

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #871
Executive Office of the President
January 1, 1943 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (observing the small number of newspapermen filing into the room) It's all right. Good. Good.

Q Mind over matter.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Mind over matter. (much laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: In the first place, a Happy New Year to all of you!

VOICES: Happy New Year to you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I was looking at the front row. The inspection is not bad at all. I don't know -- it isn't as large a Press Conference as usual (about 44 present). (laughter) And one of your colleagues in the front row suggests it's a matter of mind over matter. (more laughter)

Dr. (Ross T.) McIntire, for late comers -- there's old Mark (Sullivan), he got up too! -- (laughter) -- for late comers I have asked Admiral McIntire -- this is off the record, all of it -- to set up in your room out there a little dispensary for today -- (much laughter) -- which I thought would help in the general merriment. (more laughter)

I haven't anything except a Statement on this particular day (see addenda), because it's the anniversary -- the first anniversary of the United Nations. One year ago we signed the original declaration -- 26 nations; and I think 3 more have signed up since then. And the -- well, the statement speaks for itself.

I think it's a very real and important anniversary, because it

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means a relationship not merely to the actual running of the war and winning of the war, but necessarily to the post-war period. I think all of us want that -- those United Nations to remain united at the end of the war, just as they are during the war.

I don't think I have got anything else, have I? (turning to Mr. Early)

MR. EARLY: There isn't anything, sir.

Q Mr. President, has Brazil come in? They declared war in August. Have they come in?

THE PRESIDENT: They haven't signed, No, no. There are certain special reasons down there for it.

Q Yes, sir.

Q Mr. President, would you like to expand on what you just said about the post-war period? Would you like to go on there?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's more or less taken care of in the statement.

Of course, as I think has been intimated before, there are -- there are a great many objectives when peace comes, so that we won't go back to the old menace of the pre-war period. A great many things the United Nations ought to and I think will remain united for.

However, there is one thing which at the present time stands out as the most important war objective, and that is to maintain peace, so that all of us, in going through this war, including the men on the fighting fronts and on the seas, will not have to go through another world cataclysm again, and they will have some reasonable assurance that their children won't have to go through it again. Almost all the other things we hope to get out of the war are more or less dependent on the maintenance of peace -- all kinds of planning

for the future, economic and social, and so forth and so on. It isn't an awful lot of use if there is going to be another world war in ten years, or fifteen years or twenty years. All the planning for the future is dependent, obviously, on peace.

Q Could we put quotes around that?

THE PRESIDENT: It isn't very well expressed. .

Q That last sentence, sir.

(the President indicated approval, and the reporter read back, "All the planning for the future is dependent, obviously, on peace.")

Q Mr. President, would you care to say how you think that can be maintained after the war?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. That's a different thing. In other words, you are talking about details. I am talking about objectives. I think we have got to keep that very firmly in mind on everything we do from now on. The details are not the important thing. The issue is: the objective.

Q I think that whole thing was very well put, sir. I don't like to press it, but I wonder if we can ---?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, --- (then turning to Mr. Early)

MR. EARLY: I think you will need to edit it a little, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Probably needs a little editing. I am not sure that the English is good. (laughter) Jack (Romagna) -- why don't you boys wait; it will take Jack 3 minutes to type it out, and send it in to me, and then I will send it out. (see addenda)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about Mr. Milton Eisenhower's report on the situation of the refugees in North Africa?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so. He didn't have any figures -- he didn't have any actual figures for me. Of course, I think most of the political prisoners are -- have been released.

Q Anything you can tell us on the Spanish Republicans in North Africa?

THE PRESIDENT: It isn't mentioned. I don't know.

Q Thank you.

Q Mr. President, you met with the head of the Chinese Military Mission yesterday (General Hsuing Shih-fei). Can you tell us anything about your conversation with him?

THE PRESIDENT: Just the same thing that has been talked about before. We are going ahead. He is going off on a trip around the manufacturing plants in the country, and coming back here, I think, in -- I don't know, what? -- a month and a half. Then after that he is going back to report to the Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-shek); and I will see him before he goes -- quite a long ways off.

