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aggressor and to prepare to face resolutely the dangers of any possible war.

At the same time, we of course cannot neglect the vital problems of a nation at peace. This places a heavy responsibility upon Government and especially upon those charged with the management of the human and material resources which we devote to our national security. The wise and prudent administration of the vast resources required by defense calls for extraordinary skill in meshing the military, political, economic, and social machinery of our modern life. It requires the finest understanding of how a complex industrial economy may best be put at the service of the Nation's defense so that the greatest effective use is made of resources with a minimum of waste and misapplication.

Our liberties rest with our people, upon the scope and depth of their understanding of the spiritual, political, and economic realities which underlie our national purpose and sustain our Nation's security. It is the high mission of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces to develop such understanding among our people and their military and civilian leaders. So doing, we will make the wisest use of our own resources in promoting our common defense. The Industrial College has been a guidepost pointing to the greatly increased quality of our defensive capacity; it must continue to point to an ever-ascending progress for the years ahead.

This splendid structure, which now we dedicate, will enable the College to do its work more efficiently, and it is a tribute to the continuing high public esteem in which it is held. To all who had a part in making this possible, I offer my warm congratulations, and officially dedicate this College to the service of the United States of America.

NOTE: The President's opening words "General Mundy, General Lemnitzer" referred to Lt. Gen. George W. Mundy, USAF, Commandant of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, Chief of Staff of

the U.S. Army. Later he referred to J. Carlton Ward, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Advisers of the College, and Bernard Baruch who lectured at the College during the period of the President's association with it.

## 284 ¶ The President's News Conference of *September 7, 1960*

THE PRESIDENT. Good morning. Please sit down.

In a very depressing world picture that we see so often, there is one bright spot that seems to me worthy of mention, and that is the settling of

the Indus River water problem between Pakistan and India. I think the world—at least, certainly, the free world—should offer a vote of thanks to the people that have been so instrumental: not only President Ayub and Prime Minister Nehru, but Eugene Black of the World Bank and his deputy, Mr. Iliff. This has been brought about by long, patient negotiations with concessions on both sides, and among the governments that of course necessarily had to assist in financing over and beyond what the World Bank could do, and the countries themselves. In both cases I know that this—particularly between the two governmental heads—this negotiation has gone on for a long time. When I was in these two countries we talked about the matter, and their expressed intention there to settle it has finally come to a fruition for which all of us should be very grateful and gratified.

*Q.* Rutherford M. Poats, United Press International: Sir, in that connection can you suggest to us the breadth of the political possibilities in this step toward a rapprochement between India and Pakistan? Do you see this as a step toward, say, tackling the problem of Kashmir?

*THE PRESIDENT.* In this sense, yes: that with both these countries water is a tremendous matter—problem, and the agreement here cannot fail to lead, in my opinion, to the settlement of other problems about their refugees and displaced persons, and even it might have some effect on this very touchy question of Kashmir. Certainly that is the hope.

*Q.* Kenneth M. Scheibel, Gannett Newspapers: Mr. President, Vice President Nixon has said that he will not make religion an issue in this campaign. Now, the other day a prominent American said that the Republican Party is bringing religion into the campaign as an issue through the back door. Do you have any comment?

*THE PRESIDENT.* Mr. Nixon and I agreed long ago that one thing that we would never raise, and never mention, is the religious issue in this coming campaign. I have made my position clear before this group, and I suppose I do not need to repeat it.

I not only don't believe in voicing prejudice, I want to assure you I feel none. And I am sure that Mr. Nixon feels exactly the same.

Now, the very need for—apparently for—protesting innocence in this regard now, in itself, seems to exacerbate the situation rather than to quiet it. I know of no one, certainly no Republican has come to me and said, "I believe we should use religion as an issue," or intimate that he intends to use it either locally or nationally. I do not believe that any

group of leaders has been more emphatic upon this point than have the Republican leaders. And, I would hope that it could be one of those subjects that could be laid on the shelf and forgotten until after the election is over.

*Q.* Ray L. Scherer, National Broadcasting Company: Mr. President, how do you evaluate reports from the Congo that Russian planes are being used to transport troops outside U.N. jurisdiction?

*THE PRESIDENT.* Mr. Scherer, that's one question I knew I was going to get—[laughter]—and so, I have written an answer because I want to make perfectly clear what we feel about it.

[*Reading*] The United States deplores the unilateral action of the Soviet Union in supplying aircraft and other equipment for military purposes to the Congo, thereby aggravating an already serious situation which finds Africans killing other Africans. If these planes are flown by Soviet military personnel this would be contrary to the principles so far applied regarding use in the Congo of military contingents from the larger powers.

As far as I know, these rules have previously been upheld by the Soviet Union itself. Therefore, it would be doubly serious if such participation by military units were part of an operation in the civil war which has recently taken on very ugly overtones.

The main responsibility in the case of the Congo has been thrown on the United Nations as the only organization able to act without adding to the risks of spreading the conflict. The United Nations maintains very strict principles regarding foreign military intervention in the Congo or in any country. I am sure that within the limits set by the Charter itself, the United Nations is doing what it can to uphold these principles and will do so in the future.

The constitutional structure of the Congo Republic is a question which should be worked out peacefully by the Congolese themselves.

This objective is threatened by the Soviet action which seems to be motivated entirely by the Soviet Union's political designs in Africa. I must repeat that the United States takes a most serious view of this action by the Soviet Union. In the interest of a peaceful solution in Africa, acceptable to all parties concerned, I urge the Soviet Union to desist from its unilateral activities and to demand its support—to lend its support instead to the practice of collective effort through the United Nations.

[*Ends reading*]

And I might add that the United States intends to give its support to

the United Nations to whatever they find it necessary within the limits of the Charter to keep peace in this region.

*Q.* William McGaffin, *Chicago Daily News*: Sir, continuing this discussion upon a very grave question, do you—could you give us the benefit of your thinking as far as you can within security reasons, on our chances of keeping the lid on the Congo, of keeping it from succumbing to communism, and of avoiding another war, Korean-type war there?

*THE PRESIDENT.* Well, I don't know that you could describe the type of war. I think this: this job can be done if others see the problem in the same serious way that the United States, and I think the United Nations, does see it. But if they, someone, or if the Soviets insist on acting unilaterally, I can say this would create a situation that would indeed be serious.

*Q.* Thomas N. Schroth, *Congressional Quarterly*: Sir, it's often been said that you preferred to stand above politics. I wonder if you would give us your views on the role of the Presidency in political campaigns, and would you tell us whether you personally enjoy political activities?

*THE PRESIDENT.* Well, first of all, I of course am not responsible for the opinions of others saying I like to stay above politics. I've never said so. I recognize that I have, or have had, the responsibility to be the head of a party, a party that upholds the basic philosophy that I believe to be correct for application in this Nation to keep our economy strong and expanding.

Now, believing that, and having been responsible for directing the operations of the executive department for the past 7½ years, it would be odd if I simply became a sphinx and refused to show why I believe these things and what were my hopes for it in the future. Now, I do think this: I think that the President, as long as he is President, still has an obligation to every single individual in this Nation. Therefore, the rule of reason and of logic and of good sense has got to apply in these things if a man in such position, concerned with the dignity of the office, concerned with its standing, he cannot just go out and be in the hustings and shouting some of the things that we see stated often irresponsibly. I believe he does have a right to make his views known to Americans wherever they are.

*Q.* Mrs. May Craig, *Portland (Maine) Press Herald*: Sir, Senator Kennedy said yesterday that you cannot get Mr. Khrushchev to bargain seriously about peace either by arguing with him or smiling with him.

Now, you've tried "summitry" and you tried inviting him here. Do you think it would have been better if you had taken a tougher road, and would you so advise Vice President Nixon?

THE PRESIDENT. What do you mean by "tougher road"?

Q. Mrs. Craig: Not stop nuclear testing, perhaps not had him here.

THE PRESIDENT. I don't see anything that would be tough about refusing to see a man as long as there was any possible chance of his agreeing to one of the main efforts we are making toward disarmament. I do not see that it is merely in, as part of the contest between, in perfecting weapons that we want to stop testing. We are talking about everything we can do to bring some peace to the world; that's what we are trying to do. Now, toughness comes in standing in front of the man and telling him what you will do and you won't do. Our country is peaceable; we want peace. Is it tough just to say we won't even talk peace? That makes—that seems to me to be silly. Now, I don't care who says it, you have got to explore every avenue there is, and you've got to work on it day and night and think about it day and night. And I am not concerned about any criticism about my past actions. I have worked for what I thought was the good of the United States and the peace of the world, and I will continue to do so.

Q. William H. Y. Knighton, Jr., Baltimore Sun: Mr. President, on a less serious subject, it appears as though now the world series will be played possibly only 40 miles from here. [Laughter] Would you consider attending one of the games, sir?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. Knighton: Thank you.

Q. Robert C. Pierpoint, CBS News: Mr. President, on a more serious subject again—[laughter]—you have indicated that you are considering going to the United Nations General Assembly and I am wondering if you have made your decision to go, if you could tell us about that decision; and, secondly, will you possibly see Mr. Khrushchev when he's here?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I would think the chances of the latter were very, very slim indeed. And there would have to, again, to be some conditions fulfilled because—before that could happen.

I think we must start off with this premise: we must respect the United Nations; we must believe in the United Nations or the case for relieving some of the burdens that mankind is now carrying, for removing some

of the worries and the fears that plague men's minds and hearts, will never be achieved. Therefore, I do not intend to debase the United Nations by being a party to a, well, a battle of invective and propaganda.

