

CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #964  
Executive Office of the President  
August 18, 1944 -- 11.22 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Early) has been here four weeks and he says he has nothing. Everything is quiet. I have nothing, but I have had the press with me, except with the fog.

Q. Mr. President, will you have a message to this preliminary postwar security conference meeting Monday?

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

Q. Are you meeting with the delegates, sir, inviting them down to dinner?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know.

Q. On this question of foreign policy, sir, considerable stories have been published in New York principally, that you had issued some sort of invitation to Mr. Willkie to come down and have a talk on foreign policy. Is there any basis of truth in that?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q. Not that you know of?

THE PRESIDENT: Sounds like New York stories.

Q. Can't hear you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (a little louder) I don't know anything about it.

Q. Would you like to talk to Mr. Willkie?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's rather a personal matter. And the question is whether I should discuss it on -- on or

off the record with the press. And the answer is that it's a personal matter.

Q. Would you mind speaking a little louder, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: (louder) It's a personal matter!  
(laughter)

Q. Mr. President, the A.P. this morning quotes the New York Times as saying that you were hopeful of getting Senate approval of a plan for world organization prior to the end of the war, that organization to be separate from the question of peace treaties, and later asking Congress for the power to enforce peace treaties.

THE PRESIDENT: Who said that?

Q. The A.P. quotes the New York Times.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, well, you know -- honestly, I am not here to -- just to answer questions about things that papers have been printing. I wouldn't have any -- any chance to do my duty as President if I answered all the fool questions that are set up. You know perfectly well what has happened on that thing. Well, that's -- that's what happened. Mr. Hull is taking everybody into full confidence on what has been done. Well, that's all there is.

Q. Mr. President, do you have anything to add to what Mr. Hull said yesterday about Governor Dewey's statement?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, have you had time

to make up your mind on the George bill, and the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't. I haven't, Pete (Brandt). I have got it in my basket right there -- (indicating) -- on top -- it came in last night -- which is just a description of the two bills. You see, this last bill was put in after I had -- actually, after I had left. I haven't had a chance to read it.

Q. On your way home, sir, you talked with considerable finality about the occupation of Germany and Japan. In the case of the occupation of Germany, are we to take that to mean that you have arrived at a definite understanding, through various mechanisms, with Russia and Britain on that occupation?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can't plan everything ahead. However, we talked; and they are going along all right.

Q. We had understood from several London dispatches that the -- that the European Advisory Commission had worked on that subject.

THE PRESIDENT: They worked on it.

Q. There is a pretty definite understanding then?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes. But a general understanding, and not -- not the details.

Q. Well, would ---

THE PRESIDENT: (adding) Can't do that.

Q. (continuing) --- the sections of occupation be a detail, or would that enter into the general understanding?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That's a detail.

Q. Mr. President, in one of the press association



stories this morning, there was a reference to something that you said regarding many people thought that your trip was of a political nature.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes?

Q. (continuing) Is there anything that you can add to that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing, except that the press association boys were with me, and they were exceedingly accommodating to somebody, from one of the press associations or one of their members, and planted the question. It's one of those things that has to be done in a campaign year. And I think the gentleman who asked me the question asked it with great reluctance, for the simple reason that it was a fool question, and he knew it, too.

Q. Mr. President, there has been a proposal that trade agreements be made bi-laterally. Would you like to comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't ---

Q. (adding) Reciprocal trade agreements.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I haven't seen it. Bi-laterally?

Q. Bi-lateral agreements.

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't that absolutely -- it brings up a very old -- very old subject, I don't know how many years ago, about ten -- ten or eleven years ago, when we opposed the bi-lateral method that Germany was pursuing at that time. And we adopted the method of trade agreements, making the treaty



agreements with a nation in such a way that any other country could come in under the same terms, and many of them did, ---

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- with the difference -- with the difference in method.

Q. (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And I haven't heard of any effort to change that policy.

Q. Mr. President, there have been some proposals that Congress might consider a plan for universal military training after the war.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) Would you care to express your thought on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at this time, other than -- that question I have -- I have given a great deal of study -- other than to say that I wish people would study it.

We have, you know -- we have one -- one problem after the war -- I have seen a small angle of it on this last trip -- we have all over the United States, and outside the United States for that matter, an enormous amount of soldiers' housing -- soldiers and sailors' housing -- these great training camps both on the military and the naval, Marine end of it -- Coast Guard. And that is how we have been able to effect this very extraordinary and successful training of about ten million men. I suppose in those camps today we have Government housing for -- what? -- five -- five million men. Take a rough figure.

I may be wrong. It may be four million, it may be six. And it's very good housing, even in the distant -- the distant Aleutian Islands and Alaska, all over this country.

It's so good that we -- frankly, it's infinitely better than -- it's better than the housing of the first World War, with which I had something to do. We built housing for troops and for naval trainees during the first World War, yet some -- and some of it is still in Washington. It's in a pretty decrepit state. Well, it's 25 years later, but it's still there because it was in the Capital City, and we kept it painted, and we kept it properly underpinned.

The new housing is very much better. It is rather interesting to compare the construction. The estimate in 1917 and 1918 on that housing was that it would last -- oh -- ten or twelve years. We all thought it would last that long, and most of it at the end of the first World War was scrapped -- sold for lumber while we could sell it -- turned into kindling wood, if we couldn't sell it. And today, the construction, if you go and look at it all over the country, probably has a life with normal care of perhaps 25 years. The -- it sits on concrete pillars, or stone foundations, whatever it is. It won't rot away underneath, and if it is kept painted that is the other thing, and especially if it is kept lived in. As we all know, a building that isn't lived in is very hard to maintain -- a great deal harder than a building that is lived in.

Well, we have got -- we will have about five million beds. What are we going to do with them? It's an awful

problem. That's an awful lot of buildings.