Q Mr. President, is there anything new since the last Press Conference on the martial law in Hawaii?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't heard a word. Therefore, I assume that things are pretty well straightened out; I don't know.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

ADDENDUM FROM PAGE ONESTATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENTJANUARY 1, 1943

One year ago, twenty-six nations signed at Washington the Declaration by United Nations.

The world situation at that moment was grim indeed. Yet on that last New Year's Day, these nations, bound together by the universal ideals of the Atlantic Charter, signed an act of faith that military aggression, treaty violation, and calculated savagery should be remorselessly overwhelmed by their combined might, and the sacred principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness be restored as cherished ideals of mankind. They thus created the mightiest coalition in history, mighty not only for its overwhelming material force but still more for its eternal spiritual values. Three other nations have since joined that coalition.

The unity thus achieved amidst dire danger has borne rich fruit. The United Nations are passing from the defensive to the offensive.

The unity achieved on the battle line is being earnestly sought in the not less complex problems on a different front. In this as in no previous war men are conscious of the supreme necessity of planning what is to come after -- and of carrying forward into peace the common effort which will have brought them victory in the war. They have come to see that the maintenance and safeguarding of peace is the most vital single necessity in the lives of each and all of us.

Our task on this New Year's Day is three-fold: first, to press on with the massed forces of free humanity till the present bandit assault upon civilization is completely crushed; second, so to organize relations among nations that forces of barbarism can never again break loose; third, to cooperate to the end that mankind may enjoy in peace and in freedom the unprecedented blessings which Divine Providence through the progress of civilization has put within our reach.

ADDENDUM FROM PAGE 3

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 1, 1943

The following is an excerpt from the extemporaneous and informal remarks made by the President at his Press Conference today:

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, as I think has been intimated before, there are a great many objectives when peace comes, so that we won't go back to the old menace of the pre-war period -- a great many things the United Nations ought to and I think will remain united for.

However, there is one thing which at the present time stands out as the most important war objective, and that is to maintain peace, so that all of us, in going through this war, including the men on the fighting fronts and on the seas, will not have to go through a world cataclysm again -- that they will have some reasonable assurance that their children won't have to go through it again. Almost all the other things we hope to get out of the war are more or less dependent on the maintenance of peace -- all kinds of planning for the future, economic and social, and so forth and so on. It isn't much use if there is going to be another world war in ten years, or fifteen years or twenty years. All the planning for the future is dependent, obviously, on peace.

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January 5, 1943 -- 4.10 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Bigger crowd today.

Q A little bigger.

Q Better than last Friday.

Q Bigger than Friday.

Q Probably a little happier, too.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Probably a little happier. (laughter)

(in the absence of Earl Godwin, Mr. Early escorted
May Craig to his chair by the President's desk)

THE PRESIDENT: Now look at that! Look at that! It's all right. You
had better be good if you sit there!

MISS MAY CRAIG: (making a mock gesture of getting up) Then I had better
get off. (laughter)

Q (aside) That's not quite a compliment.

MR. EARLY: Godwin is no longer attending regularly. He's big-time now.

Q Big money.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got anything, except to talk to you about some
schedules we will all join in. The Budget Message is finished, but
there are mechanical problems to make it a little doubtful if the
(Public) Printer can finish the tables by -- by Thursday afternoon,
when we were to have met and have the Seminar. If he does -- if
the tables are finished, we will have our talk about the Budget on
Thursday afternoon, as has been planned; but if he doesn't finish

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the tables -- I haven't spoken to the Congress yet -- I am going to ask permission to -- not to send it up until Monday, so that we would have a chance to talk about it on Saturday -- Saturday morning. It's a thing we won't know about for another 24 hours, as to whether we will have our meeting on the Budget on Thursday, or Saturday morning. That is up to the -- to the Printer.

