Federal Government. Mr. Paul Bellamy is the Chairman; Mr. Ordway Tead, and Mr. Eric Johnston of the United States Chamber of

Commerce.

In the formulation of a policy, the committee is being asked to give consideration to standards of determining,

A, whether an employee is actually performing duties that are critically essential to the war effort.

Secondly, whether the employee can be replaced by others who are not eligible for military service.

And third, whether the employee's skills and abilities can best be used to make his maximum contribution in the total war program in his civilian assignment, or in military service.

The committee will work very closely with the War Manpower Commission, including its regional and local facilities, in order to relate the requests for deferment to the general draft deferment policies that are applied to non-Government citizens.

The objective is to assure the establishment of sound policies, and adequate machinery for quickly applying these policies to individual cases, so that the Government service, the employees affected and the public can be certain that occupational deferments of Federal employees are permitted only in bona fide cases of essential employment, where effective replacement is impossible.

MR. GODWIN: Sir, why didn't you leave that with the Manpower Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Because it requires a rather special study.

MR. GODWIN: Special.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It isn't a permanent thing ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Oh, I see.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- to work it out.

MR. GODWIN: May I ask you a question? I was -- we are all very much inter-

ested in the stopping of enlistments. And the last time that I spoke to naval officers about enlistments they liked the enlistment idea, on the ground that the natural-born seaman, born in the Middle West, wants to go to sea. He may not have seen a ship, but he is a good -- a naturally good sailor. And ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, and from the ---

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- that seems to have stopped.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Rocky Mountain States too. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Have you anything interesting to say about that?

Does it -- does it hurt the Navy, or does it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. I tell you -- I tell you quite frankly, it won't hurt the Navy at all. I suppose I might put it this way. It's a matter of sentiment connected with it -- purely personal sentiment; because in the First World War the question came up from the very inception of the war, as to whether the Navy should come under the selective draft of that day and age, and I thought it would be grand if we could recruit the Navy right through the War. And we did, but we only got up to a total of about 515 thousand men.

And so when this war came along, it was a matter of sentiment on my part. And we did manage, through the enlistment process, to get up to a million men; but the time came when I had to discard sentiment and end enlistments.

And of course on this -- this Selective Draft, it doesn't mean that everybody who prefers to go into the Navy will get into the Navy, but we don't know the proportions of what service people are going to ask for. But in all probability the -- the overwhelming number of people from Kansas, let us say, who have been born and brought up on salt water

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will go -- (laughter) -- and from Utah -- in the great -- the overwhelming majority of cases, if they say they want to go into the Navy, they will go into the Navy.

MR. GODWIN: I saw 14 hundred boys -- Mid-West boys -- recruited in one day out there in the Great Lakes, and not one of them had ever seen salt water.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they make pretty good sailors.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, they would.

May I ask you another question? I don't want to monopolize this -- then I am through for the day. There is a letter-writer in the Washington Post this morning, suggesting the name "Victory Building" for the Pentagon Building. I thought that was an interesting suggestion.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't thought of it.

MR. GODWIN: It's a good suggestion.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't thought of it. Of course, one of my friends always calls it the "Pentateuchal Building." (laughter)

Q What about calling it the "Marathon Building"? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Then I -- Steve (Early) has got for you a copy of a letter that I sent to the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, in regard to this personnel problem here in Washington. If you want details of it, get hold of (Wm. H.) McReynolds. He will tell you all about it. But the fact remains that on the -- I will just read the first -- the first paragraph.

(reading): "The Government, which is the largest single employer in the nation, has permitted a condition to develop regarding rates of pay, hours of work, and overtime compensation for its civilian employees which is grossly unfair, is one of the major causes of the needlessly

high personnel turn-over, and is impeding the successful prosecution of the war effort."

And then it lists 3 examples -- 3 problems which have created injustices.

And, of course, the problem has been kicking around up on the Hill for a long time. They have known about it, but there has been no agreement; and this letter is to ask them please to do something about it. But I hate to have these injustices continue.