Now, I have been thinking even more this year than formerly of the possibility of making a pilgrimage to the United Nations. I have done it twice. But every year it comes up. This year there would appear to be very definite reasons for going there, but at the same time I must insist I am not going there in any attempt to, you might say, to debase that organization in the minds of people everywhere.<sup>1</sup>

*Q.* David P. Sentner, Hearst Newspapers: Mr. President, would you please give us your reaction to the recognition of Communist China by the Castro regime in Cuba?

*THE PRESIDENT.* Well, it seems that it's what you might have expected. I think it is a very grave error.

*Q.* David Kraslow, Knight Newspapers: Mr. President, there has been quite a bit of soul searching of late about our national purpose. How would you define our national purpose, and do you think the American people are losing sight of it?

*THE PRESIDENT.* You know, I think there's a lot of talk about this. The United States purpose was stated in its Declaration of Independence and very definitely in the first ten amendments to the Constitution, and as well as the preamble to that document.

I am not concerned about America losing its sense of purpose. We may not be articulate about it, and we may not give daily the kind of thought to it that we should; but I believe America wants to live first in freedom and the kind of liberty that is guaranteed to us through our founding documents; and, secondly, they want to live at peace with all their neighbors, so that we may jointly find a better life for humanity as we go forward.

This, to me, is the simple purpose of the United States.

We have to take many avenues and routes to achieve it. We have to keep tremendous defensive arrangements. We must help others in different fashions, but that is always the purpose, and I see no reason for blinking it or dimming it or being afraid to speak it.

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<sup>1</sup>On September 14 the Press Secretary announced that the President would go to New York on the morning of September 22 for the purpose of addressing the General Assembly of the United Nations. It was further stated that the President would make specific proposals to the United Nations delegates at that time.

*Q.* Marvin L. Arrowsmith, Associated Press: Mr. President, how do you feel about these NSA defectors, and do you think there is anything that should be done to try to prevent the hiring of this type by our top security agencies?

*THE PRESIDENT.* Mr. Arrowsmith, I don't know of anything that has—any internal or procedural problem—that has more engaged my attention for these past years. And this is only natural, I think.

I was a commander of an enormous force, an allied force, in which the dangers of leaks and defectors and spies in our midst were always very great and I have possibly been more sensitive to the dangers to our country as created by this kind of weakness, human weakness, than have most people.

Now, I believe that an incident such as this shows that we must be always on the alert, very alert. I would think we must go through our entire procedures to see if there is any one way we could better it. We have every kind of organization—every kind of group—that is possible to be party to these investigations into the backgrounds and character of the people in sensitive positions. I believe we must continue to do so. And, for my part, whenever it's a choice of the Nation's safety in keeping an individual, I will do something to get him out of a place—where he cannot hurt us.

I recognize that even in Government—although Government employment is a privilege and not a right—that the rights of the individual must be respected, but this incident, I believe, should be a lesson to all of us that we must never cease our vigilance in the large and small places at any time.

*Q.* M. Stewart Hensley, United Press International: Mr. President, you have spoken of the Russian, use of Russian planes to transport Lumumba's troops within the Congo. Do you have any evidence that the Russians, in addition to this, are supplying any arms to Lumumba's forces?

*THE PRESIDENT.* I have no—and, as a matter of fact, two things: we do not know as of now that there are any Russian [military] crews operating these planes, and we do not know that there are any weapons in the cargoes.

Now, there were 10 planes that, on the request of the Russians, landed in Athens on the condition that they were inspected for the character of their cargo and it was all of a legitimate type for peaceful uses. But I



believe, understand that there have been no more requests made to land at Athens. [*Confers with Mr. Hagerty*]

Well, Russian military crews, I'll correct that.

Q. John Scali, Associated Press: Mr. President, in answer to an earlier question you said you thought the chances were very, very slim of your meeting with Premier Khrushchev until some conditions were fulfilled beforehand. Could you spell that out a bit; by "conditions" would you have in mind something like freeing the RB-47 fliers which they are now holding in jail?

THE PRESIDENT. That would be one thing that I would expect, yes. But I don't believe I will go into the entire gamut of the possibilities. I think I will let your imagination answer that one.

Q. Edward V. Koterba, United Features: Mr. President, again in a lighter vein, on next October 4th, just 10 days before your 70th birthday, you will have passed the age record of Andrew Jackson who became the oldest Chief Executive in history, as he left office at the age of 69 years, 11 months, and 19 days. As this milestone in presidential history approaches, sir, could you give us a few hints on how you've succeeded in maintaining such apparent good health despite the tremendous burdens of your office?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, now, first of all, I believe it's a tradition in baseball that when a pitcher has a no-hitter going, no one reminds him of it. [*Laughter*] So, I don't take it very kindly that you are taking for granted that I am going to reach October 4th.

As a matter of fact, I see no particular virtue or not that a man should be the eldest President ever to serve. I do think about age in the terms of two men that were going down the road, and one of them was very woeful about the fact that he was getting into so many advanced years. And he complained about this and all of the joys of youth and middle age that he was now missing, and finally the other one could stand it no longer and he says, "Well, I'm certainly glad I'm old." And the fellow said, "Well, what's the matter; are you crazy?" "Well," he says, "considering when I was born, if I weren't old, I'd be dead." [*Laughter*]

Now, I, the way I feel of it, concerning, considering the day I was born, why, I'm glad I'm old!

Q. Frank van der Linden, Nashville Banner: Sir, the Congress has gone home without acting on nearly all of the requests you made for legislation. And Senator Kennedy and the other Democratic leaders are

saying it's mostly your fault, or the Republicans' fault. And I wondered if you have other reasons than that.

THE PRESIDENT. Well, apparently this other—this other party then is making me responsible for splitting theirs. I think that should be something for self-examination and not for calling for comment from me.

Next, they had a 2-to-1 majority. They were in session for a long time, and they did very little indeed.

I think the record was disappointing and certainly it was disappointing to me, but that isn't important. I think that it should be disappointing to the United States.

Within any little bit of give-and-take which, after all, is necessary in the legislative process, we could certainly have had a reasonable raise in the minimum wage. The administration had asked for it. We could have had some schoolrooms constructed, and which would have been the kind of thing that I think the Federal Government could well help out. And we could have had other things like that done with a little bit of give-and-take.

Now, I am not going to start castigating people for motives or anything else. I am merely relating the facts which I think are such as to cause some disappointment, if not dismay, throughout the American Nation.

Q. Mikhail R. Sagatelyan, Tass Telegraph Agency: Sir, at several recent news conferences you repeated, repeatedly stated, that the United States and you personally are ready to do everything which may appear necessary for strengthening peace with justice, and mainly for progress in the field of world disarmament. Would you, sir, tell us what new steps for obtaining the above-mentioned aims the United States and you personally are going to make during the coming session of the General Assembly in which a certain number of heads of governments will participate?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I don't know whether you can say that there is anything new. There will be renewed effort made, there will be renewed effort to place the whole record of America in this field before the world again, to show where are the areas where we want to negotiate, concessions we are ready to make, the kind of agreements we are ready to make, provided only that every agreement has with it the kind of control and inspection that can make each side confident that both are acting in good faith. That is the sole reservation we make in these negotia-

tions, and I think it will be, of course, reemphasized.

Now, as far as any new proposal, I believe there have been one or two made in the United Nations again about a good many tons of U-235, and so on, ready to—[confers with Mr. Hagerty]—I think made by—Mr. Lodge made this before the United Nations just in a matter of a month. We will continue to stand by such offers as that. But in every place we will review the whole situation and say, “Here is what we stand ready to do.”

Q. Robert G. Spivack, New York Post: Mr. President, in appraising the short session of Congress, how much responsibility do you think the Southern Democrats and conservative Republicans, the coalition, must bear for not getting through the domestic, social welfare legislation you spoke of?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, it turns out, Mr. Spivack, that this contest now in which everybody is so interested, and in the context of which all of this record of the Congress is viewed, is between Democrats and Republicans. So, there is where I would leave the Congress.

Q. Charles W. Roberts, Newsweek: Sir, in the statements made by the two NSA defectors in Moscow, they indicated that they had made known their unhappiness here, made to a Member of Congress, and there was an indication that the State Department was informed that they were unhappy and contemplating defection. I wonder if any reports coming to you show that there was evidence anywhere in the Government that these men were under surveillance or were suspected of defecting prior to the time they left?

THE PRESIDENT. No. I haven't—this is a new statement in the thing, so far as I am concerned. And, I would say this: the Defense Department has already made quite a statement in—and one of these men, I believe, is—he was investigated by the, originally, by the Navy, the other by the Army, and I think those two services could give you more detailed information on this matter than I can. I know nothing about this, as a specific charge.

Marvin L. Arrowsmith, Associated Press: Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: President Eisenhower's one hundred and ninety-first news conference was held in the Executive Office Building from 10:30 to 11:01 o'clock on Wednesday morning, September 7, 1960. In attendance: 243.

trip. I would like to go sometime—to go to the Far East. I think it is an area of great importance to us, but we have no plans for it, and I would think that we have a lot of work to do here for a good many months.

[10.] Q. Mr. President, there has been a good deal of public concern about the political situation in South Viet-Nam, and I would like to ask you whether the difficulties between the Buddhist population there and the South Vietnamese Government has been an impediment to the effectiveness of American aid in the war against the Viet Cong?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, I think it has. I think it is unfortunate that this dispute has arisen at the very time when the military struggle has been going better than it has been going in many months. I would hope that some solution could be reached for this dispute, which certainly began as a religious dispute, and because we have invested a tremendous amount of effort and it is going quite well.