I am working now on the -- on the Message that goes up in person on Thursday; and that is not finished yet, but I have loads of time. It will be on the mimeograph, I think -- I haven't even told Steve this, he will be very happy -- I hope to get it all finished by five o'clock tomorrow afternoon, so that he won't have to keep the mimeograph girls out here up all night, and you people will get it -- whatever the time is, about an hour before I go up to the Hill, for release when delivered. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, there are reports that a committee headed by Archduke Otto of Hapsburg is controlling the organization of a Free Austrian battalion in our Army. I wonder if you could comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. I would just as soon comment on that. I have read the reports. They are completely vicious and they are completely untrue. However, they have been copied in quite a number of papers around the country, and that might just as well be exploded once and for all.

I have a memo somewhere -- (looking for it on his desk) -- I think you can put it down four ways, that the Army is organizing a number of Free battalions; among them is an Austrian battalion -- wholly a War Department matter. And as I understand it, there are

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several committees of Austrians who are trying to -- what will I say? -- tell all the Austrians in this country about it, so that it will be thoroughly well-known. One of these committees -- I believe this young man is on it, and also that he has two brothers who have gone into it as privates. And the committee is to assist in informing reliable Austrian nationals of the United States as to how and where they can apply to the War Department, just like any reputable committee of Austrians is given the same opportunity as those accorded to this committee that you were talking about. And any implications such as the ones I have seen are just plain not true.

Q Mr. President, Vice-Admiral (Emory S.) Land said today they have reached their goal of 8 million tons of ships this year. Would you comment on what is likely to happen in 1943?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. In the first place the goal of 8 million tons, and actually in 1943 they ---

Q (interposing) In 1942.

Q (interposing) In 1942.

THE PRESIDENT: (cont'uing) In 1942 they did 8 million, 90 thousand, 8 hundred -- 8,090,800 -- in the 12 months. That does not include a number of vessels that were built for the Armed Forces -- well, I would rather you didn't put this down, because I don't think -- I don't know whether it's a secret thing or not. As you know, we have built quite a lot of landing boats to land troops from, some in practice maneuvers over here -- Martha's Vineyard -- in North Carolina; and I think some of them actually we used in Africa. Now of course, some of those were built, I think, by the Maritime Commission; but

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then, in addition to that, there were 800 small craft built by -- you can use the (number of) small craft -- I wouldn't know about the landing barges, because that might be -- I don't know whether it is or not -- a military secret.

Then on -- the end of December we were building ships -- we are now even a little better -- past the middle of the end of December, at the rate of 14 million, 4 hundred thousand tons a year. That's the present rate of building, and that should go on to a peak in the month of May.

That represents 4 a day, and in May it will be 5 a day.

The original goal for 1943, which was set last February, was 16 million tons. Well, we haven't set any new goals since then, but we are going to exceed 16 million tons.

Q That will be actual production ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, sir.

Q (continuing) --- in 1943, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is it possible to give the amount sunk in 1942, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think that is one of the things they don't give out the figures on.

MR. P. BRANDT: Is the 8 million larger than the amount sunk?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. But, Pete, you have to be careful about those figures -- awfully careful. And that is why I don't think I would use that at all. What do you mean -- what do you mean, ships sunk?

MR. P. BRANDT: (interposing) That's what I want to know, our ships or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In other words, as a statement by itself,

what I said was correct. In other words, all American ships sunk. But you complicate it terribly -- you would have to work out a definition of what you meant by ships sunk. After all there are a lot of Brazilian ships that were sunk before Brazil got into the war -- all kinds of complications. I think you had better just say then, "The child is doing well." (laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about what conclusion was arrived at Sunday in your conference on Mr. (Donald) Nelson's jurisdictional problem with Mr. (Leland) Olds?

THE PRESIDENT: On what?

Q On Mr. Nelson's jurisdictional problem with Mr. Olds? Can you tell us what the result of the Sunday conference was?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, very simple. They are working at it. They will give me a report in about a week or ten days.

Q Mr. President, can you comment, sir, on reports that Mr. (Robert E.) Sherwood and Mr. (Joseph) Barnes of the O.W.I. have submitted their resignations to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Who?