I am not at all sure that they will take any action before the -- the -- this Congress expires. Anyway this letter is for the record. We have done the best we could to correct injustices, and Congress has taken no action. And the whole thing is listed in the letter.

And finally, somebody asked about Mr. Phillips -- William Philipps going to India. He is going from his present work as my Personal Representative to serve, as they call it in the State Department, "near the government of India" -- which is State Department language. He belongs to the career service -- went in in 1903, served in the Far East and Europe, and has been, as you know, Under Secretary of State, I think two different times. And he was in Rome at the outbreak of the war.

He will have the personal rank of Ambassador, because he has been that several times. He goes to New Delhi in the near future, and assumes charge of the American Mission that was established there in November, 1941 -- over a year ago. Mr. Thomas Wilson was the first Chief of that Mission, and Louis Johnson served later for a short time, until he was taken ill.

And there is no truth in rumors that he will carry any -- Mr. Phillips

will carry any special plan or formula for the solution of the Indian problem. He will perform the regular duties of an American diplomatic representative abroad. And that's all there is to that.

Q Mr. President, have you received word from the Montgomery Ward (and Company) people, or the War Labor Board, on their contract?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. (then turning to Mr. Early)

MR. EARLY: I haven't, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q (interposing) Have you got any report on the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) No, none at all.

Q (continuing) --- on North Africa, that the anti-Vichyites have not been released?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q There are reports that 25 thousand are still in prison.

THE PRESIDENT: I would take that with a "grain of salt."

Q Mr. President, there is a ticker report this morning that the Pope has asked you to see to it that Rome is not bombed. Anything on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I would take that with a "grain of salt" too. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us something about your talk the other night with the Cuban President (Fulgencio Batista)?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we had a very satisfactory talk, and which included, especially, the very good effort on the part of Cuba to take care of -- Oh, fifth columnists, falangists, and spies. We are working very closely with them, and the situation down there in that respect is very well under control.

Q What was the type of person you mentioned after fifth columnists?

THE PRESIDENT: Fifth columnists.

VOICES: (interjecting) Falangists.

THE PRESIDENT: Falangists. And that is just one variety of fifth columnists down there.

MR. MERRIMAN SMITH: Mr. President, do you contemplate issuing a directive which will give the materials necessary for the synthetic rubber program priority over other material in the war effort, such as airplane material ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What would you do?

MR. MERRIMAN SMITH: (hesitating a moment, and then somewhat restrained)
I am not President, sir. (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, in other words, here -- it's a perfectly simple proposition -- (laughing again at Mr. Smith's answer) -- for you or for me. You have got, I suppose, a half-dozen things that you regard as absolutely essential. And May (Craig) over there has got a half-dozen other things that she says are absolutely essential to win the war. And Jim (Wright) over here has got a different list of things necessary to win the war.

Now on all these things we have to leave it to a combination of the production people, and -- and I suppose the easiest way of putting it is the joint Chiefs of Staff. Somebody in authority has got to list the priorities. There isn't enough stuff to go around for them all, so we have to do the best we can. And that is why you can't say -- you can't put -- you can't put rubber ahead of airplanes. The thing is being worked out by the experts. I am not an expert, and none of us here are. We are doing the best we can. You can't say that one particular article of war is infinitely more important than any other.

Q Do you plan to send your new Supreme Court nomination while this Congress is in session?

THE PRESIDENT: I am glad you reminded me of it. I will have to take it up.
(laughter)

Q Mr. President, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. President, with respect to the joint Chiefs of Staff, they would, I presume, have no responsibility with respect to civilian use of synthetic rubber, would they?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: You would have to go beyond, or behind, or along with them, if you wanted to determine how much steel is necessary to expand the synthetic rubber process, isn't that so?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Yes, but it always comes down in the last analysis to what the Army or Navy people say, to go ahead ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- or something else.

