

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #891

Aboard the train, enroute from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to  
Fort Worth, Texas

April 19, 1943 -- 3.30 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: How do the photographers like their uniforms?

Q. They don't think so much of the uniforms, but they like the salutes. They are giving a dollar to everybody who salutes them.

Q. Mr. President, have you seen George Skadding making a two-armed salute -- making a picture and saluting at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. I wonder what Life Magazine will say about these pictures? How do you like the way they are being worked out this tour?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine, but I don't know that they will.

Q. Mr. President, will you give us some background on the trip to Mexico?

THE PRESIDENT: There are a number of things behind it. In the first place, it goes back to the summer of 1941, when General (Avila) Camacho and I corresponded in regard to a meeting that fall, or in January, 1942. Then, of course, came our getting into the war, and the whole thing was called off. This is a postponed visit.

I think -- I don't know, you had better check me -- the President of the United States and the President of Mexico have not seen each other in 34 years. I don't remember back

that far. My impression is that Mr. Taft and the Mexican President met in the middle of the bridge -- something like that. If either one crossed the border, it was just a few feet.

(Mr. Early stated it was at the dedication of the International Bridge at El Paso in 1909)

Q. Is there any particular meaning behind this conference with Camacho?

THE PRESIDENT: The only thing is that I have seen a great many of the Presidents of the other Republics on my trips down there and subsequently. Well, it is part of the old game of getting to know each other better. As a result of these conferences all kinds of new leads come up.

I have talked with a number of South American and Central American Presidents a great deal about immigration into those Republics. In other words, a great many of them feel that they would like to -- how should I state it? -- instead of having a melting pot that grew up by pure chance in this country, they would like to immigrate a select melting pot that was planned more or less beforehand, so that they would avoid the mistakes of the past.

As for example, the enormous immigration of Germans into Southern Brazil, where for a group of Germans there is no melting pot whatever. The language is German, the street-signs are in German, they bank in German, they do no mixing at all with the population of the nation. It is that very same thing that every nation wants to avoid. That came as a result of a

number of talks with South American Presidents.

Of course, Camacho and I won't have very much time. We will talk about the future of the United States and Mexico.

I think there is one thing that could be stressed. There has been a great deal of talk about the undefended and unfortified border between the United States and Canada, but no one has ever mentioned the unfortified border between the United States and Mexico -- very nearly 100, or 96, years.

Q. There are not any immediate problems confronting you on those two questions?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing that has not been worked out. The Mexican labor question, bringing farm labor north, especially to the large areas where it is largely a seasonal problem, that is working out quite successfully. The whole problem is working out satisfactorily. And that is why I seek these little fresh-air exploitations.

Q. Who will we have from Washington? (Under) Secretary (of State Sumner) Welles?

THE PRESIDENT: Welles is coming. He is bringing young Bonsal.

Q. Nelson?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Philip Bonsal. You will probably remember Steve Bonsal.

Q. Is he the Head of the Latin American Division?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I think he is. (Mr. Early stated that he was)

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you might

discuss in a general way? Any means of greater cooperation on the war effort? In particular, getting more war materials out of Mexico?

THE PRESIDENT: We get a lot now. We are training quite a lot of their personnel. We will see at Corpus Christi quite a lot of Mexican aviators, possibly other aviators from the Latin American countries.

Q. There have been some reports that Mexican troops might possibly be used as occupation troops in North Africa. Do you wish to touch on that point?

THE PRESIDENT: That is too general a point.

Q. I don't know whether it would be feasible or not, for security reasons, but would it be possible for you to tell us anything about the physical location of your meeting with Camacho?

THE PRESIDENT: When we land, I will be met by Camacho and we go through the streets -- Monterrey is quite a manufacturing town -- got a steel plant -- quite prosperous. Then we go to the capitol of the state (Nueva Leon) -- the capitol building -- and there, I think, Camacho and I take a review. I imagine it will consist of a motorized division -- Mexican division -- and flocks of schoolchildren, because they love to parade the schoolchildren. Then we go to the Patio and have dinner -- a very simple dinner. Then do the broadcast. Then back to the train.

Q. Do you go back to the capitol building for the broadcast?

THE PRESIDENT: The broadcast and banquet will be in the military city. The Mexicans are a little bit like Washington. They have given up all formal clothes.

Q. They still like to put on a big show, don't they?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. President Camacho has not been in Monterrey since he was inaugurated. He was headed for it, anyway.

Q. Your previous meeting, how did you plan that?

THE PRESIDENT: Actually the plan was that we meet somewhere off Tampico and Corpus Christi on our respective little ships, and go fishing together. But that is out.

Q. Which doesn't please you?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a bit.

Q. What were you going fishing for?

THE PRESIDENT: Tarpon. You have heard of them before. Tarpon fishing, compared to sailfish fishing, is nothing at all, but tarpon fishing is great.

Q. What has impressed you most of all of what we have seen so far?

THE PRESIDENT: I have tried to think of that.