Q Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Barnes, both of O.W.I.?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I haven't seen Mr. Barnes lately. I have had nothing from him. I have been working with Bob up to five minutes ago. I guess that's another one.

Q It was another one.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q I say it was another one.

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think there's anything in that.

Q Mr. President, similar reports from Africa speak of General (Henri) Giraud releasing military prisoners, and speak of it in the future. Could you make any comment on the status of the military prisoners on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't know. I do know that -- that they are being released right along. I thought that most of them had been released. I think you will find they have.

Q Ernie Pyle (Scripps-Howard columnist), who is a pretty discreet and even-tongued individual ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- spoke of a policy of -- of fox -- of glove-handling "snakes" over there.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he may probably -- being on the spot he may have better information than I have got, but it's a new one on me. I read Ernie's story.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (handing memos to Mr. Early) Take them away!

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Executive Office of the President
January 8, 1943 -- 11.00 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: All ready.

MR. DONALDSON: All right, boys.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) I saw a picture of you. Come in here.

MR. GODWIN: (who had hesitated about sitting down) I thought I had lost it.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MR. GODWIN: Vilest sinners can return!

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. May (Craig) will excuse you. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Okay.

Q (aside) Do you see a kangaroo on that desk?

Q (aside) Where?

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) What does that give you?

MR. GODWIN: What?

THE PRESIDENT: What does that give you?

MR. GODWIN: I'm through.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you?

MR. GODWIN: No pleasure riding for me.

THE PRESIDENT: (in mock seriousness) Terrible!

Q I think they called All In, sir.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing I have got is to tell you something about the writing of the speech, and ask you to help me out. The -- I happen to have the evidence right in my hand -- (holding it up high) -- it's the 12th page of the 8th draft. And of course, as you know, in writing a speech, I always over-write myself; and this particular

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speech was no exception. I suppose I wrote 8 or 9 thousand words, and it added up to a little over 4 thousand.

And there's the draft, showing the pencil-marks of how I started to cut, and as a result of that there was a line and a half in the middle -- (indicating) -- which the girls, when they were writing it out, overlooked. And we did not pick it up on the 9th draft -- they left it out; and it wasn't struck out, and it was something important.

And I don't want anybody to feel in the shipyards, or the Maritime Commission, that it was an over -- deliberate oversight. The sentence was very simple, in talking about the production figures: "In 1942 we built 8 million and 90 thousand tons of merchant ships. In this we exceeded the goal set." Well, it was just plain left out. You can see what happened. (indicating again) And I would be very glad if that credit could be given to the -- to the people who are building the -- building the ships.

Q Could we have that once more, so that we could get the exact line?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. "In 1942 we built 8 million and 90 thousand tons of merchant ships. In this we exceeded the goal set."

I don't think I have got another thing.

Q Any other additions you would like to make in your speech this morning?

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) I don't believe so.

MR. GODWIN: Have you gone, sir, so far as you care to go at this moment about expansion of the Social Security program?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

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Q Mr. President, could we anticipate a special message on that later in the year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I think probably information -- data.

Q To the Congress, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes. Data -- better emphasize the word "facts."

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q Would you care to tell us, Mr. President, about the status of the post-war plan of the National Resources Planning Board?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that will be part of the data -- a lot more.

Q Published sometime in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, you have already -- you have already had recommendations up there for extension of Social Security, such as domestic health, and foreign labor, and so forth. Do you intend to go farther than that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will send the data up, Pete. I think you had better stop there, and not speculate. That ought to hold everybody. It will -- it will take the people who read it and study it a long, long time just to know what all this data is about.

MR. GODWIN: Well, possibly this is a question that you don't want to discuss, but the general understanding is, among fellows that cover this situation, that you were advised that it might present a controversial issue. And, this is rather a direct question -- why should it be controversial?

THE PRESIDENT: Not as to objective, really.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Not the objective, ---

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THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Not objective -- method.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) No -- the method.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. In other words, it's a perfectly legitimate thing.

People are more or less agreed on an objective. As I said yesterday, it would be a great pity for the objective to be lost through disagreement on details. And there are, of course, a good many ways of arriving -- a good many different kinds of methods of arriving at the goal -- the objective. And also, the method of arriving at the objective is, very simply, a -- a Congressional function.