One -- there are two or three different things which obviously it could be put to use on. One is taking care of the large number of veterans. The buildings are not fireproof but they are two storeys high, and most certainly we ought not to put veterans on the second floor. They are all fitted out so that you can get out at any one of the four corners of a building and climb down a fire-escape, but no -- what will I call them? -- no ambulatory cases, that is, cases that can't walk, should be put on the second floor of any of those buildings.

Then, there will be a tremendous number of wounded or sick veterans at the end of this war who will have to be taken care of. That is one use that we can put many of these encampments to work on, under the Veterans' Administration.

Another use. We are going to have a great many problems of vocational training of these veterans. I am just taking samples -- there are a great many other uses they can be put to. I would rather at the end of the war, if we can help it, not put up any new buildings if we have other buildings that can be used for that purpose.

Then, there is a third use, and that is to use them for people in training, and there is a great deal of talk today about how good it would be for the average boy to get training of some kind. I am not talking -- I am not putting the word military on it -- some of it would be military -- but it would be training, somewhere between the ages of -- what? -- 17 to 22-23 -- one year out of their life to serve their own



Government. Well, it's worth studying.

You know, the average one of us who hasn't had military training doesn't know how to get along and keep clean, in -- in a camp with a lot of other human beings. It's -- it's rather a special art, to live with a large crowd of people. And then there is a curious thing called discipline, which is not to be sneezed at, although it is sneezed at by a very large number of people in this country today. I am not specifying. You can specify if you want to. (laughter) Discipline is rather a good thing for a nation to have. It makes for law. We are not a very -- very law-abiding people. It makes for order. We are not so bad on that, but a year of learning how to keep clean, how to live with a group of a hundred, two hundred people is a good thing.

One of the best examples is what happened to the C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps). I suppose the -- well, a much higher percentage of boys in '33 and '4 and those following years -- a very, very much larger percentage than I had had any idea of -- were improved physically and mentally by C.C.C. At the same time, they were given certain other things in C.C.C., how to live together in a group, and how to do things that they were told -- use their muscles a bit. Well, for instance -- you needn't even put this in -- this crowd in this room is muscularly in very bad shape. (laughter)

Well, C.C.C. did them good. And we taught them other things. We gave many of them, without -- without their recognizing it, we gave them vocational training. I see people here

that couldn't wield a spade. Perfectly obvious. They would have an awful time if they were told to dig a ditch, even a little shallow ditch. It would be a very good thing for some people that I am looking at. (laughter)

So there is this problem of a year of Government service -- vocational training, and some other kind of training. Even stenography -- not a bad idea. Fitting them for Government work. If nothing else, they might be able to pass the examination for the Civil Service a little more easily, if they had a year in the Federal Government.

And that is why I am glad you raised the question. It's being studied. It's being thought about. But I think that public opinion ought to be gradually formed in this country. We have one of the -- one of the practical financial questions that come up. We have the housing for the bulk of the two million -- two million and a quarter boys who would come in, somewhere between the ages of 17 and 22, or something like that, and give a year of service to the Government. I wouldn't call it compulsory military training, because in many cases we wouldn't have military training. A year of service to their Government.

Q. Mr. President, a story as written off your train remarked on some mysterious source talking about the possibility of your conferring again with Mr. Churchill. Is there anything you could tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I most certainly am going to confer with Mr. Churchill again.

Q. This year?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I told them on the train, the same old word: s-o-o-n.

Q. (aside) What was that?

THE PRESIDENT: Same old story.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your conference yesterday with General Marshall?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so. Talked over the whole bag of tricks.

Q. Mr. President, Senator Truman today has already endorsed combining the Army and Navy commands. Have you any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I thought ---

Q. (adding) One service.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- the thing is being studied. It's a thing that everybody is practically agreed on now that we are not going to do anything about it until after we have won the war.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us any plans you have for Mr. Truman in the campaign? He said he will be guided by your views.

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet, because I haven't seen him yet. He is coming in to lunch today, Pete (Brandt).

Q. Have you any plans to see Mr. Wallace?

THE PRESIDENT: Just as soon as he gets back.

Q. He is out of town now, I believe?

THE PRESIDENT: He is out of town.



Q. Mr. President, is there anything you can give us for background, or otherwise, regarding the use of the airports that we spent money on in Canada, which I understand -- the agreement now is that they are paying us for, I think they agreed to pay us 76 million dollars and some odd hundred thousand?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. Ask either General Arnold or the Secretary of the Treasury.

Q. Well, Mr. Mackenzie King made public, or rather he said he cabled in the House of Commons the agreement with this country, whereby they will pay us back 76 million, 8 hundred thousand dollars for our improvements on the great circle route, and also on the airports that are going up through western Canada and the northwest to Alaska, and I was wondering if we had any plans at all for postwar use of those airfields, or whether it would be a subject for negotiation after the war is over?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you about -- about that at all, because on the -- on the trip down from the Aleutian Islands, what I said in -- at Bremerton was very true -- true of the northwest part of the country, not just the State of Washington. The whole of the northwest is very much interested in the future commerce of Siberia and north China, and that particular route on the great circle course does go through southern Alaska, goes through -- roughly through -- past the Aleutian Islands. And, of course, it is in its infancy, it has never been done commercially. We have been sending a

lot of Russian planes out there, flying them up on the general route of the Alcan Highway, and they go to a place -- I think it is theoretically secret, but most people know where it is in Alaska -- and the Russian pilots take the planes on from there into Russia. It is going to have, I think, a very great development, because commercially we have never been on speaking terms with Siberia, and we are -- the volume of traffic going that way, I think, is one of the future important routes.

Now, I don't know anything about the relationship of Canada to this, except that they -- they have been very cooperative in what has been done so far. There is no reason why there should be any trouble about that. We can get there without going through Canada only by going out to sea from Puget Sound -- American territory -- past the reasonable limit -- three miles or twenty miles -- then fly up the coast and get back into American and Alaskan waters by staying out to sea. But that is a silly thing. Much easier to go the straight route, which is up the land, right up the coast from Puget Sound, or else up the Montana route, both of which go through British Columbia.