I do realize of course, and we all have to realize, that Viet-Nam has been in war for 20 years. The Japanese came in, the war with the French, the civil war which has gone on for 10 years, and this is very difficult for any society to stand. It is a country which has got a good many problems and it is divided, and there is guerrilla activity and murder and all of the rest. Compounding this, however, now is a religious dispute. I would hope this would be settled, because we want to see a stable government there, carrying on a struggle to maintain its national independence.

We believe strongly in that. We are not going to withdraw from that effort. In my opinion, for us to withdraw from that effort would mean a collapse not only of South Viet-Nam, but Southeast Asia. So we are going to stay there. We hope with the great effort which is being carried by the Vietnamese themselves, and they have been in this field a lot longer than we have, and with a good deal more deaths and casualties, that behind this military shield put up by the Vietnamese people they can reach an

agreement on the civil disturbances and also in respect for the rights of others. That's our hope. That's our effort. That—we're bringing our influence to bear. And the decision is finally theirs, but I think that before we render too harsh a judgment on the people, we should realize that they are going through a harder time than we have had to go through.

[11.] Q. A personal question, sir, if I may. It has been reported that you returned to playing golf again. I wonder if you could tell us how you feel and how you enjoyed returning to what has been reported one of your favorite sports.

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I like it. I did not think I was going to play golf again until my trip. I don't want to get into a discussion of back difficulties, but my trip to Europe, I think, helped. Getting out of that office did something. So, I enjoy it.

[12.] Q. Mr. President, at Frankfurt you said the time has come for a common effort on the International Monetary Fund. Could you give us a more specific notion of what you had in mind?

THE PRESIDENT. We are sending tomorrow a balance of payments message which will have a good many of our suggestions. Quite obviously, the dollar is international currency and has served us well, and served the West well, and with the sterling has been the basis for a good deal of international liquidity. I have every confidence that it can continue to be. I think we can still continue on the gold standard. We have had good bilateral relations with a good many countries of Europe, who by prepayment of debt, and by other rather technical transactions, have eased some of the burdens of the balance of payments difficulties which we have been undergoing.

But I would confine my remarks to that at this time, and recommend my statement tomorrow on the balance of payments. It may be that as time goes on, other suggestions may be made to provide greater liquidity and greater security for the various currencies. I think if the program we are

spect, how do you now view the Cuban tractor deal? It seems pretty well off. What's the next move there? How do you plan to get those prisoners out of there now?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, the tractors—the committee offered Mr. Castro, as I understand it, the 500 agricultural tractors which he mentioned in the original speech. Mr. Castro has not accepted these agricultural tractors but is insisting on a different kind of tractor—far larger, which could be used for other purposes besides agriculture. The committee has therefore felt that Mr. Castro is not interested in permitting these prisoners to be released in return for agricultural tractors and, unless he changes his view, the situation will remain as it is.

I wish the prisoners could be free. I wish that it had been possible to secure their release because they are, as I said at my first statement, men in whom we have great interest and who are devoted to the cause of freedom. But I think the committee did everything that reasonable men and citizens could do. They were motivated by humanitarian interests. I think that they demonstrated, by exploring with Castro in detail, exactly the nature of Castro's interest.

If the—our first response had been negative, it might have been possible for Mr. Castro to say that we had refused to send agricultural tractors in return for these men. This committee went to every conceivable length in order to demonstrate their good faith. Mr. Castro did not accept it.

[7.] Q. Mr. President, I think we'd like to hear you say how you are feeling now.

THE PRESIDENT. Very well, very well. I'm feeling better, even, than Pierre Salinger.

[8.] Q. Mr. President, with respect to the Cuban operation, would you tell us what General Taylor's findings were and what reorganization or adjustment in our intelli-

gence activities you contemplate as a result of this report?

THE PRESIDENT. General Taylor made an oral report to me, which I asked him to make and which I think will be useful to me. In addition, of course, General Taylor has been—is now a member of the staff of the White House as our military representative with special responsibilities in the field of defense matters and intelligence and coordination in those areas.

[9.] Q. Mr. President, will you tell us about the reorganization plan, if any, with respect to our intelligence activities because of his appointment?

THE PRESIDENT. No, that matter will—has not been completely—completed. In addition, we—the Killian committee is looking at the same matter and when the Killian committee has finished its preliminary surveys, we may have some changes.

[10.] Q. Mr. President, approximately 200 Members of Congress have protested to you regarding the Department of State plan for distributing low-priced textile imports among other Western nations. They urge abandonment of the plan because they feel it commits the United States to an unreasonable high level of low-priced imports in the future. Could you tell us whether this State Department plan has your unqualified support or whether you would favor modifying it to meet congressional objections?

THE PRESIDENT. In the first place, there's no plan yet. No solution has been devised to this problem of how we're going to provide for an orderly flow of textiles from the newly emerging countries which concentrate on this kind of commodity and how we're going to provide for an orderly flow between those countries and the consuming countries so that we protect the interests of the producing countries and the consuming countries.

not justified in paying \$5 or \$6 a day more to keep veterans, service-connected or non-service-connected, in one of these smaller hospitals when he could get the best modern medicine available at a much cheaper cost in a hospital in the area.

Now Congress may have a different viewpoint. I have observed that they have asked us to permit the Independent Offices Committee of the Senate Appropriations Committee to look further into it. The chairman of the House Veterans Committee was consulted before we took this action, and he proposes to make a close study of it now in the House as they have done in the Senate. We will, of course, supply all the information we have and we will receive all the information that anyone else has to offer, and we will always be glad to give it consideration.

But the judgments we have made, insofar as we can now determine, were made on the best facts available, and we do not believe that the national interests of all of our people justify the waste that will occur if we satisfy the narrow local requirements. As desirable as they may be to the local community, they don't necessarily serve the national interest.

THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH

[9.] Q. Mr. President, can you tell us what the doctors report on your health since your illness last week?

THE PRESIDENT. They take my blood pressure practically every morning. They look at my throat. The comments now are they think I am doing very well, and most of the symptoms of the infection I had are gone. Although I don't feel as bouncy as I did before I went to the hospital, I am putting in a rather full day these days. I had a bowl of soup in my office for lunch yesterday and

worked until I went to the meeting last night and had my dinner after I returned. I am reasonably well caught up with my work and I feel in good shape.

I would be glad to have you, if you have any specific requests that you want to pursue, talk to Dr. Burkley about it. He would be glad to give it to you. He sees me every day.

ROBERT G. BAKER

[10.] Q. Mr. President, the Senate Rules Committee made a report stating that Bobby Baker was involved in gross improprieties. That was the official report. And earlier you indicated you wanted to wait until the committee finished at least a report—

THE PRESIDENT. No, I never indicated I wanted to wait for the Senate. I said that was a matter for the Senate, and that is what I would repeat.

Q. Mr. President, in light of President Kennedy's much stated views that he thinks the moral leadership on these ethical questions should come from the White House, I wonder if you would like to give us your opinion now on Bobby Baker, when he was your assistant and the time afterward?

THE PRESIDENT. No, I would not care to make a comment about a matter that is under investigation in a Senate committee and is being thoroughly studied by a local grand jury. I have stated at various times that the question has been raised that I think that this is a matter for the Senate to study and if there has been any violation of the law, for the grand jury and the FBI and the Department of Justice to take appropriate action.

Now I have referred to the FBI any and all information of a substantive nature that has come to my attention in this regard. That information is being presented to the

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is a need for stronger legislation to ensure service on interconnected power systems?

THE PRESIDENT. That will depend, I think, on the recommendations that the people who are studying it will make, and as the Chairman told you, they have not completed their study. They have not made any recommendations as yet. We will have to examine them when they do and act on them.

[7.] Q. Mr. President, is there any possibility of your going to the AFL-CIO convention this week?

THE PRESIDENT. No. I explained to them at the time they invited me that I did not think I would have a very heavy speaking schedule between now and the first of the year.

[8.] Q. Mr. President, would you entertain a question on Viet-Nam?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes.

Q. There have been some reports that the total amount of Americans—

THE PRESIDENT. What reports? Now let me get this clear, these reports and rumors. I have got to identify them before I can comment on them intelligently.

Q. Do I have to say it's one of my colleagues?

THE PRESIDENT. I want to just be sure it's reliable.

Q. Mr. Mohr,<sup>23</sup> of the New York Times, as you know, reported recently from Viet-Nam that there were discussions there of increasing the American commitment up to the capability of the Korean war perhaps. Is there a possibility of that?

THE PRESIDENT. I wouldn't want to make any predictions or prognostications or question Mr. Mohr's judgment. I think I'll go back to my July statement and say that we are very anxious to have peace in that area

in the world, and as soon as folks there are willing to leave their neighbors alone, why, we can have peace. But until we do have peace we are going to continue to help the people of South Viet-Nam resist aggression and we are going to supply whatever men may be needed in that effort.

Now, from day to day those numbers will change and we no doubt, between now and the first of the year, will have to make plans for what changes will take place. But so far as I am aware, those plans have not been made yet, and those decisions have not been made.

Maybe Mr. Mohr has some information I don't have. It takes time to get in. And sometimes our reports don't come as fast as you newspaper people.

Q. Will that be taken up tomorrow, Mr. President, at this meeting you are going to have with Secretary McNamara?

THE PRESIDENT. I would doubt that Mr. Mohr is on the agenda. We will discuss the defense needs rather fully.

[9.] Q. Mr. President, can you give us your expert political opinion of what happened to General de Gaulle?<sup>24</sup>

THE PRESIDENT. No.