Just take a simple thing. Suppose you have the priority on building a rubber plant -- the machinery. And this is mostly a case of machinery, it isn't the walls of the plant, or the power for the plant -- it's the machinery within the plant. Now that is very, very essential. And it's -- from your point of view or mine, it's pretty important that -- that planes have tires. At the same time it's awfully important, when those planes are getting tires, that they also have octane gas so that they can fly. Now octane gas calls for machinery too, to build a plant for that. Now what do you do when there is only enough machinery to go around for a half of each plant? Well, you have to leave that to the military and naval.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, they have to ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- that's what I would like to know. You would need to have rules then?

THE PRESIDENT: Primarily in time of war.

Q Mr. President, during your luncheon yesterday, did you ask Senator (George W.) Norris (Independent of Nebraska) to remain in the Government after the expiration of his term?

THE PRESIDENT: No, ---

Q (interjecting) Do you expect to do so?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- we talked about the great necessity, from the point of view of many of us, that he should continue his very, very useful life in talking to the people of this country and of the world, because he has something that very few people have got. He has got an audience, and secondly he has got a story to tell. Now when one person has those two things, he ought not to quit and go home just because he is 81 years old.

Q Are you suggesting, Mr. President, that he become a columnist?

(much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. I did -- I did tell him that even he couldn't write interestingly and truthfully a column three times a week. Nobody can, or have I said that before? (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: How about Mark Sullivan?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: How about Mark Sullivan? He is with us. How about Mark Sullivan? You haven't spoken of him for a long time.

THE PRESIDENT: What about that Mark? (laughter)

(Mr. Sullivan's attempted reply was inaudible in the general laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) He's right here.

THE PRESIDENT: I see the top of his head back here. (more laughter)
(Mr. Sullivan attempted to reply again, but it was inaudible)

THE PRESIDENT: Keep right at it, Mark. You're coming strong. Keep on trying! (again more laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. GODWIN: That's all right.
(continued laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #868
Executive Office of the President
December 15, 1942 -- 4.05 P.M., E.W.T.

(the Chinese Ambassador, Wao Tao-Ming, was a guest
at this Press Conference)

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Early) Are you giving them a copy of it? (the
longhand message to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek)

MR. EARLY: They may have it, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir. They may have it.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have -- I have broken a rule of many years standing
today. I have written a longhand letter. (See addendum) I did it
at the suggestion of the Chinese Minister, in honor of the opening
of the first radio or telephoto service between here and China. It's
-- and Steve will give you a copy of it -- it's a one-page letter to
the Generalissimo; and it will, I suppose, be in Chungking inside of
an hour, or an hour and a half, which as you know will be -- will be
tomorrow, on account of the difference in time. And we think it's
quite -- quite a feat, quite an interesting thing that we have
started this new bond of communication with the people of China,
and hope very much that in a fairly short time all the people of
China will get it.

I don't think I have anything else today, except a cold in the
nose. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, could you tell us anything about the reports that Senator
(Prentiss) Brown may succeed Leon Henderson?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't think I have any news on that at all.

Q Well, could you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (adding) I don't think I will for some time, anyway.

Q Would you care to prognosticate a bit about it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, ---

Q (continuing) --- Mr. Brown's future?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I couldn't possibly, because I don't know.

Q Aside from Mr. Brown, Mr. President, is there any basis in truth that --
for the report that Mr. Henderson has given you a letter, or indicated
that he is ready to resign?

THE PRESIDENT: That I have not -- that is not true at all.

Q That, sir, is what?

THE PRESIDENT: Is not true at all.

Q Mr. President, we were given today the text of a letter by which you
designate Mr. (James F.) Byrnes as your agent to settle any disagree-
ments arising over the food program. Will he also have a similar job
to that in connection with the manpower program?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think -- the other is in the law.

