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FDR Press Releases, 1935-1936

Miss LeHand

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FOR THE PRESS

CAUTION: This address of the President is for release in editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 9:00 P. M., Eastern Standard Time today.

Care must be exercised to prevent premature publication.

M. H. McINTYRE
Assistant Secretary to the President

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PRESIDENT HEAD - MEMBERS OF THE BOY SCOUTS:

The year 1935 marks the Twenty-Fifth Birthday celebration of the Boy Scouts of America. During these years the value of our organization in building character and in training for citizenship has made itself a vital factor in the life of America. That is why not only the Boy Scouts of today, but the millions of men and boys who have graduated through Scouting, will be joined by millions of other Americans in the proper marking and celebration of our Anniversary.

As I review the record of these twenty-five years of Scouting in America, I am impressed with the extent of the volunteer service we have rendered. We as a Nation are proud of the fact that in addition to our splendid system of education and of other services made available through funds secured by taxation, there are in each community so many well organized and efficiently administered agencies which supplement the work of Government and make available additional opportunities which strengthen the best objectives of the home, the church and the school.

Every Scout seeks to do a good turn daily -- every Troop seeks to accomplish some community benefit; and occasionally, as last year, Scouts everywhere unite to do a good turn nationally. A year ago, as your Honorary President, I started the national Scout effort to collect household furnishings and clothing and other supplies for those in need; and the results were truly amazing. Hundreds of thousands of families were helped by the Boy Scouts.

The program for this year, embracing as it does over one million boys, lasts throughout the year. In May there will be a gathering of the Leaders of Scouting at the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the National Council.

But the outstanding event will be America's first National Jamboree, to be held here in the City of Washington from August twenty-first to August thirtieth. I hope to attend it in person. Since I extended the invitation a year ago, definite plans have crystallized. With the cooperation of various officials here in Washington a fine camp site has been made available and will be all ready to receive thirty thousand boys when the meeting starts. I am glad to know that the selection of these boys is being made on the basis of merit and, furthermore, that in many cases these boys will come to Washington at the expense of the Troop and not merely because the boy's economic situation in life is such as to make it possible for his parents to send him.

Thirty thousand Scouts brought together under such conditions will mean the most thoroughly representative group of American boys ever mobilized for a purpose of this character.

We hope, too, that other countries will send at least small delegations to meet with us on this occasion. Because Scouting is now in active operation in almost every civilized nation of the world, this will give us a splendid opportunity to enlarge our basis of mutual respect, of understanding and of friendship among the people of the world regardless of race or creed.

In a moment Dr. West is going to lead the Scouts in thousands of halls and other meeting places in every State in the Union in repeating the Scout Oath and Law. I hope that the people who are listening to my voice will give careful heed to this Scout Oath. It is the basis of good citizenship; it is the basis of good Government; it is the basis of orderly progress for our Country in the years to come.

Miss Le Hand

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 1936

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Three weeks ago, when I signed the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, I said that this administration had not abandoned and would not abandon the goal of equality for agriculture. I pointed out that although the act is addressed primarily to the serious and long-neglected problem of soil conservation, the reestablishment and maintenance of farm income was also a major objective.

Today, as a national soil conservation program is being launched in accordance with the Act by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the need for protecting not only the soil but also farm prices and income appears even greater than when the act was adopted.

This fact has been made evident by the reports of farmers' intentions to plant compiled by the Department of Agriculture. These reports, announced a few days ago, showed that farmers were planning an increase of 19 per cent in their acreage of spring wheat, 6 per cent in their acreage of corn, 11 per cent in rice, 9 per cent in tobacco, and 8 per cent in peanuts. These reports are not compiled for cotton, but unofficial reports circulated in the trade and recorded in the press have indicated an increase of around 15 per cent in cotton acreage.

In conformance with the Supreme Court's decision, the farmers' production control programs have been stopped, but their chronic surplus problem goes on. Export markets for wheat, pork, and tobacco, lost following the enactment of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff of 1930, have only in small part been regained. The huge carryover of cotton which was accumulated during the years leading up to 1933 has not yet been reduced to normal. Although reduction has progressed well for three years, the carryover is still probably twice as big as it ought to be for the maintenance of a reasonable price in the future.

Although the production control programs have been stopped, farmers are not entirely at the mercy of unbridled competition with their fellow producers, as they were in the years preceding 1933. The new farm act provides for financial assistance by the government to those farmers who, heeding the warnings contained in the intentions-to-plant reports, wish to shift from the production of unneeded surpluses of soil-depleting crops to the production of needed soil-building crops.

I believe that farmers will find the new program is in the national interest, and in their own individual interest, too. Every farmer takes pride in the productivity of his soil. Every farmer wants to hand on his farm to his children in better shape than he found it. The conservation payments offered by the government in accordance with the act will help him to do this.