[10.] Q. Mr. President, we had a report the other day from your doctors on how you're feeling. I wonder if you could give us a personal measure of your physical condition and your outlook for the next few weeks?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I feel as well as I expect to feel. I don't feel as good as I did before the operation,<sup>24</sup> but I have no reason to feel that I won't be up to my normal operating strength the first of the year.

I think each day I get a little stronger and I have about reached my objective so far as

<sup>23</sup> Charles Mohr, New York Times correspondent in Viet-Nam.

<sup>24</sup> President Charles de Gaulle of France.

<sup>24</sup> See Item 549.

weight and exercise and everything is concerned. I think things are going well.

Reporter: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

NOTE: President Johnson's fifty-second news conference was held at the LBJ Ranch, Johnson City, Tex., at 2:10 p.m. on Monday, December 6, 1965.

## 642 Statement by the President on the Members of the Advisory Committee on Older Americans. *December 9, 1965*

THE NEW Committee represents a wide range of knowledge about the Nation's older people—their needs, their hopes, their abilities. The extensive and varied experiences of the members selected by Secretary Gardner will be invaluable in the pioneering work that lies ahead to make life better for our older citizens.

NOTE: The President's statement was made public as part of a White House release announcing the appointment by Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare John W. Gardner of the Advisory Committee on Older Americans, established by the Older Americans Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-73; 79 Stat. 218). The release stated that the Committee would advise Secretary Gardner on national policies and programs to improve the status and well-being of older people.

William D. Bechill, Commissioner on Aging, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, was appointed Chairman of the Committee. The names of the public members follow: William C. Fitch, Executive Director, American Association of Retired Persons and National Retired Teachers Association, Washington, D.C.; Rubin M. Hanan, Alabama League of Aging Citizens, Inc., Montgomery, Ala.;

Garson Meyer, President, National Council on the Aging, Rochester, N.Y.; Mrs. A. M. G. Russell, Chairman, Citizens Advisory Committee on Aging, Atherton, Calif.; Mrs. Margaret Schweinhaut, Chairman, Maryland Coordinating Commission on Problems of the Aging, Baltimore, Md.; James F. McMichael, Executive Director, State Commission on Aging, Madison, Wis.; Dr. Edward T. Ximenes, general practitioner, San Antonio, Tex.; Dr. I. P. Davis, dentist and community leader, Miami, Fla.; Dr. Harold Sheppard, staff social scientist, W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Washington, D.C.; Zalmen Lichtenstein, Executive Director, Golden Ring Council of Senior Citizens, New York, N.Y.; Dr. Arnold M. Rose, Professor of Sociology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.; Jay Roney, Director, Project on Aging, American Public Welfare Association, former Director, Bureau of Family Services, Social Security Administration, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Wilma Donahue, Chairman, Division of Gerontology, Institute for Human Adjustment, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Charles E. Odell, Director, Older and Retired Workers Department, United Auto Workers, Detroit, Mich.; and James C. O'Brien, Executive Director, United Steelworkers Committee on Older and Retired Workers, United Steelworkers, Washington, D.C.

## 643 Telephone Remarks Upon Accepting an Award From the Salvation Army Association of New York. *December 9, 1965*

*Mr. Buckner and my good friend, Fred Kappel, ladies and gentlemen:*

I feel a very special gratitude in receiving this honor today—because I think I know something of the men and women who extend it. Your standard of service is high, your record of accomplishment proud and long.

For a century now, the Salvation Army has offered food to the hungry and shelter to the homeless—in clinics and children's homes, through disaster relief, in prison and welfare work, and a thousand other endeavors. In that century you have proved time and again the power of a handshake, a meal, and a song.



## 648 Remarks of Welcome to President Ayub Khan of Pakistan on the South Lawn at the White House. December 14, 1965

*Mr. President:*

I am happy, on behalf of the people of the United States, to welcome you once more to our shores.

We Americans have admired Pakistan's rapid progress as a nation, and we have had particular respect for you as the leader who has been chiefly responsible for this great progress over the past 7 years.

It is also a very great satisfaction for me, personally, to have you here with us at this time. I have not forgotten the hospitality which my wife and I received during our visit to Pakistan 4 years ago. It seemed to me then, as it does now, that Pakistan and the United States have very much in common. For one thing, each of our countries began as what most people called "an impractical experiment." No one expected us to survive. Yet here we are.

I remember, most gratefully, how much at home I was made to feel on my visit to your country. I also recall my feelings when you addressed the legislature of my home State back in 1961. Mr. President, I don't know whether you felt equally at home on that occasion, but I remember thinking at the time that you could have had a very great future in American politics.

So we do have, I think, much in common. We have also had our differences. Yet I hope that the bonds which unite us are far stronger than any temporary disagreements.

Both of our nations are dedicated to government by, and for, the people.

Both you and we, each in our own way, are trying—trying so hard to provide a fuller life for all of our people. We, in America, admire Pakistan's efforts to this end, and we have sought to work with them.

We also agree, I know, that the ultimate success of all of our efforts really depends upon the restoration of peace and stability, not only in Asia, but throughout the entire world.

I am quite confident that, working together with the millions of others who share these ideals, we will ultimately reach our goal. I am confident, too, that the discussions which we are about to have will bring us—and the world—one step closer to that common objective.

Mr. President, we are delighted to have you here this morning. We hope you will enjoy your stay in our country, and we certainly want you to know that we warmly welcome you as our friend.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:12 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where President Mohammed Ayub Khan was given a formal welcome with full military honors. President Ayub Khan responded as follows:

*Mr. President:*

I am deeply touched by the warm welcome you have given me and my party, and also for the gracious words you used for the progress that Pakistan has made during the last few years.

May I say that we got our independence after 150 years of British rule 18 years ago, and when I became responsible for running the country, my main concern was to do such things which would improve the living standards of the people and give them hope for a better future.

Now for a country like yours, which started much earlier, perhaps such things are simpler, also simpler perhaps because of your vast resources. But for us, we had to establish the infrastructure of all descriptions to be able to embark on the road to progress.

And I am very happy to be able to tell you that we made considerable progress. And I also would like to take this opportunity of thanking your Government and you, sir, and your people, for the very generous assistance you gave us in these endeavors.

I am very happy to be here again in Washington. It reminds me, first of all, of my last visit when the President, as Vice President, under no obligation on

him to waste his time on me, he very kindly, and his lady, took me to the ranch, and the amount of affection and the amount of hospitality they showed, I can never forget in my life and I keep on repeating it to my people in Pakistan. I come here again; I am looking forward to meeting you, sir, and discussing with you our mutual problems, and also to have the opportunity of meeting several other good friends of Pakistan here in Washington and in the United States.

There are several places in the world which are troubled, which are under stress; so is our part of the world. Unfortunately there has been a war, a short war, but a sharp war and bloody war. The peace there hangs on a very thin thread of cease-fire.

I know you are far away, but you, as the greatest country today, have an obligation to the rest of the world, and I have no doubt, sir, that your Government, under your dynamic and powerful leadership,

will lend its full support toward the resolution of the problems which are besetting us.

We can't afford wars. We can't afford tensions. Our task is difficult. Our task is to do something for humanity. Our task is to search for peace. And we, in Pakistan, certainly make every endeavor to be able to make our contribution towards peace on honorable and reasonable terms.

Sir, again I thank you once again for a warm welcome, and I am happy to see after your very serious operation you are looking so well and you are regaining your health, and I do hope that you will completely recover soon because the responsibility you hold—not only on behalf of your own people but on behalf of the largest part of the world—is so great that your health is of tremendous importance to us all.

Thank you, sir.

See also Items 649, 650.

## 649 Toasts of the President and the President of Pakistan.

December 14, 1965

*Mr. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:*

There is no need to say how very pleased we are, Mr. President, to welcome you to this house this evening. The President of Pakistan comes on a new visit, but he is a very old friend. This is his third journey here as head of a young State already grown to world importance.

Mrs. Johnson and I want to thank you, Mr. President, for honoring us with your distinguished Ambassador Ahmed and his charming wife, whom we enjoy very much.

We are also particularly pleased that we could renew acquaintances with your former Ambassador, your present Foreign Secretary. I observed that perhaps when he was Ambassador and I was Vice President we were doing a little better job with our relations than we are in our new positions. But it just shows you what happens to people when they get promoted!

President Ayub and I have a great deal in common, just as our peoples share many values and many dreams.

President Ayub is a rancher as I am. His home district is a country much like Johnson City, Blanco County, where I live. He also has a special bond with Mrs. Johnson, and for that matter, all lovers of beauty in this land. President Ayub is building a new capital for his country, just as we are trying to rebuild and beautify ours.

With so much to share it is not surprising that President Ayub and I found our talks today fruitful. They will continue in the evening and we hope for more extended sessions tomorrow.

We share the basic values and beliefs: man's fundamental dignity and worth, a love of liberty, a pride of excellence, pursuit of beauty and truth, a vision of a better and a fuller life for all human beings.

I have recalled a courageous and a compassionate appeal made by President Ayub in a broadcast back in 1963. He said then—and I quote: "Hatred and anger fan the fires of hell in human minds. Why not put them out? It is nobler and better for one's own happiness to live on terms of friend-

liness with others."

And so tonight we share the greatest hunger and the most burning thirst of all. We want so much to find peace in the world. We want so much to bring peace to Asia and peace to all the other countries that are troubled. We want peace not only in our time, but peace for all time.

We want peace. And we shall work every minute, day and night, for peace.

