

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #953
Executive Office of the President
June 2, 1944 -- 11.17 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. EARLY: (to the President) I think Merriman Smith has a report for you as the first order of business.

THE PRESIDENT: Really? Serious?

MR. EARLY: Yes sir. I haven't had a chance to tell you.

THE PRESIDENT: I was going to have another report.

MR. EARLY: He has got one for you. Let his be first, please.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. I have got another one this morning -- it's May Craig's annual report on her stewardship. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

MERRIMAN SMITH: Mr. President, before we get down ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing, playfully) The meeting will be in order! (laughter)

MERRIMAN SMITH: Before we ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing again) The first report in the order of business is the formal report of Merriman Smith! (more laughter)

MERRIMAN SMITH: Before we get down to business today, we desire to recall that at the dinner this year -- our dinner for you -- we said that the proceeds would go to the infantile paralysis fund; and we have been several months getting the

definition of "proceeds" out of Paul Wootson -- (laughter) -- but we finally got ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I thought he represented business papers! (much laughter)

MR. GODWIN: He does.

MERRIMAN SMITH: But his definition this year is the same as it was last year, a thousand dollars -- (here handing the President a check) -- and we are very happy ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That's perfectly grand. Perfectly fine. Well, the dinner -- the dinner certainly was worth it. It was all right.

MERRIMAN SMITH: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we can -- later some other year -- move it down to Warm Springs and hold it for the papers. That would be a very effective thing.

Q. We are ready any time, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What? That's all right. (more laughter) Well, if I went, you would get there anyway. I think we ought to take Paul Wootson too.

Q. To do the bookkeeping.

Q. Will that be for us in 1945, Mr. President?

(laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) There's old "picayune" again.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the other one -- I don't think the proceeds will be as much, but we are due for a report from May Craig who, I understand, has just finished a very successful year in office, and is about to turn the gavel over to

somebody else. Will you report?

MAY CRAIG: (after a pause) Well, Mr. President, I feel that perhaps my best efforts have been here rather than in the forum of the crowd. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I understand it has been pretty good in both places. It's all right.

The third order of business was what Steve gave me, a not very exciting memorandum, but it should be made a part of the record. You are going to have copies ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Yes sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- outside afterwards? This is from (Leo T.) Crowley, F.E.A. (Foreign Economic Administrator), in regard to planes. On export planes.

(reading, not literally): "in the 91 days -- or first three months -- January first to April first, a total of 4,400 planes -- you will get all this outside -- was sent to our Allies from the United States. This means that on the average 338 planes were shipped or flown every week to fighting forces allied with our own against our common enemies on battle fronts around the world."

And it's a very inclusive list of countries that got these planes.

(continuing reading, not literally): "Between March 11, 1941, when the Lend-Lease Act was passed, and April first, 1944 -- which is nearly three years -- more than 33,000 planes have been sent from the United States to the forces of the other United Nations. The Allies paid cash for 7,000 of

the planes. The remaining 26,000 were sent under Lend-Lease. Many thousands were ferried all the way by air from the factories to the battle fronts.

"During the same period -- nearly three years -- the United States produced over -- what is it? -- No, it's over three years -- Yes, over three years -- produced over 175,000 planes."

Which leads me to think of something: some of the stories that were written and some of the speeches that were made, when I announced to the Congress that I wanted a plane program of fifty thousand planes. The -- the "doubting Thomases" -- people who said "it can't be done," "it's a political gesture," and so forth and so on.

(continuing reading, not literally): "We thus retained for our own part of the combined United Nations war effort more than four-fifths of the planes we produced, while sending very large numbers to our Allies. Through Lend-Lease, we have seen to it that the men who fight beside Americans, in the offensives already under way and in the still greater offensives that are ahead, we have the extra striking power they need to deliver the most damaging possible blows against the Germans and the Japs."

That's all on that. I can't think of anything else.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, you asked at that time for fifty thousand planes and fifty thousand tanks a year in that speech you made to Congress.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Hasn't that been exceeded?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh yes, tremendously. This year -- I don't know who can tell me here. My recollection is that during the past year it has been over a hundred thousand.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about your conference yesterday with Secretary (of the Interior) Ickes and Senator (Francis) Maloney?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, it was a question of telling them about the progress that is being made as a result of the oil conferences with Britain. Now, don't call it pipeline, because nobody knows yet whether there will be any pipeline, or who would pay for a pipeline if there were. In other words, it's entirely in the "iffy" stage about the pipeline, but this is the development of oil resources in that section of the world, the Near East, and they are getting along very well.

Q. Mr. President, putting that pipeline so distinctly in the "iffy" stage seems to be a step backward. When Mr. Ickes announced his plans, it wasn't in any "iffy" stage, he was preparing to go ahead and negotiate a contract. Does that mean that there has been a change in that direction of events?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because the British have conferred with us. It hasn't been given up by any means.

Q. There was a report that Mr. Maloney demanded from Mr. Ickes assurance that he would not go ahead until his -- Maloney's -- committee had a chance to look further into

it. Did that matter come up at your talk?

