

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #1
At the White House, Executive Offices

March 8th, 1933 - 10.10 A.M.

(Mr. Young introduced the members of
the Press to the President.)

THE PRESIDENT: It is very good to see you all and my hope is that these conferences are going to be merely enlarged editions of the kind of very delightful family conferences I have been holding in Albany for the last four years.

I am told that what I am about to do will become impossible, but I am going to try it. We are not going to have any more written questions and of course while I cannot answer seventy-five or a hundred questions because I simply haven't got the physical time, I see no reason why I should not talk to you ladies and gentlemen off the record just the way I have been doing in Albany and the way I used to do it in the Navy Department down here. Quite a number of you, I am glad to see, date back to the days of the previous existence which I led in Washington.

(Interruption -- "These two boys are off for Arizona." John and Franklin Roosevelt saying "good-bye".)

And so I think we will discontinue the practice of compelling the submitting of questions in writing before the conference in order to get an answer.

There will be a great many questions, of course, that I won't answer, either because they are "if" questions -- and I never answer them -- and Brother Stephenson will tell you what an "if" question is --

MR. STEPHENSON: I ask forty of them a day.

THE PRESIDENT: And the others of course are the questions which for various reasons I don't want to discuss or I am not ready to discuss or I don't know anything about. There will be a great many questions you will ask about that I don't know enough about to answer.

Then, in regard to news announcements, Steve and I thought that it was best that street news for use out of here should be always without direct quotations. In other words, I don't want to be directly quoted, with the exception that direct quotations will be given out by Steve in writing. Of course that makes that perfectly clear.

Then there are two other matters we will talk about: The first is "background information", which means material which can be used by all of you on your own authority and responsibility and must not be attributed to the White House, because I don't want to have to revive the Ananias Club. (Laughter)

Then the second thing is the "off the record" information which means, of course, confidential

information which is given only to those who attend the conference. Now there is one thing I want to say right now on which I think you will go along with me. I want to ask you not to repeat this "off the record" confidential information either to your own editors or associates who are not here because there is always the danger that while you people may not violate the rule, somebody may forget to say, "This is off the record and confidential", and the other party may use it in a story. That is to say, it is not to be used and not to be told to those fellows who happen not to come around to the conference. In other words, this is only for those present.

Now, as to news, I don't think there is any.

(Laughter)

Steve reminds me that I have just signed the application for Associate Membership in the Press Club, which I am very happy to do.

Q Will you go to Congress or send your message?

THE PRESIDENT: Send it.

Q When will it be available here for us?

THE PRESIDENT: Judging by the fact that I haven't started to write it, I should say at the very last minute possible. I shall let you have it as soon as I can.

Of course it will be for release when transmitted.
I doubt very much if you will get it very much more than half an hour before it is taken to the Capitol.

Q Will it be brief?

THE PRESIDENT: The situation demands brevity.

Q On the Hill they say you only recommend emergency stuff and that Congress will possibly adjourn next Monday or earlier and reconvene a short time after and take up permanent stuff as well as your complete program. Is that your idea of it?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope I can put it this way -- and this comes under the second category -- "background information" and "not off the record" because there is no reason why you should not use it in writing your stories. The general thought at the present time is that it is absolutely impossible by tomorrow to draft any complete or permanent legislation either on banking or on budget balancing or on anything else, because the situation, as you all know, is changing very much from day to day, so much so that if I were to ask for any specific and detailed legislation it might be that the details will have to be changed by a week from today and therefore it is necessary -- I think you can make a pretty good guess -- that I shall have to ask for fairly broad powers in regard

to banking -- such powers that would make it possible to meet the changing situation from day to day in different parts of the country. We cannot write a permanent banking act for the nation in three days. That is about the size of it.

Q Do you favor national scrip or scrip issued by clearing houses?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there again you are getting down to details and a very good illustration of why you cannot ask for too detailed legislation. About Monday, the day before yesterday, a very, very wide use of scrip seemed necessary and by last night it looked possible to avoid such a general use of scrip. But it does not mean that scrip will be eliminated by any means. Scrip may be used in many localities pending the working out of a sounder plan and more permanent plan to get additional currency into use. Now, I can't tell you any more about that, because we are still working on the details, but essentially it means an addition to the available currency.

Q Could you comment on the report that no additional legislation is needed for the printing of additional currency; that a rider attached to the Home Loan Bank Bill provides for expansion to the extent of at least one and a half billion and that these Federal Reserve Bank notes are already being printed?

THE PRESIDENT: Frankly I don't know. I am inclined to think -- and this answer is off the record because it is just a thought on my part -- that separate legislation ought to be given on that instead of relying on some obscure clause in the Home Loan Bill. In other words, we want everything out on the table.

Q You mentioned in your greetings to the Governors on Monday that you favored a unified banking system. Is that in your emergency plan?

THE PRESIDENT: That wasn't quite the way I put it to them. What I said to them was that it was necessary to treat the state and national banks the same way in this emergency so there would not be two different classes of banks in this country, and the other thing I said was to try to avoid forty-eight different plans of putting this into effect.

Q Do I understand you are going to keep hold of this banking situation until permanent legislation is enacted?

THE PRESIDENT: Off the record answer, yes.

Q Your idea is that after getting through the emergency you may get a breathing spell until the permanent program is in form.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I was coming to that. This is what

might be called the "present thought" because everything is subject to change these days within twenty-four or twelve hours. The general thought is that we would try to get through the two or three emergency matters as quickly as possible, and that then -- and, mind you, I haven't talked even to the Congressional leaders about this, so it only comes through this end of it; there is no agreement on it, but I am going to have a talk with them this afternoon and then Congress should recess for I don't know how long a time, but not very long -- for a matter of two or three weeks to enable me to work out and draft more permanent legislation.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us, please, whether this suggestion of bills to be used in Postal Savings accounts for checking purposes is being considered?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Secretary of the Treasury is examining into it. I don't know.