President Ayub visits us as the architect of his country's inspiring struggle for economic emancipation. And nowhere have we observed a better administrative effort. Today Pakistan surges forward in a very great adventure. And Dave Bell will talk to you about it for hours if you will listen to him because we are very thrilled to observe the economic advances and the other results that the leadership of President Ayub and his associates provides and inspires. We all must rededicate our very best efforts to conquering the curses of poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy: the human and physical problems that, as President Ayub has said, and I quote him again, "cannot be resolved by the magic wand of just freedom alone."

So, Mr. President, with your permission, I am sending a very high level team of medical teachers and scientists shortly to your country of Pakistan. This team will be led by the President's Science Adviser, my own trusted counselor, Dr. Donald Hornig. Its mission will be to work with your own medical authorities in instituting a very broad improvement in medical training, and in working with all of your fine people in the attempt to improve rural health and public health among your fellow countrymen.

This will be a beginning. If our purposes are as one, we can continue and expand the dynamic partnership that we have had in the past. Together we can press the

battle against waterlogging and salinity; against devastating cyclones, cholera, heart and eye disease. Together as friends, working shoulder to shoulder, we can improve weather forecasting and improve flood warnings, and multiply housing programs such as the Korangi project that I visited in 1961 when I met my good friend the camel driver. He came to this country and he spread good will from one end of it to the other, and he is remembered most affectionately by all who met him. We can speed in many ways the transition from a subsistence economy to a life of plenty and a life of purpose for every Pakistani.

This has been a stimulating and inspiring day for me. It is always so when I am in your presence.

So tonight, here in this, the first house of our land, I would like to ask those friends of mine whom I have asked to come here from various parts of this country—from California to New York—to raise our glasses to salute the spirit and the success of the Pakistan nation, and the dedicated leadership of the great President of Pakistan, Mohammed Ayub Khan.

NOTE: The President proposed the toast at 10:15 p.m. at a dinner in the State Dining Room at the White House. During his remarks the President referred to Ghulam Ahmed, Pakistan Ambassador to the United States, Ali Bhutto, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, David E. Bell, Administrator, Agency for International Development, and Donald F. Hornig, Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology.

President Ayub Khan responded as follows:

*Mr. President, Mrs. Johnson, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:*

I am deeply touched by the warm reception given to me and my party and by your great hospitality tonight. You are a generous man. I am only talking to a friend now. May I have the liberty of doing so with a great heart.

I am so very happy that this great country has a man like you, sir, at its head, and that is how it should be. It is only people with large hearts, broad understanding, forgiveness, and so on, that can tackle the sort of responsibilities that devolve

on you. Not only responsibilities on behalf of your country, but, in fact, on behalf of the world even, because you are the head of the mightiest country in the world.

As far as Pakistan is concerned—the people in Pakistan are concerned—there has been very friendly and warm relations between our people.

Lately—and I would be less than honest if I did not admit it, since I was largely responsible for this friendship and understanding between our two countries—it hurts me to say that our relations have, to a certain extent, been soiled, and I think that has happened because of a lack of understanding of each other's difficulties and problems.

You have certain obligations and certain problems which you are facing, of which we are aware. We have certain difficulties in the location and the situation in which we live.

You have been very generous and kind to invite me to come to your country to see you and talk to you in heart-to-heart fashion. And I have with all sincerity and honesty put to you our problems, and you have been good enough to tell me your problems.

I think that in countries like yours and mine, situated so far away, with different sorts of obligations, locations, and so on and so forth, friendships can be maintained—and they must be maintained. And the way to maintain them is to bear friendship with friendship and understand each other's difficulties, and don't do anything which is against the interests of a friendly country.

I have no doubt in my mind if that principle is observed—we certainly will observe it, sir—there is no reason why our friendship should not continue.

Your country and your people have in many ways been assisting us, and I am the first one to admit it. Not only do I do so in my heart, but I do so in front of my people. And it has been a very stimulating experience for our mutual relationship.

We regained our independence after a long time. In a period when the world has shrunk, peoples' expectations have risen. They want the good things of life quickly. Demands on government, therefore, have increased enormously. After all, it takes time with the best will in the world and the best effort in the world to produce results.

The people are not prepared to wait. They are impatient. Therefore, there is great pressure, tremendous pressure, in our country to produce results to the satisfaction of the people. We have been, in our humble way, trying to improve the conditions of our people, and remove sufferings and wants, and so on.

I think we made a considerable success in that. One lesson I learned from that was that the people

really try to improve their lot once they are given the right direction and the opportunity.

Lately, unfortunately, we have been bedeviled with a major conflict. My own hope and prayer is that we shall be able to overcome. My endeavor always has been to live in peace with our neighbors, especially with our big neighbor, India. They have tremendous problems and we have tremendous problems.

We need peace. We need peace not only for the sake of peace but also for the sake of doing a very noble task of improving the lot of our people.

In that connection, I am very grateful to you, sir, for sending this mission out. I am sure that it will be appreciated, and I am sure that they will get the fullest cooperation from our people and they will benefit by their experience.

The last time I was here President Kennedy and I had long discussions. I mentioned to him about this problem of waterlogging and salinity in West Pakistan. Those of you who are familiar know the circumstances there. Our agriculture is totally artificial in West Pakistan. It is dependent on artificial irrigation. I think—I don't know whether I am right in saying—but it is probably the biggest, shall we say, artificially irrigated area in the world in one block—some 32 million acres of land.

And through this process of irrigation the water table has gone out, the salts have come up, and we were facing tremendous problems. And he was good enough to send a team of scientists out, and they have done, in conjunction with our people, a tremendous job. I am sure if your set of people come they will have a second look at these things. We made a start in this project and we made a great success.

So, I am very grateful to you for this offer. Our effort really is to do the very best we can for our people.

We also find that our population is growing at a rate which is not acceptable, and which can create serious problems. That is another thing that we are putting our major efforts on.

Similarly with our agriculture, and so on, results have been very heartening. And so any advice and assistance of that nature will be most welcome, in keeping with the wishes and the desires and endeavors of the people.

I am glad to see that after your major operation—apparently it has been a very serious one—you are looking so well and regaining your health. I hope you will regain your full vigor.

May I say that the talk we had together has been very exhilarating for me. You have been patient enough to listen to me and I do hope that you will be convinced of my sincerity. I may be wrong in my approach but you can be assured of my sincerity

of approach.

I have no doubt that if we understand each other's difficulties there is no reason why our friendship can't last forever.

So, I thank you for all the understanding you have given me and us all, and this warm welcome and great hospitality, and also given me the opportunity of meeting you again. It has done my soul a

lot of good.

So, in return for that, may I ask you ladies and gentlemen to join me in drinking to the health and happiness of the President of the United States of America and to the well-being and happiness of the people of the United States of America.

Mr. President, sir.

See also Items 648, 650.

## 650 Joint Statement Following Discussions With the President of Pakistan. *December 15, 1965*

PRESIDENT JOHNSON and President Ayub have had frank, wide-ranging, and productive talks for the past 2 days. President Ayub's visit has given the two Presidents the opportunity to renew their warm personal acquaintance and to recall with pleasure their respective visits to Pakistan and the United States in 1961.

The two Presidents discussed at length recent events in south Asia, including the tragic conflict between India and Pakistan. In this context, they reaffirmed their Governments' support for the U.N. Security Council resolution of September 20, 1965, in all its parts, as well as the resolutions adopted on September 27 and November 5, 1965.

President Johnson reaffirmed that the United States regards as vital to world peace the preservation of the independence and integrity of Pakistan and expressed the continuing interest of the United States in Pakistan's economic and social development. President Ayub reaffirmed the importance

that Pakistan attaches to a close and cooperative relationship with the United States and expressed the continuing desire of his Government to contribute to this objective.

The two Presidents agreed on the need for a peaceful resolution of all outstanding differences between India and Pakistan, so that the energies and resources of the peoples of the subcontinent would not be wastefully diverted from their efforts to meet their vitally important social and economic problems.

Within the context of a review of worldwide developments, the two Presidents discussed in depth the problem of achieving peace and stability in southeast Asia. They expressed the hope that the conflicts in that area would be peacefully resolved. They agreed that their diplomatic representatives would remain in close touch on these wider and critical Asian problems.

NOTE: See also Items 648, 649.

## 651 Telegram to the Administrator, NASA, Following the Meeting in Space of Gemini 6 and Gemini 7. *December 15, 1965*

I WANT to congratulate the astronauts and the thousands of scientists, technicians, and administrators for the success of today's rendezvous. You have all moved us one

step higher on the stairway to the moon. By conducting this adventure for all the world to see, you have reaffirmed our faith in a free and open society. We invite those

PLANS FOR SPECIAL MESSAGES

[5.] Q. Mr. President, do you plan a special message with regard to consumer problems, such as truth in packaging, truth in lending, etc., that you referred to briefly in your speech?

THE PRESIDENT. There will be a good many special messages—on what particular subjects will have to be announced later. That will depend on our conferences with the members of the committee and with the authors of the legislation. Just what subjects they will be on, and the timing, have yet to be developed.

INTENSITY OF FIGHTING IN VIETNAM

[6.] Q. Mr. President, do we have any indication that the other side in Vietnam is reducing the number of incidents, reducing the intensity of the war at all?

THE PRESIDENT. The number of incidents has dropped off some. I don't say that there is any connection with that and our peace moves, but that is a fact.

THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH

[7.] Q. Mr. President, it's been a little over 3 months now since your operation. How do you feel?

THE PRESIDENT. Fine.

Q. No more soreness in the side or the back?

THE PRESIDENT. Oh yes, I have a little soreness.

DATE OF ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS

[8.] Q. Mr. President, in light of the proposals you made last night, do you still think Congress can adjourn in June?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I don't know if I

have ever thought it could adjourn in June. That's the answer.