THE PRESIDENT: Only this fact, that we are still talking with the British on it. No report yet, because we are still conversing on both questions as to whether the pipeline should be started at once, and if so who would build it, and how.

Q. There has been a commercial report, Mr. President, in the trade, that Cal-Tex, the combined company that owns -- that has a concession in Arabia, have or are considering selling to the British. Is that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh no. It will be here anyway. Nothing in that. Oh no.

Q. They are definitely hanging on to what they have?

THE PRESIDENT: You bet they are.

Q. Mr. President, this is a hold-over question from the last press conference, when we were discussing foreign policy and you mentioned the words "independence" and "integrity."

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. I wanted to ask you then, and couldn't get the question in, whether you regarded those two words as synonymous with the word "sovereignty" that seems to figure so largely in this question?

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh, I never thought of that, that poser. I would have to consult the dictionary. I don't know why not. I think "independence" -- everybody knows what it means. And "integrity" -- I think most people know what it means. And I think they know what "sovereignty" means. I

would have to do a lot of thinking over that. I don't get the point yet.

Q. That seems to be the word that the international lawyers use. I -- I don't know -- don't have any idea whether ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I think you can assume one thing, and that is that I am still in -- as much in favor of the sovereignty of the United States as I ever have been, which means just as much as you are, or anybody else in this room.

Q. Mr. President, there has been some considerable confusion on what you said at your last press conference on the subject of temporary havens for refugees. Did you mean that you like the idea of setting up such havens in other countries, but not in this one, or did you mean that you liked the idea of setting them up both in this and other countries?

THE PRESIDENT: All right, I will ask you a question. If you had -- if you had a very, very large number of refugees, and found that you could take care of some of them over here at the cost of a long sea voyage hither, and a long return sea voyage, wouldn't you as a practical business man like to take some of them over here, and avoid both those sea voyages for some of the others? In other words, isn't it a question of common sense?

There are some of them coming over here without any question, but if we can prevent having those -- having -- making them take those two sea voyages by putting some of them

in some other place, well, they won't have to take the sea voyage. That is common sense too.

Nothing that I said precluded them from coming over here, and nothing that I said meant that all of them would be put into refugee camps somewhere else. In other words, the rule of common sense, rather than carping, I think should prevail.

Q. Could you tell us what progress was made in this direction at your conference with Mr. (Henry) Morgenthau (Secretary of the Treasury) and Mr. (John) Pehle (War Refugee Board)?

THE PRESIDENT: We got on awfully well. It is still in the study stage. I will give you a practical example. We are still studying with the Army -- Mr. Pehle is -- the possibility of taking one of the Army camps in this country which the Army doesn't need. Of course, we are not training as many new people as we were a year ago, and maybe we can find an Army camp over here which we could turn into a refugee camp. And Mr. Pehle was looking that up yesterday.

Also, we are examining into the other phase, as to whether we can find some places on the other side of the ocean. Well, for instance, I suggested one or two places. There is a place called Taormina, which used to be, in the early days, the great resort on the east coast of Sicily, and quite a lot of -- quite a lot of hotels there. I don't know, off-hand, what the number of people -- refugees -- would be that could be taken care of there. There is another place that I suggested, and

that was Cyrenaica, which is an Italian winter resort, and there are quite a lot of hotels in Cyrenaica. But probably there are others down in the Mediterranean area. That is being studied.

Q. Mr. President, do I understand that these refugees will be -- would be given temporary haven; that is, they would be given haven until after the war, and then they would be returned ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh yes.

Q. (continuing) --- to their countries?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, absolutely.

Q. Wouldn't stay here -- not as citizens?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Not a bit.

Q. Sir -- Mr. President, is that the "free port" idea, which would allow the refugees to come in for this temporary residence, regardless of quotas and visas?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's it. If you have some starving and perfectly helpless people -- after all, they are human beings -- and we can give them -- what? -- the assurance of life somewhere else, it seems like it's the humanitarian thing to do. I know the word "humanitarian" is being laughed at very much these days, but I think that if there are starving people, it's a humanitarian thing to keep -- keep life in them anywhere in the world until this war is over, and they can either go back home or find a home somewhere else.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any comment to make on appropriation of our share of the UNRRA fund? (United

Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration)

THE PRESIDENT: Do what?

Q. To appropriate our share of the fund for UNRRA?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I hope to goodness we will get some appropriations through. Quite a number of other nations have already appropriated their share. After all, it was -- it was our suggestion to take care of humanity.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, has there been any name set for this new United Nations organization?

THE PRESIDENT: Any more what?

Q. Any name for this new United Nations organization -- League of Nations?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Mr. President, on the question of Lend-Lease, there was an interesting Latin American angle in the reports that come from two countries that have had revolutions lately, and in both cases one side or the other used Lend-Lease equipment, particularly tanks, from the United States. Do you know, sir, if Lend-Lease equipment is continuing to go to Latin America, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) I couldn't tell you.