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned earlier that a general agreement had been reached with Britain and Russia for the occupation of Germany. Would you say that it would be fair to assume that it would be no trouble to reach a similar agreement with China for the occupation of Japan?

THE PRESIDENT: Just as easy. There are no problems there.

Q. Yes.

Q. Has such an agreement been reached as yet, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: With China? No. Nothing -- nothing down on paper. Only verbal talks between the Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-shek) and me.

Q. Mr. President, while you were away, there was considerable discussion of W.P.B. reconversion plans. Could you tell us anything about your views on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I am -- I am not sufficiently up to date. I haven't had time yet to do that.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you.



CONFIDENTIAL  
Press and Radio Conference #965  
Executive Office of the President  
August 25, 1944 -- 11.15 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am sorry to be late, but I have been saying goodbye to the President of Iceland (Sveinn Bjornsson), with whom I have had a very nice and very successful visit.

Outside of that, I haven't got anything -- not a thing.

Q. Mr. President, have you been in touch with Mr. Willkie?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Yes -- privately.

Q. Would privately, sir, preclude any ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes. Yes. (much laughter)

Q. Can you tell us, sir, whether you are going to have a private meeting with him?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. No date. I may. I see lots of people privately.

Q. Mr. President, are you in sympathy with the secrecy at Dumbarton Oaks?

THE PRESIDENT: With what?

Q. The secrecy at the Dumbarton Oaks conferences?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think that you had better see Mr. Stettinius on that.

Q. Mr. President, do you contemplate that Mr. Nelson will resume his duties as the head of the W.P.B. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, ---

Q. (continuing) --- on his return from China?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- he is leaving very, very soon, I think today, for China. Of course, it's a very important mission, and I don't think I will -- that's almost an "iffy" question. I don't know. Guessing into the future.

Q. You mean if he returns from China?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. You mean if he returns from China?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Sort of "iffy" to ask what's going to happen in the future. I don't know.

Q. Is there any change in his status, Mr. President, as Chairman of the W.P.B.?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is there any change in his status as Chairman of the W.P.B.?

THE PRESIDENT: He is still Chairman of W.P.B. Only there's an Acting Chairman in -- goes in today.

Q. Mr. President, the events in the Balkans, especially in Romania in the last couple of days, have sharpened up a great deal of interest as to what has been accomplished by the European Advisory Commission in making plans for just such an event ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That, I -- honestly I don't know. I don't know what has been done by them. I have had no documents on it.

Q. Well, are we to assume that the State

Department and you, through various conferences and preparations that have been made, do know where we are going next in such events?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q. Would someone here in Government know?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Then that means that the entire matter is centralized in London?

THE PRESIDENT: London? Not necessarily.

Q. What does it mean, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. What does it mean?

THE PRESIDENT: I can only answer you off the record, and that is that I don't know, and as far as I know nobody else knows here what specific plans have been made to meet a -- a very unexpected situation. There may not have been any plans made. Now, that's off the record, because I can't talk about anything I don't know about, and nobody else does. Purely speculative.

Q. Mr. President, do you feel that Federal unemployment compensation payments are necessary to supplement the State systems during the reconversion period?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, now you are asking me a question about a bill which is very much pending.

Q. Mr. President, would you care at this time to hazard any kind of a guess as to when the final collapse of Germany might come now?



THE PRESIDENT: Oh my, No. I have been terribly careful -- awfully careful. About the only person in the world that hasn't set the time for the ending of the war.

Q. Mr. President, in that connection, can -- is there any rough time element you can give us on how long the war in the Orient would last after the collapse?

THE PRESIDENT: It would be pure speculation on my part.

Q. Mr. President, there was a suggestion in your Lend-Lease Report about the possibility of commercial -- extending these commercial relationships that have been established through channels under Lend-Lease. Have you, in your own mind, a way of financing that development after the war?

THE PRESIDENT: What kind of development, Jim (Wright)?

Q. Well, you spoke in your Lend-Lease Report about how our cash trade is now higher than it was during the last four years before we got -- before the war broke out. Then there was an indication that this might be used as a postwar commercial relationship for expansion if credits could be arranged. I wondered whether you had in your own mind anything as to how these other countries could be financed?

THE PRESIDENT: No. In other words, it comes under the question of credit after the war, and it depends so much on the individual case. I happen to know -- just let me give you an illustration -- I happen to know one country that has got plenty of money. They will want to buy a lot of things over

here. The question in that case rises whether -- whether they need any money. If so, can they get a reasonable rate of interest from private sources? And I know another country that is busted higher than a kite, probably couldn't get it at a reasonable rate after the war from private sources. That becomes an entirely different question. It's the individual case.

Q. Mr. Crowley suggested there were two countries that had enough money here now to handle their needs.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's true. But it is -- I couldn't write a general story on it without talking about individual countries, and I don't think that's a clubby thing to do.

Q. Would it require legislation, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably.

Q. What about the Johnson Act?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. That would have to be repealed?

THE PRESIDENT: Not repealed necessarily, No. Make -- send to Congress another -- permission to lend. That -- that, of course, is the final thing.

Q. You would have to deal specifically with a country ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, yes.

Q. (continuing) --- that you -----.

Q. Mr. President, are there any plans for putting Italy under Lend-Lease?

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard of it.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



## CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #966  
Executive Office of the President  
August 29, 1944 -- 4.18 p.m., e.w.t.

Q. How do you do, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: (after coughing) You must be responsible for that. (laughter)

Q. Had nothing to do with that, sir.

Q. I understand Mr. Hassett had a birthday yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Hassett doesn't look any older despite the birthday yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q. Was he out late last night?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Was he out late last night?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. I am sure he was.

