

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #943
Executive Office of the President
March 17, 1944 -- 4.12 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to May Craig) Get ready to sit there. I haven't seen the "big boy" (Earl Godwin).

MAY CRAIG: I haven't seen him.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Is he coming?

MAY CRAIG: I haven't seen him. (after a pause):
Suppose I sit down and he comes?

MR. EARLY: Tell him to move over -- just like you used to. (laughter) (the President then gestured to her, and she sat down) (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: There you are.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Stay right there if he comes in.

MAY CRAIG: All right.

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I haven't got anything particular.

I think it would be a good thing if we could all say something about the I.L.O. (International Labor Organization) conference to be held in Philadelphia on the 20th of April. 34 countries are going to be represented. It's a very important meeting, because undoubtedly when we come to devise some ways and means of having a United Nations organization, the I.L.O. will be independent, as it was independent of the League of Nations, but would be normally and naturally affiliated with the new organization of the United Nations. So it is -- it

is a very important meeting. It's the first they have had for -- what? -- you will have to look it up -- three or four years I think, isn't it?

Q. Since 1941.

THE PRESIDENT: What? 1941.

Q. 1941.

Q. 1941.

THE PRESIDENT: And the -- the American delegates -- the Government -- have been appointed. The Government has two delegates and an alternate. Miss (Frances) Perkins, Secretary of Labor; and Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah who is Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, and also a member of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate. And largely because this thing has got -- the whole conference has got many international -- international relations phases to it, Mr. (Adolf) Berle is going on as the -- the substitute Government delegate. I expect to have, in the course of a few days, the announcement of the names of the delegate and substitute to represent the Employers. I haven't got the Labor delegates yet, but will shortly.

Q. Will there be one Labor delegate, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- Employer one, Labor one, and a substitute for each. I may say that it has been the practice, as I said before, that you can have more than one delegate but only one vote.

Q. Mr. President, is Russia on that list of 34 nations that will attend?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't know yet. That doesn't mean that they won't be there.

Q. How about Bolivia and Argentina, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: About what?

Q. Bolivia and Argentina?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Better ask the State Department.

Q. Mr. President, is Finland on the list?

THE PRESIDENT: That I couldn't tell you.

Q. Who makes recommendations for the Labor delegates?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Who makes recommendations for the Labor delegates?

THE PRESIDENT: I think under the (I.L.O.) constitution, I do.

Q. Mr. President, the King of Sweden has sent a message to Finland, which apparently is somewhat along the same lines as the statement that you issued yesterday, at least in spirit. I wonder if you would care to make any comment on it?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it would be proper.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us why Dr. Isaiah Bowman was put on the Stettinius delegation going to London?

THE PRESIDENT: Because he knows more about geography than everybody in this room, including myself, all put together.

Q. Does that mean, sir, they are going to talk territorial questions in London?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but they might talk about

bananas. (laughter) And he knows where bananas grow.

Q. Might --- (more laughter interrupting)

Q. Mr. President, not long ago there was a pamphlet that has been described as a peace pamphlet dropped by the Allies over Germany, and there have been texts of that pamphlet available in London, but the censorship has refused publication of any portion of it. Do you know anything about that pamphlet, or why it has been ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, but I have seen quite a number. I know -- I don't know if it's this one, but months ago -- all through last year -- they sent me their literature. I wouldn't call it a pamphlet, I would call it literature which is dropped over Germany, and they seemed all right to me. Now what this one is, I don't know.

Q. Mr. President, is there any significance in the fact that Donald Nelson and McNutt were at the Cabinet meeting today?

THE PRESIDENT: They are always there.

Q. McNutt and ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes.

Q. Always?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes -- Oh Yes. The Cabinet meeting is now quite regularly attended by, I think it's 16 or 17 people. Phil Fleming's there -- I think -- I am thinking now outside of Cabinet -- Phil Fleming's there, Jack Blandford, Donald Nelson -- Oh -- our friend the Judge ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Leo Crowley.

THE PRESIDENT: Leo Crowley, Jimmy Byrnes, Fred Vinson, Paul McNutt. I think that covers it.

MR. EARLY: Mr. Wallace.

THE PRESIDENT: What? And the Vice President.

(laughter)

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

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That has been going on -- that is hoary with age.

Q. Mr. President, in view of the color scheme today (green for St. Patrick's Day), is there anything you can say about the Irish question? (much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, sometimes when people talk about the Irish question they think in terms of controversy, but there is one thing that the Irish in this country are noted for, and that is that they are not controversial. (more laughter) They are in with all the rest of us.

Q. Mr. President, are you approaching a decision on the Soldiers' Vote bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No. In fact, I haven't seen -- even seen the telegrams. I thought that if there are enough in, that Steve ---

MR. EARLY: (interposing) Should all be rounded up Monday.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: All rounded up Monday.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. They will all be

rounded up. The first bunch will be rounded up for Monday morning papers.

MR. EARLY: If you want it.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think that's a good idea.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Nothing in the papers Monday morning, anyway. (laughter)

Q. (continuing) --- the Secretary of State announced at Noon that -- disclosed at Noon that the Russian recognition of the Badoglio government was accomplished without consultation with this Government. Could you tell us anything for guidance as to what the impact of that might be on the whole ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) This is a memo.

(reading): "To Mr. Early. Secretary Hull, when asked a direct question at his conference this morning, if the Department had been informed of Russian recognition of the Badoglio government, replied in the negative, and said that the Russians informed us on the same day that the Italians made the announcement of recognition."

So, you see, I am saying just what he did. (laughter)

Q. Yes, sir. Could you tell us, sir, what might be the impact of that on the entire -- general international situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I don't think there's any impact. I think that would be a -- rather a far-fetched conclusion.

Q. Mr. President, does the Government plan, in view of recent contrary demands, to adhere to the Little Steel

formula?

THE PRESIDENT: That -- better ask Bill Davis, Chairman of the (National War Labor) Board. I would be prejudging it if I said anything.

Q. He says it's up to you, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. He says it's up to you.

THE PRESIDENT: Hasn't come to me yet.

Q. Well, he says he has no authority to change it, that any change would have to be made in the White House.

THE PRESIDENT: He said something, didn't he?
(laughter)

Q. Did he say a mouthful, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Just one of those routine matters that we ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, twice this week you have seen Mr. Nelson and Mr. McNutt, presumably both times on manpower.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) Is there anything further you could tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I am going to work on it tomorrow and Sunday both.