Q. (continuing) --- or do you feel that the time has come when it might be cut off?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you, because I know nothing about the subject.

Q. Mr. President, what appropriation would take

care of the refugees who are brought here to this country?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know, Paul (Leach); you had probably better look that up. I suppose UNRRA. I don't know.

Q. (interposing) That has not been ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It might be Army. There is one -- you see, the military end of it is involved in this. They got -- recently the other day -- I don't know whether this particular figure has been given out -- on the Adriatic coast, that section around Bari in Italy, last week they had something like eighteen hundred refugees come in during that one week. Well, it's an awful problem for the Army to take care of them right there in the fighting zone. They have to be got out of that fighting zone, not only for their own safety but for the efficiency of the Army -- takes too many people to look after them.

Now, I don't know. You had better check on that. Ask Pehle who would -- who would pay for it.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us why Dr. (William) Leiserson was over here yesterday -- the N.M.B.?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. We have got a story for you very soon.

Q. Mr. President, there has been considerable discussion both on and off the Hill about the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices. There have been some charges that the Administration hasn't given active support to it. Would you care to comment on ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I would like to have some suggestions as to how I could give more active support to it.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, sir.

MR. GODWIN: That's all right. That last answer was all right.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Sure.

(laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #954
Executive Office of the President
June 6, 1944 -- 4.10 P.M., E.W.T.

(the invasion of Western Europe by Allied Forces began today, with landings in the north of France)

(the President called in the Administrative Assistants and Secretaries, and so forth, to make themselves comfortable around his desk, before the press came in)

THE PRESIDENT: (as they filed in) My Lord! -- all smiles -- all smiles. Look at these two coming in! (laughter)

MR. DANIELS: You don't look like you're so solemn yourself, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not so solemn, I suppose. Where's "Pa"? And, where's Steve? (then upon seeing him) Have you got anything for me?

MR. EARLY: Several suggestions, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: What? (to those on the couch): He's always full of suggestions, and he always gets turned down. Doesn't make any difference. (laughter)

MR. EARLY: I'm used to it. I didn't know you were all here so quickly.

(Mr. Early then conferred with the President for several minutes)

THE PRESIDENT: All right, Charlie (Fredericks), bring in the "wolves." (laughter) (then seeing Grace Tully and Dorothy Brady standing against the wall): You're going to get "squished" there.

MR. EARLY: "Three hundred" of them (waiting to come in). (so they came and sat in the circle around the President's desk)

(long pause here, as the newspapermen filed in quickly and silently. The President pulled at his sleeves to go to work on the material before him)

MR. GODWIN: (to Fala, disporting himself on his back) How do you do?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Have you got Fala?

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Is he?

MR. GODWIN: Fala.

MR. EARLY: Haven't you got a dog, Earl? Earl, have you got a dog?

MR. GODWIN: Yes, she's "sassy." This one is okay. A lady, though.

Q. Everybody's here. Everybody's here.

MR. EARLY: Doesn't happen often.

Q. What?

MR. EARLY: Don't have many of them.

Q. No.

MR. EARLY: Hello, Fala.

MR. GODWIN: (fondling him) He's a peach.

THE PRESIDENT: I see the room is filling up.

Q. Awfully good house today. (181 present)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Awfully good house today.

MR. EARLY: It's going to be jammed.

THE PRESIDENT: I see you let the ladies come in.

Q. Very few.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. A few.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's awfully nice of you --
awfully nice. (laughter)

Q. Like to have them around -- they're decorative.

MAY CRAIG: Ask Merriman why he didn't answer my letter.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (more laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think this is a very happy conference today. Looking at the rows of you coming in, you have the same expressions as the anonymous and silent people this side of the desk who came in just before you -- before you -- all smiles!

I have very little more news that I can tell you than what you all got in your offices.

I think it's all right to use this, which has not been published yet. It came in a dispatch from Eisenhower on the progress of the operations, as of about 12 o'clock today. The American naval losses were two destroyers and one LST. And the losses incident to the air landing were relatively light -- about one percent.

Q. That's the air-borne troops, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, air losses as a whole.

And, of course, there's a great deal of reports coming in all the time, but it's being given out over there just as fast as it possibly can. I think the arrangements seem to be going all right. I think that's all that I have over here. You are getting it just as fast as we are.

Q. Mr. President, how do you feel about the progress of the invasion?

THE PRESIDENT: Up to schedule. And, as the Prime Minister said, "That's a mouthful." (laughter)

Q. May we quote "up to schedule"?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, could you now tell us how closely held this secret was, or how many people were in on the actual "know"?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You would have to ask in London. Over here, there were relatively few. When I

say relatively few, of course, a great many people in both the War Department and the Navy Department knew that we were sending very large forces over to the other side. A very small number knew the actual timing.

Q. That is what I refer to.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- very few.

Q. On the fingers of your hand, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I wouldn't say that. It must have been more than that, but not very much more.