Q What is going to happen after Thursday night, Mr. President, when the holiday ends? Are you going to call another one?

THE PRESIDENT: That depends on how fast things move.

Q Depending on what Congress does too?

THE PRESIDENT: (Nods) Of course, undoubtedly there are necessary in regard to certain phases of the financial situation some form of additional proclamations.

That means, for example, the question of control of gold. That is obvious. As long as nobody asks me whether we are off the gold standard or gold basis, that is all right, because nobody knows what the gold basis or gold standard really is. If you want a definition of the gold standard, read my friend Robey's story in the New York Evening Post of last night. I think it is about as good a definition as there is. It is quite short and if you would like to hear it, I will read it to you. It is a pretty good document.

AUDIENCE: If it really tells us what the gold standard is --

THE PRESIDENT: It is pretty good. It doesn't say whether we are on or off it.

Declaration of the national moratorium has raised the question in many minds as to what constitutes a gold standard. More specifically many people have wondered whether the United States by this action has suspended the gold standard in a true sense. The Treasury officials and some of the bankers maintain that we have not. Obviously, the answer to the question rests upon one's conception of what it is necessary for a country to do in order to maintain a metal standard.

This is a problem which can be answered with definiteness. Over a long period four things have come to be recognized as requisites of a gold standard. When a country is complying with these it is on the standard. When it does not it is off the standard.

The first of these requisites is that there shall be a coin of definite weight and fineness. This, of course, is established by law. In the United States the standard unit is the dollar, consisting of 25.8 grains, 9-10 fine, or 23.22 grains of pure gold.

Well, of course on that first requisite we are on the gold standard.

The second requisite is that there be free and unlimited coinage. In a country upon a gold standard one may take any amount of the metal to the Government and it will be coined into dollars of the established weight or rate. Whether a brassage charge is made is of no significance. Put in other words, this means that the Government will buy gold at a set price. In the United States this is about \$20.67 an ounce.

Well, we are still on the gold standard, and the more people who bring gold to have it made into money the better.

The third requisite is that there be convertibility of paper money into gold. This, in a sense, is the reverse side of free and unlimited coinage. In other words, just as one can take any amount of gold metal to the mint and get money in return at a definite rate, so he can take any amount of currency and get gold at a definite rate. In the United States we have seven kinds of paper money, some of which are not directly redeemable in gold according to the law but all of which under the gold standard act of 1900 must be kept at a par with gold.

Well, you can draw your own conclusions as to that.

The final requisite is that there must be free movement of gold. This is of significance in the exportation of gold. It is through the enjoyment of this freedom that the currency of one country is kept at an approximate equilibrium with the currency of other nations. Only when

there is not such freedom of import and export of gold does the currency of one country fall to any substantial discount in relation to another currency.

Well, of course on that question of the foreign trade in gold, for a good long time as a matter of actual fact the United States has been the only country on the gold standard. France has been theoretically on a gold standard, but nobody in France can go and take a bill to the bank and get gold for it and as far as imports and exports go in France, it has been government controlled. The same thing holds true in Switzerland and Holland and it is only up to last Sunday night that we have had free trade in gold, and now we haven't.

Q Shall we get ready to revive the term of "Controlled inflation?"

THE PRESIDENT: I wish somebody would invent a new term. I don't know what it is.

Q May I ask if the long-time settlement of the banking situation is inter-meshed with the world economic conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say on that -- background information -- so far as banks go within the United States, no. So far as international exchange goes, yes. I think that is the easiest way of putting it. In other words, the opening of banks and the maintaining

of banks once they are opened is not connected with the world economic conference.

Q In your inaugural address, in which you only touched upon things, you said you are for sound and adequate --

THE PRESIDENT: I put it the other way around. I said "adequate but sound."

Q Now that you have more time, can you define what that is?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter). In other words -- and I should call this "off the record" information -- you cannot define the thing too closely one way or the other. On Friday afternoon last we undoubtedly didn't have adequate currency. No question about that. There wasn't enough circulating money to go around.

Q I believe that. (Laughter).

THE PRESIDENT: We hope that when the banks reopen a great deal of the currency that was withdrawn for one purpose or another will find its way back. We have got to provide an adequate currency. Last Friday we would have had to provide it in the form of scrip and probably some additional issues of Federal Bank notes. If things go along as we hope they will, the use of scrip can be very greatly curtailed and the amounts of new Federal Bank issues we hope can be also limited to a very great extent. In other words, what you are coming

to now really is a managed currency, the adequateness of which will depend on the conditions of the moment. It may expand one week and it may contract another week. That part is all off the record.

Q Can we use that part -- managed?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think not.

Q That is a pretty good substitute for "controlled".

THE PRESIDENT: Go and ask Will Woodin about it.

Q He's too busy. (Laughter)

Q Now you came down to adequacy, but you haven't defined what you think is sound, or don't you want to define that now?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to define "sound" now.

In other words, in its essence -- this is entirely off the record -- in its essence we must not put the Government any further in debt. Now, the real mark of delineation between sound and unsound is when the government starts to pay its bills by starting printing presses. That is about the size of it.

Q Couldn't you take that out and give it to us. That's a very good thing at this time.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. There may be some talk about it tomorrow.

Q When you speak of a managed currency, do you speak of a temporary proposition or a permanent system?

THE PRESIDENT: It ought to be part of the permanent system -- that is off the record -- it ought to be part of the permanent system so we don't run into this thing again.

Q Mr. President, you said there would be two or three other subjects considered at this special session of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: There are going to be surprises.

Q Will those subjects be mentioned in your message?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know whether in the first message or not. There might be another one.

Q Reorganization will be taken up first?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you tell us anything about guaranteeing of bank deposits?

THE PRESIDENT: I can tell you as to guaranteeing bank deposits my own views and I think those of the old administration. It is that the general underlying thought behind the use of the word "guarantee" with respect to bank deposits is that you guarantee bad banks as well as good banks and the minute the government starts to do that the government runs into a probable loss. I will give you an example.