Q (interposing) I believe, sir, your Executive Order ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I think ---

Q (continuing) --- extending the Manpower Commission's power also provided
for any disagreements to be submitted to you or your agent ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, ---

Q (continuing) --- in much the same way.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- there hasn't been any disagreement yet, so

I don't know what the machinery will be. It might be myself. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, in connection with the manpower thing, have there been any

strategical developments in the war that might lead to reconsideration of the size of the Army? I am thinking of that 7 (million), 5 (hundred thousand), which some people have said was too high for supplying it, and so forth.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw a distinguished Frenchman (Pierre Cot, former Minister of Aviation) suggested that the other day, that the cause of the fall of France was that they had too many men in the army -- too large an army, and that the civilian population did not furnish enough supplies. I think it's a very -- very amazing statement as the cause for the fall of France, and an equally amazing statement for anybody on the Hill to apply to this country. I saw also it was suggested that if we did attempt to raise, train, and equip a large enough Army from the military point of view, that it might "discombobulate" our domestic economies. I think that statement speaks for itself, as something that will not be -- that thought -- popular in this country in the middle of a very serious war.

Q Mr. President, do you have any reports that former President of France (Albert) Le Brun has escaped to a neutral country?

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't heard it. Didn't know it.

Q Mr. President, do you have any reports on the sinking of the transport PRESIDENT COOLIDGE? An official of the line said today that it sank as a result of hitting an American mine.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. How did -- how did an official of the line know anything about it?

Q I don't know, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Neither do I.

Q Mr. President, will Mr. (William) Phillips report to you before he goes

to New Delhi?

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe he has.

Q In person, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, he and I are very old friends. I think he knows pretty well why he is going, and I know why he is going; and I think -- I don't think he is coming back here first.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, in saying that he knows why he is going, why is he going?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think I said -- announced that the other day. It was in the paper. (laughter) Put ditto marks after it. (more laughter) Repeat what I said the other day. I am afraid, you know, to repeat from memory, because I might change one or two words, and of course that would be picked up right away. So I think I had better say what I said before -- whatever it was. (more laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

ADDENDUM TO PAGE ONE:

The original longhand letter spelt "generalissimo" with 2 l's. The Press gave this front page coverage.

Also "how" was omitted in the original, and later inserted by the President.

The text was as follows:

My dear Generalissimo:

The once vast distances between our two countries have been successively diminished by the steamship, the radio, the cable, the airplane, and now by this marvel of science which I am utilizing today.

I take this unique chance to tell you how honored the people of this country, including Mrs. Roosevelt and myself, feel to have with us your charming and distinguished wife.

Always sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #869
Executive Office of the President
December 18, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

NOTE: BE SURE MR. EARLY
OR MR. HASSETT PER-
SONALLY GIVE PER-
MISSION BEFORE THIS
GOES ANYWHERE.

THE PRESIDENT: (indicating to the front
Cross on his desk) That's one thin

MR. GODWIN: What is that?

THE PRESIDENT: An Iron Cross -- Iron Cr

MR. GODWIN: Are you going to give it to

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't mind.

MR. GODWIN: I know two or three.

THE PRESIDENT: I know two or three, Yes

MR. GODWIN: I think so. Got to do some

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Got to do something about t

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

(a clipping of John O'Donnell's "Capitol Stuff"
for December 16, 1942, was in front of the Presi-
dent, which he was reading. (see addendum) The
newspapermen were discussing it in whispers)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

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

Q Mr. President, could you comment on the reports emanating from Lisbon
that Mr. (Winston) Churchill is on his way to the United States to
confer with you?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That sounds like Lisbon.

Q Mr. President, the (Sir William H.) Beveridge Report (on expansion of
social security in England) is published today. Do you have any comment
to make about it?

J. ROMAGNA

12-23-42

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #869
Executive Office of the President
December 18, 1942 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

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THE PRESIDENT: (indicating to the front-row newspapermen a German Iron Cross on his desk) That's one thing I don't want to put on.

MR. GODWIN: What is that?

THE PRESIDENT: An Iron Cross -- Iron Cross.

MR. GODWIN: Are you going to give it to somebody?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't mind.

MR. GODWIN: I know two or three.

THE PRESIDENT: I know two or three, Yes. We probably know the same people.

MR. GODWIN: I think so. Got to do something about that.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Got to do something about that.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

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THE PRESIDENT: No. That sounds like Lisbon.