If farmers for any reason should fail to take advantage of the new act, and especially if they should carry out their intentions as indicated in the Department of Agriculture reports, the consequent excessive production of such cash crops as cotton and wheat and tobacco might result once more in the wrecking of their prices and the mining of their soil. But if the farmers, in operating the soil conservation program, display the same energy and cooperative spirit which they showed in making the production control programs work, they will go far to protect both their soil and their income. This is an appeal to all farmers to cooperate for their own and the national good to help in preventing excessive production.

Congress has gone as far as it could within judicial limitations to enable farmers to keep the gains they have made in the last three years and to permit their buying power to continue the powerful upward lift it has given to national recovery.

I hope that farmers will not complete their plans for this year's crops until they have had opportunity to study the new act and that all those to whom it offers advantages may cooperate in the program now being launched.

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Handwritten notes in the top right corner, including names like "Fleming", "Fleming", "Fleming", and "Fleming".

W. W. eyes

Large, dark, scribbled-out handwriting, possibly a name or signature.

Newhole Marshall

Martin Jones

Multiple paragraphs of very faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Miss LeHand

CHILD HEALTH DAY

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the Congress by joint resolution of May 18, 1928 (45 Stat. 617), has authorized and requested the President of the United States to proclaim annually May 1 as Child Health Day; and

WHEREAS the health and security of its children are essential to the well-being of the Nation; and

WHEREAS it is advisable this year as we launch the social security program to encourage by every possible means the development of plans to promote maternal and child health and to extend child-welfare services:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and designate the first day of May of this year as Child Health Day, and do urge all agencies, public and private, concerned with the health and welfare of children, on this day to study the plans for Federal, State, and local cooperation in promoting the health and security of children, to note the extent to which those plans have so far been put into effect, and to make arrangements for carrying their benefits to the children in every county in the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this thirteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixtieth.

(S E A L)

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

By the President,

Cordell Hull,

The Secretary of State.

Miss LeHand

FOR THE PRESS

APRIL 13, 1936.

CAUTION --- HOLD FOR RELEASE

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M. H. McINTYRE
Assistant Secretary to the President

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TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I return herewith without my approval H. R. 2469, entitled "An Act for the relief of Michael P. Lucas."

The bill directs that in the administration of any laws conferring rights, privileges, and benefits upon honorably discharged soldiers, Michael P. Lucas, who was a member of Company D, Seventeenth Regiment United States Infantry, shall be held and considered to have been honorably discharged as a member of that organization on the 7th day of December, 1918: Provided, That no bounty, back pay, pension, or allowance shall be held to have accrued prior to the passage of this Act.

In view of the circumstances connected with this case, as disclosed by the official records of the War Department, I do not feel justified in giving my approval to this measure.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The White House,

April 13, 1936.

APRIL 13, 1936

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M. H. McINTYRE
Assistant Secretary to the President

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I return herewith, without my approval, H. R. 3629, a bill authorizing the acquisition of some 22 acres of land lying immediately south of the Walter Reed General Hospital Reservation, District of Columbia, and authorizing an appropriation of \$204,162 therefor.

I have caused this matter to be looked into and it appears that the purchase of the land in question is advocated for the reasons that it will provide for a possible need for expansion of Army hospital facilities in the event of war, and in the meantime will provide space for the erection of quarters for medical officers attached to the present hospital, resulting in a material annual saving in expenditures.

As to the first of these reasons, it appears from a report by the Acting Secretary of War of April 11, 1935, (printed in House of Representatives Report No. 2133 and Senate Report No. 1710) that there now exist certain open areas in the present reservation available for possible wartime ward expansion. In view of this, the fact that other hospital facilities of the War Department, those of the Veterans' Administration and other governmental agencies will be available for use in case of war, the possibility of providing such additional temporary facilities as may be necessary, and the impracticability and inadvisability of attempting to acquire in time of peace all the additional land which may be required for wartime purposes, I do not feel that the acquisition of the land in question can be justified on the ground of its usefulness in time of war.

As to the other reason, namely, the use of part of the land for the erection thereon of officers' quarters at a material saving in expenditures for commutation, it appears that, of the 105 officers attached to the Walter Reed General Hospital, quarters are now available thereat for about 21. That space can be made available on the existing reservation for installing housing for some twenty-odd additional officers is evidenced by the fact that some two years ago the War Department requested, but was not granted, an allotment of emergency funds for that purpose. Convincing proof that the remaining officers should reside upon the reservation to insure the efficient functioning of the hospital has not been supplied. Certainly the theory that all medical personnel connected with a hospital should reside in the immediate vicinity thereof does not obtain with respect to our large civil hospitals. If the land in question is acquired, the War Department proposes at a later date to request funds for the construction thereon of quarters for 50 officers. This would cost approximately \$830,000 and, accounting for interest on the total investment in land and buildings and the cost of heat, light, water, repairs and upkeep, produces comparatively little, if any, saving as compared with the cost of commutation.