Q. Mr. President, how long have you known that this was the date?

THE PRESIDENT: I have known since -- (pausing) -- I am trying to think back -- I would say Teheran, which was last December, that the approximate date would be the end of May or the very first few days of -- of June. And I have known the exact date just within the past few days.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And I knew last night, when I was doing that broadcast on Rome, that the troops were actually in the boats -- in the vessels -- on the way across.

MR. GODWIN: May I ask a question?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: It -- I was wondering if you could explain what were the elements entering into the consideration as far back as Teheran that would lead military leaders to be able to choose a date which seems to be quite far in advance -- quite far ahead?

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MR. GODWIN: It -- I was wondering if you could explain what were the elements entering into the consideration as far back as Teheran that would lead military leaders to be able to choose a date which seems to be quite far in advance -- quite far ahead?

THE PRESIDENT: Did you ever cross the English Channel?

MR. GODWIN: Never been across the English Channel.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Never been across the English Channel.

THE PRESIDENT: You're very lucky.

MR. GODWIN: Tide? Is it largely a question of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Roughness in the English Channel, which has always been considered by passengers one of the greatest trials of life, to have to cross the English Channel. And, of course, they have a record of the -- of the wind and the sea in the English Channel; and one of the greatly desirable and absolutely essential things is to have relatively small -- small-boat weather, as we call it, to get people actually onto the beach. And such weather doesn't begin much before May.

Q. Well, was weather the factor, sir, in delaying from the end of May until the first week in June?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. There was only actually, after the June date was set, there was only an actual delay of one day.

Q. Mr. President, was it timed to fall -- to come after the fall of Rome?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because we didn't know when Rome was going to fall.

Q. Mr. President, you said only one day after the time -- was it postponed one day?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. That was the weather consideration again?

THE PRESIDENT: That was the consideration.

Q. Mr. President, that May you talked about, last May or June, was that when Mr. Churchill was here?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I didn't talk about last May or June.

Q. He misunderstood.

Q. He misunderstood you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

THE QUESTIONER: Oh.

THE PRESIDENT: This May or June. But, of course, you have all seen the -- and you will see increasingly the reasons why, at the behest of politicians and others, we didn't institute a second front a year ago when they began clamoring for it; because their plea for an immediate second front last year reminds me a good deal of that famous editor and statesman who said years ago, before most of you were born, about -- during the Wilson administration, "I am not worried about the defense of America. If we are threatened, a million men will spring to arms overnight." And, of course, somebody said, "What kind of arms? If you can't arm them, then what's the good of their springing to something that 'ain't' there?"

Well, it will be shown that the preparations for this particular operation were far bigger and far more difficult than anybody except the military could possibly determine beforehand. We have done it just as fast as we possibly

could. The thing came up -- of course, it enters into the general, the highest strategy of the war -- oh, back the first time that we have held a conference of the combined staffs, which was in late December 1941, and early January 1942. Why, we took up the question of a second front -- of course we did. And we have been taking it up at every conference in the meantime. But there were so many other things that had to be done, and so little in the way of trained troops and munitions to do it with, we have had to wait to do it the very first chance we got. Well, this goes back, this particular operation, to -- all the way back to December 1941, and it came to a head -- the final determination -- in Cairo and Teheran. I think it is safe to say that.

Q. Mr. President, isn't there another factor, that in the last six months it has given you a chance to double the invasion force?

THE PRESIDENT: Double the what?

Q. The invasion force, the last six months of the time?

THE PRESIDENT: I would hate to say that categorically, because I haven't got the exact figures, Jim (Wright); but, of course, it has made a great deal of difference. We know that it has meant that a great many more divisions, and a great many more especially landing craft have been made possible. We couldn't have done it six months ago, because we didn't have enough landing craft.

Q. Mr. President, how much in advance of the

time that was originally set did it become apparent that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That what?

Q. (continuing) How soon did it become apparent that the one day delay would be necessary?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that -- that was apparent when it was first talked of. That has always been a factor.

Q. I mean, how long a ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Only God can tell when it is going to be smooth enough.

Q. I mean, was an hour set and then had to be canceled? How long ahead of time was that canceled?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. Of course, that happened over there, but it was a very short time. It depended on the very latest reports on the weather -- may have been only half an hour.

Q. Mr. President, did you say one-seventh of the losses in paratroopers, or one-seventh of those engaged ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q. One percent.

MR. EARLY: One percent.

Q. One percent.

Q. One.

Q. Air losses? That is total air losses, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Total air losses.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, in one broadcast from continental sources, this Seine estuary has also been

mentioned as a place where landings have taken place. Is it possible for you to say at this time whether or not there is any truth in that, or whether the landings have taken place other than the -- the Le Havre-Cherbourg area?

THE PRESIDENT: That I couldn't tell you.

Q. Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I mean, I won't tell you. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, does this one percent refer to aircraft or personnel?

THE PRESIDENT: Just air losses, that's all. That's all that has come through. I couldn't tell you.