Offhand, I should say on the whole, the great improvement I have seen since last September in the training of troops of all kinds. I think we are turning out troops that are in better physical condition and probably more snappy than they were even last fall, which was, of course, still relatively the early part of the training program. We do have to remember that we

have seen more seasoned troops on this trip than we did last fall.

Q. You seem to be concentrating this trip on military installations.

THE PRESIDENT: That is so, what we have been through so far. But we have a lot of installations.

Q. What about the Navy? Have there been any complaints?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except we passed up the WAVES entirely, possibly because the War Department arranged the trip. I'm afraid the WAACs will do a lot of crowing. In fact, we have the WAVES right here in the State of Oklahoma. But that's the Admiral's show.

Q. If the WAACs start crowing, that makes them hens, doesn't it? (laughter)

Q. At the end of the last trip, were you very impressed by the fact that the country seemed far ahead?

THE PRESIDENT: Far ahead. Exactly the same thing. They have a much better sense of proportion, a better prospectus than we do in Washington.

Q. Are you ready to prescribe similar inspection trips for other people in Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it would be an awfully good idea. In fact, I have not seen or heard of a single "bloc."

Q. What do you think of the general morale of the troops?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is very high. Of course,

it is not a fair comparison with that of the troops who went overseas in 1917, because the troops that are going over now are just about ready to take part in the fight, whereas when the overwhelming majority of troops who went over in the first World War got there, they had to go into training some 100 miles or so behind the lines. I suppose if you take the physical condition, there is a general definite improvement over the first World War, and in sanitation, efficiency, and food.

Q. One WAAC officer with whom I talked told me that the Army Air Force alone could use 300 thousand WAACs, and that eventually the Army camps could use 600 thousand WAACs. Have you anything to say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think the time has come to discuss the raising of that number. Let's get the 150 thousand, the present authorized strength, first. That's just like the question of the total strength of the Army. It's a question that has to be decided every three or six months. The WAACs do not take as long to train as a fighting division. In one case it takes two months; in the other case it lasts for years.

(the following was off the record):

THE PRESIDENT: I was glad to see this morning the Douglas plant at Tulsa actually turning out planes. I don't think it's a secret any more. Last year we went through the same kind of plant at Forth Worth, and both of them depend mainly on the parts they get from Willow Run. Willow Run has been coming on much better in the last few months, but it is still

down to about only one-half production. Then, of course, I have only seen that one plant so far.

You remember last fall that the various airplane factories employed from 25 to 30 percent women. The total of them this spring should be up to about one-half. This plant this morning was over one-half. The girls are doing well, turning out excellent jobs. That is another reason why the manpower problem is not as serious as Washington made it out to be. We still have an enormous reserve of women.

(end of off the record)

Q. Mr. President, are you getting a boost out of this trip? Getting your mind from the things that are out of proportion? Getting a better prospectus?

THE PRESIDENT: That brings up the thing I started to talk about yesterday at lunch: the very permanent value -- educational, physical -- of all these camps. The average boy who goes through one of these camps -- the average WAAC -- shows a tremendous improvement in his or her health and mental alertness, to say nothing of the future. A year in training of this kind does nobody any harm. It is all right.

Q. Be kind of foolish to stop it now?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not ready to talk about it yet.

These buildings that we have seen at this last place are all new. They are good for 25 years, without any question. Most of the World War buildings have kept up for 25 years, with little upkeep. Many are still in use.

Q. A year of training of this kind does no one any harm.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can put it another way. I am talking now about men. They put on about 10 pounds, they pull in their belts about four inches, and put about one inch on their chests. That doesn't harm anybody. You might say that with rationing they are going to be a right good race after a while.

Q. Is it true that they put on nearly one inch in height due to calisthenics?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is right. Of course, as far as the officers go, with the uniform in the field, there is very little distinction between an officer and a private. You have to look pretty close to see who is who.

The other thing I think that strikes one is the cutting down of the age of the higher officers. There are much younger higher officers than in the last war. I say, as a general proposition, on the whole, the morale of the officers and men is very high. There is great eagerness on their part to get into the "show" and get it over with.

Q. The troops you have seen will do a good job over in Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: I would say so -- the ones I saw over there in North Africa, as well as those back home.

Q. Do you want to say anything about the wealth of material in comparison with what we started with?

THE PRESIDENT: I really have not thought of it in that light, but it is true. Last fall, while we did

have enough material for the actual training, the big peak in production hadn't come along. We always have to learn we have to have spares for everything, except in the case of food. For every article that goes into the war we have to have another of the same thing behind the line. We wear out a lot of war materials.

Q. Have you made any startling discoveries on this trip, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Only the one -- I think I mentioned it to you yesterday. The only discovery I have made was down there in the Marines, where they have taken all the neurotic cases and put them out on the farm to work, with the cows, the chickens and the vegetables. And they are getting a very, very high percentage of complete recoveries, instead of discharging them in the ordinary method of handling them.

Q. They also raise a good percentage of their food, don't they?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. 20 to 25 percent.

(reported by W.M.Rigden) ...

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CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #892  
Executive Office of the President  
April 29, 1943 -- 12.05 P.M., E.W.T.

(this Press Conference was held immediately upon the return of the President from Mexico)

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning -- good morning. How are you?

Q. (one of the newspapermen who was on the trip)  
Haven't we seen you somewhere before?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. We have seen you somewhere before.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (to W. H. Lawrence) Bill, how did you get so tanned?

MR. W. L. LAWRENCE: I dead-headed from Omaha, Mr. President. I stayed out of sight.

THE PRESIDENT: How did he behave on the train? All right?

Q. Not too well.

MR. W. H. LAWRENCE. They wouldn't let me see you.

Q. That's what Mac (M. H. McIntyre) said.

Q. Landed in a blaze of glory.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Before we talk about the trip, I have got one very simple letter here, which I will read -- it isn't a letter -- a telegram, to John L. Lewis (President of the

United Mine Workers) and to (Thomas) Kennedy (Secretary-Treasurer of the United Mine Workers), who are in New York, one at the Biltmore -- that's Lewis -- and Kennedy, apparently at the Hotel Roosevelt. Steve will have copies of this as soon as you get out. He is finishing the mimeographing now.

I suppose I might as well read it. There isn't anything else to add to it.

(reading): "The controversy between the United Mine Workers of America and the operators of the coal mines has been certified to the National War Labor Board for settlement.

"The officials of the United Mine Workers were invited by the Board to recommend a person for appointment to the panel charged with investigating the facts. They ignored the invitation. The Board then appointed Mr. David B. Robertson of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen to represent the employees; Mr. Walter White to represent the operators, and Mr. Morris L. Cooke to represent the public.

"The personnel of this panel assures an impartial investigation of the facts to be used by the Board in its determination of the controversy, in accordance with the law.

"The officials of the United Mine Workers of America have ignored the request of the Board that they present their case to the National War Labor Board panel, and likewise have ignored the request of the Board that the strikers be urged to return to their work. I am advised that many thousands of miners are out on strike, and strikes are threatened at many other mines which are now in operation.

"The procedure that has been followed in this case by the Board is, I am assured, in exact accord with that followed in all other controversies of this character.

"In view of the statements made in telegrams to me from some members of the United Mine Workers that O.P.A. price regulations have been disregarded, and that the cost of living has gone up disproportionately in mining areas, I have directed the O.P.A. to make an immediate investigation of the facts, and wherever a violation of law is disclosed by that investigation, to see that the violators of the law are prosecuted.

"Strikes and stoppages in the coal industry that have occurred and are threatened are in clear violation of the 'no-strike' pledge.

"These are not mere strikes against employers of this industry to enforce collective bargaining demands. They are strikes against the United States Government itself.

"These strikes are a direct interference with the prosecution of the war. They challenge the Governmental machinery that has been set up for the orderly and peaceful settlement of all labor disputes. They challenge the power of the Government to carry on the war.

"The continuance and spread of these strikes would have the same effect on the course of the war as a crippling defeat in the field.

"The production of coal must continue. Without coal our war industries cannot produce tanks, guns and ammunition for our armed forces. Without these weapons our sailors on the

high-seas, and our armies in the field, will be helpless against our enemies.

"I am sure that the men who work in the coal mines, whose sons and brothers are in the armed forces, do not want to retard the war effort to which they have contributed so loyally, and in which they with other Americans have so much at stake.

"Not as President -- not as Commander in Chief -- but as the friend of the men who work in the coal mines, I appeal to them to resume work immediately, and submit their case to the National War Labor Board for final determination.

"I have confidence in the patriotism of the miners, and I am sure that when they realize the effect that stopping work at this time will have upon our boys at the front, they will return to their jobs.

"The enemy will not wait while strikes and stoppages run their course. Therefore, if work at the mines is not resumed by ten o'clock Saturday morning, I shall use all the power vested in me as President and as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy to protect the national interest and to prevent further interference with the successful prosecution of the war."

Q. To which we might say, "Hurray"?

Q. Mr. President, I think Mr. Lewis is at the Roosevelt Hotel and not at the Biltmore. He was at the Roosevelt night before last.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. Steve, ---

MR. EARLY: (interposing) The directions ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- send it to both.

MR. EARLY: It has been.

THE PRESIDENT: It has been?

MR. EARLY: Well, the directions ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) All right.

MR. EARLY: (continuing) --- are that they make deliveries to both hotels.

Q. Mr. President, that went out early this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- about an hour ago.

MR. EARLY: About 10.30 -- I think so.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Well, that's all there is on that.

Then, ask the three press associations about the trip, if you want to find out anything about it. (laughter) Ask Bill Lawrence. He was there -- incog -- off the record -- and didn't see anybody but saw everything, and he can't use it. So I think you might tell them everything you saw, Bill. It's all right. You have nothing to do, while the press associations are busy filing copy. (more laughter)

I think the release on the trip will be at the close of this conference, so you all start even. Nobody has even a half an hour of beating the rest to it.

It was a good trip. I talked to the press associations yesterday about it. It was a continuation of what I told the other correspondents who were with me on the train as far as -- as Corpus Christi, on the way back from the Mexican trip.

There were a number of things that -- I tried to

simplify things, to point out the comparison -- they all asked me -- between this trip and the one last September. And I would say it really lay in the thought that last September the Army was having growing pains, and now they have got over the growing pains and are about grown up.

One thing that I didn't mention to the press associations yesterday, and that was to speak of the -- the women in industry. You remember that last fall I was greatly surprised at the large percentage of women in the aviation plants. Well, that is true of other plants that are turning out munitions. In the aviation plants at that time they got as high as around 30% of women. Today they are running between 30 and 50 (%) -- one plant had actually more women than men. And the new workers that are coming in all the time, in most of the plants, have a percentage of women running well above 50% -- as high as 60 and 65%, which of course will help tremendously in the -- in the manpower -- manpower and womanpower problem.

Then the various camps seem to have -- what shall I call it? -- shaken down into a normal procedure. Now, they are getting straightened out the problems -- when you start any new camp -- of housekeeping; that is to say, food and clothing, and all the necessary supplies to keep the very large number of men going in the camps. They are making large savings too, as for example, in -- in food, which was looked into by an Army -- special Army board about a month -- a month and a half ago; and the new regulations in effect will save a great many millions of dollars.

Let's see, what else? Doug, can you think of something?

Q. Mr. President, ---

MR. DOUGLAS CORNELL: (interposing) I think that covers it in generalities, sir.

Q. Mr. President, your statement that the Army is about grown up, does that indicate a cut in the number of men that you were going to put in the Army?

THE PRESIDENT: No, Jim (Wright).

Q. No change in that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. As far as we know now, we need them all.

Q. Mr. President, there have been London reports that the Prime Minister (Winston Churchill) has been in telephonic communication with you on the Russo-Polish thing. I wondered if there was anything to it?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't have any trans-Atlantic wire where I was.

Q. Would you care to make any comment on the Russo-Polish ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. I think you had better ask the State Department, because obviously I have been in very close touch with it all the way through, but not by telephone.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Short but sweet!

(laughter)

(Notebook PC-XIII - Page 177 - JR)

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #893  
Executive Office of the President  
May 4, 1943 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) There you are!

MR. GODWIN: Couldn't get around last time.

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't see you around Mexico.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to say a word of congratulation to the country.

I have just had news that the Red Cross Fund -- War Fund appeal has gone well over the top. They asked for 125 million, and they have had subscriptions for 138 million, with some localities still to be heard from. That is very substantially over the top.

I don't think I have got anything else.

Oh -- Washington, D. C., please note. Washington exceeded its goal by more than 26%. I am very proud of Washington, D. C. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) That's the way to do it.

Mr. President, are you -- are you satisfied with the way the coal business is going, with Mr. Ickes (Secretary of the Interior) and these various ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't think I have any news on that at all.

Q. Is negotiation in the hands of the W.L.B. (War Labor Board), Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, all you have to do is read

the law.

Q. What law, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: The Executive Order, and the law under which the whole thing is set up and works.

Q. You mean your Executive Order, ordering Mr. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Originally -- originally, plus the laws of last October.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us something about Madame Chiang Kai-shek's visit here?

THE PRESIDENT: I only saw her last night at dinner. I hope she will stay until tomorrow.

Q. Are there any problems to take up about China?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Are there any problems to take up, or are they just discussions or something to be settled?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Things come up about China every day in the week. Nothing special.

Q. That's what I wanted to know --nothing special.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Is there anything in connection with your talk with (Lieutenant) General (Joseph W.) Stilwell and (Major) General (Claire L.) Chennault?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Is Madame Chiang here to say goodbye, after her trip around the country?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is she here to say goodbye, after her trip

around the country?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what the plans are for the future. I don't know whether she is going back immediately, or a little later. In other words, I don't know if this particular party is goodbye or not. (laughter) She is very welcome any time she can come down.

Q. Have you had any word at all, Mr. President, from John (L.) Lewis (President of the United Mine Workers of America) direct?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't.

Q. Not since your speech?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about that?

Q. Mr. President, when the House committee -- I mean the Senate committee reported that McKellar job bill to the Senate, they restored a provision in it putting the T.V.A. (Tennessee Valley Authority) under it. I wonder if you could say whether the T.V.A. is properly regarded as Senatorial patronage, or does the interstate character come into play there?

THE PRESIDENT: Where is the bill now?

Q. Before the Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, don't you think it would be a bit improper for me to comment on it? It hasn't passed the House has it?

Q. It hasn't passed the Senate.

Q. It hasn't passed the Senate yet.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) That would be rather improper for me to comment on it.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #894  
Executive Office of the President  
May 7, 1943 -- 11.10 P.M., E.W.T.

Q. Good morning, sir.

Q. Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning -- good morning.

(a full-page advertisement was shown the President -- Washington Post for May 7 -- Four Freedoms War Bond Show, Honoring the Soviet Union -- where the captions for the Earl Godwin and Martin Agronsky photographs had been reversed)

THE PRESIDENT: (looking at the picture of Mr. Agronsky captioned Earl Godwin) Gosh! -- he must be very ill. (laughter) (Mr. Agronsky is much thinner than Mr. Godwin)

Q. Had his face lifted.

THE PRESIDENT: He must be very ill.

MR. GODWIN: Changing my name on me.

Q. That's what a party can do for you.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's what a party can do for you -- that's right. (then looking at Mr. Godwin) Mr. Agronsky! (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I have been up to that R Street house.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to say a word in commendation of the Treasury Department. The Secretary of the Treasury sent me this morning the latest figures on the last bond issue. They have completed the Second War Loan Drive with a total sales of Government securities of 18 billion, 300 million,

which is more than 5 billion over the goal that was set.

It is rather interesting to analyze those figures a little. More than 13 billion came from investors other than commercial banks, as compared with the original goal in that category of 8 billion; in other words, that subscription by investors other than commercial banks shows the largest increase. Also, the savings of the people that were invested -- in other words, the average individual, like you and me -- came to the extent of 3 billion dollars by direct purchases; and another three and a half (billion dollars) through the purchases by insurance companies and savings banks, which of course act in a very true sense as the repository of the savings of millions of people, through insurance premiums.

The -- the people participated to a much larger extent in the Second War Loan than in the First War Loan of last December. The figures I have given you show that the sales to individuals are almost double those of last December, which means that since what they call technically the "E" bonds have been issued by the Treasury for about two years, that over 10 billion dollars have been put into those savings bonds, meaning a total of -- and I think -- I think this figure is quite a significant one -- over 50 million Americans.

MR. GODWIN: The 10 billion dollars, you mean, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, 10 billions subscribed by 50 million Americans.

And another interesting thing is that people who today are at work or in the Armed Services -- which is about

60 million people -- five-sixths of them own one or more bonds.

And then the other thing is that, of course, this large over-subscription is excellent, because it -- it pushes further off the date for the Third -- originally it had been planned by the Secretary of the Treasury, because of actual needs, to start the Third War Loan sometime in July. And this means that it will be postponed until the end of September, or the beginning of October, which is a very grand job on the part of the -- first of the Treasury, and -- and secondly of the people of the United States.

I don't think there's anything else.

Somebody is sure to ask me the question about the second mission to Moscow. (laughter)

Mr. (Joseph E.) Davies is leaving, almost at once, on a mission to Moscow. He will not be gone very long -- coming right back. He is carrying with him a letter from me, of which he -- he himself does not know the contents. And I assume that he will -- after it is opened over there -- he will learn what is in it, and they may talk to him about it, and he will come back.

It is a special mission. It isn't -- it has nothing to do with a regular mission to Moscow.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And what is in it -- what is in the letter -- I will forestall somebody who is about to say something -- he doesn't know, and you don't know. And number three, your guesses are nearly always wrong in the

past. (laughter)

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That ought to forestall quite a lot of trouble.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- do we understand you told him to whom the letter is addressed?

THE PRESIDENT: It is addressed to Mr. (Josef) Stalin. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: No doubt about that!

Q. Mr. President, do you expect him to bring a reply -- a definite reply when he returns, or will that come later?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q. (interjecting) Is it written in English?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Aren't you assuming something?

Q. What do you hope?

THE PRESIDENT: Aren't you assuming something?

Q. No, I don't think so.

THE PRESIDENT: You are assuming that it calls for a reply.

Q. Most letters do -- as courtesy.

Q. Well, Mr. President, does it call for a reply?

THE PRESIDENT: What? You haven't seen it.

Q. No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Neither has anybody else.

Q. Surely you have seen it, Mr. President?

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What was that?

Q. Surely you have seen it, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and so has Grace (Tully). She wrote it out on the typewriter.

MR. GODWIN: It's a typed letter?

Q. Mr. President, is it written in English?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is it written in English?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- Irish. (laughter)

I don't think I have anything else.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, under your (Executive) Order to Secretary (of the Interior Harold ) Ickes, are the coal miners employees of the Government? If so, have they the right to strike against the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you've got two questions in there, Pete. The first is are they employees of the Government? I should say Yes on that. On the second, I would say that I have been in the Government for -- Oh -- a great many years, and I can't recollect any strike by Government employees against the Government.

Q. Mr. President, on this War Loan thing, the fact that that was over-subscribed to such a large extent, would that possibly make any difference in your Budget recommendations for a plan of enforced savings up to 16 billion dollars this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, offhand I would say Yes, that it does decrease the need very definitely on forced savings,

because it is coming along on the voluntary principle so awfully well. But, of course, neither you nor I know what Congress is going to do on any tax bill. So I -- I answer that Yes, that it does put off the need of forced savings, subject to further efforts on the Hill.

Q. Mr. President, does that change your request for 16 billion dollars from Congress? That is, in your Budget Message do you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That -- that is additional money.