Q. Out with the girls?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Out with the girls?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, he had a good time.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got a matter here, which I think is of some interest, because it does relate in a way to seeing that people are at work when the war is over, a letter to the Director of the Budget -- which Steve has had copied so you needn't bother to take it down, you have all got copies

afterwards -- to the effect (reading, not literally): "The recent favorable development of the military situation on the world's battlefronts has emphasized the need to speed up preparations for the eventual reconversion of the nation's productive energies to peaceful pursuits. This will be a huge and intricate task, requiring careful preparations."

And, of course, a great many have been made.

(continuing reading, not literally): "In addition to legislative action already under consideration, it will call for a great deal of accurate and comprehensive information concerning the industrial production, the status of industry and the wellbeing of the nation's workers. Such information should be currently maintained as we move from war to peace."

In other words, we can't do it through headlines. We have got to have accurate information. (laughter)

(continuing reading, not literally): "In particular, I believe that the statistical record should include an account of our industrial system while it is geared up for maximum production during 1944. This may well be the peak year of production for war for many years to come. An intimate knowledge of the main characteristics of the economy during this war year will be important not only as a guide to our steps toward reconversion, but as a part of the record which is essential for military preparedness in the future. I should think it would be possible, if production data were obtained for 1944, to avoid the necessity of appropriations for the regular biennial census of manufactures pertaining to 1945."

You see, normally, in the half of the ten years -- the 1945 period, for instance, we would take, under the law, the census of manufacturing, but we think that it's a good thing to step that up by one year, as you will see.

(continuing reading, not literally): "Again, it is important that we should have a running account of the status of employment, unemployment and wages in the nation as a whole, and in the principal industrial areas. With this we should know more about the effects of the war on the incomes, expenditures and savings of the great masses of our people, whose work in the factories and mines, in transportation and on the farms, has equipped our armies in the field.

"I believe that the costs of obtaining such information for the use of business, large and small, for labor, for agriculture, and the general public and governmental agencies themselves may properly be regarded as an essential part of the costs of the war emergency."

We do it this year, in other words, instead of next year.

(continuing reading, not literally): "In conjunction with the agencies concerned, will you please undertake the preparation of plans for providing these types of information,"

--- To be done through the regular -- regular channels, as we always do. ---

"---and report to me at your early convenience on ways and means by which these plans can most appropriately be effectuated."



I won't read the rest of it, it's Harold Smith's memorandum.

(yet reading, not literally): "From now on the Government and the public will require a great deal of up to date information to guide the nation's return to a peacetime economy. Demand for such information has already been expressed by representatives of business and labor, and by Federal agencies which will have responsibilities in the reconversion process. It will be especially important to obtain a clear picture of production during 1944, which in all probability will be the peak year for some time to come.

"There has been no general census of manufactures since 1940, covering 1939 production. The censuses of 1941 and 1943 were laid aside as a part of the wartime curtailment of peacetime activities. Under the law as it stands, a census of manufactures will again be required next year, covering the calendar year 1945. However, there is a general agreement that 1945 figures will be of doubtful value at best. Industry will probably be in the midst of reconversion and the figures, like those of the census of 1919, will represent neither a war nor a peacetime economy. It is therefore desirable at once to close up the five-year gap in the data since 1939 with a census of manufactures for 1944.

"Steps to secure these types of information have been urged for many years by officials and citizens, representatives of manufacturers, representatives of the American Federation of Labor, the C.I.O., the Railroad Brotherhoods -- they have all

given their endorsement. Members of business groups working with the Division of Statistical Standards of the Bureau of the Budget have expressed desire for them, as have also various research organizations."

So, if we regard it as it properly is, as a part of the wartime economy, we can pay for it out of war funds this year, instead of asking for special appropriations for a year later, which wouldn't be of so much value. So I hope very much that we will be able to go ahead and get the figures of the wartime economy.

Q. Mr. President, is that in anticipation that the war will end next year?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Not talking about that subject. We would have to do it next year, anyway.

Q. (interposing) How many people ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) The war might end -- the war might end. But it's an insurance so that we won't get caught short if the war should end. It has nothing to do with a guess on whether the war will end.

Q. Mr. President, in that same connection, Chairman Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee said today on the floor that there was a good deal of unnecessary excitement about the unemployment problem, that we can meet that problem when it arises. Do you feel that generally reflects Administration policy?

THE PRESIDENT: Who said that?

Q. Chairman Doughton of the House Ways and Means

Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would have to have the whole thing before I can comment. But I can say this about it, because he may have said other things too, which might not be fair for me to make any comment ---

Q. (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- on just that one thing. What I felt all along is that in a sense, the word re-employment is -- is the wrong emphasis to put onto the whole subject. Just the same way, the word reconversion. Well, I know quite a number of people who are in the armed forces, and a number of people who are not in the armed forces, who don't really understand what reconversion means. It isn't a simple word. There's a much simpler way of putting it, that what we require is employment, not talking about not wanting unemployment. I say we do want employment. It's just a fine distinction of emphasis. If we have employment. Now, that's the simplest English to put it in. We do not want to have problems of unemployment.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) There are a lot of things that we are paying a great deal of attention to -- jobs. Jobs -- that's even simpler than employment. It's a good old Anglo-Saxon word, which I like.

Q. How many persons are normally employed in any biennial census of manufactures, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: On what? On taking the census?



Q. Yes. The biennial one that you are proposing to move up?

THE PRESIDENT: In the what?

Q. In the biennial census of manufactures, how many persons are normally employed in taking that census?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

MR. EARLY: (to the President) The Census Bureau said that they would just re-employ a comparatively few in addition to their present staff.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Steve said comparatively few in addition to their present staff, ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) That's what they say.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- to be done in the regular way.

Q. Mr. President, how long will that take? In other words, when will that data be ready?

THE PRESIDENT: Begin at the end of the year. This is for the year. It's a census for the year 1944.