Suppose there are three banks in town, one is 100% capable of working out, one fifty per cent and another ten per cent. Now, if the Government puts a 100% guarantee, it will lose 50% on one and 90% on the other. If you put on a 50% guarantee, it will lose nothing on the first and second, but will lose a lot on the 10% solvent bank. Any form of general guarantee means a definite loss to the government and the whole objective in the plan that we are working on can be best stated this way: There are undoubtedly some banks that are not going to pay one hundred cents on the dollar. We all know it is better to have that loss taken than to jeopardize the credit of the United States Government or to put the United States Government further in debt, and, therefore, the one objective is going to be to keep the loss in the individual banks down to a minimum, endeavoring to get 100% on them, but not having the United States Government liable for the mistakes and errors of individual banks and not putting a premium in the future on unsound banking.

Q That is off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Couldn't you make it the background. There is a demand for the guarantee proposition.

THE PRESIDENT: I know, but the reason -- As long as you don't write stories to give the average depositor any thought that their own particular bank isn't going to pay. That is what I want to avoid because when you come down to it, the great majority of banks are going to pay up. Then there will be another very large volume of banks which won't pay out the whole thing immediately, but will pay out 100% in time and there will be a very small number of banks that will probably have to go to the Examiner, but I don't want anybody to get the idea in reading the stories that the average bank isn't going to pay one hundred cents on the dollar, because the average bank is going to pay.

Q For such banks as must go, isn't Senator Glass' liquidating corporation, whereby the liquidation of good assets help to put off the bad effects ----

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know enough about that. Did it go through?

Q Through the Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: That is in the Glass Bill?

Q Yes, sir.

Q You do have in mind guaranteeing deposits of banks on the new basis?

THE PRESIDENT: No; no government guarantee.

Q You would have to have that guarantee under the new banking system.

THE PRESIDENT: There would have to be a guarantee?

Oh, no. The government isn't going to guarantee any banks.

Q How about the insurance of bank deposits ---

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't touched that.

Q Anything on this Cotton Bill they have been talking about -- trying to get signed now?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't had time. I have a couple of briefs here on my desk and haven't read them yet.

Q Since you have been President, have you any additional views on reorganization?

THE PRESIDENT: Reorganization of the Government?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Except that it has got to proceed as fast as the law will let us. Still agree with what I thought several months ago.

Q Do you know anything about Woodcock ordering the speak-easies not to be raided any more?

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard about it.

(Photos)

The Conference adjourned at 10:45 A.M.)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #2
At the White House
Executive Offices

March 10th, 1933 - 4.20 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I am sorry to have kept you waiting,
but we just got to chatting in the Cabinet.

Q Economics, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I was just telling stories.

Q We don't mind waiting, but when are you going to
give us a rest. (Laughter)

Q Is there going to be a conference tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think after this I am going to
see the Secretary of State and Mr. Norman Davis to
talk about the Disarmament Conference which I
haven't taken up at all since I got down here and
after that I am going back to the White House and
expect to do no more work today.

Q What do you have in mind on the Disarmament Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. We haven't met. For those
of you who were not here yesterday, I think you
probably heard about the general thought: There
would not be any written questions and of course no
quotations. And then, what I do say, will be either
for background information -- which means material
which can be used by the Press on their own authority

and responsibility and must not be attributed to the White House -- or "off the record", which means really confidential information and must not be transmitted even to the City Desk or the Managing Editor, so that it will really be off the record. .

Then, there is one other thing I thought about the day before yesterday: I saw somebody edging toward the door in the middle of the talk and knowing some of the troubles we had in Albany on that the first year I was there -- for instance old George Morris, whom I have known about a hundred years (laughter) would try to make a sneak for the door, and the rule applied was that anybody could edge toward the door during the conference, but could not actually go out of the room. (Laughter) I can't think of anything else. I suppose you want to know something about banking?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I'd much rather use the statements that have been coming from -- given out by the Treasurer on it. But I will see if I can't put it into words of one syllable for your information because I am not very much for the statements that come from the financial people. I should say, roughly speaking, the situation is this: (Considering the fact that the

bill was only passed last night and was signed at 8.30 last evening, the Treasury is making very rapid progress. As I understand it -- Steve, correct me if I am wrong on this because it is just recollection -- as I understand it, the Treasurer has given out a definite order which has actually gone all over the country that any bank, no matter what its condition, can open up for what might be called "purposes of humanity." --

Q What was that last?

THE PRESIDENT: -- can open up for what might be called "purposes of humanity"; in other words, common sense things -- payrolls and household necessities, food, medicine and the servant girl's wages, and that the Treasury is relying on the officers of every bank in the country to see to it that the spirit of this rule is not over-stepped. They will be open for the carrying on of the necessary conveniences of families and employers over the week-end. I think that is the easiest way to translate the purpose behind the formal order.

Then the second point is that the twelve Federal Reserve Banks -- in other words the Government's own banks will be open tomorrow. Of course open only for certain government transactions, which means

helping the member banks under them. That is the principal purpose. Of course, bear in mind that a Federal Reserve Bank is not a bank on which you have a checking account to draw on individual deposits. That will facilitate member banks making their borrowings -- getting their cash from the Federal Reserve Banks so that they can open up on Monday.

Now, as to the opening up: It will proceed on two lines, simultaneously in every part of the country. The first is the release of the banks that are members of the Federal Reserve System --

Q That is whether national or state, as long as they are members?

THE PRESIDENT: Any bank that is a member of the Federal Reserve System. Now that means all the national banks and a lot of state banks besides. They will get and are getting today permission from the Federal Government -- I forget whether it is the Comptroller or the Secretary of the Treasury -- it doesn't make much difference. They have got to show that they are sound -- solvent -- and then they will be given authority to go ahead and open up.