Q. Yes, but part of that was presumably to be reached by forced savings, which would reduce the total that Congress is supposed to provide in new tax legislation this year.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't quite get the drift.

Q. Well, in your Budget Message you recommended part taxes and forced savings to raise approximately 16 billion dollars in new revenue. Does this mean that the 16 billion dollars demanded from Congress, so to speak, has been reduced by this large subscription?

THE PRESIDENT: No. In other words, what -- what I have just said covers it. You have got a certain total that you have got to get into the Treasury, that is the real size of it; and that total hasn't changed, because the monthly expenditure by the Government in making things for the war is running pretty close to the estimates of last January totaled that we have to pay out -- running true to form. And we have got to get it.

Q. Would this reduce the need for increased taxes, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It -- well, you can -- I don't know how you would put that -- I should -- I should say No. We are 5 billion -- what? -- 3 billion -- No, 5 billion better off on the savings end. But on the other hand, it is very desirable, because it pushes off two or three months the need of a Third Loan. That's about all.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I still think we need taxes -- additional taxes.

Q. Forced savings would have to come through -- largely through taxes, the instrument by which they would be obtained?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, these savings are not taxes, they are savings.

Q. Mr. President, to return to the coal situation, is it your plan that the Government continue operation of the mines until the new contract between the operators and the miners has been signed and peace is assured in the industry?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard anybody suggest that as of the 7th of May, 1942 (1943), that we should stop running the mines.

Q. I said Government operation, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. Mr. President, can you say something about your talks with the President of Bolivia (Enrique Penaranda)?

THE PRESIDENT: We had a very satisfactory conference. And there is no question about it, that all through the Republics -- Latin American Republics, people are looking -- looking ahead.

One -- one phase of that, for example, relates to what I said down in Mexico, about the era of exploitation being over. I apologized to him on behalf of the thing that happened a great many years ago -- way back -- I don't know, what? -- '26 -- '27 -- when certain Americans went down to Bolivia and told them they needed a lot of money. Well, Bolivia had not realized that, up to that time; but these Americans were so -- such good salesmen that they persuaded Bolivia that they did need the money. And so we lent them some money on bonds at 8 percent. Also, about another 8 percent that went to the houses of issue. Bolivia only got 92 instead of a hundred on their bonds, and of course, obviously, were completely unable to repay either the 8 percent interest, or the -- or the principal.

And I apologized on behalf of my fellow citizens of that age -- rather an interesting era in our history -- and I told him that if I had anything to do with it again we would never lend money to anybody on that basis again.

Q. Is that Mr. Dillon (Dillon, Read and Company), Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I said they were Americans. Don't -- don't try to create a controversy. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, there was news last night which seemed to indicate that the War Labor Board had cried

for help, or that it had -- to be specific -- had sent word to you through Mr. (James F.) Byrnes (Economic Stabilization Director) that it might like to deviate from the so called Little Steel formula. Has that reached you?

THE PRESIDENT: No. And I am inclined to think I would discount it, if I were you.

MR. GODWIN: It was very definitely stated.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I would discount it.

Q. Mr. President, Wendell Willkie has written a book ("One World") about that trip you sent him on. Have you had a chance to read it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I have -- I have read several reviews. I haven't read the book itself. I have got it to read.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you.

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #895  
Executive Office of the President  
May 11, 1943 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: There are two things that I have done in the past few days to make it easier for the Press and other people, so that they won't get into unnecessary controversy over the English language.

One is the question of ship tonnage.

Well, there's all sorts of controversy about the figures of ship tonnage built, being built, and being sunk, and so forth; and that was because of the fact that I think there are five different kinds of ship tonnage -- measurements of a ship -- which you can measure five different ways, and get a different number of tons out of each method.

So I have asked the Navy and the Shipping Board to try to arrive at a -- a simplified word that will be uniform for all ships and used by everybody; and incidentally try and take it up with the British too, to see if they won't agree to some simplified terminology on what the tonnage of a ship is.

And of course, for most of our purposes, and in carrying things around the world, is to find out how many -- what the -- what the cargo-carrying capacity of the ship is in terms of weight.

Now somebody will say the old gag: if you fill a ship full of feathers right up -- carry a deck-load of feathers -- it won't weigh as much as eight or ten feet of pig-iron in the

bottom of a ship. But cargo averages itself up, and therefore it is perfectly logical to use what I have described -- what might be called the average capacity of tons per carrying cargo. Well, that is -- that is working. I hope we will get something out of it.

The other thing related to airplanes.

And I have -- I have told you a number of times before, it isn't fair to measure airplanes by the number of airplanes made, because since the war began we have increased the average weight of practically all types of airplanes. And the real -- I suppose the real measure is the number of hours of labor that go into each plane, but that gets you into fantastic figures, that I have always objected to -- manhours.

And so they worked this thing out for me, in relation to these new Army estimates, in terms of the weight of planes. And part of it gets into the realm of being confidential, but I suppose these figures will give you an idea of what the production of this country has been in terms of the weight of airplanes.