Q. The census does not begin until the end of the year?

THE PRESIDENT: No. They send out the forms, I suppose, beforehand.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Tabulations.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) The actual work is done when the figures come in ---

Q. (interjecting) Yes, yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- for this year.

Q. But it will be after the first of the year ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, Yes.

Q. (continuing) --- before it's available?

THE PRESIDENT: Before it's available. Have to be.

Yes.

Q. Will the census include retail and wholesale as well as manufacturers' operations?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't know.

MR. EARLY: (to the President) Read the last paragraph, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

MR. EARLY: (continuing) --- Mr. President, of the Budget Bureau's.

THE PRESIDENT: (reading, not literally): "The Director of the Bureau of the Budget has been asked to prepare these plans in conjunction with the other agencies concerned. The present statistical machinery of the Federal Government would in all cases be utilized. Details of the required studies, the means of financing them and the allocations of work among the Federal organizations which will conduct them will need to be carefully planned. Information concerning the details of the proposal may be obtained from Stuart Rice, Assistant Director of the Budget in Charge of Statistical Standards, Executive 3300, Extension 205." (laughter)

Now you know more about it than I do. I won't remember the telephone number.

Q. Mr. President, speaking of employment, have you

had time to read the Kilgore and the George bills?

THE PRESIDENT: The original thing, Yes, I read about -- when I first got back; and since then I have not kept track of the various amendments they have put on.

Q. Reached any general conclusions?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Then -- next thing I have, I was seriously in doubt. Steve almost had a fit that I would make another non-political speech. (laughter) And I thought of making a speech on a subject that is very close to my heart, because I will make a little money on it -- you see how close to my heart it is -- this is a dissertation to the public -- on the raising -- on the planting and the raising and the selling of Christmas trees. I really thought of making a radio speech on that, and then having somebody say that it was on a political subject and demanding equal time on the air. (laughter)

So instead of that, which would create another controversy, and probably want to see my books to prove that I do make money raising Christmas trees, that there would be an investigation as to -- to prove that I do take a lot of time.

I have some very, very carefully kept books on the subject of Christmas trees -- a thing called a check-book. And I pay for the labor of planting these little trees at the age of four years and about six inches high, and I pay a man -- oh -- about once every two years to go through and keep the briars out of them; and then I pay several people -- some of them schoolboys -- to go in and cut them off.



And then the next entry is on the other side of the check-book. Along comes a department store or chain store with a truck, and they themselves load these little trees -- this is ten years after the planting -- into the truck. They take them down to New York, and sell the trees -- at a profit. They get a good profit. And then they send me a check for the little trees, which is recorded in the stub of the check-book on the other side.

I think there probably should be an investigating committee. I will be glad to show them my check-book. No particular secret in it. I thought trees a very good topic for a political talk. And then we would have another discussion, as to whether it was political or wasn't political, so you might say joy would be had by all.

But I am going to make a political speech. You might just as well know about it. (laughter) I don't think it will be very political. Of course, it will seem so. It won't be. But it will have a tinge, and just because it will have a tinge, I don't see why it shouldn't be called a political speech.

And the time on the air will be paid for by the Democratic National Committee. Dan Tobin, on the 23rd of September, is having a group at a hotel in Washington for supper -- on the 23rd -- and because it will undoubtedly leak through press or radio within a day or so, I might just as well say it now.

It might be called -- won't be very political -- but we will call it my first political address of the campaign.

And you will all be frightfully disappointed. The evening of the 23rd at, I think, the Statler Hotel in Washington. It's the meeting of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America. So the cat's out of the bag. (laughter)

Q. What time, Mr. President?

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

Q. You say that will be your first political speech in the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, do you contemplate a nation-wide swing before November seventh?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't, No.

Q. You do not?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I have got too much to do.

Q. (interposing) Do you contemplate ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You don't mind adding that I have got too much to do?

Q. Not a bit. (laughter)

Q. Do you contemplate other political speeches, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Do you contemplate other political speeches?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got that far.

Q. (interposing) Do you know what you are ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Mind you, this is still -- My Lord, Yes, it's still August. I don't know.

What did you say?

Q. Do you know what you are going to tell Dan Tobin's dinner yet?

THE PRESIDENT: I've got a darn good idea. (laughter)

Q. Will Dan Tobin take any official part in the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope he will, as he has been before -- the Chairman of the Labor Committee.

Q. Could you tell us anything, Mr. President, about your luncheon today with Mr. Wallace?

THE PRESIDENT: I had an awfully nice luncheon with him. Very successful. I don't think I -- I don't think you would ask me to tell the intimate conversation at a luncheon. Some of the others in the family were there too. It was perfectly decent and respectable.

Q. Did you talk about his forthcoming speaking tour?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Talked about everything. Right in front of the family too.

Q. Could you tell us anything about the schedule, or how extensive that speaking tour may be?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No.

I don't think I have anything else.

Q. Would you care to make any comment, Mr. President, on the Hull-Dulles talks last week, and their outcome?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't hear back here.

Q. Comment on the Dulles-Hull talks?

MR. EARLY: Hull and Dulles.



Q. Hull and Dulles.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. You would have to ask the Secretary about it.

Q. Mr. President, Senator Ferguson of Michigan and some others on the War Investigating Committee said today they have been informed that Donald Nelson might take over the job of directing the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion when he ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Did he really?

Q. (continuing) --- came back from China. Donald Nelson.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if he will tell me who gave him the information, I will give him the answer.

Q. Is that incorrect, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is that information incorrect?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, don't you think I have got some rights in the world, to find out where -- where some information comes from?

Of course, you know, it's an awfully interesting thing, there are certain phrases "high official sources," and similar terms -- we have all got lists of them -- and we get out the list and find out which particular thing we want to say is the source of the information.

Well, I sometimes -- I sometimes wonder where the source of the information is, and I am going to try to find out. No reason I shouldn't.

I don't know that it isn't an entirely legitimate cover-up for something that you originate in your own head. Sometimes you do that. If I spring some tittle-tattle of information that I want spread around Washington, I find somebody whom I can trust, and he says "from high information," "high sources," and so forth and so on -- "this is the latest."