Q. Does that mean you are going to have something to say about it?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q. A speech perhaps?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Oh No. O Lord, No.

Q. Perhaps by the first of the week, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

You see, on that manpower thing, it's awfully difficult, because of a certain number of people (we have) to get into the Army and Navy, and will for a year to come at least. And the first thing that we are running short of is people under 26, because when you are over 26 you are much too old; and that is where our shortage lies. And the problem is to fill up that shortage with people under 26 without destroying the vital factories in industry.

I think I told you this the other day, that there may be -- Yes, I mentioned the fact that we have cut down tremendously on making cartridges and small ammunition and guns and machine guns. Of course, we have got enough now. Of course, that -- that varies with every passing month. Next month there will be some more plants that we are -- that their supplies will fill us up very well -- will slow down a bit without stopping. At the same time, by next month we may find that some new instrument of war has suddenly come into prominence and that we need a lot more than we planned for.

And so, in going over the list of people under 26, most people are not indispensable until, like you and I, we have reached that age; but the ones who haven't reached that age, they can't be terribly indispensable. But there are a few of them under 26, engineers who are carrying out some special project, that we would have to find some other engineers to

take their places without slowing down the work. Chemists who have been working on some particular research -- can't just take a green young chemist, or an older chemist, and put him in there without slowing down the progress of the work. But relatively there's a small percentage of indispensables under 26, but they are indispensable on the battlefield. Just one of the -- what they call a fact of life.

Q. Mr. President, the W.P.B. has estimated that they would need about 40 thousand of these so called indispensables. Do you think we can spare that number?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what are you going to do? Are you going to lose the battle on the front, or lose it at home? That's the question. We can't send people over to the other side, at this stage of the game, who are not physically up to it. We are trying to cut down, as I said, on certain production that is not absolutely essential to their fighting efficiency. It's a little like a cross-word puzzle -- Yes, a jigsaw puzzle.

Q. Mr. President, on the French situation, have you been able to arrive at any decision which would constitute either a formula for dealing with that now in advance, or for leaving it to General Eisenhower?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I have; but I can't tell you what it is. I have finished that up, about three days ago. For certain obvious reasons we can't make it public.

Q. Can you say where it is now, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Can you say where it is now?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think probably at the present time it's in the State Department, the War Department, my office out here in the Map Room, and I think it's in London.

Q. Mr. President, can we conclude from what you said before, that our relationship with Finland is in status quo?

THE PRESIDENT: Would I what?

MR. EARLY: Relationship.

Q. Our relationship with Finland, is it in status quo?

THE PRESIDENT: Is what?

MR. EARLY: Whether our relationship to Finland is in status quo?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. It is, on this end. I don't know what's happening on the other side. It hasn't come over the ticker yet.

Q. On that question, Mr. President, have you -- have we any response to your appeal of yesterday ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- from the Finnish people?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Secretary of State did not have it at two o'clock.

Q. Have you any reason to believe, sir, that the Finnish people know of your statement?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. There was something in the paper this morning about it having been broadcast. Did you read that?

Q. But not -- not in -- not in Finland?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, broadcast on the other side.

Q. Yes, sir.

Q. It has been published ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #944
Executive Office of the President
March 24, 1944 -- 11.09 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have a number of fairly interesting items.

Today is the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Tydings-McDuffie Act for Philippine independence. Seems like almost yesterday that we signed that. And in view of that anniversary, I thought that I would like to say just a few short sentences -- Steve will have it mimeographed for you -- to the Filipino people.

(reading, not literally): "On this the tenth anniversary of the passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, I take the opportunity of conveying again a message of friendship and goodwill to the people of the Philippines.

"American-Filipino friendship has had a long history. The bill for Philippine independence which I signed ten years ago was a manifestation -- concrete manifestation of that friendship. It is a source of deep gratification today to be able to say to the brave people who are now bearing the yoke of Japanese domination, that the return of freedom to the Islands draws closer with each Allied victory. The Philippine government temporarily residing here possesses all of the attributes of an independent nation. And finally, America will fulfill her pledge."

MR. EARLY: May I have that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes sir, take it away.

MR. EARLY: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I am very sorry to announce that Lowell Mellett is getting out of here -- (looking in his direction). Much to my disgust he's gone and done it again, and there is nothing for me to do except to accept it.

He is going to the Washington Star, and perhaps other newspapers. I am awfully sorry he is going, but I know he will be extremely useful there. He knows how to write, which is more -- some people don't; -- (laughter) -- although his letter -- this is off the record -- his letter of resignation to me and my acceptance of it was turned over to Steve, and Steve edited them both. (much laughter) However, they are very lovely letters, in spite of what Steve did to them. (more laughter) And you can have copies of them.

Then there are -- Leo Crowley resigned as Alien Property Custodian. And Steve has his letter of resignation and my acceptance thereof. Of course, it doesn't change his duties in any way in his other work. And with it I picked up an old letter that he wrote me a few days ago, about his other work -- Foreign Economic Administration -- which I think is -- is worth reading a paragraph out of. You can have the whole thing later.

(reading, not literally): "After the authorization and appropriation for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration are made, if the Foreign Economic Administration is the American agency charged with the

responsibility for handling the appropriation, it will, in collaboration with the War Production Board and the other American allocating agencies, weigh the requests of the UNNRA for farm machinery as well as other supplies in the light of our war needs" ---

--- that is farm machinery to go abroad ---

" --- the needs of the American farmers or civilians for farm machinery or other supplies and other needs elsewhere. As you are well aware, the F.E.A., in their screening of farm machinery moving abroad under Lend-Lease, has clearly kept these, as well as other relevant considerations, in mind.

"Thus, for example, the amount of farm machinery exported under Lend-Lease since the beginning of the program has been less than 2% of the available American supplies."

I would love to have that figure used as a correction of some statements that have been -- been made in the paper.

"This equipment has been sent in the main to countries such as Australia, New Zealand and U.K. to assist in increasing vitally needed food production for war. As you know, these countries, under reverse Lend-Lease, and without payment by us, have supplied our armed forces with very substantial quantities of food."

That's a great many people. Add them up. And I think it is worth while to repeat something that I gave you a long time ago -- a couple of months -- and that is by the first of July this year we will have five million men outside the United States. That's a lot of people.