Q Mr. President, the (Sir William H.) Beveridge Report (on expansion of social security in England) is published today. Do you have any comment to make about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Are you planning to send some extended Social Security legislation to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q Mr. President, does it accord with your views on the subject, that the War Labor Board should have jurisdiction over the demands of the rail unions for wage increases?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There is regular machinery for that, isn't there?

Q The railroad managements, sir, have made representations to the Board that if the unions' demands are handled under separate machinery, there may be discriminations and the purposes of the Anti-Inflation Act may be defeated.

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't worry about that. You have got regular machinery which has worked over a period of years extremely well, and I don't think there will be any conflict. In other words, it's a rather definite policy which will probably be carried out.

Q Mr. President, is Prentiss (M.) Brown (of Michigan) going to succeed Leon Henderson (who just resigned as head of the O.P.A.)?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got anything on that at the present time.

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, I have an interesting question on that, not so much as to who succeeds whom, or who succeeds who, but is the rationing machinery to be overhauled and revised, or other changes to be made on it?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I couldn't tell you that, ---

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- because it's being overhauled and revised all the time, as for example, the thing that has just happened -- I understand that -- I haven't seen the actual order -- about "A" (gasoline) cards. I think that it is -- while it says "until further notice," I am inclined to think it will be a very short time -- couple of days, perhaps -- when only commercial gasoline can be sold.

Now, of course, there's a reason behind that, quite aside from the fact that we are trying to use anything that will move and carry gasoline, by sea, or highways, or railroads. There has come a situation in North Africa where the amount of gasoline that has to be shipped over there has to be increased -- transportation problem in Africa -- for our troops. And it's a hurry-up order. And it will take a much longer time to send gasoline from Texas than it would from the Eastern Seaboard. That is one of the things that can't be foreseen in warfare, obviously. And people on the Eastern Seaboard, and in many parts of the country, have probably got to give up pleasure-driving for a day or two, which I am quite sure they will understand.

Q Is this a purely temporary thing, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q Mr. President, is there any likelihood of dividing the powers or the duties that Mr. Henderson has had; that is, price fixing on the one hand and rationing (on the other), and giving it to two people rather than one?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

Q Mr. President, could there be -- speaking hypothetically -- could there be a division of those two, pricing -- price-fixing and rationing, or should they -- do they have to go together?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know. Getting in the realm of theory now, not trying to win the war.

Q To return to gasoline rationing, sir, could you tell us whether the banning of the "A" card use will be simply a matter of days, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, yes.

Q (continuing) --- or weeks?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I hope -- I hope a very few days.

Q A very few days.

Q Mr. President, I notice Senator (James M.) Mead (of New York) is coming in for lunch today. Can you tell us anything about it, please?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. Just haven't seen him for quite a long while. He had a nice lunch. (laughter, as Senator Mead came in yesterday for lunch, not today)

Q (aside) That's a good one.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin, picking up the Iron Cross on his desk and handing it to him) Give this to John O'Donnell on behalf of The White House Correspondents' Association. Give it to O'Donnell. It's the Iron Cross of Germany. Just take it out and give it to John O'Donnell for what he said about -- that article about George Durno. It's one of the rottenest things that has ever been done.

MR. GODWIN: I haven't read that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Terrible.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, yes.

THE PRESIDENT: It's a rotten thing.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

MR. J. M. MINIFIE: I don't read the papers, sir.

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THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. J. M. MINIFIE: I don't read the papers, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Take it out and give it to him. That's genuine too.

ADDENDUM

Excerpt from "Capitol Stuff" by John O'Donnell, in the Washington Times-Herald, dated December 16, 1942.

"There have been times when this column has pondered over the lack of news from some of our energetic colleagues recently turned war correspondents and assigned to cover the big show from front seats in Australia.

"Well, the mystery is solved.