I sometimes spread false rumors around Washington, and it's grand the way they grow -- perfectly grand. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, can you give us an example, Mr. President? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. I can give you a lot of examples, but I won't.

Q. I heard from a very low political source that it would be Chester Bowles. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I thought he was doing pretty well in food, and I haven't -- I haven't noticed that he is allowing any internal rows within his organization, is that right? Pretty good on the whole.

Q. Will his food job be over pretty soon, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No, because it's perfectly obvious -- now don't -- don't -- don't intimate that I am saying the war is going to be over in a month, but suppose the war is over in a month or a year, and you take that date. We can't stop food administration, because obviously we don't want a dumping of food on the market. We want an orderly process. We will have to have a lot of food for Herbert Lehman's

organization, the UNRRA, for immediate relief. We are making great progress in France. In Paris, for instance -- I don't know what the population of Paris is -- three million, something like that, I suppose now -- whatever it is, it's a little less than it was. They will need food in Paris, without any doubt. That means that we will have to go into certain surpluses, whenever that happens; and when it happens, I don't know.

Q. Mr. President, can you give us any clarification of Mr. Krug's status?

THE PRESIDENT: His what?

Q. Mr. Krug's status?

THE PRESIDENT: His status?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he's the head of W.P.A.

(laughter)

Q. W.P.B.

Q. W.P.B.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. W.P.B.

THE PRESIDENT: Even I lose track of initials. (more laughter)

Q. Is he the acting head or permanent head?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I suppose on the check that's made out -- on the stub of the check -- he's down as acting head, or whatever they call it -- chief or chairman of the W.P.B. I don't know. Anyway, the point is he's running it, as I think he has shown pretty clearly. I will not



prognosticate about the future, because that is -- that kind of story I have always -- I have always rather disapproved of two kinds of speculation, one is on the stockmarket and the other is in newspaper stories, because newspaper stories are supposed to print facts -- a thing called news. But, of course, anybody today knows that there's a lot more than that perfectly cheerful face (sic).

Q. You mean they are printing some of those rumors that you spread? (much laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I will tell you the next time I spread a rumor, and see how long it takes to get around. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, do you have any statement on the Dumbarton Oaks announcement this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: I saw the statement that was drawn up last night. Has it been given out?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir.

Q. Yes, sir.

Q. This morning.

THE PRESIDENT: It has. Well, there isn't very much more to add to that.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything that might be said about your prospective visit with Prime Minister Churchill?

THE PRESIDENT: Soon.

Q. Soon. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, have you decided on a time and place to meet the Prime Minister?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will tell you an intimate fact: I had a bath this morning!

Q. (after a pause) (politely) Yes, sir? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: In other words -- in other words, it's an intimate fact, at the present time, which I am telling you in great confidence. I had a bath this morning! Now you know that I am going to meet the Prime Minister soon, but as to the date and the hour and the place, I am not ready to tell you that intimate fact.

Q. No, sir. I asked only whether you had decided on the time and place.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Same category.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to comment upon the proclamation of the Fourth Republic in France?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know that.

Q. Proclaiming the Fourth Republic.

THE PRESIDENT: That I didn't know. I hadn't heard about it. When was that proclaimed?

Q. To be at the end of this week, as I understand it.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In other words, more speculation on something that hasn't happened yet. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, if we might go back to the Dumbarton Oaks statement this morning, you said that you saw the statement last night. There were two statements issued, one a joint statement in behalf of all three delegates, the other a

separate statement in the name of Mr. Stettinius.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will tell you -- I couldn't tell you about that particular detail, because what I saw was all in one. They probably decided to separate them, but they were both in one document, a page and a half when I saw it -- a typewritten page and a half.

Q. Mr. President, there was one document on which the three chief delegates had agreed on the general outline for a world security organization which resembled very much your draft of June 15. Would you care to comment on the differences between the two?

THE PRESIDENT: My draft of June 15? My Lord, was it that far ahead? What was my draft?

Q. Mr. Stettinius this morning said it was June 15.

Q. That's right.

Q. That's right.

Q. Your summary of the program -- international security plan.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh. To tell you the honest truth, I had forgotten I had done it.

Q. Council and world court.

Q. The wording was even the same.

Q. Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Look -- look. Don't say I am claiming authorship, because I haven't compared them. I have -- I have had an idea, not since June but way back for -- what? -- a year and a half, on certain general principles



-- two years -- that it would be different from the League of Nations, I thought a great deal more workable than the League of Nations, calling for two bodies. One, which would be for every nation -- membership on it -- large and small -- a little nation to have just as good a vote as a big nation; and secondly, a much smaller working body, talking about terms -- in terms -- technical words -- I called it council, and that would be aimed primarily at averting a future war, that would be the main function; and then third, that there would be some system of a court, or courts, for the judicial determination of disputes between nations.

Well, I think we all want to avoid putting (meaning put) the future peace of the world and the settlement of disputes, working out all kinds of things, like food problems and financial problems and everything else, into a -- onto a non-partisan basis. Well, you all got that. I don't remember doing it, but anyway, back in June I had the same idea I have had for a year and a half before, and a lot of other people have done it.

It's like back in 1933, when I sent a Message to Congress about the C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps) camps, and they authorized them. And we started the C.C.C. camps. Well, it was something I had been thinking about a great deal, and I had, as a result -- after they got going, after everybody liked them -- I didn't claim -- I didn't claim authorship of them -- I did send a Message to Congress -- I had, I suppose, seven or eight letters from people who said, "I wrote you in

nineteen hundred and twenty-nine that we ought to have some kind of camps," or "I wrote you in 1930 and outlined the whole plan. Will you please give me credit for the idea."

Well, I suppose there were five hundred people that have brought the idea of C.C.C. camps to my mind. I happened -- purely happened to be in a position where I could properly recommend it to Congress.