Q. Mr. President, when the Paris broadcaster heard the first German report of the invasion, he said it couldn't be true, because you were going to London at the end of June. Was he altogether wrong? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I am going to ask you, is that summer or spring? (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, at Teheran you took this subject up, and as you know, there were constant cries from Russian sources, among them Mr. Willkie -- (laughter) -- demanding -- demanding ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) When did Wendell change his citizenship? (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Well, I don't want to be too rough, but you know what I mean. There were constant ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, of course.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- you were aware of

that, and can you say whether or not Mr. Stalin was aware of what was going on?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Well, ---

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Marshal Stalin, for instance -- it seemed to come from there that Stalin was yelling for a second front ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not -- not after Teheran.

MR. GODWIN: Not after Teheran?

THE PRESIDENT: Not after Teheran.

MR. GODWIN: He understood thoroughly?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. Mr. Stalin's mind was entirely cleared up at Teheran, when he understood the problem of going across the Channel; and when this particular time was arrived at and agreed on at Teheran, he was entirely satisfied.

Q. Mr. President, when you said that the time was fixed at Teheran approximately, did the -- was the position also fixed at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: Was the what?

Q. The place -- point of attack?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh No. Oh No.

Q. When did that develop?

THE PRESIDENT: That was -- that was a matter which was -- well, I can't -- I can't tell you the exact date, but it was always open to change. In other words, may have been half a dozen different places.

Q. That is -- that was a matter of strategy?

THE PRESIDENT: A matter of strategy, Yes.

Q. Mr. President, may there still be a half-dozen different places?

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh! What an awful question! You know they are all improper, highly improper. (much laughter)

Q. Mr. President, on this date and point of attack then, as I understand it, that was all left up to the high command?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes.

Q. And has been decided comparatively recently?

THE PRESIDENT: Decided by General Eisenhower.

Q. Comparatively recently?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes -- Yes.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's a long -- it's a long, long coast from Spain to Norway, you know.

Q. Mr. President, have there been any reports of cooperation with -- by the French underground in the invasion of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) With the underground?
No.

Q. Nothing yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing yet.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It seems -- it seems probable -- I will have to -- don't -- don't quote me in any way on this, but in an area where there is fighting going on, the

chances are there are very few civilians in that area. We know -- we know, for example, that the Germans have been pushing the French population further and further to the rear. Whenever they got a chance they moved them out. So you can't get cooperation out of stones and dirt. I don't believe there are many people in there -- French people.

Q. Is that off the record, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No, as long as you don't attribute it to me.

Q. Oh.

MR. GODWIN: This afternoon, the news from over there carries stories of orders to Norwegian underground members, indicating that something is going to happen, and that is unofficial; and the other is that the Russian army is about -- within forty-eight hours -- to deliver some terrific blow. I wondered if you had any news on either of those that you could tell us?

THE PRESIDENT: There's another improper question.

(laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Well, I just wondered about that.

Q. Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (adding) If I knew it, I couldn't tell you.

Q. Mr. President, some reports that have come in on the progress of operations did say that the Germans were taken by surprise tactically.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- I don't know.

Perfectly frankly, I have no idea.

Q. They knew about the time and tide too, didn't they, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: They must have known whether it was raining or not. (much laughter)

Q. I should say.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us anything about the impact of this invasion on the home front -- the population here?

THE PRESIDENT: Here?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: No. It has all been -- all been coming across the ocean. I haven't heard anything except ---

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- that the whole country is tremendously thrilled; and I would say on that that I think that it is a very reasonable thrill, but that I hope very much that there will not be gain too much over-confidence, because over-confidence destroys the war effort.

A fellow came in the other day whom I have known for quite a while -- near home -- and he had come -- oh, this was several months ago, at the time we took Sicily -- and he had had a mighty good job out on the Pacific coast. I don't know what he was -- a welder or something like that.

I said, "What are you doing back home?"

"Oh," he said, "the war's over. I am going to try and get a permanent job before everybody quits working on

munitions."

He just walked out, quit his job -- and he was a good man, he was a munitions worker -- because when we took Sicily he said to himself the war's over.

Now, that's the thing we have got to avoid in this country. The war isn't over by any means. This operation isn't over. You don't just land on a beach and walk through -- if you land successfully without breaking your leg -- walk through to Berlin. And the quicker this country understands it the better. Again, a question of learning a little geography.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us something of your hopes for the future on this great day?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know what it is, it's win the war.

Q. What?

THE PRESIDENT: Win the war, and win it a hundred percent.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. (interposing) One last question, Mr. President. How are you feeling?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. How are you feeling?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm feeling fine. I'm a little sleepy. (laughter)

Q. (loudly) Thank you, Mr. President.

(more laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #955
Executive Office of the President
June 9, 1944 -- 11.15 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got some fairly definite action on the problem of the refugees that we talked about Tuesday. They are coming in still, in very large numbers, into Italy, and they are interfering with military operations. Over eighteen hundred, last week, came into Italy from Yugoslavia alone. We are increasing the capacities of the camps, and probably adding some new camps from the -- in the Mediterranean area. For example, we are moving them actually out of Italy to camps in the Middle East, increasing the quota of the camps from twenty-five to forty thousand. You see, it's on a big scale. We have set up a camp near Casablanca to hold the refugees out of Spain, making -- and still engaged in -- a survey of finding additional havens in Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, Sicily and Cyprus.