For the foregoing reasons I do not feel justified in giving my approval to this bill.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The White House
April 13, 1936.

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M. H. McINTYRE
Assistant Secretary to the President

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I return herewith, without my approval, H. R. 4036, "An Act for the relief of Ellis Duke, also known as Elias Duke".

This Act provides "that the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to Ellis Duke, also known as Elias Duke, of the District of Columbia, the owner of the truck hereinafter referred to, the sum of \$1000 to compensate said Ellis Duke, also known as Elias Duke, for the loss of one Dodge truck, Serial No. A918785, which said Dodge truck was illegally seized and confiscated by agents of the United States Government on the 16th day of April 1928, and which said Dodge truck was appropriated by the United States and has never been returned to said Ellis Duke, also known as Elias Duke", etc.

The above truck containing a quantity of illicit beer was seized in the possession of three men on a business street in Washington, D. C., by Federal Prohibition Agents who also arrested the men. These men and Ellis Duke (Elias Duke) were charged under Section 26, Title II of the National Prohibition Act with illegal transportation of intoxicating liquor. The truck was released under said Section to Ellis Duke, the owner, upon his giving bond to return the truck to the seizing officers on the day of trial to abide the judgment of the court. Two of the men found in possession of the truck were convicted and Duke and the remaining defendant were acquitted. Petition was filed by Duke for the recovery of the truck and was denied by the court. The Secretary of the Treasury filed an application in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1925, 43 Stat., 1116, that the truck be delivered to the Treasury Department for use in enforcement of the National Prohibition Act. The court granted said application and entered an order that the truck be delivered to the Treasury Department. Duke's motion for a rehearing of the court's refusal to return the truck to him was denied after the matter had been argued by his attorneys and the attorneys for the Government. The truck was used by the Treasury Department until July 1, 1930, when it was transferred to the Department of Justice in conformity to the "Prohibition Reorganization Act". It also appears that Duke filed a petition for writ of error in the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia which was denied. The facts show that this truck was legally seized and duly turned over to the Government in compliance with the statutes in force at the time, moreover, that the rights of the claimant were fully presented to the court and adjudicated adversely to his contentions.

The mere fact that Ellis Duke was found not guilty of violating Section 26 of the National Prohibition Act did not give him the right to recover the truck in which the illicit liquor was being transported. Said Section provides that upon conviction of the person found in charge of the offending automobile or vehicle, the court, unless good cause to the contrary is shown by the owner, shall order its sale, etc. The Act of March 3, 1925, supra, provided for its being delivered to the Treasury, upon application of the Secretary, instead of being sold. Two of the persons found in charge of this truck were actually convicted and sentenced. The claimant having failed to show good cause to the contrary, the court disposed of the truck by ordering it delivered to the Treasury Department, as authorized by the statute.

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The record of this case shows that the claimant's rights have been fully and finally adjudicated in accordance with law by a court of competent jurisdiction. There have been numerous court forfeitures of property used in violation of the National Prohibition Act. Compensating a particular claimant for his loss would appear to be discriminatory. It is likewise obvious that reimbursement for all such forfeitures would be impracticable and unwarranted.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The White House,

April 13, 1936.

Miss LeHand

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PRESS

April 13, 1936

Mr. McIntyre has received the following letter, dated April tenth, 1936, from Mr. A. Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution:

"Dear Mr. McIntyre:

The 'mystery' fish has come safely to hand, and is identified as a Great Amberjack of the Genus Seriola.

Fishes of this group are not fully understood at present by scientists due in part to the fact that, as in the case of various other large fish, it is difficult to preserve specimens because of their size so that few are found in museum collections.

Of this particular type of Amberjack there are two forms, one that is deep bodied, known scientifically as Seriola dumerilii, and one that is slender bodied called scientifically Seriola lalandi. The President's fish is of the latter type. Our ichthyologists in the National Museum consider the two as distinct though by some these two are called one species. The fish is a particularly fine one and is different from anything that we have in our scientific collections.

The range of the slender bodied Great Amberjack is given as from western Florida to Brazil, while occasionally it wanders as far north as New Jersey.

If the President will approve, we should like to make a cast of this particular fish that would be painted and be a life sized replica to put on exhibition, and to preserve the actual fish entire in alcohol in order that it may serve for scientific studies and be preserved in that form in our collections. Or, if preferred, the fish can be skinned and mounted for exhibition in that manner.

We shall appreciate word from you on this. In the meantime we are keeping the fish carefully refrigerated.

Sincerely yours,

A. WETMORE

Assistant Secretary."

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