Now, this idea of the nations -- relationships between nations after the war, credit should not go to any one person. People have been talking about it, and I have been talking about it on and off the stump since 1919. I was for the League of Nations. I did all I could to get it. I wasn't the author of it.

Now, on this -- on this plan that they are talking about at Dumbarton Oaks, nobody is the author of it. It's a general idea, and they are putting it down on paper in such form that all the nations of the world can talk it over before they all express their views in a meeting. Nothing is hard and fast. This is the very first step.

And it is obvious they have got to have some kind of an organization -- might be called judicial, that is the first step. When they get to that stage, they will take it before a judicial body. If that doesn't work, the next step is to have some kind of meeting place where they will talk it over. Call it the assembly, for want of a better term. I will take a better term if anybody will suggest it.

And if anybody starts to kick over the traces and violate the frontiers of a neighbor country, got to have quick action, got to have quick action by some small body, because the time in that case, when you start bombing somebody or invading them, you can't have a man -- call him whatever you will -- send out notices that there will be a meeting next month on this subject. Next month might be too late. You have got to have a small body that can act quickly for all the other nations. There are various ways of talking about that. That is why this preliminary conference is being held at Dumbarton Oaks. They are not making final decisions, they are going to make recommendations to all the nations -- to all the United Nations of the world.

Well, that's the -- that's the -- what? -- the common sense point of view of what the differences are about, including the political aspects.

Q. Well, Mr. President, you said it was your idea that this body should be different from the League of Nations and more workable. In what way is it going to be different?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there again I think that you all have to get out the League of Nations and read the Covenant, and you would find that it was very, very different in so far as this body has gone.

The League of Nations had no means within the Covenant of taking up all kinds of questions like -- well, things we have discussed already: international food. They had no labor organization, they had no financial organization



for world finances. This one would. They had no method by which a council could enforce peace in the world. This one would. And so -- I mean, if I were to sit down and go over it, I could find fifty different reasons why the two things are different.

Q. Mr. President, you seem to be suggesting that the questions of food and finance and other rather dissimilar points would be tied into this security organization, which is at variance with what Mr. Hull has said.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) He says he wants the security organization alone and divorced from the points of food and finance.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I -- I don't think he did. That would go before the assembly. The question of food would probably go before the council, except in case of an emergency, where you wanted quick action before you could get the assembly together. It all ties in to the same thing.

Q. Another point in which there has been a great deal of interest in Washington is what mechanisms you might favor to translate decisions of the council into forceful sanctions on the part of the United States. Would there be reference to the American Congress, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think we have got nearly as far as that yet. I think, again, we are emphasizing the details not the great object. We are very apt to forget the great object.

And a very good illustration is, in 1920 I was addressing a very big meeting out of doors up in Michigan -- an out of doors meeting, there must have been fifteen or twenty thousand people -- and I got to talking about the League.

And some woman got up and said, "I can't be for the League of Nations, it legalizes white slavery." (laughter)

I said, "Where?"

So she trotted out article something, which authorized the League to set up machinery to -- the objective was perfectly clear -- to put down white slavery by international agreement. And she construed it, because it did not say "put down" -- it used the word which meant to work together, to eliminate -- I have forgotten what the word was, you can dig it out -- but she assumed that it meant to regulate white slavery, and therefore to approve white slavery.

Well, I had a violent discussion with her, and we both left the meeting thoroughly angry.

Now that -- that's what comes of bringing politics or partisanship, or -- well, the old word I had used before: picayune -- by the way, I found George Washington used that word -- (laughter) -- to bring -- to bring carping -- carping discussions into the details of a thing like white slavery, or any other current thing.

Now, I don't know what -- how they are going to word anything in regard to the elimination of war, but stepping on it before it grows up. We all know what we mean. I can't

give you the details of it, but we are at one -- almost -- in this country, in wanting to end future wars by stepping on their necks before they grow up.

Now that's plain English. For details, go to a political rally.

Q. Mr. President, have you had a chance to read the documents presented by the other nations in the Dumbarton conferences?

THE PRESIDENT: I have read -- I have read them in part. I haven't finished them. They are in my basket.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.



CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #967

Executive Office of the President

September 8, 1944 -- 10.56 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Very lovely this morning.

Q. Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Not planning on a trip are you?

(laughter)

Q. Yes, sir. Are you?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, before the first of the year.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: All in?

MR. ROMAGNA: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yesterday afternoon, I received from Mr. Byrnes a complete -- very technical report on industrial demobilization -- oh, it was quite large. I have skimmed through it, but I am not sufficiently equipped to go into the details, so I asked Justice Byrnes to have a seminar this afternoon at four o'clock for those of you who care for details of that kind, for release on ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Sunday morning, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Sunday morning.

And the Army already announced its plans for demobilization, and I don't know whether it has been printed. These plans and policies were based on the cross-section of what they got -- the expressed wishes of the soldiers themselves, all over this country and overseas, in every theatre of operations. Of the thousands of soldiers that were interviewed, 90 percent were

reported to have expressed the desire for that type of demobilization. It's the War Department that formulated it.

On the Navy end, of course, we are not demobilizing in any way, in case Germany goes, because we have Japan on our hands.

Four o'clock this afternoon -- anybody interested in going to a seminar -- no cost. (laughter)

MR. EARLY: I would take this one next, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Oh, Yes. I wrote the Secretary of State the other day, in fact day before yesterday, a letter, which is -- I think I had better read it. It's -- (reading, not literally): "During the past half century, the United States has developed a tradition in opposition to private monopolies."

Steve has this for you, so you needn't take it down -- you can get it.

(continuing reading, not literally): "The Sherman and Clayton Acts have become as much a part of the American way of life as the due process clause of the Constitution. By protecting the consumer against monopoly these statutes guarantee him the benefit of -- benefits of competition.