In the meanwhile, we found that we had a camp which was not being used for training purposes on a big scale: Fort Ontario, New York -- this is just across the river from Oswego -- and we are going to bring over a thousand, that's all, to this country, to go into that camp -- Fort Oswego -- Fort Ontario.

Q. Mr. President, you said from Spain. Who are the refugees from Spain?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, all kinds. All kinds. A great many of them got out through France.

Q. Were they old Spanish loyalists?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. These are nearly all French.

Q. All French.

THE PRESIDENT: People who got down through France, and then finally got across into Spain.

Q. Mr. President, you mean one thousand is all that is going to be brought over into that new camp, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's all.

Q. (continuing) --- or brought over to this country?

THE PRESIDENT: That's all. To this country.

MR. GODWIN: Sir, there is a flurry of legislation in Congress on this very subject, to open some of the ports to bring in refugees and these unfortunate people for the war, but not to interfere with the immigration quotas and to be returned after the war. Are you familiar with what Congressmen ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- are doing on that? Do you have anything to say about it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I never heard of it.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, where are these people coming from that are coming to this new camp?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. The Mediterranean area I suppose is the easiest way of putting it.

Then, the only other thing that I have, I think, is that on Monday, Admiral (Reymond) Fenard -- who is the senior officer of the French navy and has been here, as you know,

for some time -- came back from Algiers and brought me a message from General (Charles) de Gaulle, that if -- General de Gaulle wants to know if I would receive him if he came over here, and what would be a good date.

And I sent word back that I of course would be very glad to receive him. And I gave him two dates, one between the 22nd of June and the 30th of June; and if he couldn't come then, between the 6th of July and the 14th of July.

And Admiral Fenard went back with that message, and I haven't heard yet.

Q. Mr. President, have you any comment on the resignation of Jim Farley as State (Democratic) Chairman?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I just got it in the paper just a little while ago, Pete (Brandt).

Q. Mr. President, how is the war going?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, on the -- on the French front, the word this morning is exactly what has been printed. I should say we are making slow progress, but it is progress. The sea is a bit rougher. I think really that covers the whole thing.

Q. We haven't yet taken Caen, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. We have not yet taken Caen?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't had any notice of it.

Q. Mr. President, in view of the fact that the King of Italy has now signed over further powers to his son, can you now say anything about the details of the Italian armistice, which hitherto have been maintained a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: The what?

Q. The details of the Italian armistice, which up to this point have been maintained a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't even know it had been maintained a secret. I thought everybody knew them. It's -- it's fairly long, about two -- two and a half pages. I think the boys over there can get it. I don't know why it should be kept a secret any longer.

Q. Fine.

THE PRESIDENT: This is off the record, but the situation, I think is a -- almost a new one in the history of kings. The King of Italy is still the King of Italy, but he isn't the King of Italy. (laughter) In other words, he's in but he's out. As I said, this is off the record. And the -- the Crown Prince has been made, I should think it is -- it is Lieutenant General of the Realm. Now, I never heard of one before -- (laughter) -- and apparently it means under their system that the cabinet resigns to him instead of to the King, and then he re- -- calls somebody to be Prime Minister. They are engaged in that at the present time. But it is -- it is a new situation. I haven't got the exact terms, but the King of Italy, as I say, is King of Italy, but he isn't King of Italy. He hasn't got any powers.

Q. Do you still -- still presume that Marshal Badoglio will resign as Prime Minister, to give an opportunity for the formation of a completely new cabinet?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so.

MR. GODWIN: Well, Mr. President, in the case of

the Italian people on the whole business, is it -- was it -- is it correct to understand that the Allies will not be satisfied until the people themselves make their choice?

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

MR. GODWIN: Is that still the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Still the objective.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- correct? This might be an interim thing?

THE PRESIDENT: Self-expression.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, sir.

MR. EARLY: You are on the record now?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: On the record now?

THE PRESIDENT: What? All right. That is on the record. We want the people to have self-expression -- choose their own government.

Q. Do you have any comment on the action of Mississippi Democrats in voting to send uninstructed delegates ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't even -- I don't even know what it was, except that I read a headline, and that's enough.

Q. Mr. President, I wonder if you would care to explain why you chose the particular dates you did for General de Gaulle's visit?

THE PRESIDENT: By what?

Q. What the consideration was that constituted selecting the particular dates you did for General de Gaulle's visit?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's the first available time I have got. That is literally all it is. I am going to be away -- you can't use this -- but I am going to be away a few days before the 22nd. I get back here about the 22nd. I am going away over the 4th of July, so I literally put down the first available dates I had.

Q. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: About six days after ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) There's a convention out there about that time.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes; and there's an election next fall, and Christmas is coming too. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, are you prepared to announce the American delegates to the monetary conference?