Q All along the line, Mr. President; all functions?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, all functions. Except, of course, as to gold. That is a different thing. I am keeping my finger on gold.

Q All Monday -- all on Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q No restrictions on deposits of any kind?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q And on withdrawals outside of gold?

THE PRESIDENT: Gold and hoarding.

Q That begins Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday --

Q As fast as they can go?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Then the other category of banks are those state banks which are not members of the Federal Reserve System. In that case, I think the easiest way to put it as to that is that the Treasurer will in effect take the recommendations of the State Superintendents of Insurance, each of whom has the information about each individual bank within his system, and, where certified by the State Superintendent of Banks, they will have authority to open up just like the member banks open up, and the two things go right hand in hand. Does that cover it Steve --- Mac?

MR. MCINTYRE: Steve's not here. I think it is very clearly put.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, that is the easiest way to describe it. This is entirely off the record, of course -- just for your own information. My thought in putting it that way is that it is in the language of the man on the street, of the average depositors, whereas these Treasury orders cannot be understood by the average person, including myself, without a lot of instruction.

MR. MCINTYRE: You expect the various state superintendents to follow the same line of procedure?

THE PRESIDENT: The state superintendents are expected to follow the same line of procedure and the same standards of solvency that the Treasury officials will themselves follow.

Q The Federal regulations do not make clear whether any banks will be opened on a 90 or 80 per cent basis. Will they have to be on a basis to permit 100% withdrawals?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't answer that question.

Q They will be permitted to open completely if allowed to open?

THE PRESIDENT: The banks that are immediately opened will

be opened fully. I frankly don't know whether the Treasury has given out any regulations or announcements about what I call the conservator banks. I don't think they have.

Q No.

THE PRESIDENT: Then there is one other thing, which I think ought to be made clear in fairness to the public, and that is that necessarily it takes a certain amount of time to cover the entire field of the 100% solvent banks, either national or state, and if the individual bank or depositary doesn't happen to open on the first day, it does not mean at all that it won't open the next day or the day after, and the obvious reason for that is that there are a good many banks, both state and national, that haven't had a very recent examination, and in those cases there has got to be some kind of examination before permission can be given to open. It does not mean that they are not 100% solvent and therefore there is no reason to get the least bit excited if the individual's particular bank isn't among the first to open its doors.

Q That is one great fear, that the banks which do not open the first day or the second are going to be out of the picture in the future.

THE PRESIDENT: Not by any means or necessity.

Q I mean in the public's mind.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I understand.

Q As a result of this you are quite optimistic over the outlook?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; excellent outlook. Now there is, right along that same question of the opening of banks -- and this is also entirely off the record -- I am using it as an illustration -- banks in a section where there is a clearing house, we have got there three forms of check-up -- the Federal Reserve check-up, the State check-up and the clearing house check-up and in a clearing house district like Philadelphia, New York, Chicago or San Francisco, the latest information is available. Therefore you can take action on them right away. On the other hand, if you get to a place where there isn't any clearing house and find banks which haven't been checked up in the last number of weeks or even six months, you have to send people there. Yet they may be just as solvent as banks where there is a clearing house.

Q Why not keep that as "back-ground"? I think that would help out, if you let us use that rather than have it "off the record".

THE PRESIDENT: Make it "background".

Q There have been reports of a scramble of banks -- they have been rushing to apply for membership in the Federal Reserve System since word got around yesterday about the enactment of this legislation. Has that been reported to you?

THE PRESIDENT: That may be. I haven't heard.

Q Referring back to the question Mr. Tucker asked you. For example, as to Cleveland banks which are on a (inaudible) basis. Did I understand your reply to Mr. Tucker's question to mean that when the time comes for reopening, you are not going to open a local or state institution which was limited but when they do reopen they are going to reopen fully, or is that something yet to be worked out.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is something yet to be worked out.

Q Probably --

THE PRESIDENT: Probably -- Of course it is not the Cleveland bank you are talking about. That would be open under the first rule -- opening for necessities, payrolls and household expenses.

Q After all, isn't it up to the bankers if they want to limit withdrawals and put it on a percentage basis, they can do it?

Q Some states require them to do it.

Q What does this do to the various state holidays?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Maybe those banks would not come under the Class A banks.

Q I assumed this would be a sort of curtain raiser to the whole thing.

Q That brings another question ---

THE PRESIDENT: Just a minute. This is background stuff.

I should say, offhand, from the talks I have had with various governors, that a good many of them may lift their proclamations and restrictions as we gradually lift our federal restrictions. I thought that would be the logical way to go about it.

Q Oh, that is not what I was going to ask. Of course a state bank could go to a member bank and get money, but there has been quite a bit of fear that there may not be such easy access and there has been talk of possible regulation or amendment making it mandatory that there will be no ---

(interruption - discussion between

The President and Mr. McIntyre)

Q -- now Mr. Glass took that --

THE PRESIDENT: Mac says that as the member banks open up their correspondent banks would be able to get their funds in the normal way, --

Q Yes, of course; ordinarily --

THE PRESIDENT: --And almost every country bank is a correspondent bank of some member bank. Oh, I am learning a lot about banking -- (laughter)

Q So are we. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, this matter of opening the banks beginning Monday, that was from the Proclamation by you?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The Executive Order has been signed.

Q. The Executive Order you put out today?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q The other proclamation still --

THE PRESIDENT: This is again background stuff. The general theory of last night's proclamation was not borne out by most of the headlines I saw. That was not the fault of the stories. It was a general proclamation covering the continued closing of all banks, but the real story was in the exceptions they are going to make. In other words, the lifting of the ban on banking will be done by exceptions to the general proclamation. That is in order to retain control, not permanently, but perhaps for some time, over things like hoarding and gold shipments --

Q Off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: Background. And each day by this process

we will gradually open up more and more banking facilities in various parts of the country.

