

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #972
Executive Office of the President
October 13, 1944 -- 11.07 a.m., e.w.t.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am sorry to be a little later than usual, but I have been tied up with dispatches. I have got only one thing, which I think -- have you got copies of this, Steve?

MR. EARLY: Will be ready, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: A letter to Mr. (J. A.) Krug, (Chairman of the War Production Board) about farm machinery.

(reading, not literally): "I am sure that in your plans for the reconversion of industry to civilian production you will want to give strong recognition to the needs of many American farmers for increased supplies of farm machinery. I know that there has been a substantial increase in the production of most types of farm machinery during the past year which has made it possible for the War Food Administration to eliminate most of the rationing of farm machinery. It is necessary, however, that we further assist the farmer along these lines during the critical production period which yet lies ahead.

"During the war we have called on American agriculture to produce food in unprecedented quantities. To these calls the American farmers have responded with patriotic fervor.

"Agricultural production has reached new high levels through the hard work of our farm people. In achieving the production of more than one-third more food than in the

prewar period ---

That's a tremendous lot of food, more than a third more ---

"Our farmers have had to overcome the handicap of shortages of labor and of farm machinery. Our farm working population has been diverted to war jobs in industry and to the armed forces to the extent of more than four million workers. Farm machinery has been scarce because of the fact that the materials and facilities which would otherwise have gone into the production of farm machinery have been needed for military trucks, tanks and planes, landing craft, guns and other urgent war purposes.

"Our unprecedented war production of food has, therefore, been accomplished by harder work and longer hours on the part of our farm people, by more intensive use of farm machinery, and by the seasonal use of many workers untrained in agriculture."

You all know that, out on the farms.

(continuing reading, not literally): "The nation will always be grateful to the American farmer for this achievement.

"In this period of high production and intensive use of agricultural machinery, many farmers have not been able to fill their normal replacement programs for their farm machinery. They now find themselves in the position of conducting their farming operations with farm machinery and equipment much of which is obsolete or depreciated beyond the point where it can be used with maximum efficiency."

A good deal of it can't be used at all. It's just plain worn out.

(continuing reading, not literally): "Wartime experience has demonstrated that a fully employed America will consume food in quantities substantially in excess of the prewar period. Our plans call for maintaining full employment at home. The consumption of food at home, and hence the production of food for consumption at home, must remain at high levels to satisfy the needs and demands of a fully employed America.

"In the immediate future we will be exporting ---

This is in addition to that ---

"substantial quantities of food, solely to aid directly in achieving military victory, some of it through the United States contribution to UNRRA so that the liberated peoples can soon help themselves, and much of it through commercial channels. With the restoration of foreign trade throughout the world, and the removal of many trade barriers, it is to be expected that this country will remain a substantial exporter of agricultural products.

"American agriculture must be prepared for these demands upon its productive capacity. To this end it should be given all possible assistance in modernizing and maintaining its farm machinery."

I had a talk with Krug on that, and we are making very substantial increases in the production of farm machinery, so that the problem is in hand. A year ago it was out of hand. We didn't have enough to go around. We weren't -- we weren't

making as much as we wanted to, on account of war production.

I think that's all I have got. Steve has got a copy of that.

Q. Mr. President, is there any prospect of a meeting between you and Premier Stalin and Mr. Churchill this year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have no idea. That is literally true.

Q. Are you being kept abreast of their current conference?

THE PRESIDENT: That's the thing that kept me late this morning.

Q. Is there anything you can tell us about the progress to date?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q. Mr. President, one of the problems that has been involved in this exporting of American food after the war at higher levels is how is it going to be paid for?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. How is the American food exported ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I will have to ask you a question: where?

Q. Very easily paid for ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) For instance, a little village in Italy, down below Rome -- and it has got knocked about a bit, and it has got fought over, and the people in that little village haven't got enough food for the winter -- are we going to deny them the food if they won't pay for it -- they

have no money?

Q. Well, I wasn't referring to the immediate postwar period but the long pull. After the war, exporting of American food will continue, as in your statement ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh Yes -- Oh Yes. It will depend on the place. This little village in Italy, I don't think next year they will raise enough food. I think it's too -- too broad a question. A lot of it can be sold. Some of it will undoubtedly have to come in under UNRRA, which is relief and rehabilitation. If we want them to starve in some places, deny them the food unless they can pay for it. But that is only if we want them to starve.

Q. Mr. President, when the Dumbarton Oaks conference ended -- pardon me -- (coughing) -- the officials who participated said that there were some questions which would have to be decided on a higher level.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) Has any decision been made yet as to how they will be decided?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It's a little bit like -- well, the example is France. We have been in France just a very few weeks. We haven't got any real careful study of the productive ability of rural France yet. Some sections like Normandy have got plenty of cows, and plenty of milk, and all sorts of livestock. We don't think that any food would have to be shipped in, but you can't drive in a jeep and give a complete answer to the question of how much food is needed in France.

MR. EARLY: I don't think you heard the question, Mr. President, clear there. Dumbarton Oaks.

THE PRESIDENT: What was that, Dumbarton Oaks ---

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- would be on a high level? Well, this will be on a high level, as soon as we get some information. Nobody has any information yet. We are in most of France, but nobody can tell me, nobody can tell anybody else on a higher level how much is needed in France. It will have to be surveyed.