"Australia and New Zealand, for instance, have

supplied our forces under reverse Lend-Lease with approximately the same amount of beef and veal which we have exported to all Lend-Lease countries. In the U.K. more than 20% of the food for our forces has been supplied under reverse Lend-Lease."

The -- the work of that inter-department committee in regard to refugees (the War Refugee Board), I think perhaps this is an opportune time to release a statement which I prepared last week. It is -- we are keeping in close touch with the Prime Minister and Mr. Stalin in regard to this -- done with their full knowledge and approval.

In the first place, I am making Mr. John (W.) Pehle the -- who has been acting director for the past month or two -- making him a full director -- permanent director.

And the work is -- is doing very well, actually getting people out -- refugees.

Steve will give you copies of this.

(reading, not literally): "The United Nations are fighting to make a world in which tyranny and aggression can not exist; a world based upon freedom, equality and justice; a world in which all persons regardless of race, color or creed may live in peace, honor and dignity."

Some of you people who are wandering around asking the bellhop whether we have a foreign policy or not, I think that's a pretty good paragraph. We have a foreign policy. Some people may not know it, but we really have.

"In the meantime, in most of Europe and in parts

of Asia the systematic torture and murder of civilians -- men, women and children -- by the Nazis and the Japanese continue unabated. In areas subjugated by the aggressors innocent Poles and Czechs, Norwegians, Dutch, Danes, French, Greeks, Russians, Chinese, Filipinos -- many others -- are being starved or frozen to death or murdered in cold blood in a campaign of savagery.

"The slaughters of Warsaw, Lidice, Kharkov and Nanking"

--- sometimes people forget about Nanking ---

" --- the brutal torture and murder by the Japanese, not only of civilians but of our own gallant American soldiers and fliers -- these are startling examples of what goes on day by day, year in and year out, wherever the Nazis and the Japs are in military control -- free to follow their barbaric purpose.

"In one of the blackest crimes of all history -- begun by the Nazis in the day of peace and multiplied by them a hundred times in time of war -- the wholesale systematic murder of the Jews of Europe goes on unabated every hour. As a result of the events of the last few days, hundreds of thousands of Jews, who while living under persecution have at least found a haven from death in Hungary and the Balkans, are now threatened with annihilation as Hitler's forces descend more heavily on those lands. That these innocent people, who have already survived a decade of Hitler's fury, should perish on the very eve of triumph over the barbarism which

their persecution symbolizes, would be a major tragedy.

"It is therefore fitting that we should again proclaim our determination that none who participate in these acts of savagery shall go unpunished."

That is more foreign policy. We are getting a lot today.

"The United Nations made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that Justice be done. That warning applies not only to the leaders but also to their functionaries and subordinates in Germany and in the satellite countries. All who knowingly take part in the deportation of Jews to their death in Poland, or Norwegians and French to their death in Germany are equally guilty with the executioner himself. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment.

"Hitler is committing these crimes against humanity in the name of the German people. I am asking every German and every person of any other nationality everywhere under Nazi domination to show the world by his action that in his heart he does not share these insane criminal desires. Let him hide these pursued victims, help them to get over their borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman. I am asking him also to keep watch, and to record the evidence that will one day be used to convict the guilty.

"In the meantime, and until the victory that is now assured is won, the United States will persevere in its efforts to rescue the victims of brutality of the Nazis

and the Japs. In so far as the necessity of military operations permit, this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of all intended victims of the Nazi and Jap executioner -- regardless of race or religion or color. We call upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia temporarily to open their frontiers to all victims of oppression. We shall find havens of refuge for them, and we shall find the means for their maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homelands and they may return.

"In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom-loving people rally to this righteous undertaking."

Finis.

Q. Mr. President, who is going to take Mr. Crowley's job?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't chosen him yet.

Q. Will that come very shortly, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Very soon, Yes.

Q. Mr. President, does this country too plan to open its -- itself up too as a haven for these refugees also? I mean, do we have any plans of establishing ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, we are taking care of all the refugees that we can get out now. We have a great many in North Africa, you know, at the present time.

Q. What I meant was, whether we plan to bring any here or not?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet; because there aren't enough to come, (which is) one reason -- a pretty good one.

Q. Mr. President, when may we expect a Message, if any, on the Soldier Vote legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: Pete (Brandt), talking about that this morning. I am not -- I -- I doubt until -- Oh -- about the middle of next week.

Q. A Message?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. A Message?

THE PRESIDENT: There will be a statement.

Q. Statement.

THE PRESIDENT: Call it that. That will be on the safe side. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you can say yet on the over-all draft situation -- manpower situation, or are you still working on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Still. I haven't done anything on it in the last few days because I have had a cold, ---

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- but I should think within the next few days I expect to have something.

Q. Mr. President -- Mr. President, the average ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The what?

Q. (continuing) --- the fisherman is catching about an average of 80 thousand pounds of food a year, and do you have any plans to protect this supply of food?

THE PRESIDENT: Whose supply?

Q. Our supply.

MR. EARLY: He can't hear you.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't quite get it.

MR. EARLY: (to the questioner) Louder.

Q. The fisherman is catching an average of 80 thousand pounds of food a year.

THE PRESIDENT: The fishermen?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: For themselves, or for the fish?
(laughter) I don't quite get it.

Q. For us to eat.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh. Certainly we eat more than 80 thousand pounds?

Q. Just one man catches 80 thousand pounds of fish a year.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes.

Q. That's the over-all average.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Are there any ideas for protecting or insuring this supply of food?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. I haven't done anything about it since last spring, but the Bureau of Fisheries, you know, at that time, was working on an effort to use all fish that were caught -- that were brought in. It was a problem, at that time, partly of refrigeration and partly of transportation.

Q. It's a problem now of draft deferment.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, all I remember is that last

year there was a lovely plan that was offered to me, in a personal letter, which took the time of twenty or thirty Government employees to run down, and that was the theory that a boy of 16 could catch fish just as well as a boy of 18. And they decided unanimously that that was probably so. In other words, it's a question of letting some of the older boys do it, and some of the younger boys. I am one of the older boys that catches fish. (laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #945
Executive Office of the President
March 28, 1944 -- 4.09 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Early) said he had absolutely nothing, he has searched the highways and byways.