Q That will prevent the unsound banks from opening?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q How many are there? Have you any idea?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Doesn't this entire conference fall into the category of background?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is it your interpretation of today's executive order that it permits under the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury certain gold settlements of international --

THE PRESIDENT: I can't answer your question because I will be perfectly frank in telling you that confidentially and off the record I haven't talked about the gold question at all.

Q Is there a possibility that any bank will be open for full business tomorrow morning?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. You will have to ask the Secretary of the Treasury. Of course they will be open for the necessities. Fully open, I don't know.

Q Mr. President, several editors are asking whether the

announcement will be made of the permits issued to the several banks. Will that be made here, in the Treasury Department or at the regional Federal Reserve Bank?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the slightest idea.

Q I thought that executive order is to apply through the Federal Reserve banks.

Q Mr. President, after a state group of banking authorities decides that a bank is sound and may be opened, will they still have to apply to the Secretary of the Treasury and obtain a license to operate, or will the state officials be given the right --

THE PRESIDENT: Theoretically, yes; but practically no, off the record. In other words, in theory the Secretary of the Treasury is requiring, under the law, his own approval but in practice he is taking the word of the state superintendent of banks and relying on his good faith.

Q You said at one point in the opening of your discussion that the banks will be open on Monday. Is that a definite statement.

THE PRESIDENT: No; that is entirely a hope. The Secretary of the Treasury is very anxious that we should not put in any official statement a definite date or definite hour.

Q Say beginning early next week--?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you may say, in all probability on Monday.

Q The process starting with the opening of the Federal Reserve banks?

Q The first banks that will be opened Monday will be those carrying on their business without any restrictions whatever for full business dealings?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q If they have the license?

THE PRESIDENT: If they have the license, yes. With the exception of gold and hoarding.

Q It precludes state banks from opening tomorrow provided they have met with the necessary qualifications which have been imposed by the state banking superintendents.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know if they will be ready tomorrow morning. I couldn't answer the question on that. Of course Mac reminded me that the Secretary of the Treasury said that all of those plans are subject to modification during the next twenty-four hours and the following twenty-four hours. We will keep you in touch as best we can.

Q Mr. President, how did you like your first week in the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: Off the record, I haven't had enough sleep, otherwise fine. (Laughter)

MR. STEPHENSON: On the record, I haven't had enough, either. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Also off the record, the only thing I haven't really done at all is to hang pictures.

Q You have a lot of them.

THE PRESIDENT: The currency, I understand, is going out in very good shape. As the Secretary of the Treasury said, we are shipping it out by the bale.

Q Is this all background?

Q The first part was direct news under the classification -- none of it is quoted.

Q It is all usable.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will you say what your next message is?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not ready yet.

Q Will you promise there will be no White House conference tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; all go to bed.

Q Secretary Hull and Mr. Davis coming this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q When do you hope to send Davis to Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't talked to anybody about it.

(Personal discussion, off the record)

The conference adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #3

At the Executive Offices of the White House,
March 15, 1933 - 10.25 AM

THE PRESIDENT: Sorry to keep you waiting, but the Secretary of the Treasury was over, as usual, this morning.

Q You are kept busy.

THE PRESIDENT: The Japanese Admiral is coming to see me this morning. Steve will tell you all about him.

Q Are we going to have a war? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any real news, but suppose you would like to have me talk a little bit about the two other measures. Entirely just for background, the general thought has been this: That if we can get through the three measures -- banking economics, the economy bill and the beer bill -- those are all perfectly obvious and speak for themselves -- but we won't have done anything on the constructive side unless you consider the beer bill partially constructive.

There are two other matters that I would very much like to get started while the Congress is here -- both of them constructive. The first is a definite effort to put people to work. And the way I would put it is

this: Like all very big projects, it is in a sense experimental, therefore we don't want to launch it on too big a scale until we know how practical it is. Probably I will send up a message. I can't tell you the exact date, but tomorrow if everything goes well.

The idea is to put people to work in the national forests and on other government and state properties on work which would not otherwise be done; in other words, work that does not conflict with existing so-called public works. I cannot give you the details of it. All I can tell you is that I am working with the Director of the Budget now to see if we cannot keep the appropriation for it -- for new money -- down as low as we possibly can. We think we can pay for a large part of it out of unexpended balances -- money heretofore appropriated for other purposes, which would be a very distinct help to the Treasury.

Then the other measure is not only a constructive measure but if it does not go through at this time, as well it might ~~wait~~ wait until next Winter. That is the effort to increase the value of farm products. The reason for haste on that is perfectly obvious, for if we defer consideration of it until April we probably

would not get through until May or the end of April any way, and a large part of the crops would already be in the ground. If we are going to have it apply to this year's crops, it ought to be put through immediately. Again I cannot tell you the details of it because they are still working on it.

Q Does that include the principal crops?

THE PRESIDENT: I think, entirely off the record, it will be somewhat along the lines of leasing and certain features of the Smith cotton bill.

Q Leasing? You mean taking marginal land out of the production column?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, for the reduction of acreage.

Q Would it apply to all crops, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you that because I cannot remember all the names in it, but there are an awful lot of them.

Q Most of them?

THE PRESIDENT: Almost everything.

Q Have they given up the idea of a bond issue on unemployment?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you intelligently because we haven't our figures yet on how much we can expect from unexpended balances.

Q Do you retain any of the principles of the domestic allotment plan?

THE PRESIDENT: Some of the features but not the principles.

Q How are the funds going to be raised?

THE PRESIDENT: There again I can't give you any details.

I guess through some form of excise tax.

Q Anything --- In plans for putting people to work, does that include a vast public works program?

THE PRESIDENT: I knew you were going to ask me that question and I am not ready to answer it yet, for this reason: This is entirely off the record. There are quite a lot of other people who would like to see the bill made an all-inclusive bill; in other words, after a big public works program, after the Wagner Bill that failed in the last Session, or a modification of it along the La Follette-Costigan lines. I don't know yet whether the bill would be made all inclusive or whether it would be confined principally to this main thought of putting people to work on natural resources.