Q. I am not talking about food, sir, I am talking about the question of the voting procedure in the new United Nations that was left unsettled at Dumbarton Oaks?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh well, we are going ahead with that as fast as we can.

Q. (interposing) Has it been decided whether ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) We have -- we have just given it out.

Q. Well, what I was asking, sir, is if it had been decided on a higher level?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know. I would call it a detail.

Q. Mr. President, has it been decided or announced as to whether your October 21st foreign policy speech will be a political speech or a non-political speech?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let's turn this room into a debating society. You start off. What do you say, it's foreign

policy?

Q. Well, we'll put it on the basis, has it been asked for by the National Committee, to be paid for, or is it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I am not interested. I am not paying for it. Somebody else, maybe. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, have you now any plans for speeches beyond October 21?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether you would call them plans or not. Talking about it.

Q. (interjecting) How many do you have in mind, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) But -- well, when it is decided that I do speak somewhere, it will come out -- probably won't come out in a press conference -- probably come out, judging from the past, come out locally, or through the National Committee, or something like that.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I can't get frightfully interested in that sort of stuff now.

Q. Mr. President, has there been any decision yet on the place where the formal United Nations' conference will be held?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't even know when.

Q. That was my next question.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (laughter)

Q. (aside) Two in one.

Q. Mr. President, can it be assumed that, in view of the Quebec conversations on -- Mr. Churchill is now dealing with Mr. Stalin as a spokesman both for the United States and the -- and for England?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. I think it would be very silly to assume that.

Q. I wondered if he carried with him any ideas that might have been evolved between yourself and Mr. Churchill that you authorized him to present to Mr. Stalin?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think you are getting up into another (??) sphere.

Q. Mr. President, Senator Ball has posed three questions about the United Nations security organization. One of the questions is, should the vote of the United States representatives on the United Nations security council commit an agreed-upon quota of our military forces to action, ordered by the council to maintain peace, without requiring further Congressional approval? Is there anything you can say on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I would say it's a little bit ahead, asking that question.

Q. What was that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: A little bit ahead of time.

Q. Sir, could you say whether or not your own views on the -- that general question, regardless of how it was put by Senator Ball, correspond with the views of the American delegates at Dumbarton Oaks?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, to tell you the truth, I

haven't got a copy of it before me. I am not going to talk about it before I see exactly what it was. Do you have a copy?

Q. Not in my hand, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Let's not be talking about something we haven't got our hands on.

Q. Mr. President, since we saw you last, Mr. Petrillo has ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Mr. who?

Q. Mr. Petrillo -- or Petrillyo -- the musicians ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh Yes.

Q. (continuing) --- union has rejected your request to remove the ban on recordings. Do you contemplate any further action, or have you anything to say?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I am going into that, probably in the course of the next few days. It is largely a question of the law. People who write a story that I am acting as a dictator, at the next moment they say I should act on this musicians trouble, without seeing whether under the law I can act or not. It is worth looking into. It is worth a day's study to see as to what I can do under the law. It is a very interesting question.

Q. What law would you act under?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. What law would you act under?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose there are about forty of them. That is why it will take you a whole day to look it up. Not easy. I would like to do something about it, but it's

a great question as to whether I can legally.

Q. Mr. President, two weeks ago you said you expected to have something on Mayor LaGuardia over the week end. I was wondering if there was anything doing on that?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to wait a few days more.

Q. Few days more.

Q. Mr. President, there have been frequent suggestions that it might be advisable to have a meeting of foreign ministers of the American republics for consultation. Do you think that would be advisable, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Who suggested that? Who suggested that?

Q. The suggestion has been made in Latin America, and also most recently by Sumner Welles.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't read the suggestion. Didn't know anything about it. Why the foreign ministers instead of the Ambassadors?

Q. I didn't hear you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Why the foreign ministers instead of the Ambassadors?

Q. Well, I think the suggestion is based on the assumption that it was -- grew out of the Rio conference that there should be more consultative meetings like the one at Rio, before the relations that were broken at Rio, or rather pledged to be broken at Rio with the Axis, were resumed again. Those relations are now being resumed, as in the case of Italy.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, on the war thing. I thought you were talking about the Argentine thing. I honestly don't know. I suppose when the -- the leaders of governments decide that one is necessary, that they will come to an agreement and have a meeting. It can't be done by individuals, you can't call a meeting through individual suggestions, or some newspaper owner, or something like that. When the -- when the governments decide, the governments will decide, and it's their prerogative to decide.

Q. Did you say government or governments?

THE PRESIDENT: Governments -- all of them.

Q. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. For all I know, they may be talking about it now. You don't know. Neither do I.

Q. Mr. President, there has been a lot of talk that Leon Henderson might go to the European theatre of operations soon as your representative, as an economic adviser to Eisenhower. Is there any truth in that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I have heard of a great many suggestions.

Q. Have you heard that suggestion?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes.

Q. What do you think of it?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) I think I read it in the paper somewhere.

Q. Mr. President, have you made your election prediction and sealed it up yet?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't, No.

Q. You have not?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. I have been too busy. I think I will probably do it within a week. I know pretty well -- (here hesitating a fraction of a second, giving the impression of a completed sentence) -- what I --- (much laughter interrupting) -- and I have never been right yet. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, do you have any plans for recognizing the French government?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know what the situation is. That question doesn't put it -- what do you mean by recognizing the French government?

