

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #379

Executive Offices of the White House,
July 6, 1937 - 4.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: How is everybody behaving, Russell; is everybody quiet?

MR. YOUNG: Steve has been all right since you left. His picture has been in the papers.

THE PRESIDENT: He must have felt that they were not paying enough attention to him.

MR. YOUNG: Well, he is Press Secretary.

THE PRESIDENT: And he is trying to break into print.

MR. EARLY: Often heard but seldom seen.

MR. YOUNG: I see where Brother McIntyre succeeds Louis Howe.

MR. EARLY: I don't think the President knows about that, Russell.

MR. YOUNG: Didn't you see the story that UP had about Mac succeeding Louis Howe?

MR. HARKNESS: I acquitted myself of the charge, however. I presented documentary evidence.

MR. YOUNG: But the story got into the paper.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it was probably written in the office.

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on all those subjects as desirable. There is no more "must" legislation now than there was the last time I talked about it in February and March and December and January.

Q "Must" legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: I said, "There is no more 'must' legislation now than there was then." They are all desirable objectives.

Q You told us to stop using that word, "must". It is a "preferred" list.

THE PRESIDENT: I said, "desirable".

Q Would you consider Housing Legislation desirable too?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is the Court still in the first preferred class?

THE PRESIDENT: I never mentioned "first preferred class." I said, "desirable".

Q Preferred class?

THE PRESIDENT: It is all desirable legislation and has been recommended. In fact anything recommended, from the point of view of the recommendor, is desirable.

Q Do you consider appointing anyone to the vacancy on the Supreme Court?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Any comment on the House mutterings on the cost of the Earhart search?

THE PRESIDENT: What was that?

Q On the House mutterings on the Earhart search.-- request for investigation and what not.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know there was any mutterings. I saw a U.P. dispatch from Honolulu yesterday which said that the cost of the search has been \$4,000,000 to the Government.

Of course, a thing like that is just plain prevarication. That is the politest term to call it, a so-called news dispatch.

Actually, as you probably know, every Navy plane on a ship like the Lexington or a ship like the Colorado has to do so many hours in the air during the course of a year. Well, this counts towards the number of hours in the air. Therefore there is no additional cost because of the cost of keeping the plane in the air because the money would be spent whether they were doing a search problem of this kind or whether they were doing a maneuver.

It is the same way on the fuel oil. The Navy had a very skimpy -- from the point of view of efficiency -- a skimpy allowance for fuel oil. They have to be very careful how they spend it and they have to stay within the allowance of fuel oil in the course of a year. Each ship, as a general proposition, is limited to the amount of fuel oil she is supposed to use -- within its