Q Isn't it the program of the Administration to put through that Wagner Bill for unemployment relief?

THE PRESIDENT: There is enough money in the R.F.C. on direct aid for municipalities to last until May, therefore it is a grave question as to whether that is the kind of emer-

gency that ought to keep the Congress here.

Q How about Muscle Shoals, Mr. President? Would that be included in this plan, or will it be left until later on?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. We are in the middle of a survey now as to where to put the men to work first.

Q How many men would be used on the forestry plan?

THE PRESIDENT: On the National forests, the Forestry Bureau says two hundred thousand men.

Q What do you mean by the National forests? What are the National forests?

THE PRESIDENT: You know a lot more about that than I do. There is the Shenandoah Forest, the Big Smoky; there is quite a lot of Federal land in Pennsylvania, some in New Hampshire and, of course, there is a very large acreage out west.

Q What do they do, cut down trees or plant trees?

THE PRESIDENT: You are as bad as Mr. Hyde. (Laughter)

We have to have another class here on it. The easiest way to explain it is this: Taking it all through the East where, of course, the unemployment is relatively the worst with far more people, nearly all of the so-called forest land owned by the Government is second,

third or fourth growth land -- what we call scrub growth which has grown up on it. What does that consist of? Probably an average of four or five thousand trees to the acre; little bits of trees, saplings and so forth. Proper forestation is not possible; in other words, you will never get a marketable timber growth on that kind of land -- plenty of cordwood and that is about all. But the timber supply, the lumber supply of the country, at the present rate of cutting we are using lumber somewhere around three to four times the rate of the annual growth. In other words, we are rapidly coming to an end of the natural lumber resources and the end is within sight and, unless something is done about it, we will become a very large lumber importing nation, the figures showing that it will be from 20 to 40 years when that will come about.

Now, take this second, third, fourth growth land. Put men in there. Say there are five thousand of these saplings to the acre. Go in and cut out four thousand and leave one thousand. They go in there and take out the crooked trees, the dead trees, the bushes and stuff like that that has no value as lumber, and leave approximately one thousand trees to the acre. That means that

they are sufficiently spaced to get plenty of light and air and there is not too much of a strain on the soil. Those trees then eventually will become a very valuable lumber crop.

That is the simplest way of explaining the operations so far as the trees themselves go.

Then, in addition to that, one of our great difficulties all over the country is with fire, and these men will be put to work in building fire breaks. Well, a fire break is merely an operation of cutting a thirty or forty foot swath through the forest and plowing it up, raking all the leaves and everything possible away from that strip and keeping it clear. Thus, from that time on, the regular forest rangers and fire protection people, in their tours, will have a great deal better chance of limiting any fire that breaks out, limiting it to a small area.

Q How long will that work keep these 200,000 men occupied?

Is it a long process?

THE PRESIDENT: I think Bob Wagner got the letter on that from the Forestry Bureau about six weeks or two months ago. It is certainly over a year and probably over a good deal longer than that.

Q Do you have in mind putting 200,000 men on the Federal payroll a year? It would mean a tremendous amount of money.

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to wait until you see the bill.

Q Is it planned to have camps and housing people and the Government to feed them and house them for a dollar a day or something like that?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't go into that.

Q Even at a dollar a day for a year that is enormous. I haven't figured it, but I can see it will run into many millions of dollars. I figured where you would need a half a billion or one billion and spend it on this one item.

THE PRESIDENT: Just for background, speaking on that by way of explanation, these people would be people who are today on the dole. They are performing no useful work. Those are the only people we would take -- people performing absolutely no work at all and just being barely supported by communities and states.

Q Then you could have the states share in the burden of the expenditures, couldn't you?

THE PRESIDENT: It is as short as it is long. What is the difference between the Government doing that directly

or turning money over to the states?

Q How soon do you think you can get them to work?

THE PRESIDENT: Three or four weeks -- that is, start getting them to work.

Q About 75% of the national forests are in the far West.

That would involve a movement from the centers of population for the men to be put to work in those forests. Is that contemplated?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't got to that yet. Can't tell you.

Q They have walked further than that already.

Q Do you want those bills to go through before the recess?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q They will probably take a week?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any other kind of public works or some other kind of public work that might be done by these men on roads or something like that?

THE PRESIDENT: I will only go as far as forestry in the beginning and not mix it up with any other things.

Q Any plan for a bond issue to be secured by the forests themselves or anything of that sort?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Will this farm bill precede the unemployment bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I haven't got to that yet or the time of sending the message up. Then, of course, there is another element in what Ernest Lindley asked about paying these people. It will help to relieve their own families. If a family man is taken, he will probably send a large part of it back home and that relieves the community too.

Q His wife won't have to support him while he is in the camp.

Q Mr. President, are you able to announce the Ambassador to Germany yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Could you tell us what you talked to Mr. Bullitt about?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't talked to him. He is going to talk to me in about five minutes.

Q You said that some of the features but not the principles of the allotment plan will be in the farm program. Does that mean that the allotment plan picture is abandoned?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say, by way of background, yes.

Q Can you tell us anything about Mr. Norman Davis?

THE PRESIDENT: Just going on with his work, that is all.

He is going to leave the end of this week.

Q What about arms embargo?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is sufficiently explained.

I am going to ask for it; when, I don't know.

Q I understand that some of the features of this farm credit bill will be presented to the international economic conference to make it international, putting this country on the same basis.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think the only thing on that is this:

There are certain crops like wheat where the world surplus is comparatively small. It is only from 10 to 15 per cent. Therefore, if the wheat producing nations can reduce pro rata to that extent, it will help very much to solve the world price of wheat -- raise the world price of wheat as well as raising our own price of wheat and, of course, obviously, if we can raise the world wheat price to a proper level, the need for continuing with an acreage reducing plan in this country would not be as great. You would not have to keep on reducing -- you would just have to hold the gain you made.