Q. Giving it diplomatic recognition.

THE PRESIDENT: We have recognized the de facto government in France.

Q. Sir, is that a step beyond your statement on the -- at the end of the De Gaulle conversations, that you referred to as de facto authority?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, de facto authority -- I am not splitting hairs -- you can call it either way -- authority or government.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That, I -- I -- I call really legalistic. That's a polite word.

Q. The assignment, Mr. President -- the assignment of Mr. (Jefferson) Caffery I think was phrased as being

accredited to the de facto authority in Paris. Have you any comment, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: That's all right. That's what it is. Again ---

FRED PASLEY: (interposing) Mr. President, could Merriman Smith say Thank You?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MERRIMAN SMITH: (interposing) Thank you, Mr. President. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Merriman wasn't quick enough on the trigger that time.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #973

Held in the Fish Room, Executive Offices of the President
October 17, 1944 -- 4.20 p.m., e.w.t.

(the President was seated in front of a relief map of the coast of France, labeled Mulberry B, Port Arromanches. Grey-painted models to scale of special naval craft and equipment for an artificial harbor were on display in the room)

(Colonel Richard Park, Assistant to the Military Aide to the President; and Commander J. A. Tyree, Jr., Assistant Naval Aide to the President, were on hand to advise)

Q. Going to get a lesson today?

THE PRESIDENT: (pointer in hand) Yes. I think we can get all in.

Q. I think we will.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (then to Charlie Fredericks, his personal bodyguard): Pull me back a little. Now they can all see there. (the map) All right.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought you would be interested in seeing -- for the first time, the press or the public -- the way we succeeded, with the British and the Canadians, on

D-Day June 6.

You will see models here, some of them are around you, that were sent over to me by Mr. Churchill, and it -- it shows something new in -- in human warfare in the landing of a very vast army on a strange coast, the coast of Normandy. This contains practically the secret of how we got ashore. There were no harbors from Le Havre around to Cherbourg -- open beaches. The Germans had been there for five years -- nearly five years -- over four years.

And in spite of the fact of these open beaches, we landed -- how many men did we land there, about 250 thousand men, roughly?

COLONEL PARK: Yes, sir -- about.

THE PRESIDENT: And on the secret of our landing, there were two problems. Of course, the first thing was to get ashore and get control of the beaches for a few hundred yards back; and the second thing was to get the reinforcements and the heavier supplies in to that army so as to build it up. It is not a nice coast, it is a rough coast.

And so the British and ourselves worked out this plan for building Mulberries. We built two Mulberries, one in the American sector and the other in the English sector. We built artificial harbors, and these are the artificial harbors -- (indicating). And all of the main component parts are new. They are all new inventions. Nothing like these component parts were ever done before. They are very complicated because of the size of the problem, and the problem of landing not

merely human beings but also all the paraphernalia that goes with an army, tanks and guns, supplies of all kinds, large and small.

Roughly speaking, we had to protect what was to become a harbor, going over, let us say, on this end -- (indicating). Those are sunken merchant ships that were taken in simultaneously, you might say, with the first wave of infantry that went ashore in the transports, plus a new type system over in there -- (indicating to the right) -- what? -- a breakwater would you call it?

COLONEL PARK: Yes, sir -- substantially that.

THE PRESIDENT: A thing that stands on the sand, way down under the water, and yet which can be used for unloading, but chiefly for protection against the sea. Remember, this is the western end of the English Channel and apt to be a bit rough. That enabled us, after the sunken ships were put into place -- and that is another breakwater out here -- (indicating) -- and again in there -- (indicating) -- for ships to come in and unload. It gave us in effect a protective space inside, between there and the beach, in which the sea was so quiet, and has been from then on, that we have been able to land the heaviest supplies in there. The breakwater and all the equipment is still there and being used even to this day, although, of course, we have Cherbourg and other ports at this time.

Then came the question of speeding up the unloading, and we built these down in here -- (indicating) -- which are

COLONEL PARK: (interjecting) Over in the corner there.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, over in the corner there -- an entirely new design. Remember that LSI -- the landing LCI, the Landing Craft Infantry, that is something new too, but these were for not just human beings but for tanks and everything else, and -- such as the one with the tanks -- this is one here -- (indicating).

COLONEL PARK: Yes, sir, that is the one right over there.

THE PRESIDENT: And in here is a floating ---

COLONEL PARK: (interjecting) Causeway.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

COLONEL PARK: Causeway.

THE PRESIDENT: Causeway -- that's the word I wanted -- out in deep water, clear in to the beach itself. The result was that we got up to a speed in the artificial harbor of unloading how many thousand tons a day?

COLONEL PARK: About 20 thousand, thereabouts.

THE PRESIDENT: About 20 thousand tons a day, inside of each of these two Mulberries. That's a tremendous lot of tonnage, even for a very large port in any harbor in peacetime. To complete the whole operation, all of this took us about how many days?

COLONEL PARK: About 28 ---

ADMIRAL WILSON BROWN: (interjecting) 25. Most of it was caused ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, about a month. But, of course, it was working and we were actually unloading things, with a good many facilities in place, within two or three days; and from that time on the tonnage increased to such an extent that even after we got Cherbourg and cleaned it up and made it a main landing place, these two beaches can unload just as much tonnage in a day, even now, than Cherbourg can, after it has been all built up. In fact, I think a little more.