They make the laws.

Q Mr. President, would timing come in that too?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Does not.

THE PRESIDENT: Timing?

Q Timing.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, Speaker Rayburn the other day said that he was entirely satisfied with the cooperation that he had with you, but that the agencies of the Government would in fact have to change their method of approach. Can you tell us anything about what changes are going to be made?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I never -- I never saw it.

Q Well, there was a sentence to that effect in his speech.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I never saw it.

Q I wondered whether he had worked out with you as to how these agencies could work with the people on the Hill, in the way that they do not, now?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't very well discuss it, because I never saw it. I am sorry you cannot have any issue on that.

Q Mr. President, are you planning any specific legislation and recommendations to the Congress soon?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. You will have to -- you will have to wait and see.

Q Mr. President, the last time I asked you about the problem of absenteeism, you asked me if I would give you figures.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q I have to report, sir, that I went to Mr. (Paul V.) McNutt (Chairman, War Manpower Commission) and tried to get some, and Mr. McNutt's able assistants told me that they didn't have any that were valuable. At the same time recently, both (Vice) Admiral (Emory S.) Land (U. S. Maritime Commission) and Mr. McNutt have said that absenteeism is a great problem. Is there anything now that you can say on it, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's awfully difficult to, because I don't suppose we have got figures for the country on it -- I don't suppose anybody has. And also I suppose in time of peace there is a tremendous amount of absenteeism in every plant in the country. It's very difficult to say anything about it, because I don't suppose, as I said before, that anybody knows how the figure today compares with the figure of two or three years ago. I also suppose that in some particular plants it's very little, and in others it's a great deal more. I am -- I am sort -- sort of stuck in talking about it too. We haven't -- I haven't got, at least, any general national

figures on the subject. I wish I could. Unless some -- some agency has got figures, I don't see how we can generalize.

Q Mr. President, I saw one statement, I think, that absenteeism caused the loss of about 10 times as much as strikes did.

THE PRESIDENT: As what?

Q As strikes. I wonder if that could be based on any definite ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I also saw a story about one particular plant that had 6% of absenteeism. Now, is that for that plant, or is it a regional or local thing, or is it a national thing? Now, of course, the amount of time lost in strikes is nothing like 6% -- nothing like it -- hasn't been for the last two years. I don't guarantee that 6% figure, because I just read the headline.

(laughter)

Q It would work out about that way, because the amount lost from strikes ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- is something like seven-eighths of one percent.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, there was a line in your speech yesterday that has given rise to some question, and if it could be cleared up it would be very helpful. When you told Congress that -- that Congress might have the great honor of helping to free ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I said that the possibility.

Q The possibility.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Were you -- did you mean to predict the possible end of the war in 1944?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I was expressing the hope, that was all. I think --

I don't think I can define the word "possibility" any further than that -- possibility. But that isn't news.

Q Mr. President, in Congress yesterday I was rather surprised that when you referred to measures against the black market that not any applause resulted there. I was wondering if you were a little surprised too? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No. Don't say I wasn't surprised or that I was surprised. I didn't really -- I tell you -- as a matter of fact, as you know, in making a speech you very often end a sentence that contains two or three thoughts on either a strong note or a weak note, depending on which thought is put at the end. Well, in that particular sentence the reference to a black market was the weakest of the thoughts. It wasn't written for applause. And, of course, the reason is very simple: we haven't got much black market today, taking it by and large. We have got -- we are threatened with black markets, of course. And I put it down, really, to forestall the possibility of efforts to create black markets later on. But it was a new thought, and only -- it was intended as a sort of a warning against something that might happen in the future. I don't think there is much black marketing today in this country.

Q Mr. President, there is a good deal of discussion on Capitol Hill about the possibility of the (Beardsley) Ruml (Chairman of the New York Federal Reserve Bank) Plan being enacted, to readjust the 1942 and 1943 income taxes. Do you have any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I suppose it's a -- it's a -- I think we are all in favor of getting onto a pay-as-we-go basis. It will make it a

lot easier, instead of on income taxes trying to save out -- in the course of 1942, let us say -- the actual income tax which we have to pay in 1943. It's a very difficult thing for us to find those savings during 1942 -- we all know that -- put it in the bank, so that the money will be there when it comes time to pay it. So we are all in favor of as much pay-as-you-go as you can. If you don't have money in your pockets you don't spend it.

Now, the real problem on all of these plans and modifications of them is whether the -- whether we will have to omit entirely the payment to the Government of a certain portion of the present receipts.

And with all the variations, whether they are called Ruml Plan or something else, the real problem is to get onto a pay-as-you-go basis, paying your back taxes and your current taxes both.

And a lot of people think that the only way to do it is to forgive to the individual either all or a portion of one year's taxes. Well, that's awfully nice from the point of view of the individual, but it means that the poor old Treasury is out of pocket just that much money.

MR. GODWIN: When? When is out of pocket?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: When is it out of pocket?

THE PRESIDENT: For good. For good and all.

MR. GODWIN: Isn't the day of reckoning always put off further and further, like the guy that starts home from a hangover? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, because some of these plans call for -- well, let's take the individual case -- you or me. In getting onto a pay-as-you-go

basis, you would be forgiven during 19 -- what? -- 43, the payment -- actual payment of taxes on your income in 1942. You would be forgiven a portion of what, under the present law, you owe to the Government. Now that's grand for you and me, but it hurts terribly the case of the Treasury. It gets less money.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Not immediate -- not immediate. The Treasury gets just as much money because we are taxing you on the pay-as-you-go basis.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) But the Treasury is out of pocket, because you have been forgiven something that you now owe on your 1942 income.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That's the trouble.

Q (continuing) --- doesn't the Treasury get the same amount of dollars in the same number of years? Isn't it a bookkeeping item?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q In 1943 wouldn't that give them the same amount of dollars that they would otherwise ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Let's take a period -- 10 years. In 10 years they would not get the same amount of money, because 1942 would have been partly forgiven.

Q Mr. President, doesn't that practically -- it practically mean simply collecting -- isn't it a matter of collecting out of a man's estate?

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THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't thought of it in that light at all. Of course, if you die in the next 10 years, I suppose something else happens.

Q The man would keep on paying his taxes from year to year, and if the Ruml Plan goes through, he wouldn't owe an income tax, which is to be collected out of his estate?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that part still is a little far in the future, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, you don't mean ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- might live a long, long time. In the meantime, they might change the tax laws on us.

Q Mr. President, wouldn't that loss, so far as the Treasury is concerned, be spread over the lives of all the present taxpayers?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's true. But in the long run you have got to take some period -- you are a bit younger than I am -- but we might -- might live -- you have got to say how long -- you have got to do it on an actuarial basis. That is the real answer.

Q But it wouldn't be an immediate loss to the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, no. But it would be an ultimate loss.

Q Would it be an ultimate loss, Mr. President, unless at some future time you returned to the present basis of paying income taxes? I can see that. If that time came you would have lost the income for a whole year, but if you go onto a pay-as-you-go basis and continue -- I can't see where -- I don't want to get involved --- (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's the way we all feel! (more laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(continued laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I want to tell you something. The other day I had fun with

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a questionnaire, getting a farm truck.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Two pigs got out from under the fence. After that the questionnaire was used against me. You try that!

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) I love it. That's right. You know what happened to me? Ten years ago a friend of my former law partner -- Harry Hooker -- years ago -- law partner and a friend of his, died and left old Harry Hooker all of his personal things, including a brand-new farm truck.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Harry lives in New York. He hasn't got any farm. He didn't know what to do with it. He gave it to my "Mrs." My "Mrs." doesn't know what to do with it. She gave it to me, and I have got it, I think, up there in Hyde Park -- a brand-new Chevrolet farm truck!

MR. GODWIN: Can't sell it.

THE PRESIDENT: I can't do anything about it. It has got four tires on it.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.