I can't think of anything else that has happened the last few days, except that about half an hour ago Mrs. Roosevelt got back from South America. Had a very good trip. Went to a very great many places where there are American troops -- sailors, and so forth. Done at my request, as you probably know. Apparently did a lot of good.

Can't think of anything else.

Q. Mr. President, in view of a lot of stories that have appeared, would you like to tell us how you feel?

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: How do I feel?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: You mean personally?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I got bronchitis. (laughter)

Q. But otherwise?

THE PRESIDENT: But otherwise -- fine.

I was out to the Naval Hospital this afternoon -- went out after lunch, to get a thing called X-rays taken; and I have -- I have had for probably a couple of weeks -- between two and three weeks, a touch of bronchitis. It isn't very --

(coughing involuntarily) -- serious, but I catch like that.

(laughter) That's about it.

Q. You don't view yourself with as much alarm ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, ---

Q. (continuing) --- as has been ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- except -- (again coughing) -- I suppose bronchitis in one case out of 48 thousand 5 hundred develops into pneumonia. So I have one chance, according to the prognosis -- I think that's the word -- of getting pneumonia. But I wouldn't use it as a headline, because there's rather a slim chance, especially as I have had it about three weeks.

Q. Mr. President, recently Dr. Stephen Wise said that you had authorized him to say that the American government never has given its approval to the British White Paper of 1939 about Palestine, and that you were happy that the doors of Palestine were still open, and that you hoped full justice would be done in the future. Now how does that stack up with the Army's opposition to re-opening Palestine?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing to stack up to -- it's perfectly all right. Why not? One is a military subject, and the other is an entirely different one.

Q. How would you define the other one, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. How would you define the difference?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, one is a civilian matter for the future, to be worked out with the eventual -- what we

hope will be a more permanent peace of the world. I think that's a pretty good definition for it.

MR. GODWIN: The -- the other is ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The other is purely military.

MR. GODWIN: Purely military. Would it be a temporary bar?

THE PRESIDENT: It's temporary. It's a temporary bar -- for further discussion at the present time; and a very serious bar too.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, was there any fear that any step about immigration at present would disturb that whole situation in the Middle East say, or across the middle of the world?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I think the only question at the present time that is current is to -- what we do with refugees that are coming out from Europe. That is it. That is not a dangerous question in any way. It's a relatively small number of people. They are not all Jews by any means, although I suppose the greater number are Jewish people. They are coming out two ways, we all know that. One is through Spain and the other one is in the Balkans through Turkey. Those are the only -- only avenues there are.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, is there anything at this time that you would like to tell the American people about Cassino, particularly in view of the rather hectic news on the subject -- criticism on the subject by military experts of

the civilian variety?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I thought -- this is off the record, because I can't afford to give him any boost, although sometimes I would like to -- I thought George Fielding -- that has to be off the record -- George Fielding Eliot's this morning is a good story ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Today?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- is essentially a good story.

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the stories in the Canadian and American armed service papers, calling the campaign for all practical purposes a failure in Cassino?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. I would have to answer that off the record. You know, sometimes you lose campaigns and win battles -- or the other way around.

MR. GODWIN: The other way around. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Lose battles and win campaigns. This particular -- this particular battle -- it wasn't a campaign -- this particular battle, we didn't win it. But, on the other hand, we are just where we were before.

Q. Mr. President, Paul McNutt appeared before a subcommittee today and said that he didn't think now was the time for a national service act, that we should keep on the voluntary means. How does that jibe with your recommendation to Congress in January?

THE PRESIDENT: I would have to see it. I would have to read it, because there might be some other sentences in

there.

Q. Mr. President, in a column printed here Saturday morning, the statement was made that you had written Prime Minister Churchill, shortly before the Badoglio recognition was announced from Moscow, saying that Badoglio should be got rid of because no one could get along with him. Specific mention was made of General Eisenhower. Is there any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Sounds like a columnist. (laughter)

Q. It was, sir. (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: It was.

MR. GODWIN: It was.

THE PRESIDENT: That's what I thought. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, a couple of years ago you told us that you thought the poll tax was undemocratic. Do you still adhere to that view?

THE PRESIDENT: I have always thought so.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Sir, do you have any information to confirm reports from England that Mr. (Anthony) Eden may step out as Foreign Secretary?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a word about it, except what I read in the papers. I have had no advice at all.

Q. Mr. President, on the manpower situation again, both Mr. McNutt and General Hershey, in separate statements, seem to think that the thing to do is to put 4Fs into essential war work, even if necessary drafting them. Have you got any

ideas along that line?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, it's entirely a question of what I talked about before. You have got to have a certain number of people for certain things. Where are you going to get them? That is the only problem. You can get a few here, and a few there. There isn't any over-all general thing to be said about it. It's a detail question.

Q. Mr. President, their statements were very specific. They said very flatly that they wanted to take 4Fs and put them into occupations such as harvesting and working in military hospitals. And (Lieut.) Colonel (Francis V.) Keesling (Jr.), Assistant Director of Selective Service, went on to say that 4Fs would be taken who were not already doing essential war work. I mean it was extremely specific, and the implication was that the statements were made after consultation ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, let me just -- just -- just take that example, and talk about harvesting.

Q. (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And you are referring to -- what? -- one group of 4F people ---

Q. (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in relation to the harvesting. But you left out four or five other groups that I can think of. High school boys for one. Girls for another. Newspapermen for a third -- (laughter) -- and so forth and so on. In other words, we come again to the broad picture, we want a lot of people to help harvest, so we have those fellows

in 4F. But you are only touching one little corner of a very big picture. There are lots of other people that ought to be harvesting that "ain't."

MAY CRAIG: But Mr. President, the point ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You ought to be harvesting, May! (loud laughter) I never thought of that. By Jove. I am getting ideas right along.

MAY CRAIG: I would like not to be diverted, please. (more laughter) Which is that these 4Fs are already subject to military duty under existing legislation, and that other men in that class have been drafted and sent to combat, and the argument for it was that those who are similarly subject should be taken for whatever work they can do.

THE PRESIDENT: I think everybody that can possibly do it should work for the winning of the war. Now I can't be more specific than that. But it applies to an awful lot of people who aren't doing it at the present time, an awful lot of people not working for this war. It all comes to a question of soul-searching, and if people won't search their own souls, somebody ought to search their souls for them, and talk about it out loud. That's a good line, that.