COLONEL PARK: That is correct.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

There isn't very much more to say. This coast -- (indicating) -- is a beach of varying widths, some of it rocky. You come up to the top of the beach and you find anything that runs from practically beach-level country up to cliffs. Some of these cliffs are like the cliffs of Dover, a tremendous height. Of course, they had to be captured by the first few waves. One difficulty in the whole landing operation was at a point that was half-way between the English beach to the eastward and the American beach westward -- that's right? ---

COLONEL PARK: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and that was a place where the cliffs were pretty high, and it took us four or five days, I think, before the Germans were eliminated from that sector, which infiltrated a portion of this beach, or that beach -- (indicating).

Now, I don't know that there is anything very much

more to be said here. You might look back and read up in the newspaper accounts of what happened between June 6 -- June 6, say, and June 12. You get a pretty good idea of what the fighting was, but this is the first time that anybody has ever seen how they got ashore. And, of course, it isn't just a question of landing men. You have got to land the tanks, and the trucks, and the artillery that go with fighting on land.

Of course, it got air protection all the time, day and night. That worked very well.

Outside of that, I don't know that there is very much to say about this, because it speaks for itself. The -- some of you will be interested in these various -- various models, because there are all kinds of gadgets in them.

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

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) We were responsible for the designing of some of them, and the British were responsible for the design of some of them, and joint planning was responsible for the design of other things.

It was a joint operation, carried through in the space of less than a year, a thing which was planned -- not quite decided on -- not quite a year before the actual operation. In fact, I think you might say it was a general proposition, with the detailing and the planning in of the broad scheme planned as far back as Quebec, in August 1943. About that, right?

COLONEL PARK: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, Colonel Park here said if you

want to ask him any questions -- he knows more about the thing than I do. These models will not be left here. I take it that there are very few experts among the correspondents. I am not going to leave them out to public view, because there are various little details in the models that we were particularly asked not to photograph, because they are -- there are details in the models that shouldn't be passed on to any enemy country.

Q. What's the scale of miles there, Mr. President?

COLONEL PARK: About two miles.

THE PRESIDENT: Two miles, ---

Q. (interposing) Sir, does that main causeway ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- two miles from this breakwater ---

ADMIRAL WILSON BROWN: (interjecting) 33 hundred feet. The rise and fall of the tides, of course, adds greatly to the problem.

THE PRESIDENT: This is not very far from San Malo. Over there you find one of the highest tides that there is in the world, that is down around the Cherbourg peninsula.

Q. What's the tide show there, Mr. President?

ADMIRAL WILSON BROWN: 20 feet.

THE PRESIDENT: 20 feet, about. Like the Bay of Fundy.

Q. Where did you get the name Mulberry?

THE PRESIDENT: That's what we call a code word.

Q. That's the code word?

Q. Mulberry means the whole installation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Would you name the towns on the left and on the right of the beach-head? I see towns there.

THE PRESIDENT: Arromanches. Tracy-Sur-Mer. That's what? -- Cabane. I don't know what that is down there.

Q. Was it referred to as Mulberry every time it was mentioned?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Was it referred to only as Mulberry?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That might be anything, except to the people who knew. (laughter)

Q. Yes.

Q. But the port, after it was established, was called Omaha, wasn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Each port had a different name. I have forgotten what the British one was. (Arromanches)

ADMIRAL WILSON BROWN: Those were the beaches, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes?

ADMIRAL WILSON BROWN: (continuing) Those were the beaches, you remember.

THE PRESIDENT: The beaches.

Q. Why was it, Mr. President, that that four-day gale that came up destroyed the American Mulberry but not the British -- injured it more than the British?

THE PRESIDENT: We are a little further out to sea, and the wind from that direction comes in and hits the

American port with more force than it does the British port.

COLONEL PARK: Current a great deal stronger.

THE PRESIDENT: The current had a great deal to do with it. But it got to working.

Q. That artificial breakwater must be about a mile off this main -- right up on the coast, isn't it?

COLONEL PARK: That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, are those floating docks called sometimes causeways?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

COLONEL PARK: Those are called pierheads.

THE PRESIDENT: Pierheads.

COLONEL PARK: They actually float, but they are pinned down.

THE PRESIDENT: The ship comes up on one side and unloads vehicles, and under their own power they come across this causeway all the way in. You will see this causeway here -- (indicating).

Q. How broad were the causeways?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. How broad were the causeways?

THE PRESIDENT: Just enough for one truck here.

Q. Is this it here?

COLONEL PARK: The causeway is right over here.

(Commander Tyree held up a picture of the causeway)

THE PRESIDENT: Is that an actual picture?

COMMANDER TYREE: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Pass that around. As the Colonel said, these piers are floating, but they have to be pinned down to the bottom, hence you will see these long sort of feet for going down below the pier.

ADMIRAL WILSON BROWN: These devices right there, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, these. There are the piers, and then all kinds of machinery to keep things floating, but are tied in with it as it floats up and down on the tide.

Q. Can you tell us how many ships were sunk to make the causeways?

THE PRESIDENT: How many ships were sunk?

COLONEL PARK: 20 on each one of them.

THE PRESIDENT: About 20 on each one of them.