Q. Do you have any prediction?

THE PRESIDENT. No, I don't. I never have done that. I came here 35 years ago, and the first thing I learned was never to predict when they would adjourn during the day, or during the week, or during the year. And I have never done so. I have read reports about my predictions, but the wish was father to the thought by the person announcing it. I have never made any prediction when Congress could get out. I don't know. I would like for them to go home as early as they can, consistent with discharging of their duties and consistent with their own desires.

Congress is an independent branch of the Government and I want to cooperate with them and suit their pleasure as much as possible, consistent with the performing of my duties. In an election year I realize the importance, not only from the standpoint of the individual Member of Congress, the people concerned, but from the standpoint of the administration, to have the Congressmen at home—60-odd Democratic Senators and 290-odd Democratic Congressmen—discussing what we have done and why we have done it. So I would like to see them go as soon as they can. But whether they can go in June or January, I don't know. And I have never known; I have never made any such prediction.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESS

[9.] I do get a little bit sensitive sometimes when I see Presidential decisions being made, and predictions being made, and recommendations being made that I never heard of. I saw in a UP item this morning how I had eliminated the redwood forest from my State of the Union Message at the last min-

Aggression is never satisfied until it is stopped. Nice words and solemn warnings of rhetoric won't stop an aggressor or a guerrilla or a Communist. So we are in Vietnam tonight. Our men are out there fighting because, as General Eisenhower said, we hope others after us will not have to do our fighting for us.

For the great sweep of coast that is Vietnam, with one of the greatest food-producing areas in all the world, for it to fall to aggression would mean that somewhere else someone else might have to fight. Whether it would be in the green jungles of Thailand, on the peaks of the Himalayas, or on the Straits of Borneo, I cannot tell you.

But this I do know: That, too, would be costly. And it would be long and it would be hard.

There are no easy options in this modern world in which we live. We cannot choose between war and peace as if they were the only two alternatives. The choice is often between a certain kind of war now or a more dangerous kind of war later. The choice is often between an uneasy peace in most of the world while one part of the world is the center of conflict or a peace that is broken on many fronts.

So, my friends of Oklahoma, your Presi-

dent, your country—all 50 States, more than 300,000 of our finest young men—have taken our stand and we have done so because we believe we had to, because we believe we must. One day it is going to be over. Someday those boys are going to come marching home. Until then, I ask on behalf of them, for all of them, all of our men in Vietnam, I ask you to give them all you can give them. Give them your hopes, give them your prayers, give them your support, give them your confidence. That is the Oklahoma way. I know you won't let us down.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 p.m. at groundbreaking ceremonies for a new water and sewer system funded by an Economic Development Administration grant and loan. In his opening words he referred to Representative Ed Edmondson, Senator A. S. Mike Monroney, and Senator Fred R. Harris, all of Oklahoma. During his remarks he referred to, among others, Henry Bellmon, Governor of Oklahoma, Robert S. Kerr, Senator from Oklahoma 1949-1963, Sam Rayburn, Representative from Texas 1913-1961, who served as Speaker of the House of Representatives 1940-1947, 1949-1953, 1955-1961, Representative Carl Albert of Oklahoma, majority leader of the House of Representatives, Hugh F. Owens, Commissioner, Securities and Exchange Commission, Lt. James R. Jones of the White House staff, and Farris Bryant, Director, Office of Emergency Planning and former Governor of Florida.

The Mid-America Industrial Site was formerly an ordnance plant which was declared surplus by the Federal Government and purchased by the State of Oklahoma in 1961.

## 417 The President's News Conference at the LBJ Ranch.

*August 27, 1966*

THE PRESIDENT. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

### THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY

[1.] Q. Sir, what have you been doing today?

THE PRESIDENT. I read the papers, some

messages came in, I signed some bills, signed several congratulatory messages and letters of various kinds that came out of the White House, talked to Senator Dirksen<sup>1</sup> on the telephone—he called me—I got a report on the rain. I guess that is about it.

<sup>1</sup>Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, minority leader of the Senate.

Q. Is this rain going to inhibit the rest of your birthday?

THE PRESIDENT. No, I don't think so. We won't walk much while it is raining, but we will have a quite, relaxing, restful day as near as we can. We didn't plan any trips.

Q. How do you feel on your birthday, Mr. President? How is your health? Have you gained or lost weight since the first of the year, and that sort of thing?

THE PRESIDENT. I feel fine. I was a little tired when I came in last night, but I had a good rest during the day yesterday in between various meetings. I am not unusually tired. I doubt that I have ever been in better health. I feel good; I sleep well. I had a wonderful night's sleep last night.

I constantly have a problem with my weight. It is up and down. If I take two or three days on the road, I go down three or four pounds, then I come back up. But weight is no real problem. I haven't had to buy any new clothes. I am still wearing the same ranch clothes I have had all year.

I think I had the best night's sleep I have had in a long time. I don't know whether it was the activities of the day, the fresh air, or sleeping in a bed that you are used to.

Q. Mr. President, might it have been the crowds? We were expecting something not quite so enthusiastic as a result of the polls we have heard about. What did you think about them yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT. I thought they were good—enjoyed them very much. I haven't seen anything that would indicate that we wouldn't have good turnouts in any polls that I have read.

Q. Mr. President, do you have anything else to say today about the Governor of Oklahoma?

THE PRESIDENT. No. We appreciated very much his coming out to see us. We enjoyed our visit in Oklahoma. I think Oklahoma is one of the States with a great future.

It is moving forward rapidly, improving its transportation system, conserving its resources, developing its rivers and bringing deep water inland. And the economic development of Oklahoma—like a good many other States right now—is going by leaps and bounds.

Q. Did Senator Dirksen offer you any wisdom over the phone today, sir?

THE PRESIDENT. I always enjoy my visits with Senator Dirksen. He passed on his birthday greetings. President Eisenhower had come to the White House personally on Thursday, and talked to me about our trip yesterday.

Senator Dirksen had read reports about it. We reminded him that Luci and Pat<sup>2</sup> had left Washington in company with the dog and had proceeded in the direction of Illinois; he at least had two or three extra constituents for a few days.

He talked to Mrs. Johnson for awhile. They are both great gardeners and beautification experts.

That was about the extent of the conversation.

Q. Does Mrs. Johnson have a surprise party planned for you today?

Mrs. JOHNSON. No, I wouldn't say it is a surprise. It will be very casual and home-like, with some good friends and family.

We will have barbecue, Western-style beans and birthday cake; hopefully, a ride around the ranch, if it clears off enough.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Nugent, the President's son-in-law and daughter, who were married in Washington on August 6, 1966.



We are very proud, particularly of those Members who have come here this evening, those of you who led and directed this fight. Also, we are very grateful to you, because we are fathers, mothers, and families, because we are wage earners, housewives, and consumers—because we are Americans.

And we are better protected now by American laws, thanks to you. We will try to give them the best execution that is possible.

A great counselor of mine said to me, "You can take a good law and give it bad administration and it won't work. You can take a bad law and give it good administration and get by with it."

Now you have given us good laws. If you let us write them—if we just had one-man legislature down here—we think we could write better ones, but the wisdom of our Founding Fathers said that we are going to have our checks and balances.

We don't always see everything alike. But you have given us good laws and we are

going to do our best to give you good administration of those laws.

You don't know, really, how much satisfaction one in government gets. And you ought not to be in government if you don't want to serve humanity, if you don't want to do the greatest good for the greatest number. You ought to be somewhere else.

While this doesn't cover everything we would want to cover and we might have dotted an "i" here and crossed a "t" there that you didn't, we nevertheless think that it is a great step forward. I am very proud to be associated with it. We will look back on it in the years to come and wonder, "How, oh how, did this Congress do this much before October?"

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

As enacted, the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act is Public Law 89-755 (80 Stat. 1296), and the Child Protection Act of 1966 is Public Law 89-756 (80 Stat. 1303).

## 577 The President's News Conference of November 4, 1966

THE PRESIDENT. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I will be glad to take any questions.

### QUESTIONS

#### THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH DURING THE ASIAN TRIP

[1.] Q. Mr. President, in view of the [redacted] you gave us on your health yesterday, could you tell us whether your doctors at any point advised you not to go on your Asian trip or to cut down on your rather strenuous pace while you were over there?

THE PRESIDENT. No, they never, at any

time, considered doing it. I think the best indication of my general physical condition is that notwithstanding the minor problems I have with my throat and with the little stitching they need to do, the repair work, is that even though I had both of those problems, I did make the Asian trip.

I didn't get weary. I didn't stay tired, and I got plenty of rest throughout.

I had the advantage that some of those who accompanied me did not. For instance, from Korea to Alaska, I could sleep 6 hours in a bed that was as comfortable as a hotel room.

From Alaska to Washington, I could rest

5 or 6 hours—and you had to sit up in a chair.

Most of this weariness, I think, was some of you engaging in introspection after you got home.

EFFECT OF THE ELECTIONS ON THE  
VIETNAM SITUATION

[2.] Q. Mr. President, in your estimation, will the outcome of the elections have any influence on the Communist willingness, or attitude, toward continuing the war in Vietnam?

THE PRESIDENT. I am not a good judge of just what the Communists' reaction will be. I think, in the past, that some foreign nations have misunderstood the American system. I hope they will be very careful not to make any mistakes of judgment about this election.

I see no reason why the election should greatly affect any decision they might make.

The President is not a candidate in this election. I cannot conceive, if the people go out and vote, that the decision of the election could in any way change the Government's policies.