Q. Mr. President, Georgia has come out for Steve Early for Vice President. (much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I saw that. Is he a citizen? (more laughter)

MAY CRAIG: (aside) Is he a 4F?

THE PRESIDENT: I know that he's a citizen of

somewhere down in the hills back of Charlottesville, but that was before the Civil War -- (more laughter) -- and whether he ever got reinstated or not, I don't think so. There isn't anything to show. (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: Paid no taxes to be.

Q. Mr. President, any word on the Soldiers' Vote bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, but soon.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

(much laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #946
Executive Office of the President
April 7, 1944 -- 10.59 A.M., E.W.T.

VOICES: Good morning. (the President nodded in acknowledgement)

THE PRESIDENT: (to May Craig): Hold it for a while, May, and then you can sit down.

MAY CRAIG: I haven't seen him.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MAY CRAIG: Not coming?

THE PRESIDENT: Will have to ask him if he comes in late. You had better sit right down.

MR. EARLY: Come on, May.

MAY CRAIG: (sitting down) This is illegal.

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I got one thing here which I think is of real interest, because it's a -- a report on something we haven't heard about for several months, and that is the stabilization policy of the Government to keep prices from going up through the roof and thereby ultimately bankrupting almost everybody in the country.

This is a report to me from four gentlemen on what the situation is at the present time -- Director of the Office of Economic Stabilization, Fred Vinson; Administrator of the Office of Price Administration, Chester Bowles;

Administrator of the War Food Administration, Marvin Jones; and the Chairman of the National War Labor Board, William H. Davis.

It is worth reading because it's of -- of real importance, even though it has been soft-pedaled for the last two or three months. We have had -- during the past year, we have had different -- oh, what shall I call them? -- bouts on the subject, but it has been relatively quiet for the last two or three months.

(reading): "One year ago tomorrow, April 8, 1943, you issued Executive Order 9328, the 'hold-the-line' Order, directing that the stabilization line be strengthened and held. You stated, 'the only way to hold the line is to stop trying to find justifications for not holding it here or not holding it there.'

"On this first anniversary of the issuance of the 'hold-the-line' Order, we can report that the task of stopping the rise in prices has thus far been carried out. The stronger controls provided by the Congressional legislation of October 1942 have been put into effect. As a result, the cost of living, which before the 'hold-the-line' Order was rising 3/4 percent a month, has for a solid year been held without change of any consequence."

Now that is worth stressing, because a lot of people that you and I know will say, "Oh, that's nonsense. That's nonsense. I have to pay more for this, and I have to pay more for that." But the trouble is that figures made up as these

are don't lie.

(continuing reading, not literally): "It is true, as everyone knows, that there have been increases in some items, clothing, for example. But these increases have been fully offset by decreases in the prices of other items, notably foods. The general level of the cost of living has not been permitted to rise. Indeed, the cost of living as a whole is slightly lower than it was a year ago today. This record -- one year ago of stable living costs -- is unprecedented either in this war or in the last war."

Or any other war in history.

(continuing reading, not literally): "On wages, too, the record is clear.

"Under the strict standards imposed on the National War Labor Board by the 'hold-the-line' Order, some wage adjustments have had to be made to correct gross inequities, to eliminate substandards of living, and to give effect to the Little Steel Formula. The general effect of our policy has been to increase the earnings of low wage groups, or some of those which lagged behind the general upswing of wages.

"Total earnings have in -- have all increased, due to factors not regulated by wage rate controls -- such as longer work hours, higher paying war jobs, and incentives to produce. Had the policy been to restrict working hours, thereby limiting 'take-home' pay, the result would have injured the war effort. The record production of war materiel could not have been made. The nation's basic wage structure has remained substantially

unchanged during the period of wage stabilization. The level of basic factory wage rates has been raised less than 1-1/2 cents an hour by actions of the War Labor Board. Wages have been stabilized.

"A year and a half ago the entire stabilization program was in jeopardy. The stabilization line was not only bending -- it was breaking in sector after sector. Prophets of disaster freely predicted an inflationary rout."

I am not naming any names.

(continuing reading, not literally): "Only by decisive action to halve the rise in the cost of living could we defend our wage stabilization policy. Only by decisive action to halt the rise of wages could the pressure of costs on prices be kept within manageable limits. The legislation of October 2, 1942, and the 'hold-the-line' Order provided for decisive action all along the economic stabilization front. The results during the last twelve months speak for themselves.

"The stronger stabilization measures now in effect have succeeded because they have had the support of the American people. Throughout this period, to be sure, voices have been raised against one part or another in the program and even against the entire policy. Those voices have become fewer and have been heard less frequently. Today, on its first anniversary, the 'hold-the-line' policy stands approved by the overwhelming mass of the American people.

"Stabilization has brought tangible -- indeed bankable -- benefits to all groups. Corporation profits, both before

and after the taxes, rose in 1943 even above the record-breaking levels of 1942. The net income of farm operators similarly moved up to the second successive all-time high. While basic wage rates have been firmly held, average weekly earnings have moved up to new high ground. With the cost of living stable, these earnings have not been frittered away by rising prices. Stabilization has paid off on every hand -- and in lasting rather than illusory benefits.

"It has been of particular benefit to the more than twenty million people among us whose incomes cannot be increased to keep pace with rising prices. The families of our fighting men, the low-paid unorganized workers, the school teachers and other Government employees, the persons living on old-age and retirement pensions also -- all these have found in the hold-the-line policy the protection which was promised them in the stabilization act."

In other words -- this is not in the letter -- the working press of the United States has been protected from a reduction in wages. That's the best I can say. (laughter)
(adding) That isn't much.

(continuing reading, not literally): "We must not jeopardize these gains by any change of policy or relaxation of effort in the critical months ahead. All the underlying conditions which could cause a sharp rise in prices are still present. The best estimates now available indicate, for example, that the gap between the income of the American people after taxes and the volume of goods available for them to

buy will be even greater this year than it was in 1943.

Pocketbooks and checking accounts are bulging with money which could make it difficult to hold prices down if we went on a nationwide buying spree.

"The need for continuing restraint and continued co-operation with every phase of the stabilization program is evident. Obviously, too, we should cling to the policies and machinery that have served us so effectively thus far."

Signed by Vinson, Bowles, Jones and Davis.

Q. Mr. President, could this be interpreted as an answer to demands to shatter the Little Steel Formula?

THE PRESIDENT: It isn't an answer to anything. It's a statement of fact, that's all.