Q. That is to make the breakwater?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

COLONEL PARK: That is correct.

THE PRESIDENT: 20 of those, Yes.

Q. For how long was the American Mulberry out of commission?

COLONEL PARK: About six weeks now.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

COLONEL PARK: About six weeks for ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) About six weeks. And during the actual -- during the actual operation of setting it

up, I don't suppose out of complete operation any one of them.

Q. Well, there is a breakwater for each Mulberry?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. That one, and that one --
(indicating).

Q. Mr. President, is it being used now still?

COLONEL PARK: This one is being used complete. Ours
has been destroyed.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. What type of ships were those sunk, Mr. President,
to create that?

THE PRESIDENT: Mostly Liberty type that had outlived
their usefulness -- busted up -- something like that.

Q. Were they towed in there, right on D-Day, carry-
ing a load?

THE PRESIDENT: They were towed in there full of most-
ly stones and gravel, and stuff like that.

Q. They weren't carrying supplies?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. They were towed in and sunk.
And the amazing thing was the percentage of them that sank in
the right place. That's the thing we were very much worried
about, whether they would sink in the right place, because they
were so loaded that all you had to do was let in a little water
and down they would go.

Q. They were sunk on D-Day?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. How deep is the water at that point?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose out here ---

ADMIRAL WILSON BROWN: (interjecting) 23 feet.

COLONEL PARK: About 34 feet, and gradually comes in to about 18 feet of water there. It graduates up to about 6 -- 18 to 6.

COMMANDER TYREE: There's the legend on that side.

THE PRESIDENT: About 36 feet on this side.

Q. Mr. President, could I ask Colonel Park a question?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. I was under the impression that those big caissons in themselves are called Mulberries, and that there is a smaller boat that was sunk called a gooseberry. (laughter)

COLONEL PARK: No. Your gooseberry is -- is this arrangement up here -- (indicating) -- which provided for a harbor. The entire installation is known as a gooseberry. This is called a phoenix. It makes up a part of the gooseberry -- entire Mulberry.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, yes.

COLONEL PARK: (continuing) This line of phoenixes and gooseberries, and your whales, and all the rest of them are all Mulberries.

Q. Can you give us the terminology ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) But for the benefit of the ladies, we didn't sink any whales. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, could we depart a moment? Is there anything you can tell us now about Mayor LaGuardia?
(more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes. He wasn't there. (more laughter)

Q. (aside) The man who wasn't there.

Q. Is he still going to undertake that separate landing in Italy? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, just what I said at the last conference: if he does, I will tell you about it.

Q. Mr. President, Senator Mead made a speech in Buffalo last Saturday, and there is one sentence in it that I was wondering if you could comment on? He said as soon as conditions warranted acquisition, we will also have the help of Russia as well as the help of Great Britain in the Pacific.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, ---

Q. (continuing) Does he know something we don't know?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- yes.

Q. (continuing) Is there anything the Administration could say ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Well, first, I am not commenting on a part of what somebody said. I have learned better. (laughter)

Q. I would be glad to (provide) full text on this.

Q. Mr. President, any speaking plans beyond the Philadelphia speech that you could tell us about?

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

Q. There is a report, Mr. President, that -- that you have accepted or are being persuaded to accept a date

in Chicago late in the month?

THE PRESIDENT: I heard that too. (laughter)

Q. What about it? Anything to it?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I -- I can't tell you now.

These things will develop. After all, it isn't very much further to go -- only three weeks, so you may find out some things by then.

I saw somebody wrote a story about a great trans-continental tour or a swing around the circle, or something like that. Well, I don't think we have anything like that. There will be some speeches -- just where and just when, I don't know. I am going to Philadelphia.

Q. But nothing definite to be said about ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- Chicago yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your conference today with former Governor (Charles) Edison?

THE PRESIDENT: Had a good time with him. Talked about a lot of things.

Q. (interposing) After he ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Very nice.

Q. (continuing) After he left, he said, Mr. President, that he had told you that New Jersey would go for Dewey by a substantial margin. Do you have any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: He didn't say substantial margin. He said he thought it would go for Dewey.

Q. Mr. President, you read the ominous reports about your health, printed by some of the more rugged correspondents? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) More what correspondents? Look -- don't -- don't get me commenting on the word rugged, because I might say things that I would be sorry for. On some of them, I know more about their health than they know about mine. I think it's pretty good health.

Q. Mr. President, are you going to New York for that speech on Saturday?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Why, I am not flying -- I am going on a train.

Q. Mr. President, sir, I would like to ask a question about this world security organization, on which Mr. Stettinius had a meeting in the State Department with a large group of representatives of the various American organizations interested in world peace.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) One of the questions that was brought up there, and which apparently was not completely answered, was this question of the authority that the American delegate to the security council should have, and whether or not he should have to refer back to the Congress in the case of each crisis, or each instance. Do you feel, sir, that the time has come when you care to say what authority you think the American delegate should have?

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh! I wish I had cut out a story

in one of the papers this morning, to the effect that people are now beginning -- who are not friendly to the idea of a United Nations organization -- are beginning to inquire what each delegate would do, what time they would arrive, where they would breakfast and on what, and the rest -- the course of their day of each one of them.

Well, I don't know. I don't think that this country ought to get into a position -- or any country, for that matter -- of asking the kind of detailed question about what each member of the Congress or the Senate is going to do, and how they are going to live, and where they are going to live. That is another question.