THE PRESIDENT: Except in one instance, I -- I have got all the list, but we are waiting for one of the Houses to complete the list; and I don't -- I think it's more courteous to give them another 24 hours to select that one.

MR. GODWIN: Have you anything to say, sir, about the bill or legislation connected with the -- that court-martial matter ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It hasn't come to me yet.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- Kimmel and Short? Hasn't reached you?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It may have come to me. It has been sent to Justice Department for recommendations and checks.

MR. GODWIN: Presumably has?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, can anything be said on De Gaulle's visit, that at that time there will be other nations represented here to straighten out ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- the French political situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh No. Just a message from him via Admiral Fenard to me, would I receive him if he came over, and when could I see him.

Q. Did that message, sir, say anything about possible subjects for discussion?

THE PRESIDENT: That's all it was.

Q. Mr. President, getting back to the monetary conference, there will be representatives from each -- the Senate and the House?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Can you say how many, how large the delegation will be?

THE PRESIDENT: As I remember -- this is pure recollection -- as I remember it, two from Senate and two from House. Is that right?

Q. Will there be Republicans on each of those?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. One Republican, one Democrat?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, the Congress has been asked to

approve the transfer of some small naval vessels to South America. Can you tell us if that is done principally in the interest of Brazil?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can't say Yes and you can't say No. In other words, we are helping all we can to build up the defense of the Americas -- of the Continent. At the present time, the Brazilian defense, we have had the most part in that, and the plans are furthest along in the case of Brazil. But it isn't exclusive to Brazil, it's the defense of the Continent.

Q. (interposing) Sir, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And at the present time, the -- the building up of Brazilian defenses is furthest along. That's the easiest way of putting it.

Q. Sir, could it be assumed that any country which is not enjoying Lend-Lease aid would not be a recipient of any of these vessels?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I frankly don't know.

Q. What I meant to say, sir, is would Argentina get them?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Would Argentina get any?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. (laughing) You can't make much of a story out of that, because I don't know.

Q. Mr. President, on General de Gaulle's visit, will he stay in the White House, sir?

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

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about that?

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #956
Executive Office of the President
June 9, 1944 -- 11.50 A.M., E.W.T.

(this conference was held for the
National Conference of Business Paper
Editors)

THE PRESIDENT: (as they filed in) Well, gentlemen,
how are you?

MR. PAUL WOOTON: Just line up here any place.

THE PRESIDENT: Glad to see you back again.

MR. WOOTON: Yes, sir. Here they are.

THE PRESIDENT: Got your watch on? (laughter)

MR. WOOTON: Yes. I can tell you what time it is.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. Can you look over the top
and see whether they are all in?

MR. WOOTON: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: We had 181 in here the other day.

MR. WOOTON: Is that so?

THE PRESIDENT: Nearly a record.

MR. WOOTON: Yes, sir. We have got about ninety --
about ninety.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. WOOTON: Mr. President, this is the group that gave
me that watch, so I am going to be awfully nice to them on this
occasion. (laughter) They have come down in the very early
days of your administration.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. WOOTON: Mr. President, Steve and I got together, and we have been cooperating with business people covering you and the Federal officials. Whenever we have any difficulty getting a speaker, we just call up Steve and somehow or other it comes about.

THE PRESIDENT: He doesn't speak himself, does he?

MR. WOOTON: No, we never had Steve. We had Jimmy one time, and he did a wonderful job.

Well, Mr. President, this group, as you know -- we have about 200 million dollars of annual output now in goods and services, and their papers go to the people that produce that 200 million, and contribute that 200 million. So I really am proud of them. I think they are an important part of the population.

THE PRESIDENT: Very distinguished.

MR. WOOTON: We have no particular questions to ask you. The President did ask me to tell you that, because of the pressure of his time this morning, he was going to dispense with the usual handshaking. I told him we would be glad to cooperate in that way.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's good to see you, because last year you did better than you thought. When the watch was presented to Paul I didn't know, but I found out afterwards, that he couldn't tell time. (laughter) So you have made a real contribution to education. He -- he tells time awfully well by now.

MR. WOOTON: That's right, Mr. President. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's good to see you all again. I haven't thought of anything. I thought I could tell you a few things off the record.

Of course, -- well, -- for instance, Steve just came in to give me a thing that just arrived from Mr. Lubin, about our aircraft production. I just sort of remember -- I think some of us real old people remember a day when I went up to Congress and said I wanted -- I want -- we need for national defense 50 thousand airplanes in a year. Well, there was the most awful howl all over the country -- couldn't be done -- just couldn't be done.

Well, of course now, we are up to a hundred thousand a year, and we are keeping on going -- keeping on making -- making records. American industry has done a lot better than the non-business press thought it could do. (laughter)

The two-hundred-thousandth United States-financed airplane since July 1st 1940, was accepted on May 31st of this year, a year and three days after the acceptance of the one-hundred-thousandth -- which is pretty good. The first hundred thousand, as they say, is the hardest. (laughter) The first hundred thousand took 1431 days to build. The second hundred thousand took 369 days to build, approximately only a third as long. And in May, 8,851 were accepted. That -- that was actually two percent in numbers below the March peak.