There is no one that I know of that thinks there is going to be any great change in the Senate. Although my delightful friend, Senator Dirksen, optimistic as he is, feels that there may be at least a gain of 75, I notice the chronic campaigners, like Vice President Nixon, have begun to hedge and pull in their horns.

I would doubt that there is going to be any substantial change. But I could point out that with the House of Representatives now at 295 to 140, there could be a change of 40 or 50, as there has been on an average since 1890, and not adversely affect the Government program.

I don't think it is going to affect the Viet-

nam situation in any event. They may talk, and argue, and fight, and criticize, and play politics, from time to time, but when they call the vote on supporting the men—the defense bill—in the Senate it will be 83 to 2, and in the House it will be 410 to 5. Everybody can understand that.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FAR EAST TRIP

[3.] Q. Mr. President, what do you consider to be the most significant outcome of your Far East trip?

THE PRESIDENT. I think it served several good purposes. First, I think it was highly successful. I think it demonstrated to all the world that the seven participating nations were united—united in their determination to support the men at the fighting front; united in their determination to preserve the integrity of territorial boundaries; united in their determination to develop a new Asia with prosperity and plenty; united in their determination to walk the last mile, to go to any corner, any time, meet with any government, to try to further the search for peace.

Several nations on their own have already communicated the communiqué and the results of that conference to other non-aligned, neutral nations. Mr. Harriman,<sup>1</sup> as my representative, has visited several important capitals. Mr. Bundy<sup>2</sup> is presently visiting important capitals. Mr. Eugene Black<sup>3</sup> is following our tracks through Asia and following up on some of the economic programs.

I think that it put the spotlight of the world on a very neglected part of the world.

<sup>1</sup>W. Averell Harriman, U.S. Ambassador at Large.

<sup>2</sup>William P. Bundy, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs.

<sup>3</sup>Eugene R. Black, adviser to the President on Southeast Asian social and economic development.

I think that we realize that two out of every three people living today live in that area.

The problems are there and we faced up to those problems and presented some solutions. And I think in due time you will see that they will be effective.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S SURGERY

[4.] Q. Mr. President, how do you feel personally as you approach these two operations, both physically and mentally? For instance, does your throat hurt you when you talk? Do you have any feeling of dread about going under surgery again?

THE PRESIDENT. No. I don't recommend them. I don't favor them. I don't think it ought to be a part of your vacation. But those things come to you and you have to face up to them.

I think I am very fortunate that I have a job that I can kind of regulate myself; that I have a lot of good help; that I have the finest doctors and the best hospital facilities in the country.

And actually, after all, it is not anything to make a great show over. They are relatively minor. Most of the people in this room have suffered considerably more serious problems than I will face with getting a little polyp out of my throat.

I don't think it is going to be necessary that I use my throat, anyway, in the next few days.

#### ADDITIONAL MANPOWER FROM VIETNAM ALLIES

[5.] Q. Sir, as a result of your talks with the leaders of our allies in Vietnam, would you anticipate that more manpower will be forthcoming from them in the near future for that war?

THE PRESIDENT. General Westmoreland

made it clear that we would need additional manpower. All the participants in the conference heard his presentation. When, and, as, and if he asks for additional manpower, we will supply it, and I think that every nation involved would do what they thought was desirable and necessary to support the men that they have protecting the territorial integrity of that area.

I think it is bad for you to speculate in "Andrew H. Brown" figures about how many hundreds of thousands are going to be needed when General Westmoreland himself doesn't know. But I think suffice to say, without involving any credibility, that whatever is needed is going to be done. We are not going to leave those men there asking for support and not give it to them.

I think that we have reasonable strength there now. I think we will add to it from time to time. I would hope, of course, that the adversary would see the utter futility of continuing this confrontation and would agree to go from the battlefield to the conference room.

But until he does, the men there are going to give a good account of themselves. General Westmoreland said no commander in chief ever commanded a more proficient or competent group of men. If they need some more to help them, they will be sent.

#### SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD VIETNAM FIGHTING

[6.] Q. Mr. President, on that point you said recently that only two nations want the fighting continued. Does this mean the United States has had some positive indication from the Soviet Union that it would like to see the fighting stopped?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, I believe most of the nations of the world would like to see the fighting stopped. I just can't conceive of any nation enjoying what is going on.

Over the years many bills were introduced in the Congress. But it took the foresight and determination of the 89th Congress—and the tireless work of Senator Paul Douglas—to save the last remaining undeveloped portion of this lakeshore area. Thirteen miles of dunes and shorelines will be preserved for public use and enjoyment.

Its beaches and woodlands will provide a haven for the bird lover, the beachcomber, the botanist, the hiker, the camper, and the swimmer.

Within a 100-mile radius of the Indiana Dunes there are 9½ million people crowded into one of the greatest industrial areas of our country. For these people, as well as for millions of other visitors, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore offers ideal recreational opportunities. Here man can find solace and relief from the pressures of the industrial world.

The Members of the Congress who have

worked with dedication for so many years toward enactment of this bill deserve great credit. In addition to Senator Douglas, I particularly commend the diligence of Senators Hartke and Bayh, and Representatives Roush, Madden, and Udall.

During this administration more than 980,000 acres in 24 States have been added to the National Park System by the Congress. Twenty major conservation measures were passed by the 89th Congress. None gives me greater satisfaction than this bill to preserve the Indiana Dunes.

The great scenic and scientific attractions of the Dunes moved poet Carl Sandburg to say, "The Indiana Dunes are to the Midwest what the Grand Canyon is to Arizona and Yosemite is to California."

Our entire country is made richer by this act I have signed today.

NOTE: As enacted, the bill (S. 360) is Public Law 89-761 (80 Stat. 1309).

The statement was released at San Antonio, Texas.

## 580 The President's News Conference of November 6, 1966

THE PRESIDENT. [1.] Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

### PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

I have some announcements to make to you this morning. There will be other releases available through Mr. Christian<sup>1</sup> as a result of some of our labors yesterday and last evening.

We will be processing something like 100 bills in the next few days. We will give you information on them as soon as we can.

We have no desire to rush you or snow

<sup>1</sup> George Christian, an assistant press secretary.

you, but I guess you do want to know what is happening.

We do want to get through with the examination of these measures and take action on them as soon as we can.

[2.] I shall be seeing some of you in San Antonio tomorrow. I plan to come in during the afternoon and submit to some preparatory examinations prior to the surgery that will take place in the next few days.

We will also look at the facilities at Brooke Hospital and consult with the doctors while we're there, before we make a decision where the operations will take place.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The final arrangements were announced by the President on November 13 (see Item 610 [1]).

We would like for them to take place here if that is possible, and we would like to advance the date as much as we can. Now that we know it is going to be necessary, I guess the quicker you get it over with the better.

I would hope that the doctors could agree to an operation somewhat earlier than we originally expected.

[3.] I am expecting Mr. Komer, my special assistant in connection with Vietnam, to arrive late today or early tomorrow morning.

He will follow through with the conversations and recommendations as a result of his most recent visit to Vietnam and the preliminary discussions we had with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense earlier in the week.

[4.] I expect Ambassador Goldberg to arrive at the ranch sometime before I leave for San Antonio tomorrow. I hope to have some extended discussions with him. Perhaps he will fly into San Antonio with me. If not, I will try to give you a summary of the results of our conversation.<sup>3</sup>

ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

[5.] I have a statement in connection with the announcement of the appointment of the Secretary of Transportation, which I will present to you at the request of the radio and television people. I will read it and there will be copies available to all of you, from Mr. Christian's office.

On October 15, I signed the Department of Transportation bill, which established that Department. At that time, I remarked

that the problems of untangling, coordinating, and building a national transportation system worthy of America was a monumental task.

I said, "Because the job is great, I intend to appoint a strong man to fill it. The new Secretary will be my principal adviser and my strong right arm on all matters affecting transportation in the United States. I hope he will be the best equipped man in this country to give leadership to the country, to the President, to the Cabinet, and to the Congress."

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to announce that I believe that man described above is Mr. Alan Boyd, the present Under Secretary of Commerce. It is my intention to nominate Mr. Boyd as Secretary of Transportation as soon as Congress convenes in January.

Mr. Boyd has broader experience in the field of transportation than any other individual that I have been able to observe within or without the Federal Government. He came to Washington to serve President Kennedy as Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board in 1961. In 1965 I appointed him Under Secretary of Commerce for Transportation. Prior to his Federal service, Mr. Boyd was chairman of the Florida Railroad and Public Utilities Commission. Before that, he was general counsel of the Florida Turnpike Authority. He is intimately familiar with all modes of transportation, at all levels of government.

As Under Secretary of Commerce for Transportation, Mr. Boyd has been charged with the overall responsibility for the basic transportation of the Federal Government.

He was a member of the task force which recommended to me the establishment of a Department of Transportation. He has worked with the Members of Congress on the legislation establishing the Department. It

<sup>3</sup> On November 7, the White House made public a report to the President from U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Arthur J. Goldberg (2 Weekly Comp. Pres. Docs., p. 1670).

THE PRESIDENT. That "sir" kind of disarms me. Go ahead. I hope it's a friendly question.

Q. It is.

If it turns out that the facilities at Brooke do prove adequate and you can have your operations there, could you be a little more specific? Would it come in the next few days?

THE PRESIDENT. That will depend upon the doctors. Mrs. Johnson and I have talked it over. And she is very persuasive. We want to get it over with as soon as we can. We see no reason to delay when you have this thing to face up to.

As soon as they can make the necessary tests, laboratory examinations and others, we hope we can do it.