Q. Mr. President, have you had any report yet from that committee that was supposed to be investigating the correctness of the Bureau of Labor Statistics's figures on the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not yet.

Q. (continuing) --- cost of living?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. You will have to ask Davis where -- where that report is.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to make any comment, sir, about the recent successes of the Russian drive?

THE PRESIDENT: The Russian drive?

Q. In a military sense?

THE PRESIDENT: Military what?

Q. Military sense?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh. Actually, of course, I don't know anything more than what the papers have printed about the Russian drive. It has been going, I think, extremely well. It has been getting it down to the -- the western end of the Black Sea and jeopardized a very large amount of new territory, by the fact that it can expand from this point not only in a westerly direction but also in a southerly direction and a southwesterly direction. It has more places to go, which of course make it -- if it continues at its present pace -- makes a decision on the part of -- of Germany as to just where she is going to make her stand. Obviously, their whole occupation of the Balkans is jeopardized by the fact that the Russians, by a slight turn to the south, can attack her down there. And that brings up, of course, the whole question of the ultimate manpower on the part of Germany.

Q. (interposing) Have you heard ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I should say, offhand, that things are going, in that -- in that front, extremely well. I can't prognosticate.

Q. Have you heard anything, sir, about the Rumanian peace rumors that have apparently been filtering through London -- out of Cairo by way of London, and the activities of Prince Stirbey?

THE PRESIDENT: That's about all we know, that the gentleman is down there in that part of the world. I don't think anything has been sent over here on it at all.

Q. Mr. President, can you comment on the -- Mr.

(Wendell) Willkie's withdrawal from the race for the Republican presidential nomination?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q. Mr. President, on the question of foreign affairs, has the time now arrived where we might now expect a public disclosure of the armistice terms with Italy, which up to this point have been maintained a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe so, because they are primarily military. I don't think it has swung -- swung over sufficiently to the other side.

Q. In some quarters it was suggested that they thought the security might be political now rather than military?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it's still military.

Q. Is there anything, sir, you can say about the -- the suggestion from Naples that the anti-fascists might be permitted to form a coalition cabinet?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Can you repeat that?

Q. Is there anything you can say concerning the report that the anti-fascists may be permitted to form a coalition cabinet in Italy?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that's a thing that changes day by day. I don't think I would say any more on that. It has all been printed.

Q. Is there anything you can say about recognition of the French National Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think anything has

been given out here. It seems to be pretty well common property on the other side. A lot of people know about it.

Q. We don't.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. We don't.

THE PRESIDENT: We know as much as they do.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Now, the question -- the -- the question, Pete (Brandt), really comes down -- down to this, to a definition of what is self-determination. Now, with that lead I could go on and write a great many columns.

What is self-determination? And how do we know how the people of France feel? I don't know. Nobody in this room knows, because I don't think there's anybody in this room that has been in France lately, and even if they had been in France could they have got around in France to more than just one place. I think -- I think that gives you enough of a lead, Pete, to write -- write a story.

The question is, what is self-determination?

Q. That seems to imply, sir, that you consider that the French Committee does not in itself -- also does not ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, on the contrary. On the contrary, it means that I don't know. And neither do you. Who does know? Would you -- would you, for example, on the question of self-determination, would you let that determination be made by the people who are not in France? That's -- that's difficult, isn't it?

Q. Have you gone over Secretary (of State) Hull's Sunday speech (on foreign policy) with him, or have you seen it as yet, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Just -- just a part of it. We talked about it day before yesterday. I haven't seen it in final form.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #947
At Bernard Baruch's Plantation "Hobcaw Barony,"
Near Georgetown, South Carolina
April 28, 1944, at 8.55 P.M., E.W.T.

(newspapermen present were Merriman Smith for United Press; Douglas Cornell for Associated Press; and Robert G. Nixon for International News Service)

(stenographic notes were not taken of the first part of this conference. Following is a resume of what the President said during this first part)

The President began the press conference with an expression of his personal, deep sorrow at the loss of the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox. He informed the press that Mr. Knox had died at 1.08 p.m., and that he (the President) had the word a few minutes afterward. The President explained that Vice Admiral Ross T. McIntire had remained in Washington until he was convinced there was nothing more that could be done for Secretary Knox.

The President spoke of Secretary Knox's marvelous stamina; how he had put in some of his hardest work in his late sixties. He told of the time when Mr. Knox came to the White House and announced to him that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Knox said to him then, "With your permission, I'm leaving in the morning."

The President said he asked the Secretary where he was going.

"Pearl Harbor, with your permission," Mr. Knox replied.

The President asked him what he could do there, to which Mr. Knox replied, "At least I can find out a great deal more there than here."

The President went on to relate how on the very next day Mr. Knox did take off for Pearl Harbor, was in Pearl Harbor in two days, and the following day (third day) called the White House to report to the President, and to suggest to him that he organize an investigating group right away -- the biggest possible little group, not experts but common sense people who have the confidence of the country. The President said he followed the suggestion of the Secretary in naming Justice Roberts to head the Pearl Harbor investigating board. The episode, the President related, was typical of Knox. He was always on the job, always on the go, and never stopped to think of anything but the country's best interests.

Reviewing his four years' close association with Frank Knox, the President remarked that while it would not mitigate the fact of the Secretary's death, he was awfully glad something like this had not happened a year ago. Knox, he said, had done a wonderful job on the preliminary work in bringing the Navy up to its present level. The President said he felt it was the Lord's great will that the Secretary had been spared to do the great work that he has done towards the nation's victory.

(stenographic notes from here on)

THE PRESIDENT: I have watched with amazement the tremendous pace maintained by Frank Knox during the war, and his terrific drive was in a large part responsible for building our Navy to its present wartime strength. While the Navy increased a great deal in '17 and '18, it wasn't anything like so big in '17 as it was in 1941. I think the proportionate increase in the Navy has been a great deal bigger this time than then.

The Secretary's death is a real loss to us in the conduct of the war. He can be called just as much a war casualty as you or I, if we fell off the dock here and got drowned.

I am sending a message to Steve (Early) to give out tonight. I will read it, just for your information. It will be handed out by Steve.

(reading): "I announce to the nation at war, the sudden passing of the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox. It is a heavy loss to us and to me especially, who had come to lean on him increasingly.