"This policy goes hand in glove with the liberal principles of international trade for which you have stood through many years of public service. The trade agreement program has as its objective the elimination of barriers to the free flow of trade in international commerce; the anti-trust statutes aim at the elimination of monopolistic restraints of trade

in inter-state and foreign commerce.

"Unfortunately, a number of foreign countries, particularly in continental Europe, do not possess such a tradition against cartels. On the contrary, cartels are receiving encouragement from some of these governments. Especially is this true with respect to Germany. Moreover, private cartels were utilized by the Nazis as governmental instruments in achieving political ends. The history of the use of the I. G. Farben trust by the Nazis reads like a detective story. The defeat of the Nazi armies will have to be followed by the eradication of these weapons of economic warfare. But more than the elimination of the political activities of German cartels will be required. Cartel practices which restrict the free flow of goods in foreign commerce will have to be curbed. With international trade involved, this end can be achieved only through collaborative action by the United Nations.

"I hope that you will keep your eye on this whole subject of international cartels, because we are approaching the time when discussions will almost certainly arise between us and other nations."

And it's a very important subject. They are all ready in the State Department to go ahead, and the Department of Justice, of course, has dug up a lot of facts for them, and it is going to be one of the important elements in the next six months.

Q. (interposing) Mr. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) The -- what?



Q. Excuse me, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. I had only one little short thing here, on the general economic situation in -- in Italy. (Brigadier) General (William) O'Dwyer is coming back to give me a report. It should be realized that it has been serious, this economic situation, because the Germans deliberately destroyed public utilities in essential industries whenever they had the chance. We all know, for instance, about the destruction in Naples; and in the area just north of Rome, which we have recently liberated, the Germans destroyed 94 percent of the electric power production as they retreated. They have destroyed roads, bridges, and other means of transport, in addition, of course, to the destruction caused by military operations in fighting.

And the net result has been a shortage of vital necessities such as food, clothing, medical supplies, and a widespread problem of distributing such supplies as were left behind by the Germans, or which escaped the ravages of war. To prevent starvation and disease, and general suffering, the military authorities have been called on to bring into Italy substantial quantities of vital civilian supplies. They are as essential to the successful progress of the campaign as the guns and shells that are furnished to the soldiers.

When these supplies reach Italy, as they are now -- as they are now, they will be placed in the ordinary channels of trade and sold to Italian consumers for lira. The cost is charged to the -- by the Allied governments to the Italian

government. So eventually we will be repaid for -- for the bulk of them. Both the U. S. and the U. K. have been furnishing -- in other words, don't assume they are gifts -- the U.K. and the U.S. have been furnishing civilian supplies needed as part of the military objective.

The extent to which each country has borne its part of the war burden, so far, has depended largely on the supply and shipping situation. In general, we have made available what we have been in the best position to supply, and the United Kingdom has furnished what has been available out of its own resources. Between the U.S. and Great Britain we have put into Italy more than a hundred million dollars' worth of all kinds of supplies, including fuel -- winter is coming on, and so forth. Most of the fuel has come from -- from England, and most of the agricultural and food supplies have come from us.

You have to remember that in Italy we have got 45 million people, with a land area less than the State of California -- very poor natural resources -- very much devastated by war. It will need considerable additional assistance, if it is to stand on its own feet as a free, democratic country. We are trying, so that is why General O'Dwyer is coming here this afternoon.

The United States and the U.K. are now at work determining what supplies in the near future are necessary, in addition to those already sent in to supplement and maintain Italian agriculture and essential industry. That is being worked on now.

I think that's all I have got.

Q. Mr. President, is the possibility of UNRRA moving into Italy being considered in this connection?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but we haven't decided yet. In the middle of study.

Q. Mr. President, in connection with your letter to Secretary Hull, Mr. Sumner Welles in his recent book The Time For Decision says that it is the plan of the German general staff to use their contacts through international cartels to build up their preparations for a third world war. Do you share that apprehension?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I hadn't heard anything definite on that. It is to be supposed that they would, under present circumstances.

Q. Mr. President, have you had any peace overtures from within Germany?

THE PRESIDENT: Had any what?

Q. Peace overtures from within ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. No.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any progress report on the Dumbarton Oaks conference that you could make available to us, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't got anything today. I think they are -- I think they are pretty nearly through. Made excellent progress.

Q. Mr. President, at one time you said, I believe, that you would answer during the campaign any mistatements



or misrepresentations you felt had been made by the Republican candidate, and I was wondering ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Didn't I say I would -- didn't I say I would feel free to? (laughter)

Q. Something like that, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir. I didn't say I would.  
(more laughter) Keep the record straight.

Q. That's right.

Q. Well, in that connection, I was wondering if you felt that any had been made?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will tell you. I didn't hear it. One member of the family heard, and told me about it, and I read about half of it so far, but I don't feel quite free to comment at the present time, because I haven't finished it.

Q. Mr. President, there was a quotation by General Hershey, and Dewey seemed to take that as the Administration's point of view.

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't read it. Who? What about? Demobilization?

Q. No. It was on -- quoting Hershey as saying we can keep people in the Army as cheaply as we can create an agency for them when they are out.

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't that part of General Hershey's work?

Q. Apparently ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Doesn't ---

Q. (continuing) According to Dewey, he made that

statement at a press conference.

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't it his job to get people into the Army?

Q. Not my question. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Pretty good reply too, Pete (Brandt).  
(more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, another point. He said that the Administration was afraid to demobilize as rapidly as it could, because it was cheaper to keep them in the Army. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think you can say that the President smiled broadly, Jim. Fair answer to it? Said nothing. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, do you consider your Administration a "tired, quarrelsome, and defeatist Administration"?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Well, only in this way, what I have said before: I would like to go home to Hyde Park -- not because I am tired or defeated. (continued laughter)

(rather long pause here)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, sir. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Took them a long time to reach that conclusion. You ought to give Merriman (Smith) some applause when he does that. (laughter)

MR. EARLY: Very well. Very good.

THE PRESIDENT: That was all right.

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir.