

CONFIDENTIAL**Press and Radio Conference #968****Held on the Parapet at The Citadel in Quebec, Canada
September 16, 1944, at about 3.45 p.m., e.w.t.**

(this is a joint press conference of the
President, Prime Minister Winston Churchill
of Great Britain, and Prime Minister W. L.
Mackenzie King of Canada)

(three chairs were placed against the wall
in the shade. The President sat in the
center, with Prime Minister Churchill on
his right, and Prime Minister Mackenzie
King on his left)

(a warm and sunny afternoon)

MR. EARLY: Here they come. (the newspapermen)

Q. Here's the invasion.

MR. EARLY: Here they come.

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL: (to Mrs. Churchill and
Princess Alice walking by) Don't go away. Stop here. Why are
they going away? They're being hustled away. They would be
interested to hear. Tell Mrs. Churchill to come back. (they
did)

(Prime Minister Churchill got up and went over
and spoke to the newspapermen, after which

they made the semi-circle wider around the three principals, and sat cross-legged on the floor)

MRS. CHURCHILL: (aside). I can think of lots of things to say.

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL: (to the newspapermen) That's better.

THE PRESIDENT: Ah, that's better.

Q. There's Fala. (trotting unconcernedly into the semi-circle)

MRS. CHURCHILL: I think I ought to be behind and out of the way.

MR. EARLY: No, no -- you're all right.

Q. Here we are sitting on the floor.

(more commotion from newsreel cameras and flash bulbs)

Q. I hope none of them fall off that wall.

Q. Who is throwing those flash bulbs?

Q. Please get down, please.

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL: (to a tall newspaperman) They want you to hedge back there, if you can. You're in the line of fire. Clouding the rain. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Who gives us the cue?

Q. What?

Q. All in. (laughter)

Q. I believe it's all right to start, sir.

PRIME MINISTER MACKENZIE KING: The President will proceed to address you.

VOICES: Sh - sh - sh.

THE PRESIDENT: The Prime Minister of Canada asked me to address you in a formal manner, but we have never done a thing like that before in a press conference yet, and I hope I won't have to begin -- (more cries of "Sh - sh") -- in Quebec.

This is a press conference, I am told, in the usual manner ---

VOICES: (interposing) Down -- down there.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- limited as usual, in Quebec, to the principal speakers, not to the correspondents. In other words, it's -- no questions will be asked of us, which I think we are all agreed is rather nice for us. (laughter)

The conference -- the outstanding fact is that this conference has taken less time, less argument, and a complete unanimity, faster and more easily, than any conference that we have had yet, and this I think is the tenth or the eleventh.

We have been very happy to come back to Quebec, and to be the guests of the Governor General -- in this most delightful of spots -- and the Prime Minister, and I think to a large degree the people of Canada. We have been very happy these past few days. I wish I did not have to go away, but we both have to -- very soon.

We have taken up all manner of things, east ---

Q. (interposing) Could you make it slower, Mr. President, please?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Slower, sir?

Q. (adding) And louder?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) (laughing) --- east and west. We have reached not only a complete unanimity, but we have made plans as far as any persons can make plans today. You know how fast things are moving, over on the -- the German front, and also what good progress we have made in the Pacific. On these matters we have had many talks about the next major operation. We are not giving a date to the time when they will begin, because we are not willing, yet, to put a specific date on the surrender of Germany. We hope it will come. The quicker the better.

When that ends, the Allies are going to start in to do as fast a job as they possibly can in the war against Japan. The Prime Minister and ourselves are in accord to work it together -- our armies, our navies and our air -- in bringing the war against Japan to a quick conclusion.

And in that I may say that we are all looking forward to having the Dominion take part in that war. We are making plans already for that particular operation. We in the United States have been fighting alongside of the Canadians, and we are going to keep on fighting alongside of them all the way across the Pacific, until the empire of Japan surrenders. In other words, we are going to see this thing through together. We

are going to make certain of ending barbarism in the Pacific.

On those operations, we have to remember a simple thing, and that is at a distance not of three thousand miles but of nearly six thousand miles, a new element enters into the conduct of that war, the element of what we call in the staff circles logistics. We cannot order a navy or any part thereof to a sector of the Pacific, or a landing, or an army, or an air force to a given point, without taking care of them when they get there. In other words, we have to provide fuel and food and ammunition of all kinds to maintain the campaign once we have crossed the ocean. That means endless planning, as you know.

I note -- and you can leave this off the record, if you want to -- that there has been some discussion of individuals, of who will command in the Pacific. I go back to certain occasions in Washington when I pleaded with people to look at their map.

There are three major commands in the Pacific today. One is the command under Lord Mountbatten, who was here last year; another is the extreme southern one under General MacArthur; and the third is the command of the floating part of the operations under Admiral Nimitz, whose headquarters are in Hawaii. You will recognize, of course, that because of the distances involved all the way to Ceylon, all the way to Australia and New Zealand, and all the way north to the Aleutians, and all the territory in -- in between, it isn't a question of one person running the whole show. Human beings are not capable

of transferring themselves mentally to the conduct of large operations during that whole -- over that whole distance.

And, therefore, I might say that the impressions some people have got, that we talked about the problem of command of the Pacific, unfortunately arose purely from the imagination. We haven't talked about the problems of command once. I think this is the first time that anybody has ever mentioned it. And that -- that is -- that is worth the searching thought, that geography is still a major science.

Q. Mr. President, is that off the record? I didn't quite understand ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) If you want to, I would like to put it on the record -- you can put it on the record. I didn't mean it as a slam at anybody, but there has been so much discussion in the papers about -- talking about the supreme command, that it is only fair to say that this is the first time that it has been mentioned.

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL: That is all right.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Yes. You can leave it on the record, if you want to.

On this question of logistics, we have been confronted primarily with the problem of finding room and opportunity for marshalling all the Allied forces against Japan. It isn't a question of numbers. We have got plenty of numbers of people, we have plenty of materials located all over the world. The difficulty is to bring together the men and the materials at the point of contact with the enemy. All of us want to be

engaged, and it is a very small front -- so much sea space, so much land space -- that we find it difficult to use all of the opportunities of men and munitions that we have.

I don't think that there is anything else that I can say, except to repeat that there has been an extraordinary unanimity. We planned as far as people can plan for the future in days like these, when things are happening -- new things are happening -- every day, and every week.

We are awfully glad to have been here again. It is becoming a little like home to us, and we believe -- I think that Prime Minister Churchill and I believe that Quebec is the ideal spot for one of these conferences, especially when we have Prime Minister King and the Governor General as our hosts.

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL: Mr. President and gentlemen, I have been pressing the President for several weeks to let us have another meeting. Our affairs are so intermingled, our troops are fighting in the line together, and our plans for the future are so interwoven that it is not possible to conduct these great affairs and to fulfill these large, combined plans without frequent meetings between the principals, between the heads of the governments, and also between the high officers on each side. It is nearly nine months since we were together in Cairo, and I felt that a further conference was much overdue.

It is a year since we met here. Well, no one can say that the conference last year was simply of an idle and agreeable character. (laughter) Out of it came decisions which

are now engraved upon the monuments of history. Out of it came arrangements by which the vast armies were hurled across the sea, forced their way on shore in the teeth of the enemy's fire and fortification, broke up his armed strength and liberated, almost as if by enchantment, the dear and beautiful land of France, so long held under the corroding heel of the Hun.

All this took its being in our meeting last year, and was carried to a higher and finer point by the subsequent conversations at Teheran, in which our Russian ally took part.

This conference has met under happier auspices than any other we have had. We cannot but feel that onelarge part of our tasks is steadily and surely approaching completion. The completion of that task leads to other problems of a military and quasi-military character, which have to be understood in common by the two great western powers, in order that the events which will follow the suppression of all resistance by Germany may seem to wear the same aspect of design as have been -- have been -- as have the military operations the -- the -- the -- themselves.

But that is not the whole nor even the main part of our work. We have had to consider the extraordinarily complicated processes by which, after the downfall and unconditional surrender of the Nazi power, the enormous forces now gathered in Europe can be applied in as large a degree as possible, with as much shrewdness as possible, and as soon as possible, to the reduction of the fighting capacity of Japan, and to bend that evil and barbarous nation to the will of those they

have outraged, and at whose feet they will presently be suppliant.

A curious feature in this conference has struck me. I read some of the papers when I am over here, these great big papers about an inch thick -- (laughter) -- very different from the little sheets with which we get on in Great Britain. I read these papers, and I see from time to time suggestions that the British wish to shirk their obligations in the Japanese war, and to throw the whole burden onto the United States.

And that astonished me very much, because as a matter of fact, the -- the conference has been marked by exactly the opposite tendency. If there was any point of difference which had to be adjusted, it was that we undoubtedly felt that the United States meant to keep too much of it to themselves -- (laughter) -- and -- or some of them did -- some of the representatives.

But I am glad to say we have arrived at thoroughly amicable agreement, and that Great Britain with her fleet and her air forces and, according to whatever plans are made, her military forces, all that can be carried by the shipping of the world to the scene of action will be represented in the main struggle with -- with -- with Japan.

And we shall go on to the end.

You can't have all the good things to yourselves.

You must share. (laughter)

And of course, Mr. Mackenzie King and the Dominion of Canada came up and said that they -- they insisted on having

their part assigned to them too. And that is the feeling. It isn't a question of people shirking an awkward and painful job. It was a question of a stern resolve of all parties to assert their right to be in at the death, with forces proportionate to their national -- national strength.

So -- so what? (laughter)

So that, I think, may be -- may be -- may be given full publicity -- (laughter) -- may be given full publicity.
(more laughter)

As to the plans we have made, we didn't tell you about them from day to day as we were making them, because we thought you would rather hear from us, at the -- at the -- at the press conference at the end of our meetings, that we wouldn't be able to tell you about them at all. (laughter) I sympathize very much, as an old former journalist and war correspondent, with the many able representatives of the press who waited here from day to day, but I know they understood; and this time they were -- they were left in no doubt. (more laughter) They are -- these -- all these matters have to be -- have to be secret, and there cannot be any -- any detailed -- detailed information given here from day to day, or even at the end of the proceedings.

The enemy will learn soon enough, in due course, all that we have decided here. I think we said this last year, now I come to think of it -- almost these very words. (laughter) Well, they have learned. What was then secret is now public. What was then concealed is now apparent. What was then in

the egg is now afoot. (laughter) What was then a tender sprout has become a gigantic forest tree. What was then design has become a blow, a mortal blow to the greatest of military powers which have ranged themselves up against civilization and the progress of the world.

So let it be with this conference, and let it carry with it the seeds -- the seeds of -- of a future victory, a victory which I earnestly trust may be achieved at the -- within the shortest limit of time. But, as to that, no one can tell.

This is a struggle not only against the Japanese but over the vast distances of the Pacific ocean and the continent of Asia. But just in the same way as we worked out all the details with our able staffs, all the details of the invasion -- of the liberating invasion of Europe, so that it worked like a piece of clockwork, I cannot doubt that our planning resources and our material and mechanical resources will be capable of confronting Japan with problems even more painful and even more difficult than those which Hitler and his lieutenant Rommel failed so conspicuously to solve.

The main object of this conference has been the focusing, with the utmost rapidity, of all the resources of the grand alliance of the western democracies upon -- upon Japan. That guilty and greedy nation must be stripped of the power to molest and disturb the peace of the world, and must be forced to -- to take a place where neither their virtues nor their vices can inflict miseries upon their fellowmen.

I asked my right honorable friend Mr. Eden, the

Foreign Secretary, to come out and see me, and I see a lot of speculation has arisen upon that point, but I don't know why there should.

People have said, "Oh, we thought it was going to be a purely military conference, and here the President brings up the Secretary to the Treasury, and the Prime Minister asks the Foreign Secretary to fly out to see him. What is all this?"

But the business of government, in these times, is all one, and when I have the rare and fortunate chance to meet the President of the United States, we are not limited in our discussions by any sphere. We talk over the whole position in every aspect -- the military, economic, diplomatic, financial. All -- all is examined. And obviously that should be so. And the fact that we have worked so long together, and the fact that we have got to know each other so well under the hard stresses of war, makes the solution of problems so much simpler, so swift and so easy it is.

What an ineffectual method of conveying human thought correspondence is -- (laughter) -- telegraphed with all its rapidity, all the facilities of our -- of modern inter-communication. They are simply dead, blank walls compared to personal -- personal contacts. And that applies not only to the President and the Prime Minister of Great Britain, it applies to our principal officers who at every stage enter in the closest association, and have established friendships which have greatly aided the tasks and the toil of our fighting troops.

Now I cannot pretend to be talking to you in an

humble frame of mind. Thank God, we have been blessed with so much good fortune, far more than we deserve; but the fact remains we have conducted successful war, beginning from small beginnings and at great disadvantage, against the most powerful embattled forces. We have conducted successful war on a scale -- and I cannot refrain from saying with a measure of success, which certainly you will go far to match, and further still to surpass.

Do not fear about the future. The same -- the same processes that have led us from the dark days of Dunkirk, and the Americans from the dark days of Pearl Harbor, to our present situation when the skies are clearing and when the remaining objectives are becoming singularly plainly isolated and defined, the same processes can be applied and will bring the toiling millions of the world the quicker out of this burden of trial. Then, indeed, there will be happiness, when the long strain of the heavy burden of war is ended, and when we turn also with provision and preparation to the task of rebuilding, and when the human heart -- relieved from its burden, from the burdens of anxiety, from the exceptional toil, from the anxieties of the loss of dear ones -- will have a resurgence of hope which cannot but repay the toil and sacrifices we have undergone.

I have enjoyed this conference very much. It has been conducted in a blaze of friendship. I never have seen more close and complete unity, apart from this little friction about our having our proper share. (laughter) Apart from

that, which is very satisfactorily adjusted, it has been the most agreeable of all the conferences which I have ever attended. And may I say that I hope that if we should meet here again in another year, we shall be able to -- to -- to tell you more about the plans we have made than it is open to us to do on the present occasion. (applause)

PRIME MINISTER MACKENZIE KING: Mr. President, Mr. Churchill, ladies and gentlemen. May I say, first, one word before the afternoon conference breaks up. I should like, on behalf of the government of Canada, to express to the members of the press our very warm appreciation of the manner in which you have all cooperated with the government and its officials here, in helping to make this conference as expeditious and as efficient in its progress as it has proven to be. We have all been anxious, knowing the demands of the time -- the moments today -- to do whatever would facilitate these proceedings as rapidly as possible. As you have seen, the week has gone by very, very quickly.

I should like also to take advantage of this moment to say, on behalf of the government, to His Excellency the Governor General, and Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, how much the government appreciates their kindness in extending the hospitality of their summer residence at The Citadel to the distinguished visitors, and therefore giving up, during the course of this week, the entire residence to our guests for their pleasure as well as accommodation, and for their efforts in meeting together to discuss the questions that are before them.

It has been an added pleasure to us that Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Churchill have both found it possible to be in Canada at the same time, and I would like to express our pleasure at that.

May I also say, Mr. President and Mr. Churchill -- Mr. Prime Minister, how honored the people of Canada feel that Quebec has again been chosen as the center for the conference. At any time that Canada can afford to be host at a conference for those who are seeking to bring together the nations of the world in bonds of friendship and peace, we shall be able to afford, I imagine, some ideal spot in Canada, Quebec or elsewhere, and will do so with the greatest pride and pleasure.

In behalf of the Canadian people, may I just say this word, in conclusion, to the members of the press. Personally, I share one feeling very strongly, in common with the President and Mr. Churchill, that there hasn't been an opportunity, in the course of this conference, to see as much of the members of the press individually as would -- might otherwise have been possible. I should be very happy if you would, this evening, be so kind as to give me the honor and pleasure of dining with me at the Chateau Frontenac, and meeting members of the Canadian staff who are here, that we may have just a chance to have a word together before we depart to other parts of the world.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Thank you very much.

Copies of this press and radio conference for:

Prime Minister Winston Churchill

Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King

Admiral Wilson Brown

Stephen T. Early

(Notebooks PC-19 -- 168; PC-20 -- 1 to 11 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #969

Executive Office of the President

September 22, 1944 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing I have got is I have signed H. R. 4278. I will read you the title. Steve (Early) has got copies of a two-page memorandum that accompanies the signature of the bill, in regard principally to rural electrification. The bill has flocks of titles, to provide for the control and eradication of certain human -- No, not human -- animal and plant pests and diseases -- (laughter) -- to facilitate cooperation with the States in fire control, to provide for the more efficient protection and management of the national forests, to facilitate the carrying out of agricultural conservation and related agricultural programs, to facilitate the operation of the Farm Credit Administration and the Rural Electrification Administration, to aid in the orderly marketing of agricultural commodities, and for other purposes. Almost everything.

But the memorandum which Steve will give you as you go out is in regard to the rural electrification end of it. It extends the present Rural Electrification Act. It calls attention to the fact that there are still seven million homes in this country that haven't got any electricity, which is rather an amazing thing. I won't tell you any more about it because there's a -- because there's a thing to write about.

That's all.

Q. Mr. President, Mr. Dewey said last night that your Administration was saturated with a defeatist theory?

THE PRESIDENT: With a what?

Q. With a defeatist theory that America is past its prime. He said that several times, and I wondered if you would comment on it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, certainly not. You think so?

Q. No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: No. Neither do I.

Q. That's the reason I asked you to comment on it.

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That's an awful thing at five minutes to eleven to be hit with, that America is past its prime.

(more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, in your Message to Congress yesterday, recommending the Missouri Valley Authority, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) --- you attached a Resolution by nine Missouri River Governors.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) Did that mean that you endorsed the Resolution as well as the Missouri Valley Authority idea?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't -- I -- that's an awfully general question. I would have to re-read the Resolution for every word.

Q. (interposing) They asked ---

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

endorsed the general idea of providing in some way for the development of the Missouri River Valley. That's about the -- that's what the Resolution -- that's what my Message said.

Q. The Governors' Resolution asked, among other things, that the present bills embody the Bureau of Reclamation's basin proposals and the Army Engineers' proposals, both passed by Congress. I just wondered if you agreed with that recommendation?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, in other words, one -- one bill is the Army Engineers and gives the work to the Army Engineers, and that is endorsed; and the other one is the Department of the Interior bill, that gives the work to them.

Q. (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Do the bills go along hand in hand to give the work both to the Army Engineers and to the Department of the Interior?

Q. The Governors asked that those differences be reconciled, sir. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think you have answered the question yourself.

Q. Mr. President, during the past week there has been a lot of discussion on Capitol Hill regarding Pearl Harbor. Do you intend to order the courts martial of Admiral Kimmel and General Short?

THE PRESIDENT: Aren't there two committees that are working on it now?

Q. Sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Aren't there two committees that are working on it now?

Q. I believe so.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it may be just as well to hear from them?

Q. Mr. President, in that connection, it has been charged that -- it was denied yesterday and repeated again -- that this Government had information 72 hours in advance of Pearl Harbor.

THE PRESIDENT: Anybody with information of that kind had better submit it to one of these boards that is investigating it now, that's the proper place to go. There will be lots of things like that, flocks of them -- morning, noon and night -- until the seventh of November.

Q. Mr. President, could you indicate that Mr. (Donald) Nelson (of W.P.B.) is about ready to come back from China?

THE PRESIDENT: I saw it in the papers. I haven't had anything from him.

Q. Could you tell us anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't had anything from him at all.

Q. No word at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Mr. President, on China, sir, there have been reports from the correspondents in China that the Chinese situation is truly desperate, and these reports pass through Chinese censorship and through American censorship, so that would

indicate that there would be some accuracy in them. Would you care to comment on the Chinese position, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you any more than I told you two months ago, that the Chinese situation is not at all satisfactory, and that is primarily, of course, from the military point of view; and since then they've retreated quite a bit further. That's about all that anyone here can say.

Q. Could you tell us anything about Mr. Nelson's mission, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, all I know is that he and General Hurley are in very close touch with the Generalissimo, and they are getting along as fast as any two people can.

Q. Mr. President, can you give us any idea of what you are going to speak about tomorrow night?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't read it yet. (laughter, especially from Mr. Early)

Q. You say you haven't read it yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Steve's laughing. What I mean is I have dictated -- oh, what was it? -- beginning about the time I went to Quebec I dictated what I call scraps -- I suppose that had better be off the record. As you know, I -- I have various ways of preparing speeches. The usual way, when I have plenty of time, is to sit down on the sofa and dictate about -- say six thousand words for a three-thousand-word speech. Then various people go over it, and I go over what they say -- comments, or things that they suggest -- and then I re-dictate it. And by the time I have re-dictated it, it gets down to

a second draft; and sometimes, as you know, I have been to Hyde Park and find some speeches where there have been seven drafts.

MR. EARLY: (aside) Eight.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And the other way is to do scraps, as I call scraps; that is to say, dictation of something running from half a page to three pages, when I had a bright idea -- I mean, I thought it was bright -- other people don't. (laughter)

Well, I sent down from Quebec -- I suppose I sent some scraps. Some of them were amusing, too. And I did one or two of them at Hyde Park, but they just didn't make a speech because they weren't, in all cases, related. So yesterday I had four different people take these scraps -- which made a lot, there must have been about six thousand words in the scraps, which means sixty minutes -- and sort them out, and it gave me an idea of how I could fit them in. I went over it, and spent about an hour and a half, and dictated a speech.

Q. (interposing) One ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And I am still having -- I am still having bright ideas.

Q. Is one of those scraps, Mr. President, related to Governor Dewey's statement ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh now -- wait. You know, this speech is to be delivered tomorrow night, not tonight. (laughter) You know, that's not even subtle to ask it that way. (more laughter) Not even subtle. So I am going at it, as soon as you good people get out of this room, and I have

seen -- who is it? -- I am seeing Dan Tobin this morning.

MR. EARLY: Three appointments today now, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. So I am going to go at it again, on the third or fourth draft, and do it probably again tonight. And what will turn up at the end I don't know, and I wouldn't tell you if I did. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, has the decision been taken to accord provisional recognition to the French Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't think there is any news on that at all. I haven't heard of it for two weeks.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President -- sir, we have already had some denials here of a story from London that American officers and Red Cross officials are operating in wolf's clothing as business men in Europe, but I wondered if you would make any -- add any comment of your own?

THE PRESIDENT: I only -- to tell you the honest truth -- I only read it -- what was it? -- yesterday morning. I haven't heard anything about it, and I saw the Secretary of State yesterday and I forgot to ask him about it. So I don't know. Don't know anything about it.

Q. Mr. President, is there any general comment you can make about the war situation?

THE PRESIDENT: About the what?

Q. The war situation at present?

THE PRESIDENT: No. As a matter of fact, it has got down to such a fine point now -- the morning papers and the

afternoon papers, they are just about as up to date as the Government is. We are getting excellent news service right from the front, and time and again the War Department-Navy Department dispatches come over to my desk ten or fifteen minutes or a half-hour after I have read the same thing in the papers. That attack on -- a very good example -- the attack on Manila was a very brilliant achievement, and took the Japs apparently entirely by surprise. I read it in my morning paper, and didn't get the dispatch until nearly an hour later. It was the stuff they gave me -- I don't know what the dateline is, I think it's being given out there. So the public is getting everything there is as fast as it comes out.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, have there been any other plans for speeches beyond October 5th?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Mr. President, when do you expect to make the appointments under the new War Mobilization and Reconversion law?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't signed the bill yet, have I?

Q. I don't think you have, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: No. (laughter) Well, we had better get a law before we think about that.

Q. Mr. President, how do you feel about the Italian political situation?

THE PRESIDENT: That's an awfully general question.

Q. (interjecting) For example, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I don't -- I don't like lynchings, if that's what you mean.

Q. (aside) What?

Q. (aside) Doesn't like lynchings.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) But otherwise -- that is one thing, at Quebec, Mr. Churchill and I talked a great deal about -- the two subjects that go together, gradually placing more responsibility on the Italian government, so that they will more and more be responsible for the well-being of the people of Italy, because we honestly want all the parties there not only to be together on this problem of reconstruction, but we want them to have the responsibility of it. Then the other point, that goes hand in hand, to see to it that the Italian people don't physically starve or freeze to death this winter; and I think, probably fairly soon, we will be able to announce some further steps that have been taken on it.

Q. Speaking of Quebec, Mr. President, could you give us any idea of what might have been discussed there regarding the future of Germany, how you are going to handle Germany when it goes down?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about it a lot. There isn't anything -- there isn't anything in the way of news yet, except that we talked about it a lot.

Q. Did you talk about the Dumbarton Oaks conversations, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes.

Q. Have you anything to say about why they have been delayed so much? ,

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I suppose -- I suppose the easiest way of looking at it is that it is the -- the first of a good many conferences in which we are trying to work out a world that will be probably free from wars, and you just don't call a conference in the morning and solve that largest of human problems by four o'clock in the afternoon.

On the whole, it worked out very, very well, especially on a percentage basis. You have -- oh -- say a hundred problems to talk over -- mind you, this is only three powers -- and agree on ninety percent of them. Well, that is what we used to call in the old days a darn good batting average. If you can do it in a few weeks and you get a ninety percent batting average, it's pretty good.

I wouldn't -- I wouldn't worry much about it.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #970

Executive Office of the President

September 29, 1944 -- 11.10 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Jim Wright, sitting down) Jim, how are you? Jim, how are you feeling?

MR. J. WRIGHT: First-rate, thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. (then to Mr. Early) Have you got this mimeographed?

MR. EARLY: Yes, sir.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got a couple of things here. The first, I am going to read, about the Argentine; and Steve is going to have it mimeographed as soon as -- while we continue the conference, and you can get it right afterwards.

(reading, not literally): "I have been following closely and with increasing concern the development of the Argentine situation in recent months. This situation presents the extraordinary paradox of the growth of Nazi-Fascist influence and the increasing application of Nazi-Fascist methods in a country of this hemisphere, at the very time that those forces of oppression and aggression are drawing ever closer to the hour of final defeat and judgment -- and judgment in Europe and elsewhere in the world. The paradox is accentuated by the fact, of which we are all quite aware, that the vast majority of the people of Argentina have remained steadfast in their faith in their own, free, democratic traditions and in their support of the nations and peoples who have been

making such great sacrifices in the fight against the Nazis and Fascists. This was made clear beyond all doubt by the spontaneous demonstration of public feeling in Argentina after words were received of the liberation of Paris.

"The policy of the Government of the United States toward Argentina as that policy has been developed in consultation with the other American Republics, has been clearly set forth by Secretary Hull. There is no need for me to re-state it now.

"The Argentine government has repudiated solemn inter-American obligations on the basis of which the nations of this hemisphere developed a system of defense to meet the challenge of Axis aggression.

"Unless we now demonstrate a capacity to develop a tradition of respect for such obligations among civilized nations, there can be little hope for a system of international security, theoretically created to maintain principles for which our peoples are today sacrificing to the limit of their resources, both human and material.

"In this connection, I subscribe wholeheartedly to the words of Prime Minister Churchill in the House of Commons on August second, when he declared that:

"This is not like some small wars in the past, where all could be forgotten and forgiven. Nations must be judged by the part they play. Not only belligerents but neutrals will find that their position in the world cannot remain entirely unaffected by the part that they have chosen to play in

the crisis of the war.'"

That is what he said back in August.

(continuing reading): "I have considered it important to make this statement of the position of the Government of the United States at this time, because it has come to my attention that the Nazi radio beamed to Latin America, the pro-Nazi press in Argentina, as well as a few irresponsible individuals and groups in this and certain other Republics, seek to undermine the position of the American Republics and our associates among the United Nations by fabricating and circulating the vicious rumor that our counsels are divided on the course of our policy toward Argentina."

Well, -- Steve, take that out and have it mimeographed.

And the other one is all done -- it's a copy of a letter that I sent to Leo Crowley -- I'll just read the first sentence, and then the headlines. (reading): "In accordance with our discussions, the following are the major policies that should be put into effect by the Foreign Economic Administration, within the scope of its present functions and responsibilities, when the military resistance of Nazi Germany is overcome."

You want to be awfully careful, if you would, not to suggest, even, that I am saying that it's about to happen. I have been awfully careful in not saying at any time when the military resistance of Nazi Germany is going to be overcome. I haven't set any time, and I am not ready to set it.

The first relates to Export Control; the second

to Strategic and Critical Raw Materials; the third is Preclusive Buying; the fourth is Economic Warfare; the fifth is Lend-Lease; the sixth is Surplus Property; the seventh is Control of the War-Making Power of Germany; the eighth Reconstruction and Future Foreign Trade. I won't go -- you had better read it, it's pretty good.

I think that's all I've got.

Q. Mr. President, can that be considered to settle the reported split between Cabinet members on policy?

THE PRESIDENT: That was newspaper stories.

Q. Do you mean there was no foundation for those reports ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, no.

Q. (continuing) --- for that split, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Every story that has come out is essentially untrue in the basic facts.

Q. Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (adding) Might emphasize the adjective essentially untrue.

Q. In the basic facts?

Q. Mr. President, there have been considerable reports that Mayor La Guardia was to have a commission this time, and was to be sent to Italy ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't heard anything about it.

Q. (continuing) --- to assist the Italian government.

THE PRESIDENT: Literally, I have no news on that. I may, over the week end.

Q. You may, over the week end?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, ---

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- rather expecting some news, but nothing has come in.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us when you may sign this surplus property and reconversion bill?

THE PRESIDENT: The what?

Q. Surplus property and reconversion bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Over the week end. You see my basket? (indicating)

Q. (interposing) You will sign?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I have got a most awful accumulation of mail in this basket. I am going to try to clean it up during the next day or two.

Q. Mr. President, the question was whether you will sign, is that what you mean?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, over the week end.

Q. That you will sign over the week end?

THE PRESIDENT: I will get to it in the basket. They are about fourth -- fourth the way down.

Q. Mr. President, Mr. Hannegan said that you may -- you will make one speech in New York City, and that you may make another one in New York State. I wonder if you could tell us whether you have any additional plans for any other

speeches elsewhere?

THE PRESIDENT: I have none over the fifth of October.

Q. Any comment on reports, Mr. President, that the agreement has been reached to value the mark at approximately ten cents?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's -- that's an old story. I thought that was decided on about two weeks ago. Better ask the Treasury about it. Hasn't it been given out, what the value of the mark is going to be?

MR. EARLY: No, sir.

Q. No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you will have to ask the Treasury. I couldn't give that out. There may be some reason for holding it up. I had supposed it had been given out.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us whether the policies outlined in this statement to the F.E.A. were evolved at Quebec?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No, they were not. They were all done here.

Q. Well, Mr. President, does the statement of policy represent the position of this Cabinet committee, the three-member committee?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I -- all I know is I was told it was approved all the way down the line by State, War and Treasury. It's a Crowley thing, primarily.

Q. Mr. President, we understood you are seeing the A.F.L.-C.I.O. labor committee today?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Anything you can give us on why you are seeing them at this time?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It's a revival of the old -- what we called the old Victory Committee two years ago. I haven't seen -- I haven't seen them for a long time.

Q. Mr. President, I wonder if you could expand the last sentence of the last paragraph of that matter about -- statement about Argentina, indicating that the Nazis are claiming that our counsels are divided? Can you tell us what -- what that claim is?

THE PRESIDENT: What was that, Steve? Have you got it? I don't know -- it's being mimeographed. I would have to see it.

Q. Mr. President, going back to the labor meeting, do you expect the discussions to include this pending case before the War Labor Board ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) I doubt it. I doubt it.

Q. (continuing) --- about the division on the Little Steel formula?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That's one of those detailed things. I would rather talk about larger policies.

Q. Mr. President, it had been expected that possibly you would hold a meeting with this Cabinet committee in connection with the post-war Germany question. Is such a committee meeting being held?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I see them all the time. I have seen them several times. Of course, there are two things that -- everybody gets off on the wrong foot -- what do you mean by postwar? The date the German armies fold up, or the long range thing? Most people get all confused over it. A very natural thing to have happen.

Q. Mr. President, do you expect the general subject of the Little Steel formula to come up at the labor meeting?

THE PRESIDENT: I just said I doubt it. Probably going to talk about bigger things.

Q. Any comment, Mr. President, on the reported expulsion of British and American military missions from Bulgaria?

THE PRESIDENT: From where?

Q. Bulgaria.

MR. EARLY: Bulgaria.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know enough about it to -- I have only got some general impressions. You had better ask State on that. The thing changes all the time. We have had several -- what do you call them? -- quasi-missions in there, O.S.S. in Yugoslavia, and I think they are trying to round them all up now. You had better ask State.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, sir.

Q. Thank you, sir.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #971
Executive Office of the President
October 3, 1944 -- 4.11 P.M., E.W.T.

Q. Howdo, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (to May Craig, just returned from overseas) May, how are you? Let's look at you. (shaking hands with her) How have you been? I hear a bomb came after you.

MAY CRAIG: Practically.

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't get you?

MAY CRAIG: Not quite.

THE PRESIDENT: Grand.

MR. EARLY: May, welcome home.

MAY CRAIG: Thank you.

MR. EARLY: Are you glad to be back?

MAY CRAIG: Are you telling me?

MR. EARLY: Well, sit you down. (she did)

THE PRESIDENT: I think you are entitled to that chair.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got a couple of matters that I am afraid may cause you a little more work, for you may have to read two bills. It's a little difficult to do it without, unless you read them -- you really have to read them to understand them, and then maybe you won't.

The first is the Surplus War Property bill, just signed, and each bill has the -- has a statement with it.

(reading, not literally): "On February 21st --

this is mimeographed, you needn't take it down -- on February 21st, 1943, I signed an Executive Order setting up the War -- Surplus War Property Administration to direct and expedite the orderly disposition of surplus war property so far as possible under existing law, and pending action by the Congress."

That -- that -- that is an important -- an important thing to remember, that I did say "pending action by the Congress." That was in February, 1943 -- we have just got it out.

(continuing reading, not literally): "H.R. 5125, the Surplus Property Disposal Act of 1944, which is before me for signature, places the general disposition of surplus war property under a Board of three, and provides in considerable detail the methods to be pursued by the Board.

"It is with considerable reluctance that I have decided to sign it. While I am in full accord with the objectives of the bill, which are to aid reconversion from a war to a peace economy, and to facilitate the orderly disposal of surplus property, I have considerable doubt whether many provisions of the bill will not make extremely difficult the accomplishment of the objectives. There is danger that the confused methods of disposition and the elaborate restrictions imposed by the bill will in many instances delay rather than expedite reconversion and re-employment. Our surplus property should speedily be placed into channels of disposition which should provide the most jobs and the greatest good to the greatest number.

"But we must be in a position to get on with the organization of our plans for the disposition of surplus

war property. I have, therefore, concluded that it would be best to let the bill become law, in the hope that after the Surplus Property Board, provided for in the bill, has had some experience in operating under it, the Congress will give careful consideration to needed changes that may be suggested by the Board."

Then the other -- the other statement goes with Senate 2051 -- (reading, not literally): "A bill 'to amend the Social Security Act, as amended, to provide a national program for war mobilization and reconversion, and for other purposes.'

"I have signed the bill because it is important, as this bill provides, that the Office of War Mobilization should be promptly expanded and given clear statutory powers to direct and supervise the tremendous task of reconversion in all of its numerous and related phases.

"Last October, at my suggestion, Justice Byrnes set up a unit in the Office of War Mobilization to deal with war and postwar adjustment problems. The work of this unit was placed in charge of Mr. Bernard Baruch. In February of this year, Mr. Baruch and his associate Mr. Hancock made a report recommending that the coordinating powers of the Office of War Mobilization be extended to cover activities relating to reconversion, and that separate units be established in that Office to deal with the problems of Contract Settlement, War Surplus Property Disposition and Retraining and Re-employment.

"Shortly thereafter by Executive Orders, I set up

separate units in the Office of War Mobilization to deal with these problems so far as was practicable under existing law, until legislation clarifying the powers of these units and defining the basic policies to be pursued by them could be enacted by the Congress.

"Last June the Congress passed legislation establishing the Office of Contract Settlement, with adequate powers to supervise and expedite the settlement of war contracts.

"Just before its recent adjournment, the Congress passed H.R. 5125, setting up a Surplus Property Disposal Board and defining its powers, and S. 2051, the bill now before me, which expands the Office of War Mobilization into an Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, and places within it the Office of Contract Settlement, the Surplus Property -- Surplus War Property Administration, and the Retraining and Re-employment Administration.

"So far as the bill goes, it is quite satisfactory. It applies the lessons that we have learned during the war as to the need of continuing coordination of related activities to the problems of reconversion to peace. It does not and cannot, of course, eliminate the problems and difficulties of reconversion, but it goes far to expedite and facilitate their solution.

"But I feel it my duty to draw attention to the fact that the bill does not adequately deal with the human side of reconversion. When I signed the G.I. bill on June 22nd last, I expressed the hope that the Congress would also take

prompt action, when it reconvenes, on necessary legislation which is now pending, to facilitate the development of unified programs for the demobilization of civilian war workers, for their re-employment in peacetime pursuits, and for provision, in cooperation with the States, of appropriate unemployment benefits during the transition from war to peace. This bill is not adequate to obtain these ends.

"Provisions that were in the bill as it passed the Senate, to provide transportation for war workers from the place of their employment to their bona fide residence, or to the location of new employment arranged by the workers were omitted in conference. So also were the provisions, in the bill as it passed the Senate, ensuring appropriate unemployment compensation to Federal workers.

"Moreover, the bill fails to prescribe minimum standards to govern the amount and duration of unemployment benefits which should be paid by the States to all workers unavoidably out of a job during the period of transition from war to peace.

"We have rightly committed ourselves to a fair and generous treatment of our G.I. men and women. We have rightly committed ourselves to a prompt and generous policy of contract settlement to aid industry to return to peacetime work. We have rightly committed ourselves to support farm prices at a fair level during the period of reconversion. We should be no less fair in our treatment of our war workers.

"I am glad to know that the Chairman of the House

Ways and Means Committee has announced that his Committee will give consideration to further amendments of the Social Security Act after recess, and I hope that the deficiencies which I have pointed out in the bill before me will be promptly rectified."

And then an Executive Order goes along.

MR. EARLY: Those are the bills. (placing the originals on the desk)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I will sign them.

Then an Executive Order, to transfer the records, property, funds and personnel of the Office of War Mobilization and its constituent agencies. In other words, it sets up the new agencies and can immediately start transferring people and the necessary paraphernalia from the old office to the new one.

Q. Who will the new office be under, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: New office? I am just coming to it.

(laughter)

(reading): "Under the law creating the new Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, the appointment of a Director must be confirmed by the Senate. The Senate will not be in session until November 14."

Which is about five weeks off.

(continuing reading, not literally): "Justice Byrnes has agreed to accept an interim appointment as Director, and will serve until the Congress reconvenes, at which time I will send to the Senate for confirmation the appointment of a

Director who will serve for the two-year term provided in the statute.

"Two years ago, I asked Mr. Justice Byrnes to leave the Supreme Court and assist me in the war effort. He has done a magnificent job. His contribution to the successful prosecution of the war is recognized by a grateful nation.

"I fully understand Mr. Justice Byrnes's expressed desire not to remain as Director for two more years. I have assured him that I will not ask him to continue to serve as Director beyond the interim term."

So that he will be in charge of setting up the new office in the meantime, between now and the time that the Senate reconvenes.

Q. Mr. President, have you got the names of the Surplus Property Board yet, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, No, ---

Q. (continuing) --- or will that wait until later?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- a whole lot, twelve of them in there.

I think that's all I've got.

Q. Mr. President, you conferred recently with the labor leaders on the question of wage stabilization. Do you have any plans to confer with leaders of industry on the same subject?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think so, Yes. In fact, I have already conferred with quite a number of them.

Q. Could you be specific, sir?

Q. (interposing) Will there be any ---

Q. (interposing) Could you ---

Q. (continuing) --- single general subject, Mr. President, that you expect to deal with on Friday (Thursday) night in your talk, or would it be rather general?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't written it yet.

Q. Mr. President, you said you would confer with some leaders of industry on this wage question.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh, Yes.

Q. (continuing) Could you tell us whom?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because that would create invidious distinctions. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, Prime Minister Churchill said in a somewhat recent speech to Commons, that he praised America's lavish aid to China, and yesterday a Chinese military spokesman in Chungking said that it was not true, that our aid to China, to use his words, was "pitifully inadequate." Anything you can say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose it all depends on how you define large, medium or small. I can give you some figures that -- I see no particular reason why I shouldn't -- I never have given it out before -- because as you know, we can't get goods, munitions, anything else, into China by boat -- by ship, their coast is under the occupation of the Japanese. And, therefore, there have been in the last -- ever since we have been in the war, two methods of getting materials into China. One was the overland route, as they call it, which starts from way back

near the Caspian Sea, the top end of -- nearer India, and then across the desert -- a terrific trip -- into -- well, through the top part of Tibet and then down to -- what? -- the region of Chungking.

And -- Oh, Yes -- what you have to do is look it up on the map -- we have been getting a number of goods of different kinds through that route. You have to provide the trucks. You have to actually carry the gasoline from one stop to another. That route has been -- has taken a certain tonnage into China, but it is a terribly difficult proposition, and a very long trip from the point of time, and from the point of wear and tear on the -- on the truck. It is a feasible route, but -- well, it's the route of Kubla Khan -- some of the old conquerors, and so forth, nearly all desert and awfully difficult.

We have all used what we could -- still using it -- going to keep on doing it.

The other route was the -- roughly, the route of what we call the Burma Road, that general direction from India north -- northeast India, over the end of the Himalaya Mountains. And just about the time we came into the war -- I have forgotten the exact date -- the Burma route, as it was used for vehicles with wheels at that time, was practically destroyed by the Japanese, up on the sides of the mountains, and they pulled the route down.

And then we opened up, about that time, when the Burma route became -- became impossible, after the Japanese got in there through Burma -- we started the air route over

the mountains; and the tonnage over that route was very, very small in the beginning. We have built it up constantly.

Just to give you an idea of how we have built it up, there were times only a year -- a year and a half ago, when we were taking a very few thousand tons over it a month. You have to have transport planes that will go to a great height over the tops of the Himalaya Mountains. And -- oh -- a year and a half ago, we were taking only two or three thousand tons a month over it.

Way back about that time, in conference with the Chinese, we felt that by really heroic efforts we could increase the planes that we could get over there. At that time, in going over with munitions and goods, the planes were subject to attack by Japanese fighter planes as they went over. However, we kept at it, and about a year ago we actually got up to an increase, which we looked forward to for some time, of ten thousand tons a month over that route, which is a -- a -- a very excellent performance, because we were able to take gasoline for Chennault's forces there -- the American air command -- and we could take medicine. Of course, preferably, we took over things that had as small a bulk as possible, principally gasoline and a few munitions -- bombs, and things like that, and medical supplies.

Well, we weren't satisfied with it, and we kept on going; and the story of how that air route over the mountains has grown in the past year is going to be written some day, and it will be an epic.

All I can tell you now -- I can't give you -- I

could, but I won't give you accurate figures -- we are taking over twenty thousand tons a month over the hills.

Q. Twenty, or thirty?

MR. EARLY: Twenty.

THE PRESIDENT: Over twenty, over the hill, from upper Burma right into southeastern China.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) So ---

Q. (continuing) Excuse me.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- we are very well satisfied with this performance, because it is an amazing performance.

Q. Mr. President, does that convoy consist largely of gasoline, bombs, medical supplies ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes. Oh, Yes, ---

Q. (continuing) --- and munitions?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and some other things too.

Q. Mr. President, the Chinese military council spokesman also described the Fourteenth Air Force yesterday as inconsiderable, that it would not be considered if the figures on planes were revealed. Is that a very apt description of our airplane strength in China?

THE PRESIDENT: What? What about it?

Q. The Chinese military spokesman said we had so few planes that if the figures were revealed our strength would be inconsiderable.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the easiest thing to do on that would be to dig out, of course -- I couldn't give it to you -- the destruction which Chennault's forces have caused to the Japanese in the number of ships that they have sunk, even on the coast of China and up the rivers, and the Japanese detachments and concentrations which they have broken up. So, considering the size of the force, considering that it has to be supplied from over the mountains, thereagain, that -- that is one of the epics that is going to be written up -- the destruction that they have wrought.

Q. Sir, could you tell us roughly what part of this twenty thousand tons a month of materials goes into Chinese hands?

THE PRESIDENT: How much they what?

Q. What part of it goes -- is put at the disposal of the Chinese government, or Chinese military forces, as against our own requirements in the Chinese theatre?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will put it this way. Of course, a large part of the tonnage going over is gasoline for the Chennault forces and the B-29s that are operating out of China, but if you take out that one item of -- of gasoline, I would say that the overwhelming majority of all the others that go over is for the Chinese forces. The gasoline is shipped primarily for Chennault's forces and the B-29s.

Q. Mr. President, what is the reason for the sudden complaints by the Chinese on the inadequacies of the aid we have given them?

THE PRESIDENT: They would like to have more.

(laughter)

Q. Yes, I realize that.

THE PRESIDENT: There is nothing new in it. There is nothing new in it, of course. I get it about every day. It isn't exactly news to me.

Q. Well, I was wondering whether they are tying up these -- these defeats and the loss of our air bases as an explanation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know. There is nothing new in it. Of course, they are not satisfied, and they think they can get more supplies. As I say, we have pulled off an epic in what we have done over the Himalaya Mountains. We haven't yet got it so that we can take goods in by water. And when you think of the comparison, twenty thousand tons sounds like -- to me, having raised it from two thousand tons -- why that's a hell of a lot of supplies. Two 10-thousand-ton ships -- two voyages -- one voyage a month on the -- or two -- of 10-thousand-ton ships would do the equivalent. But it's -- it's an amazing performance. We have got over twenty thousand tons a month in there.

Q. Mr. President, does Mr. Nelson's mission to China have anything to do with these supply problems?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Sure.

Q. Sir, on the other side of the world, I wonder if we could ask a question about the situation in Poland where, according to dispatches today, the resistance movement in

Warsaw has come to an end under General Bor? I wonder if there is any comment you would feel like making on that effort?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that I had better set a good example. I suppose I know as much about that particular thing as any American, and I don't know enough to talk about it.

Q. I see.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you can say about the speeches you will make between now and November 7th?

THE PRESIDENT: No, Jim (Wright). It's literally true that I haven't anything new since last Friday, and then I had one speech for next Thursday. That's all I have got.

Q. We heard sometime ago that you were going to speak in Boston and Pittsburgh and Cleveland. I wondered if it was ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes -- things I have read sounded like the fellow in the Union Station up here. (laughter)

Q. (interjecting) That would be a tour, wouldn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) (laughing) Pittsburgh and all points west. (more laughter) No, I haven't got anything.

Q. Mr. President, have you decided what job you have in mind for Mr. Nelson?

THE PRESIDENT: Not quite, yet.

Q. Anything new on Mayor La Guardia's proposed ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- trip?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) No, not quite, yet.

Q. He has got his uniforms all ready. (laughter)

Q. (aside) He says the shots he is taking are for an abscessed tooth.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you in the haberdashery business?

Q. No, but from the last time, when he thought he was going over a year ago.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I know -- I know. I hope they still fit. (more laughter)

MAY CRAIG: He can have mine.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MAY CRAIG: He can have mine.

THE PRESIDENT: This is off the record. Mrs. Craig says that he can have hers. (more laughter)

Q. I would like to see him. (continued laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.