"Take it from Jack Turcott of the New York Daily News, and ex-White House Correspondent George Durno of the I.N.S., now a captain in the Ferrying Division of the Air Transport Command, the boys have turned to flutes and piccolos just to keep their fingers nimble for the time when censorship lets them beat the keys of their portable typewriters to turn out a tell-all story. Writes Jack:

"I'm having some trouble getting this letter written because Capt. George Durno is sitting next to me playing a flute. Yes, a flute, and Durno, who you know never drinks anything stronger than straight Moxie, has become a flautist since he joined the Army.

"He's busy the whole day twisting his mouth up into strange shapes and running his slightly rheumy fingers up and down the damn instrument, making the strangest noises imaginable.

"He tells me that he will write to you today to deny that he's a fluter, but I have proof. I am enclosing a picture showing George with a flute. 'Tis true I'm playing a whistle, but I've been here for 10 months, and in that time it's expected a guy will

go slightly nuts. And a whistle isn't as bad as a flute, is it?

"This Durno thing came about accidentally. Durno pulled in a couple of nights ago, supposedly to inspect something somewhere. Larry Lehrbas, who is busy cutting paper dolls and doodling on perfectly good writing paper, figured out that the best way to get rid of Durno was to send him out to the house where several war correspondents, including me, live. Out came Durno and we haven't been able to get rid of him since. He drank all our Scotch (we had two bottles, and we were saving it to celebrate the armistice some day), and now threatens to start on sterno because it rhymes with his name.'

"Writes Captain Durno (both the boys censor their own stuff, it appears):

"I have read portions of that libel Jack Turcott has composed. It sounds like something from the pen of George Dixon. All I can say in rebuttal is to repeat the story current here. (Story deleted by editors.)

"And by way of P. S. I just want to tell you about the hardships being endured by Turcott. It is something terrific. Turcott's bath was drawn by his gentleman's gentleman this morning and was two degrees off temperature.

"Sincerely, George Durno, blood type B, Protestant.'"

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #870
Executive Office of the President
December 29, 1942 - 4.10 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to the Administrative Assistants, et al, seated behind him, and indicating a large four-foot globe, presented to him for Christmas by the U. S. Army) Isn't that a nice globe? Don't you think I ought to start this senior class off on a little geography? Don't you think it would be a very good idea? (much laughter)

MR. NILES: Look how big Africa looks to Europe?

MR. McREYNOLDS: We would be susceptible as students, but not as graduates.

THE PRESIDENT: I had fun with (Captain) John McCrea, saying how far is it from "so and so" to "so and so."

CAPTAIN McCREA: I never did guess, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No, you didn't dare.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: (turning to Mr. Early) Steve, what have I got, anything?

MR. EARLY: Nothing on the shelf, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says "No, nothing doing."

Q Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about your talk with the railroad executives today?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that I greeted them and told them I was sure they would do everything they could -- humanly and possibly could to step up the delivery of gasoline in the Northeast. I think they are doing an awfully good job. Maybe they can do a little better job.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us something about your talk with Governor (Ingram M.) Stainback of Hawaii this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there wasn't anything -- working out those problems. You know about them.

Q Martial law ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q Can you tell us ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q Can you tell us how that is shaping up?

THE PRESIDENT: Shaping up all right. I think they will work it out without very much trouble.

Q There will be some relaxation ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) --- then, probably? There will be some relaxation then, probably?

THE PRESIDENT: Certain amount. I think I can say this off the record -- not to be printed, but just for your own personal information if you write for the Hawaii papers -- sometimes there are clashes of personalities, which can be ironed out.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us about that new globe you have got behind you?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, No. I'd -- I would just say one thing. I don't -- it isn't quite high enough for the back part of the room to see it. Any time you want to see it, just come in. (laughter) Perhaps I -- using the old thing -- what was it? -- "Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest." (more laughter) I will have to put it out in the front office for a while, if you want to do some real studying.

Q Fine.

Q Is there anything you can say about your conference with the French representatives this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we were talking about this question of supplies for

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the French troops in North Africa, and I think that is going along pretty well. Of course, as I -- as I told them, it's largely a question of shipping. We are doing the best we can to get supplies over there for all of the fighting forces. Certain -- certain complications with the French forces, because they use, for example, a calibre of rifle which is different from ours, and different from the British;

Q (interposing) Was there any ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and therefore there is also the possibility of using -- of doing a certain amount of rearmament of forces which have off-size equipment -- doesn't fit our production.