I see somebody in Washington is trying to get the seat of the United Nations placed in Washington. Well, I hope not. I don't think the matter has been discussed, except in perhaps this one newspaper in Washington. I hope it won't come here. I think it's a terrible place to have -- to make it the all-the-year-round seat of the United Nations.

I can say this, that I have felt all along that one of the strong points of the Pan American organization -- call it that -- is that it doesn't meet always in one place. We have had the Pan American conference meet first in -- in Montevideo, and then I think it was in Lima, and then it was in Buenos Aires, and then it was in Habana, and then it was in the -- last time -- in Rio de Janeiro.

Well, I think that's an awfully good thing, instead of tying it down to a -- a central meeting point. If the

thing works, it is going to improve the knowledge of the delegates of the -- of the world -- all other countries, if it meets in different places all over the world. Why not?

Q. Mr. President, under the Dumbarton plan, this setup would have a permanent, formal secretariat. Wouldn't that have to be located in some one place?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what you want on that is to get an office building -- have an office building -- I don't care where, particularly -- and make that the place where they keep all their records, and have a lot of papers of all kinds, and maps, and so forth and so on. Then, when you decide where the assembly is going to meet the next time, then come with the necessary documents to the assembly. That is very simple. That is a matter of pure detail. But it is a very good illustration of what I meant, of trying to stir up dissension on relatively unimportant matters.

What, after all, compared with the -- the great objective of an organization which will do its best to keep peace in the world, what are details as to the office building, or the place that the assembly happens to meet, what has that got to do with the -- with the big objective?

And yet there are an awful lot of people in this country that are deliberately trying to sow dissension among the nations of the world on minor details of that kind. Will the delegates wear silk hats -- that sort of question. And there will be a lot of people on newspapers -- some newspapers -- who will wonder whether the ladies will wear low-neck

dresses, and the men will wear dress suits.

Well, I get terribly fed up with it, and the people of this country are going to get fed up with it when I start talking along that line.

We are after a very great objective in this whole thing. We don't know if it is going to work. It doesn't guarantee peace forever, but we hope at least it will guarantee world peace while any of us today are still alive. That will be something.

Q. Do you start talking along that line in this Saturday night speech, Mr. President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't even written it. That's a good idea. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President -- Mr. President, I wonder if you would care to tell us what phases of the -- of the plan you think should be discussed publicly?

THE PRESIDENT: Everything that you have. The whole plan. It's all right. I am talking about emphasis. It is public now. It is meant to be talked about. The great objective was to tell the world all about it frankly, so that people will have all kinds of opinions. Some people will want to talk about silk hats and low-neck dresses. But I trust that it will be -- that it won't be loud talk.

Q. Sir, the reason I brought up that particular point was because the representatives who met with Mr. Stettinius seemed to think that the question of this authority of the American delegate was not at all a minor question, but

was the crux of the whole matter, to determine whether or not America could guarantee its participation with force or would have to refer the matter back each time, for perhaps protracted and endless debates in the United States Senate; and as I say, they seemed to think that that was an important matter and not a question in the same category with the others, you see what I mean?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let's have a discussion on the whole thing first. Don't let us be didactic on one thing until we get a discussion on the whole thing.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. Enjoy the "toys" to your utmost, but don't move them.

(laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #974
Executive Office of the President
October 20, 1944 -- 11.15 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have -- Oh Yes -- where is it? -- during the night General Marshall got a message from General MacArthur. Have you got this mimeographed, Steve?

MR. EARLY: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. It isn't very long. There were extremely light losses -- these operations in Leyte -- and all landings were made on schedule. The enemy was caught strategically unaware, and there was splendid progress of operation in every respect. The enemy anticipated an attack to the south. His Mindanao forces -- that is the island south there, the big island -- are no longer an immediate factor, and are practically cut off.

We expected it a little bit earlier, but what the reason was we haven't yet checked up on. We had got an alert that it was coming in around nine o'clock, and it didn't come in until -- what?

MR. EARLY: About one, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: One something, and that may have been due to Japanese blocking -- attempt to block the air -- the communications waves, so that is why the papers didn't get it to the regular editions, and only got it for their last editions in the East.

I don't think I need to say anything more about

our general satisfaction, all over the country, about our return to the Philippines. It has been a long time, and we are particularly happy that General MacArthur, not only his dream but his statement when he left Bataan have come true. He has returned, and the American Army and Navy have returned.

I think that's all I have got.

Q. Mr. President, was this plan for the invasion of the Philippines drawn at the time you were in Pearl Harbor?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Yes and No. I mean, that's beside the question, you can't say Yes or No to that. It had been discussed. Several plans had been discussed long before I got to Pearl Harbor, and when I got to Pearl Harbor I went over this whole plan with General MacArthur, and we all did a good deal of studying on it. And very soon after I got back here it was agreed on officially, and ordered, and the actual preparations for it were carried out.

Q. Mr. President, any further information on speaking dates?

THE PRESIDENT: On who?

Q. On speaking dates -- campaign speaking dates?

THE PRESIDENT: Except it looks like rain tomorrow.

(laughter)

Q. It does. How about ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Rain, and a fifty-mile gale in New York, which is not cheerful.