Now, the wheat producing nations besides ourselves -- the surplus producing nations are Canada, Australia,

Argentina, Russia and the Balkans.

I think you can say -- I shall say this entirely off the record -- but Russia is today probably, so far ^{we} as we know, not in a position to do very much wheat exporting. They need their own wheat.

The last wheat conference in 1929 -- somewhere along that, 1928 or 1929 -- failed largely because we, the United States, would not go along with any effort to reduce our own surplus production. Yet today we will take the first step looking towards world surplus reduction. And if Canada, Australia, Argentina and the Balkans go along with that, we have got the possibility of an international agreement to cut the world wheat surplus and in that way it forms the basis for at least a possible practical step in world economics.

Q It will be brought out at this economic conference, won't it, or at some further conference?

THE PRESIDENT: It is on the agenda or it might be brought up ahead of it to get it out of the way.

Q Has it been taken up diplomatically already?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say it has been taken up wholly unofficially so far. Right, Steve?

MR. EARLY: Right, sir.

Q Can we use this?

THE PRESIDENT: For background it is all right.

Q Is it permanent legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Obviously a farm bill is in the nature of an experiment. We all recognize that. My position toward farm legislation is that we ought to try to do something to increase the value of farm products and if the darn thing doesn't work, we can say so quite frankly, but at least try it.

Q Aren't there other crops where the same sort of an agreement could be reached.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, very distinctly.

Q Have those --

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't been explored yet.

Q Is Russia to attend the World Economic Parley?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q What I was wondering about is this: If all the nations agreed on production, wouldn't it be essential for Russia to come in?

THE PRESIDENT: Frankly, I don't know. Does anybody know whether Russia signed up on the World Economic Conference?

Q Yes, sir; they have.

Q Does this farm bill contain features of the Smith Cotton Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: In relation to cotton, yes.

Q Inasmuch as it also pertains to features of the acreage allotment plan, would you call it a composite of those three plans -- acreage, leasing and Smith Cotton Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I would not call it a composite of them. We haven't got the bill finally drafted yet, but the theory is that on the actual practice and use of methods it allows a pretty wide latitude to the administration to vary the methods. In other words, it does not say that we have got to apply a hard and fast method to all crops. The application will probably vary in accordance with different crops.

Q A choice between three alternatives?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it isn't that. The leasing principle is the basic principle.

Q Have international gold payments been resumed?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you want to say anything about the bank situation, Mr. President? It seems to be working very well.

THE PRESIDENT: Except, off the record, that there is one fellow responsible for its working so well and that is Bill Woodin. He has done a perfectly grand job and has been up day and night, literally. It is really wonderful the way Bill came down here and took hold of a thing he had never had any experience at before and I think what he has done would be a credit to anybody.

Q He certainly has but we would like you to tell us more about it one of these days.

Q How much money is involved in these bills?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. By the way, what time did they (Congress) adjourn last night?

Q Ten twenty.

Q Have you had any report from the Justice Department on how many men they would catch in this --

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter)

Q Will you tell us why the allotment plan was abandoned?

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- background -- that the chief reason is that the farm organizations as a whole thought the other method was more workable and a better plan to base our experiment on.

Q You made it plain that this is an experiment. Do you mean to say that it is not intended to be permanent? Do you

mean that conditions will improve and you will have permanent legislation after that?

THE PRESIDENT: It is too speculative for that.

MR. STORM: *Thank* That you, Mr. President.

(Ended 10.48 A.M.)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #4
Executive Offices of the White House

March 17, 1933, 4.05 P.M.

Q Mr. President, there has been considerable curiosity and speculation over the visit here yesterday of the German and French and British Ambassadors.

THE PRESIDENT: All I can tell you is to tell you the truth, of what Steve told you -- that the thing was a coincidence entirely. The British Ambassador asked to see me to tell me merely that the Prime Minister was going to have a plan that he hoped we would give favorable consideration to. The plan has not come and I have not seen the plan yet. It was coming in at the State Department about two hours ago but had not been written out yet.

Then I happened to mention to Robbins yesterday morning that I would be very glad to see the German and French Ambassadors before they left and he arranged to have them come in right away. As a matter of fact, I had not thought that I would see them for two or three days so it really was a coincidence. It made a good story. (Laughter)

Q Do you expect to see Phil La Follette?

THE PRESIDENT: Has he come back.

Q You did not know it?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know it.

Q Did you discuss the Disarmament situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

Q What did you say about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Steve, really -- (Laughter)

Q There is a British Treasury official of high consequence arriving today on the same boat with La Follette. Does that have anything to do with conversation about debts?

THE PRESIDENT: Who is it?

Q Alverson, or something like that.

Q Sir Percy Thompson.

THE PRESIDENT: Who is he?

Q An Under Secretary -- he is Comptroller of the British Treasury.

THE PRESIDENT: I am learning a lot from the Press.

Q And there are a couple of Frenchmen and one German who are said to be financial advisors of the League of Nations, and they are said to be in Washington.

THE PRESIDENT: Is that so? (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us or give us an idea of what the attitude of the new Administration is on Disarmament?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not believe that I had better talk on Disarmament today because -- and this is off the record -- we do feel that is one of the principal keys to the world situation and things are changing so fast that the only thing I can do or say in answer to that question -- off the record -- is that we are going to use every possible means to make some kind of a very, very definite and practical success of this Disarmament conference, and use every means we can to prevent it from either blowing up or arriving at some patch-work thing.

Q Couldn't you make that "background", Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, use it for background, that is all right. I cannot go into details, however, because things are changing so fast every twenty-four hours.

Q Do you expect to pass judgment in any form whatsoever on the MacDonald proposals?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not read them yet; we have not got them yet. At one o'clock the Secretary of State told us that they were coming in but had not been written out.

Q Is Mr. Davis likely to go back to use his good offices?

THE PRESIDENT: Off the record, before he goes we will have something on that, but I cannot say anything on it because I am not certain as to what form it will take. It may be in the form of a statement from the State Department.