But a thing that the layman doesn't understand,

which you will understand, is that the weight, 89 million pounds, is really the controlling factor; and that was one percent over March, which is again a new high.

The rest of the figures relate to different types, but just for example, we have -- just in one field of action -- we have 10 thousand planes -- American planes working. In another field of action we have over 5 thousand American planes. Now, they are operating planes. Of course, the figures vary from day to day, but that is an awful lot of planes that we have got overseas. I haven't got the figures for the other -- some of the other areas, but that is just two out of three or four different areas where we are operating planes.

Of course, the whole thing is going along awfully well. I hope that you are in touch with the Departments, and with Leo Crowley, about places where either there is a jam or we want more things.

Now, of course, one thing we have realized, and that is that with the development of warfare we discover new things all the time -- new construction. I don't suppose any one of us could have visioned three years ago the building of this vast number of landing craft, turning them out all over the place with all the things that go with landing craft. In the present operations in France, they have been badly bumped on the beaches. They sit down on top of a boulder, and the boulder comes through the bottom -- that sort of thing. Quite a lot of them have been damaged on the railroad rails that the Germans stuck down on the beaches; and sometimes, when they have

discharged their cargo on the beach and start to back up, they find -- they find they are sitting on the sharp end of a railroad rail. But, of course, a great many of them can be salvaged, but it means that of any particular construction, the -- the last three days show that we have got to speed it up, even some more. We thought we had speeded it up just as fast as we possibly could.

Things are going pretty well on the other side. The chief trouble is weather. The English Channel is not a pleasant place to cross. It's rough a great deal. As somebody remarked to me the other day, probably there has been more suffering -- human suffering on the English Channel than any other place in the world. (laughter)

And on the whole, things are going along pretty well. We have been doing awfully well north of Rome, since I spoke the other day. We are about 40 miles north of Rome. We have got the important seaport of Civitavecchia. Yet the whole operation -- the English Channel, and the Mediterranean -- Italy -- all tie in together, as we have come to understand.

I think the greatest contribution -- there is always a silver lining in every cloud that war makes -- is teaching people -- people geography. A lot of people now know in this country where Italy is. Now, that's quite an achievement. (laughter)

And of course, on the whole, I really think that we can feel encouraged, but we mustn't be over-optimistic.

I was telling -- I think I told the press the

other day -- I don't believe they used it. This fellow came back from the -- the coast -- a friend of mine came to see me.

I said, "What are you doing back home? I thought you had a good job?" I think he was a welder, or something like that.

"Oh," he said, "the war's over. I'm going back home to get -- to land a permanent job."

Well, we found -- we are troubled with things like that. It's a psychological thing. People coming back saying the war is over. Well, My Lord, the war is not over.

On the other hand, of course, we are trying to plan all we can on the reconversion of plants, which will be of interest to nearly all of you. I think we have -- the Executive end of things has done what -- all they could. They have made various recommendations to Congress for legislation, and nothing has yet come out of the hopper. So all that you can do, to encourage Congress to speed up a little on reconversion legislation, the better it is. We have done practically all that we can here. I don't know what will come out, but we would like to have something come out. So, if you can help on that, it's all to the good. .

There are not many more things than that. Industry has done a perfectly splendid job. And we are doing all we can to think not only about the rest of the war, but about the -- the period after the war.

I don't know that there is anything else, Paul, that I can think of. Have you got any ideas I could talk about?

MR. WOOTON: Well, Mr. President, I think we have taken up all of your time that we should. It's just fine of you to see them. I know that they will -- they have been trying at every opportunity ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh Yes. That's good.

MR. WOOTON: (continuing) --- to put the heat on this and that as much as they can.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Sure, that's right.

MR. WOOTON: (continuing) They have helped to convert to war, and they will help to convert it back.

THE PRESIDENT: You know, fundamentally, the people are all right on it.

Steve mentioned this morning -- this is -- this is coming out when -- I am using it on Monday night when the Bond drive starts -- another little cheerful thing ahead -- (laughter) -- that is that there are around 55 million taxable people in this country -- income tax people -- and yet there are 81 million people in the country that are the owners of bonds.

That is a very extraordinary thing. Those people are thinking ahead. Where they have in one family maybe only one wage earner, but there are a number of children, bonds are being bought in the name of those children. Well, that is pretty good, to have 81 million people in the country holding war bonds. I think you won't have any trouble with this drive. We have got working for it an awfully good organization, with the help of business and the banks, as you know. I suppose it is the greatest money-raising organization in the world that we

have got today for the financing of the war.

It has been grand to see you. I wish I could think of something more exciting than what I have said.

MR. WOOTON: Mr. President, what you have said is very valuable, and we are very grateful to you indeed.

THE PRESIDENT: It's good to see you all. Fine, Paul, thanks.

MR. WOOTON: Goodbye, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Fine, fine.