Q. Are you going to wear your navy cape?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so. (laughter) About

the best garment I have got. I have been wearing that -- this is about the third I have had since 1913.

Q. No information on a date in Chicago yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. Or anywhere else. In other words, you are assuming that I am going to Chicago. I don't think it has been announced, has it?

MR. EARLY: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, has it? Steve says it has. Well, I am not saying anything about it.

MR. EARLY: That's right. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: It depends a little on how you treat me from now on. (more laughter) (laughing) I don't know what the policy of your paper is going to be. (more laughter)

Q. (aside) Neither does Paul.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It depends largely on you.

Q. How about Mayor Kelly, has he been to see you?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q. Is Mayor Kelly coming in today, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Of Chicago? No. No. I am not seeing anybody today. I am trying to write a speech.

MR. EARLY: (to the President) Oh, on the speech, your time has been extended fifteen minutes now.

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

MR. EARLY: Tell them.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Tell them.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know why I should tell them that, they are not interested. (laughter) Steve is trying to pull a fast one on the time of my speech. He wanted me to tell you it has been extended for fifteen minutes. I don't see what that has to do with the "price of eggs."

MR. EARLY: Forty-five minutes.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Forty-five minutes.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That doesn't mean I am going to speak forty-five minutes. (laughter)

MR. EARLY: That's volume.

THE PRESIDENT: Just so I won't get cut off. (loud laughter) Like Orson Welles got cut off the other night. I was in the middle of listening to him, and they shut down on him.

Q. Did you hear Governor Dewey the other night?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. What did you think of his delivery? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think anybody is interested in what I thought of it. (more laughter)

Q. We are, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: No, you're not. You're not society.

Q. What did you think of the contents?

THE PRESIDENT: The who?

Q. The contents of the speech?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think anybody is very much interested. (more laughter)

Q. At the end of that sentence, Mr. President, you don't think anybody is very much interested in the contents of it, or what you think about the contents?

THE PRESIDENT: , All you can say is I am not very much interested in the contents. That will make it easier. I am not controversial. (continued laughter, and some exclamations) Even Pete (Brandt) over there can't make me controversial this morning. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, Representative (Melvin J.) Maas (Republican of Minnesota) said that the Administration is withholding the special Navy board report on Pearl Harbor. Is there anything you might say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about it ---

Q. (interjecting) Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- one way or the other.

Q. Mr. President, General Eisenhower has indicated his intention of designating certain areas in France as being interior zones, as distinct from military zones, and giving control of civilian affairs in those zones to the De Gaulle authority.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) I think ---

Q. (continuing) Does that open the way for further recognition ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I think that is still under study by General Eisenhower. You would have to find out from over there.

Q. Does that change the diplomatic status of De Gaulle, Mr. President? -

THE PRESIDENT: That's an "iffy" question.

Q. (interjecting) What kind of question?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I'm tough -- (laughter) -- it's an "irfy" question -- I say I'm tough this morning. (more laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I hope you don't get wet, those who are going.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press and Radio Conference #975
Executive Office of the President
October 24, 1944 -- 4.15 p.m., e.w.t.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have got anything today, except an admission that just a few of you -- very small percentage -- are going to be disappointed in the answer -- I will put it that way -- the answer to the question is Yes, I haven't even got the sniffles! (laughter)

Outside of that, I don't think I have any news.

Q. Mr. President, you saw Ambassador (W. Averell) Harriman today.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. I presume he brought back a report from Moscow on the Churchill-Stalin conferences?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. We got about a quarter of the way through.

Q. Could you tell us anything for the record as to what American interests might be involved in such conversations, or anything else he may have reported?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news except the conference went very well.

Q. (interposing) One ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Before going back to London.

Q. There was one report that Mr. Stalin had indicated his willingness to have Russia enter into a three-way

commission, whereby Russia, the United States and Great Britain jointly would have political connections in southeastern Europe and the Balkans. Have you heard any talk of such commissions?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. We talked about the Balkans. He didn't say anything about that. I guess he would have had, if there had been anything in it.

Q. Did you get into the Polish situation, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, didn't talk about it at all.

Q. You said he got one-fourth the way through. You expect to see him again to get the other three-fourths?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Several times more, before he goes back.

Q. Mr. President, any more speech dates or plans you can give us?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what's been given out. I would be afraid to cross wires. (laughter)

Q. Well, we are through Chicago.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve, how far have I got, so far?

MR. EARLY: Only to Chicago. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: To Chicago. And that date not set.

MR. EARLY: That's right.

Q. Not announced.

MR. EARLY: By us.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

Q. It has been set in Chicago for the 28th, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Has it really?

Q. Will you confirm that?

THE PRESIDENT: What's the date -- I mean the day of the week?

VOICES: Saturday.

THE PRESIDENT: Saturday. I would have to say "D.V." on anything I said.

Q. What's that, Mr. President?

Q. What's that?

THE PRESIDENT: Deo Volente -- God Willing. (laughter) You'll learn sometimes. It's all right. Good.

Q. So now the 28th is on the record, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I answered in an "if" way.

Q. Is there any connection between your visit to Philadelphia and Navy Day, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. They are both the 27th of October! (laughter)

Q. And the fact that it is Navy Day, may we conclude that you may look over some of the Navy in Philadelphia?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes, that's always possible. In fact, almost a good step ---

Q. (interposing) Do you have any plans ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q. Do you have any plans to include France in the postwar security talks?