Q Was there any discussion of the question of French unity?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you heard any more, sir, about the possibilities of a visit from General (Charles) de Gaulle?

THE PRESIDENT:

Q Possibilities of a visit from General de Gaulle?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he is coming. There is no definite date set.

Q There was a report in London yesterday, sir, that his trip here had been postponed on a request forwarded from Admiral (William D.) Leahy?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is not true. It has been -- it has never been settled definitely. It has been postponed twice already. I fully expect to see him very soon.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on Vice President Wallace's speech last night?

THE PRESIDENT: I can tell you the honest truth, I haven't read it yet. I have got the thing right in my basket. (indicating)

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Q Mr. President, have you -- has it been taken up with you, the possibility of furloughing men in the Services who are now members of State legislatures which will meet this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I got a request yesterday from I think the Governor of Texas (Coke Stevenson), and I sent it over to the -- to the War Department for comment and recommendations. I did call attention to the fact that under the Federal Constitution, and under some State constitutions, one cannot occupy a dual position of legislator and a member of the Armed Forces at the same time. So the thing will be considered on that basis.

Q Did the letter state, Mr. President, how many members of the Texas legislature are in the Armed Services?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better check. My recollection -- but this is pure recollection -- is that there are 40 (17 members, according to the letter, dated December 23), something like that. You had better check though; I may be wrong.

Q Mr. President, can you give us any idea about your State of the Union Message, and your Budget Message?

THE PRESIDENT: Neither of them written, and neither of them added up. I expect to get busy in the course of the next -- well, next 24 hours, on both of them, and work right on through until probably the late evening of the sixth of January.

Q Do you plan to go to the Hill personally for the State of the Union Message?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so.

MR. P. BRANDT: There have been reports, sir, that you are going to ask for cuts in non-war expenditures.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Pete, I don't know how people get that way.

MR. P. BRANDT: I will tell you. (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: There are always -- always two things to remember. The first is that during the last few years we have been making steady and continuous cuts in non-war Government expenditures. Oh, last year we cut out I think it was over a billion dollars; and we are continuing.

And the second -- the second thing is -- I don't care, if you want to start an argument about it, that's fine -- I don't think people will be terribly interested -- what is a war expenditure? Same old story: what is a war expenditure? Won't all agree.

Well, for example -- I will just use some of these old things -- the Federal supervision of meat. Is that a war expenditure or not? I mean for -- for home consumption; I am not talking about meat for the troops. Well, I don't know.

The money that is being spent to control the white pine blister rust! Well, obviously, that isn't -- that isn't a war expenditure. But what does the Congress want to do about it?

If they don't continue to control the white pine blister rust, in the course of a year or two, probably, it will have destroyed a very large sum -- it depends -- even hundreds of millions of dollars -- in the growing of a tree which won't obtain its majority for another 50 years. Is it worth doing it, or not? I don't know. That is up to the Congress. And I don't know anybody except the Congress that can say whether that is a necessary expenditure, in time of war, or not.

MR. P. BRANDT: What about the Anti-Trust Division, R.E.A., and some of those?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, after all, are we going to carry out laws that have been on the statute books for -- I don't know when the first anti-trust laws went into effect, I think it was way back in the early nineties or eighties -- half a century ago. And I think both Parties were opposed to monopolistic practices that were in restraint of trade.

And all administrations have had a lot of money to enforce the laws. Some of them enforced them a little more strongly than others, some a little more leniently -- and I am being awfully polite.

(laughter)

And it's a question. If Congress wants to leave the statutes on the -- on the statute books and provides no money, or an insufficient amount of money to enforce them, the responsibility, of course, should be placed exactly where it would belong in that event -- on the Congress. That's a matter for Congressional determination.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Pete (Brandt), you didn't know what you were starting!

(laughter)

(many newspapermen came over and looked at the globe, and the President explained it to them a little)