I would like for it to occur certainly this week or the early part of next week. The doctors have indicated in their conference with you it would be 2 weeks, 15 days, something like that.

We are going to try to expedite them.

THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH

[18.] Q. Secondly, sir, since your health is in the news these days, I wonder if you would just tell us how you feel.

THE PRESIDENT. I feel fine. I have a huskiness in my voice which you can observe, as a result of this growth or polyp, or whatever they call it.

I have a little strain and pulling on my side. I don't want to get into too much detail about that for fear it might arouse your sensibilities, or it might not be considered in good taste. But it is enough that I am conscious of the fact that I have problems there.

I am not in any pain of a serious nature, but it is something that I want to get over. As long as you have a kind of curtain hang-

ing over you, not knowing what is in your throat, what is going to be the result of it, the best way to do is to just hit the cold water. And that is what I want to do, as soon as the doctors will let me.

That is why we are scheduling this afternoon a meeting tomorrow to make some preparatory examinations and have those results submitted to the Mayo Clinic people.

Dr. Burkley<sup>a</sup> came in last night.

Then we hope that their decision will be favorable and we can move ahead rather quickly.

I would say that I believe we will considerably advance the date, not through any emergency but just because I want to get the answer, get it behind me, and get on to my work.

It will be necessary to get some of these bills out of the way. I will try to do that today, tomorrow, and the next day. I hope you don't think we have a limited time to sign them and to analyze them. Each one has to be considered by the Budget and the various departments concerned. But we will be signing hundreds.

Those of you who are not in good physical condition better go back and rest up and be prepared for these announcements, or get some extra help in here.

I just observed the other morning on television that some of our associates on the trip, at least part of the trip, who visited one or two places with us spend most of their time talking about their physical condition instead of the Manila Conference. I don't want that to get involved here.

The people are interested in what happens to all of these bills, the legislation, and so forth. So I hope you all get your comforts taken care of and report what we hand to you.

<sup>a</sup> Vice Adm. George G. Burkley, Physician to the President.

five Republicans elected, but I don't think they were hurt by the fact that Governor Romney had a 59 or 60 percent vote.

So Reagan, Rhodes, and Romney account for 25 or 30 percent of the total.

In other instances you had vacancies and you had men dying before their election. You had men after they had gotten their nomination not running it out—things of that kind, one or two.

In our State we lost two; in Virginia we lost two; in Wisconsin we lost two.

But as I have observed to you before, the *Christian Science Monitor* was the first that made a study of this question.

Saville Davis<sup>4</sup> came to my office and brought me the results of some of their studies. He carried them back to 1890. They showed an average of 41 per year.

Some of the high years were with President Roosevelt, when he carried every State of the Union, except Maine and Vermont, in 1936. I believe he lost 86 seats in 1938. That was about the time I came into Congress. I remember that very clearly.

On other occasions they have lost 60. President Eisenhower served only 2 years before he lost the Congress entirely.

As a matter of fact, a fellow working for me the other morning, after listening the night before, thought we had lost the Congress entirely. As a matter of fact, he thought all Democrats were gone.

I asked him what he thought about the election, and he said, "I am sure sorry to see them take the House of Representatives and the Senate."

Well, we still have 248 or 250 Members. That is something to bear in mind. They may have to be a little closer knit. They may have to have fewer absentees and things.

But a President that can't lead with a 250-

<sup>4</sup> Saville R. Davis, chief of the Washington news bureau of the *Christian Science Monitor*.

85 would have his problems with 260 or 270. I am hopeful that most of our legislation that we recommended has been acted upon reasonably bipartisan. I have no reason to think it won't be next year.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S SURGERY

[4.] Q. Mr. President, is there anything further you can tell us at this time about when and where your surgery will take place?

THE PRESIDENT. No. It will take place next week. So you don't have to worry about this week.

As to where, the doctors have not decided yet. We have several doctors living in various places who will need to be there. Dr. Burkley<sup>5</sup> is now conferring with them and talking to them, trying to get their schedules on a date that they can agree on, sometime, we hope, in less than the 15- to 20-day period that we originally thought. Just what day it will be, we don't know.

I think you can be comfortable over the weekend here, at least through Sunday. But we don't know whether you will be busy at a hospital in the early part of the week right now or not. Just as soon as we do, we will tell you. We will give you ample notice.<sup>6</sup>

#### THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us something about your physical comfort now? Are you feeling well?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, I feel fine. I still have the same problems. This would just be a repeat. If you look at the last tran-

<sup>5</sup> Vice Adm. George G. Burkley, Physician to the President.

<sup>6</sup> The final arrangements were announced by the President on November 13 (see Item 610 [1]).

script, we have a little huskiness in the voice, as you may be able to observe, and we have a little pulling through the side—there's a protrusion. It is actually a pull on the inner wall where the incision was made. It is like you have a little weight on your arm. In carrying it around, it pulls on you, and sometimes when you get up it bothers you.

I have not been wearing a back brace for the last 2 or 3 days. It is a little more comfortable. I forgot to put it on. If I had known you were going to be here on this occasion this morning, I would have dressed for it.

But it is more comfortable when you don't wear it.

#### FUTURE OF THE GREAT SOCIETY PROGRAM

[6.] Q. Mr. President, in terms of your Great Society program, when the 90th Congress meets, do you think you will have a lot of new programs, or are you looking to the future with plans of adding on and expanding the programs that you have had in the last couple of years?

THE PRESIDENT. We will have recommendations in our State of the Union Message that will expand and enlarge some of the recommendations we have previously made.

Unquestionably some of them will be new recommendations. I think my principal job right at the moment is to try to find a way to fund the programs we have authorized.

As I said to you in Fredericksburg the other day, we have authorized some 40 new health and education programs. We have quite a problem in funding that many.

We will not fund most of the programs at the amount authorized because we are very anxious to begin slowly and carefully, and form the proper kind of organization before

we go the limit, as already approved by the Congress.

I would think that the recommendations this year will be less than the ones last year, as the ones last year were less than the year before.

But we will have new recommendations. We will be briefing the Members of Congress on them from time to time.

I hope to have a chance to visit with most of the new Members in the early days of the session, certainly with the leadership of both parties.

I don't anticipate that we are going to have any great trouble. A 65 majority in the House and a 30 majority in the Senate is a reasonable working majority.

As I told you, in 6 of the 8 years the Republicans served, they had a minority in both Houses—the Speaker and all the organization and committee chairmen.

So while I must be frank, I would have liked to have seen every Democrat elected, but we only lost one incumbent in the Senate. I expect the Senate will get along reasonably well with 64 instead of 67.

I hope the House will be able to. We lost two committee chairmen. We will have a freshman Republican succeeding Judge Smith and a freshman Republican succeeding Mr. Cooley.<sup>7</sup>

But I believe with 250 Members, Speaker McCormack, Mr. Albert, and Mr. Boggs<sup>8</sup> will be able to get adequate and fair consideration for the President's recommendations.

I think they will be duly acted upon.

<sup>7</sup> Representative Howard W. Smith of Virginia and Representative Harold D. Cooley of North Carolina.

<sup>8</sup> Representative John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, Speaker of the House, Representative Carl Albert of Oklahoma, Majority Leader of the House, and Representative Hale Boggs of Louisiana, Majority Whip of the House.



On minimum wage, 89; urban transit, 36; demonstration cities, 16; auto safety, 121 (I think I gave you urban mass transportation); allied health professions training, 120; the education funds, 47.

Those are some of the key measures. It shows you that, generally speaking, from 15 to maybe 115 Republicans in the House voted for our measures. We hope that there will not be any substantial defections.

Since 1890 the average President has had about 54 percent of the House and 55 percent of the Senate. Next year we will have 57 and 64. Compared to 54, 64 is a pretty good number and 55 compared to 57.

So we are not overly optimistic. We will have difficulty in preparing the new programs we have. I anticipate that our big problem is to get good administration, get the programs we have already passed funded, and try to get them organized and executed in the proper manner.

Any new program brings a lot of problems: personnel, funding, appropriations, and so forth. The bulk of our platform, as you know, has already been enacted. That is not to say that we will not have other measures. But it is to say that our principal effort will have to be in that field.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH

[7.] Q. Mr. President, on the inevitable health question, how are you feeling and what are your thoughts today about facing surgery this week?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I wish I did not have to do it. I feel fine. I think that the operations are relatively minor. I think you never want to go to a hospital for any reason, but under the circumstances I can be very pleased that they are such as they are—have good doctors, good hospital, good staff, good people around me.

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So I think if you have to be in the hospital, the circumstances are about as well as they could be.

The Congress is out of session and now is a good time for it.

I feel very good. I have had some rest and relaxation here this week. We have turned out a lot of work. We think by Monday morning we will be practically caught up.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC SITUATIONS

[8.] We are very happy and encouraged by our trip to Asia. I think it is a signal to the regional unity in that part of the world and of increased attention to that area which is populated by two-thirds of human life.

I have reviewed a report on Latin America and the Alliance for Progress and I think we are moving forward. There is increased growth taking place in that area and in our own hemisphere, which pleases us very much.

With the uncertainties that we faced in Europe, 14 of the NATO countries have come together in agreement. We are moving forward.

Mr. McCloy<sup>5</sup> is now meeting with the British and the Germans. Those talks are going very well.

We are increasingly interested in the the African Continent and the Middle East. Our reports give us a reason to believe that things are going as well as could be expected.

The economic conditions in our own country are always a matter of concern to the individual. We have more people working today than we have ever had in our history.

<sup>5</sup> John J. McCloy, U.S. Representative to the trilateral meetings held by the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the United Kingdom.