THE PRESIDENT: Do what?

Q. Do you have any plans to bring France into the postwar security talks?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything new on the Petrillo situation?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Petrillo.

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I thought you were mentioning some foreign country. (much laughter) I didn't know what ----- . No. I haven't heard a word.

Q. Mr. President, ---

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

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, going back to this trip, can you tell us whether you plan to stop in Buffalo?

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you something, off the record. If I were writing for a Buffalo paper, I wouldn't say so. (laughter)

Q. You wouldn't, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (more laughter)

Q. Does that mean, sir, that you are not going to stop there?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) My plans aren't -- haven't gone further -- haven't been completed, except that Steve got me as far as Chicago, and that's all.

MR. EARLY: It was announced locally there.

THE PRESIDENT: What was it?

Q. (interposing) Well, he isn't going to leave you there, is he, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What? (much laughter)

Q. Mr. President, have you decided what you will talk about at Chicago?

THE PRESIDENT: I never know until just beforehand.

(more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, do you have any comment on Senator (Joseph H.) Ball's (Republican of Minnesota) statement?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q. Mr. President, may we assume now that you are campaigning in the usual partisan ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Wait a minute.

(laughter)

Q. (continuing) --- political sense?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Now I got the chance.

(more laughter) Now you gave me a thought.

Q. (interjecting) Good.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You know, the amazing thing is the number of papers in this country that think -- and they are reputable -- that have fallen into the strange habit of quoting half of a sentence. Period. It's an amazing thing. What was the statement that I made, way back -- way back? It was in the reputable papers. And I caught them all. I got a list of them. They are quoting a half of a sentence. You know, that's an awful habit to fall into. I don't know where they got it from. (laughter, especially from Isadore Lubin) What are you laughing at, Lube? What was it? What was the sentence that was complete? Why not quote it all?

Q. It was two sentences, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was all one sentence, with a comma between. I think that little comma may have confused some people. I think it said: I shall not campaign in the usual sense of the word -- word, except ----- . Now I think that's the same sentence.

Q. That's a different statement, though. Two different statements.

THE PRESIDENT: Except that. Oh, same sentence then. I will give it to you the other way: I think in all probability I will ask you into this office after press conference and shoot you, except that ----- . Well now, is that the same thing?
(laughter) Eh? (more laughter)

Q. Except what?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. I said except what?

THE PRESIDENT: Except that I will probably go to the chair for it.

Q. Oh. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: On that, if I were you, I would feel fairly safe.

Q. Not too safe.

THE PRESIDENT: Not too safe. (continued laughter)
The other is all one sentence: I do not expect to campaign in the usual, normal sense of the word, except to answer things that are misrepresentations -- whatever's in the text -- not the exact words. The two go together. It's all one -- one thought.

Q. The -- the end was what, Mr. President? How did it go?

THE PRESIDENT: Except to respond to or answer -- I'm not using the exact words, you will have to look it up, unfortunately -- except for misrepresentations or gross mis-statements of fact -- something along that line.

Q. You said it's all in the record unfortunately. Unfortunately for whom?

THE PRESIDENT: For the people who have forgotten to quote the full sentence.

Q. Some people might misconstrue what you meant.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

Q. Mr. President, could we have a statement on the record on that?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Might we have a statement on that?

Q. (interposing) That's on the record. It's all on the record.

THE PRESIDENT: That's all on the record. In fact, I think it was made in a speech ---

Q. (interjecting) I mean this?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- wasn't it in the speech of acceptance from San Diego?

MR. EARLY: Certainly.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's right. I haven't got that part of the paper (speech) before me. You can get it easily enough.

MR. EARLY: (to Mr. Tom Blake) Get it, Tom.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, sir.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press and Radio Conference #976
Executive Office of the President
October 25, 1944 -- 5.17 p.m., e.w.t.

MR. EARLY: Here they are, sir. (the newspapermen, about seven)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what are they doing around?
(laughter)

Q. We were just asking that ourselves.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Hello, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, this is good. I love to see them working. Just look! It always breaks my heart. (more laughter)

Q. Like the old days at Hyde Park in the study.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Some of you are putting on a little waistline.

FRED PASLEY: We are all sober today, too. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. (to Fred Pasley) Speak for yourself.

THE PRESIDENT: Chocolate soda?

FRED PASLEY: Soda? - Sober. (more laughter)

Q. At this time of day, Mr. President, please take it a little slow.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought you might have this as a flash. It really is a flash, because this is all there is

to it. It just came over from the Navy from Admiral Leahy.

(reading): "The President received today a report from Admiral Halsey that the Japanese navy ---

Q. (interjecting) Just a moment.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in the Philippine area has been defeated, seriously damaged, and routed --- (joyful "ahs") -- by the American Navy in that area."

MR. EARLY: Make that United States.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Make that United States Navy.

THE PRESIDENT: Right. United States Navy.

Q. U. S. Navy?

MR. EARLY: United States Navy in that area.

THE PRESIDENT: So that makes it look all right.

MR. EARLY: There's your flash!

Q. This came from Nimitz, sir?

VOICES: (interposing) (on the way out, and hurriedly)
Halsey -- Halsey.

Q. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Early) You can have the original.

(the President made a notation on it "OK--F.D.R." and gave it to Mr. Early)