"He has done much for his country; he has helped greatly in our defense and in making victory certain.

"Finally, I like to think of his bigness and his loyalty. Truly he put his country first. We shall greatly miss his ability and his friendship."

Just for your own personal knowledge, I think

Steve is down enjoying that little party Homer Cummings is giving in Pinehurst, the one he gives each year. You know, it's a funny thing, but every time Steve goes down there, it seems that something big breaks. He has been called back two or three times.

And, of course, there is a dispatch going out to Mrs. Knox. And there will be, in the course of time, a message from me to the naval service.

Q. Is that customary?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. I wonder, Mr. President, if we could have a copy of that message to blend in with our story here?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, if you don't break it here.

Q. Oh No. It will all be released from Washington.

Q. Are you having a good time?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we are and we are not.

Q. You should come visit us at the Prince George Hotel.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose they all do know about our presence here by now. Are you having a good time?

Q. Great. I have done an awful lot of things, too.

THE PRESIDENT: I have been around. Seen some of the old places around here. The Belle Isle Gardens was particularly interesting. Some of the trees there are supposed to be from six to eight hundred years old.

Q. Did you see Brookgreen Gardens?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but I don't know yet what

that place is though. One of the old Huntington ideas. I saw a lot of statues. It's a State park now. What for, I don't know. I saw a lot of deer, and a lot of goats. Must be a game preserve.

Q. Have you been fishing, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Really, not but once. We went outside to an old wreck -- the HECTOR. Got some very good fish -- bluefish and bonita. The bluefish were very good eating. Then we were at the Vanderbilt place where we got some large mouth bass and some bream. Yesterday we went up to Miss Baruch's place. I got one. "Pa" got one. And we have also gone fishing up this creek -- the PeeDee River. Didn't get anything.

I am really having a perfectly good time. I am doing very little work. I am resting, sleeping, and absorbing all the sun possible. I am sleeping about twelve hours a day, catching up on some of the sleep I have lost during the past twelve years. They want me to do it for another week or ten days.

Q. Any trace of the bronchitis left?

THE PRESIDENT: Very little. If I try, I can wheeze.

(the conversation went on from here into a personal talk. It did not relate to any of the subjects discussed at the press conference, and was accordingly not recorded)

(reported by W. M. Rigdon, Lieut(jg) USN)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #948
At Bernard Baruch's Plantation "Hobcaw Barony,"
Near Georgetown, South Carolina
May 6, 1944, at Noon e.w.t.

(newspapermen present were Merriman Smith for United Press; Douglas Cornell for Associated Press; and Robert G. Nixon for International News Service)

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing else happened. All is quiet.

Q. Would you like to sort of review your vacation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to review it. In one word, I have rested. Had a very quiet time. Been out in the sun as much as possible. Done some fishing -- some salt water fishing, some in the mouth of the river, some off the inlet, and some in the ponds.

You know, the matter of a vacation hide-out for the President is really a problem. I don't know what we are going to do about it. Up until two years ago last December, I used to do a lot of cruising down the Potomac. Then there arose the danger of German subs, and of hostile planes flying over the POTOMAC. It has no anti-aircraft protection. There were no other ships available, and we couldn't get a lot of escort boats for the POTOMAC, so the Navy stopped us.

I looked around for some Government property near Washington where I could spend a holiday. I tried in vain to go to Sugar Loaf Mountain. There's a place up there not

far from Frederick. It belongs to a "dirty rat." He's going to give it to the Government some day, but he didn't want the President going there. We found a place up on the Blue Ridge Mountains, but it was practically impossible to get to.

Then, up almost to Gettysburg, I found a place where we can put up thirty-three or thirty-four. It was built as a recreation center, as part of the W.P.A. It consists of two or three separate camps. It's up in the ^[Catoctin?] Patuxent Mountains, near the Pennsylvania-Maryland line. After using it last summer, toward the end of last summer, they raised the old objection, that it had no anti-aircraft protection -- wanted to find a place where we could have protection from the air. When I first went up there, I found a company of O.S.S. trainees -- secret commandos -- up there. We used them, and also the Marines who were already up there, too.

Then last summer, that Evelyn Peyton Gordon woman broke the whole thing. She goes ahead and spills the thing. I don't know whether that would make it impossible for me to go there again or not, but they are afraid that a certain bunch of crackpots will take some planes -- wouldn't take more than two or three planes -- they could use training planes -- and fly over and unload some bombs on the place. It is pretty well guarded on the ground, but not from the air.

Then I learned of this place here. I like it here. I have been very comfortable down here. I want to come back. Down here I can do a little fishing, and get lots of rest. I like it around Belle Isle Gardens, it's perfectly lovely.

ACB 3-7-57

I would like to come back down here again, but if it becomes known as one of the places where the President goes, it won't hold. So I don't think we should mention it in any of the press stories.

Q. We are in complete sympathy, Mr. President, but I am just wondering if the Charleston and local papers have the same understanding. That would be the governing factor. I know they would like to take a crack at it. The same is true of the Charlotte and Columbia papers. If censorship could hold them in check, it would work.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what to say about that. I would very much like to come back down here sometime next winter. It's a marvelous place to rest. Then, on the other hand, it's pretty difficult to go back to the same place -- really a pretty difficult thing. There's no other place to go. You know, I thought of going to Guantanamo first, but had to rule that out. Guantanamo meant flying down from the train at Miami.

Q. Why did you decide against that?

THE PRESIDENT: I can only tell you the reason off the record. Cuba is absolutely lousy with anarchists, murderers, etcetera, and a lot of prevaricators. They thought it a whole lot better for me to come down here. Easier for me to get back to Washington, if it became necessary.

Q. There is one thing I might say on this matter. As far as the Code itself is concerned, that won't govern the local papers down here. They are perfectly at liberty to

say that you were down here. We could control our product, but theirs, I don't know. Lots of people in South Carolina think you are in Warm Springs. We were in Charleston a day or so ago. They didn't know we were newspaper people.

ADMIRAL LEAHY: Mr. President, I think it is all right for them to tell where you were, especially if there is going to be an elapsed time of three or four months until your next visit. I don't think it would be possible to conceal it.

Q. We are all perfectly willing to cooperate.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is all right to mention it.

Q. If we didn't, we would be out-maneuvered by that un-New Deal paper in Charleston. You know, there's been a columnist for that Charlotte paper over at Pawley's Island for the past two weeks, too.