Q I will change the subject: Are you going to keep Congress in session without a recess and go straight ahead?

THE PRESIDENT: I can tell you about that for background, Steve. Here is the real situation: We have been talking about it for the last three or four days. There were two alternatives: The first, which was the original plan on the fourth of March or, rather, on the fifth of March, when I called the special session, was that they should merely take up four or five matters of very great emergency and then adjourn for perhaps a month and then come back somewhere around the middle or end of April to take up the other important matters that ought not to wait until next January. The idea was that during the month I would have time to study things a little more than I have had a chance to so far, and prepare a definite line of policy and definite legislation.

About three days ago I began taking that question

up with the members of the Congress and members of the Senate and there was a rather distinct feeling on their part, with which I went along, that, now that they are here, if the Administration can anticipate this legislation and the definite lines of policy and get them in a good deal more quickly, that the Congress would prefer to stay right on and see if they can get the legislation through by the end of April or the early part of May and then adjourn, having completed the work, and not come back until the following January, unless, of course, something turns up in the meantime.

It seems pretty clear that the majority preference in Congress is the latter method.

Q It will probably go that way?

THE PRESIDENT: So it will probably go that way. Now the result, of course, will be that I have got to work twice as hard as I had planned to work in order to get these various measures ready so that they may follow one after the other to get things in shape.

Q What is the next, in a tentative way?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not listed the various things but I can give you some examples: For example, railroad legislation.

Q What on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot go into details. I can merely give you the headings and not all the headings at that -- just things that occur to me offhand. There is railroad legislation, legislation against speculation, certain portions of banking legislation, and a larger relief program -- in other words, a relief program that will carry through until next January.

Q That will mean direct disbursements of Federal funds?

THE PRESIDENT: It means, undoubtedly, more funds. There are a good many localities in this country that are up against it and which, like Chicago, have used up the 15 per cent which they are allowed under the present law.

Q That would also include Public Works, would it not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it would probably include Public Works.

Q Would it be along the lines of Senator Wagner's proposal?

THE PRESIDENT: We have not got to that yet. Then there will perhaps be three or four other things.

Q What about taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: That would be necessary to carry through until next January.

Q How about a Naval program?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. These are just things that occur to me. I have not considered the Naval thing -- it is something that I have not thought of at all. There are three or four other things, but what they are I do not know.

Q Do you expect, by saving money on the economy plan and by tax on beer and the gasoline tax, to get along without any real increase in taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I can say, as background, that we all hope so but that I cannot tell.

Q We have got to wait and see?

THE PRESIDENT: The question of the need for new taxes and the estimate of probable revenues from existing taxes is altogether premature. We cannot tell. We have only had things up and going for a couple of days.

Q It depends on what you can do under your economy bill, does it not, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: That is another factor. I would not hazard any estimate of budget receipts or anything like that.

Q Will there be individual messages on all these matters for which you gave us headings a minute ago?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q How about Muscle Shoals?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q How about St. Lawrence and the World Court?

THE PRESIDENT: Lord, man, we have not talked about those yet, we are too busy.

Q Are there any other headings you can think of?

THE PRESIDENT: Not offhand.

Q Can you define that speculation a little bit as between grain and stock?

THE PRESIDENT: Read the Democratic platform.

Q How about the Glass Banking Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: That again, I do not know.

Q How about the Bankruptcy Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: We have not considered it.

Q I wondered whether the Congress would extend that bill?

THE PRESIDENT: We have not talked about it at all.

Q Do you contemplate making an Administrator of Relief and taking the relief work out of the RFC?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a secret. Wait until next Monday or Tuesday.

Q On the Reorganization Bill, are you prepared to take a step for the consolidation of the various departments?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you on that.

Q What orders are you preparing?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Director of the Budget is preparing orders now on the veterans and on civil service in that bill.

Q Can you give us a hint on how far you are going on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q As the Mayor of the City of Washington, are you going to recommend anything in connection with the District of Columbia Beer Bill?(Laughter). It is quite important.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a new title; I had not thought about that.

Q On this general relief -- do you expect to have funds --

THE PRESIDENT: Frankly, I do not know. I have not talked to the RFC about it. The RFC have probably got enough money to last until some time around the end of May, but whether they can go through situations like the Chicago situation without emergency legislation, I do not know as yet.

Q Is it fair to assume that you will not ask for a 500 million dollar bond issue?

THE PRESIDENT: You can assume that.

Q Do you include the arms embargo matter among the matters of special legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: All I can tell you, and this is off the record, that the probability is that there will not be any message to Congress but probably the Foreign Relations Committee will bring in a bill to give me authority over arms embargo. In other words, it will not originate at this end -- it will originate from the Congress itself.

Q You spoke of banking legislation. Do you plan to take several bites on that problem?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. In other words, I do not want to give you the impression that we are going to rewrite all the banking laws of the United States and set up a new, complete Federal banking system between now and the first of May.

Q What are you going to do, strengthen the weak points?

THE PRESIDENT: Strengthen the weak points and eliminate certain things.

Q Things that had shown in the last year - -

THE PRESIDENT: Things that have shown up, to prevent a recurrence of the bad practices of the immediate past.

Q Does it provide for control over the Stock Exchange?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Is the unified system --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Mind you, I have only been studying banking for about ten days.

Q Could you give us a little background on reorganization, and how much you intend to do on the general reorganization of the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not ready on that because, as I said before, Lewis Douglas and I have been busy on this economy bill and Douglas has spent a good deal of time up in Congress. We have not got to it at all.

Q Is there anything you can tell us on Russian recognition?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Where is your green neck-tie?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got one. It wore out. (Laughter)

Q Will this relief program -- this relief message the first of the week provide for a large program?

THE PRESIDENT: It is just a preliminary program.

Q Is there any desire for speed in connection with the arms embargo?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

MR. YOUNG: Much obliged, thank you.