In 1941 we turned out 87 million pounds.

In 1942 we turned out 291 million pounds. Of course, you can simplify that, by -- by saying that these figures are in terms of millions of pounds.

87 -- next, 291 -- and this year (1943) we expect to turn out 911 million pounds.

And our estimates for 1944 -- of course, we haven't finally determined all the different -- the numbers of each

type, or even the final types themselves, in some cases -- one billion, 417 million pounds.

Well, put it the other way, it goes from 87 to 291 to 911 and to 1417 (million pounds). Well, that -- that, I think, is a pretty good -- pretty good way of showing how we have increased airplane production in this country.

MR. EARLY: Isn't that for the Army only, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- No. No -- it's everything.

Of course, with that is the fact that we are not only making this tremendous additional production in terms of millions of pounds. Also, we are greatly increasing the numbers of airplanes that are being delivered.

I -- I think I am right in saying that the numbers being produced are greater than all the other nations of the world combined.

And I think I am right also in saying that the size of the airplanes, that is to say, the number of pounds per ship, is greater than that of any other nation.

Of course, another tendency has been the fact that in our earlier building, more emphasis was placed on the need for defensive fighters; that is to say, the small defense plane, and the light bomber, and the dive bomber. Today, the emphasis has been shifted, so that we are building relatively more four-engine heavy bombers, two-engine heavy bombers, and the long-range fighters, and the large cargo planes.

In other words -- well, the thought behind our program is to more and more to go on the offensive.

The four-engine bombers in production are about six months ahead of the former schedule; that means last December on that type. And the modern, four-engine bomber weighs almost ten times as much as the single-engine fighter.

I think that's all I have got.

Q. Mr. President, the Prime Minister of Canada (W. L. Mackenzie King) told Parliament that Canada, the United States and Great Britain were negotiating a secret protocol with Russia, on supplies for next year. Is there any light you could throw on that? Is it a continuation of the old protocol?

THE PRESIDENT: There is nothing secret about it, except the fact that we are now operating under the second protocol; and, of course, we expect a third one to come along. Of course, the -- the details of it are secret. There is nothing secret about the fact that we have -- that we are operating on the second of those protocols. But it's not -- it's not quite the right -- right way of putting it, that it's a -- a secret protocol. It isn't a secret protocol. The military details are secret.

Q. When did the second one go into effect?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was -- well, the next one is due the first of July, and the last one ----- Pete (Brandt), you had -- you had better find out from the State Department. Either last January or last July. I don't know which.

Q. Mr. President, is there any indication you can give us as to the Administration's attitude toward the Senate's bill for a separate Administrator of Civilian Supply?

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

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, the Senate takes up the tax bill tomorrow. Randolph Paul (of the Treasury Department) testified before the Finance Committee last week that the Ruml-Carlson bill in its various versions would result in a redistribution of the tax load from the higher brackets -- income brackets to the lower brackets. Do you agree with that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know what I have said so often about the details of tax bills: I think that we should be kind to the other correspondents here, and not discuss it.  
(laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there have been reports that there might be some announcement impending from Lisbon, relative to an exchange which might facilitate the conduct of the sea war in the Atlantic?

THE PRESIDENT: That what? Exchange?

Q. Exchange of notes relating to facilitating our conduct of the war in the -- against the submarines?

THE PRESIDENT: That sounds like the -- conglomerate is a nice word -- population of Lisbon at the present time.  
(laughter)

Q. Can you say anything, Mr. President, about the existing difficulties of the War Labor Board with the "hold the line" (Executive) Order?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I have talked with Mr. Ickes about it today, and I have talked to Mr. Byrnes about it. I

expect to see Mr. (William H.) Davis (Chairman of the War Labor Board) and some of the others. I don't think there's any news on it.

Q. Mr. President, the impression seems to prevail that you are going to have a visitor very shortly. Can you say anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can say this: you have been here long enough to know that a question of that kind is -- is barred by the voluntary newspaper censorship which has prevailed ever since we got into the war.

Q. Yes.

Q. Is he that important, Mr. President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is he that important?

THE PRESIDENT: Just one of those polite admonitions.

Q. No, I mean is your visitor that important?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is your visitor that important?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- it applies at all times.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

(laughter)

(newspapermen were filing out)

Q. Mr. President, we didn't get the opportunity to ask you, was Ickes' visit (today) connected with the coal situation?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Was Ickes' visit connected with the coal situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and a lot of other things. Oh,  
sure.

Q. Nothing new on that today?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Can't say.

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press Conference #896  
Executive Office of the President  
May 14, 1943 -- 11.05 A.M., E.W.T.

VOICES: Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got very little today. There are two releases -- which Steve (Early) will give you -- one in regard to the conversations with the President of Bolivia on his trip here, which has proved very successful; and the other one is an Executive Order for the Director of Transportation -- Defense Transportation to take over the American Railroad Company of Puerto Rico. They have a dispute down there, and -- which looks like the best thing to do is just for him to take over the railroad, as he has in one or two other cases.