THE PRESIDENT: Did I tell you that I had had an invitation to ride by and wave to the school-children in Georgetown this afternoon? Some sort of a May Day celebration. I had to refuse, however.

One thing that strikes us all about this part of the country down here is the enormous amount of land that is vacant. I have made a number of drives about the country. I love the place -- love going through the woods. But there is an enormous amount of land vacant -- no one on it. It's not being used for scientific purposes either. It's the general feeling of everybody that this part of the country will

support a great many more people, room for a large number of families, and for certain industries locally, like this thing that smells over here. (referring to a pulp mill in Georgetown, across the Bay from Hobcaw)

Q. Can you smell it over here?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but don't put that in.

Q. Our hotel is right across the river from it.

THE PRESIDENT: After the first night down here, "Pa" Watson came in to see me at breakfast-time.

I asked him, "Did you do that?"

He said, "What do you mean?"

I told him, "That odor."

He said, "I didn't do it"; and I told him it must have been him, his room is just overhead.

Q. We bought three bottles of incense, but it only aggravated things.

THE PRESIDENT: They have promised to eliminate that smell after the war. This is the second such experience I have run into. At Campobello it was the same thing. In the morning when they light the fires in the factories at Eastport, the odor will knock you out of bed. They make fertilizer out of fish-heads and tails -- guano.

Speaking of smells, I want to say a word about Vermouth. It's something for you to think about, when you have your next Martini. Some years ago, I was going down the Italian continent, and got to Turin. We rode out to an Italian camp, about six or eight miles out of town -- there were

two Italian generals in the car. We got out of the town, and I smelled this awful thing.

"What is that?" I asked.

They said, "It's all right." Worst smell I ever smelled.

He said, "Vermouth."

We drove past it. Over in back of a small building there was a pile, where they did the last process of fermentation -- a pile as high as a house -- of decaying figs brought in from all parts of Italy and taken and thrown on this pile. Then they track them down. The pressure starts the fermentation. That is what Vermouth is made of. Think about that, when you have your next Martini.

Q. Yes, and I like Martinis.

Q. How are you feeling now, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. Really better.

Q. Any trace of your bronchitis?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is all gone, but Admiral McIntire is going to put me through the usual checkup examinations when we get back, to see if it is all fixed up. Regular thing, you know.

Q. Are there any particular problems ahead of you when you get back? I was thinking of the Montgomery Ward thing.

THE PRESIDENT: Wait until the Tuesday press conference. I am going to make a mean statement. Just off the record, there's the law; the law has been followed -- the

advice of the legal branch of the Government. That means not just the Attorney General himself but all the legal branch. Whether the opinion of the Department of Justice is correct, I don't know. Once upon a time I was a lawyer. I don't know. It is being tried out in court.

Q. Did you have any direct communication from General MacArthur after all this hullabaloo?

THE PRESIDENT: No. MacArthur was my Chief of Staff, and a very great friend of mine.

Q. Mr. Miller was merely saying some nice words about MacArthur. If he was going to nominate MacArthur, he should have kept his mouth shut. He hurt MacArthur.

THE PRESIDENT: He doesn't say he will refuse. Stassen is still in.

Q. Are you going to have an announcement any time soon on Mr. Knox's successor?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. What will be the top item on your agenda?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I am really well up. We have had a pouch every other day. Certain things I have sent back for further information. I have signed a number of bills, and other regular papers including an appointment of a notary public for the District of Columbia. Got a lot of things out. The things the President has to sign now have been cut in half. The only things I have to sign are courts-martial.

Speaking of courts-martial, I want to tell you a story about a Marine court-martial case at Guantanamo.

You know, a court-martial in any of the services is a very solemn affair. They had appointed down there a major general, a couple of colonels, two or three majors as members, and a judge advocate of the court. They had also assigned another officer to the defense.

The accused was a second lieutenant, a youngster who had, I think, been in the service six months or so. He had been sentenced to dismissal. It was approved by the Judge Advocate General of the Navy, the Major General Commandant, the Secretary of the Navy, and, I think, by Wilson Brown.

It came on down to me. I picked it up to read it. The more I read of it, the more I laughed.

This youngster had gone out from Guantanamo -- Guantanamo is a U. S. naval reservation surrounded by Cuba -- he had taken a party out on patrol, to patrol around the edges of the eastern side of the reservation.

About two miles out, they ran across some cows. The cows obviously were strays. There was a good deal of question as to whether the cows were on the Cuban side or the American side. One calf was limping very badly. After a conversation, some members of the patrol felt that this calf was suffering a great deal. That was a perfectly correct assumption. The second lieutenant told the sergeant that he would take the responsibility, and that he thought the calf should be put out of its misery.

So the sergeant shot the calf.

Now, they happened to have in this patrol the com-

pany cook. The cook butchered the calf. The result was the whole company had veal for about three days. Perfectly delicious veal, butchered by the company cook.

The story came to the ears of the major general, that one of his officers had shot a calf. The result was the kid got a court-martial -- and all that a court-martial means in time of war. The court was held. The record built up into a pile of documents. It finally got to the Major General Commandant -- that was before Vandegrift got here. They approved it. It was all lined up to ruin this kid's life -- to dismiss him from the service. Maybe he did want the veal. But it was funny -- the great question was about his decision as to whether or not this calf ought to be put out of its misery.

So I took the recommendation that had been prepared for my signature -- reading "Approved. The sentence will be carried into effect" -- and instead of signing it, I wrote thereon,

"The sentence is approved, but it is mitigated, so that in lieu of being dismissed the accused will be placed on probation for a year, subject to the pleasure of the President.

"This man must be taught not to shoot calves.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt."

It went back to the Marine Corps Headquarters. And they were wild. They thought I was trying to be funny with the Marine Corps.

Q. Been getting much reading?

THE PRESIDENT: Very little. Just been sitting around on the dock, and riding around the plantations. I have been to the jut of this peninsula. Have seen the old fort there, and the old graveyard. The majority of the graves there are those of British officers. It was there where the main traffic artery, the King's Highway -- north to south -- came down from Myrtle Beach to the south, ferried across the river to Belle Island and another fort. These two forts guarded the river.

Q. Very interesting. They anticipated the war, didn't they?

THE PRESIDENT: I imagine they did.

(reported by W. M. Rigdon, Lieut(jg) USN)