Outside of that, there is practically nothing.

I was going to suggest to all of you that we go -- put the lid on between now and Monday morning. The Prime Minister (Winston Churchill) and I will continue conversations in the meantime, and I think there will be nothing of importance in the next two days.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, have you anything to say that would help you -- or anybody else -- with respect to your conversations with the Prime Minister on any of these things that are going on now?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. We are in the conferring stage. There isn't any -- any news yet, because

we are still conferring. And I don't believe there will be anything until the visit is practically over.

I thought -- I haven't even talked to the Prime Minister about it -- I thought it would be awfully nice if, before he leaves, he would come and join one of our Press Conferences next week.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) Yes, sir!

Q. Mr. President, have plans been made yet for the sending of the latest war prisoners to this country, or to any other country -- the African prisoners?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. That is one of the things we are conferring about, but of course it is largely a logistical matter. In other words, transportation -- where to go, and how to do it. There are an awful lot of them.

Q. There is some discussion, Mr. President, of using prisoners for farm labor. Do you have any thoughts on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose first -- we had better take up the question first of getting them out of Africa. I don't believe that very many of them -- there might be a good many thousands that remain in Africa. That runs into things like the -- the food problem, how to feed them; and the security problem, of course, as well. So I don't think there will be anything about what they have -- they will do manually, when they are safely in the prisoners' camp -- until we get them safely into the prisoners' camp.

Q. Mr. President, it seems to be a problem of ballast on the ships coming home. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Well, Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You know, I don't think after all, human beings -- I don't think we should call them ballast. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Well, it's the problem of feeding them in Africa and the problem of getting them ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Getting them home, Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Is it a balance between those two? Is it easier to feed them than to take them home ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is one of the things we are talking about.

Q. Aren't there any cooks among them, Mr. President?  
(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. No cooks?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean chefs. (more laughter)

Q. Chefs.

THE PRESIDENT: Chefs.

Q. Mr. President, quite a large number will be brought to this country?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I assume so.

Q. To any other country will they be sent?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think there are a good many ---

Q. (adding) South America?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- parts of the world where they might fit in.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us on the Indian question, after your conference with Ambassador (William) Phillips?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think so. I don't think I have any news on it.

Q. Is he returning to India, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: To what?

Q. Is he going back to India -- Mr. Phillips?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I suppose so.

Q. Supposing?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so.

Q. Mr. President, is there any particular reason why it hasn't been announced what members of our staffs are participating in these joint conferences?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know it hadn't been, because we can call on any of them -- because they are right here. You know their names. Make up your own list. Ask them if it's a good guess.

MR. W. L. LAWRENCE: Mr. President, on the coal situation, Secretary Ickes said at his Press Conference yesterday that he thought the next move was up to the Government. Can you tell us what -- who -- when -- where -- how?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Bill, I think I would have to have a transcript of what he said, before I commented on it.

Q. Mr. President, do you know of any reason why the Department of Justice doesn't ask for the indictment of Congressman (E. E.) Cox (Democrat of Georgia)?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know.

Q. He (Attorney General Francis Biddle) has had the case over a year now.

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know.

Q. Then there is no bar, so far as the White House is concerned?

THE PRESIDENT: The White House knows nothing about it at the present time. I did, sometime ago; but I haven't followed it lately.

Q. Mr. President, a few days ago the New York Times carried a story from Pittsburgh, saying the 25 miners who went back on the Monday you asked them to go back to work were being fined five dollars apiece for not waiting until Tuesday, when Mr. (John L.) Lewis asked them to go back to work.

THE PRESIDENT: I read about it, and I asked Mr. Ickes to look into it; and I haven't heard anything more.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, to get back to this prisoner question, it seems to me there's an interesting distinction made, either unofficially or officially, between the Italian prisoners and German prisoners, as to what they might do, or whether they would be preferred in bringing them back here or not. Is there any justification for that, so far as you know?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't believe there's anything in that. Of course, what you might have in mind was the -- the safety factor involved, in putting the Italian prisoners in with the German prisoners. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, the O.W.I. (Office of War Information) released the text of some Japanese broadcast saying that we had attacked Attu Island (in the Aleutians); that is presumably land forces. Is there anything that can be said on that in the way ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't think so. I didn't know they had released anything.

Q. I beg your pardon?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know O.W.I. had released anything.

Q. They have.

Mr. President, there is a story also -- from London -- to the effect that an agreement has been reached among the Allies -- definite agreement, it says -- that when we re-conquer a country, our military leaders will deal only with the conquered military leaders -- no politicians. Can you say whether such an agreement has been reached?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say any generality of that kind is untrue, because it's a generality. Each country depends on itself, on its conditions. Well, let's take a very simple example. When we go into Norway and Norway is restored, you have got a perfectly good Norwegian government with a Norwegian king, which proves the falsity of the general assertion.

Q. What about the situation in Italy, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Ah! -- we had better not talk about that.

(laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook PC-XIV -- Page 24 -- JR)