

## CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #445,  
On the road in front of Curtis Cottage,  
Warm Springs Foundation, Georgia,  
March 25, 1938, 11.00 A.M.

(The President was seated in his car.)

Q We non-advertising people have to refer to it (referring to the car) as a new V-8 of popular make. That is about the only way we could do it.

THE PRESIDENT: I think John O'Donnell called it a "cheap" car.

(Laughter)

Q (Mr. O'Donnell) I said, "low priced."

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what is the news?

Q That is what we are worried about.

THE PRESIDENT: So am I.

Q Did you get that railroad report? There is a story out of Washington that it has been sent to you.

THE PRESIDENT: Probably has.

Q Do you know that it is en route?

THE PRESIDENT: They said they were going to send it but how do I know whether it is en route?

Q There is nothing delaying it?

THE PRESIDENT: The last information I had was that it was being sent.

Q Mr. President, any chance of any of the Commissioners coming down to talk to you about it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q With respect to the Secretary of State's invitation of yesterday to other powers on the plight of political refugees, from a practical point of view that means the Jews in Germany and Austria --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It means a great many Christians, too, a very large number.

Q I wondered if any spokesmen of Catholic and Lutheran groups had also requested it?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, categorically, but I think so.

Q To give practical application to it, would not legislation be required in order to relax our immigration laws?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Why?

Q For example, there are 200,000 Jews --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The law says that if a country ceases to exist and is merged in another country, that the two quotas are merged into one quota.

Q Then we have the total for both Germany and Austria together? It would run up to (pausing)

THE PRESIDENT: 26,000.

Q Would that number take care of those who would desire to leave?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea at all because nobody has ever listed the people that want to leave.

Q I was wondering if a further application of it would take in oppressed groups, such as in Spain, where there are oppressed religious groups under the Barcelona government. Then, in Russia, there are certainly groups. In Italy there are the anti-Fascists. This would embrace all of those?

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, it would go back to the old thing that started in 1789 when this country held itself out as a place for political refugees to come to. There was a similar situation in 1848 all over Europe, when they had all kinds of popular uprisings



against monarchies at that time. There were thousands and thousands of people at that time, or eventually, that came over here as political refugees. Of course the percentage in relation to the total population is almost negligible.

Q I was wondering if there is a separate category for those who are political refugees and those who come for ordinary economic reasons?

THE PRESIDENT: No distinction.

Q Is the United States doing, actually, any more now to provide a haven for the oppressed than would otherwise be the case?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, for this reason: They are adopting the suggestion that private money be put up in all these nations to go along with this. That means practically most of the American republics and whatever European nations accept, and those private groups will make it possible for those people to come in.

Q But, from the standpoint of numbers, no more would now come in than --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes; no change in the law.

Q Have they not exhausted their quotas?

THE PRESIDENT: In some cases they have and in other cases they have not.

Q (Mr. Mahoney) I have a couple of questions I would like to go through with. You understand that situation? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I would do almost anything to keep you here. (Laughter)

MR. MCINTYRE: He is a very good influence, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I know he is.

Q We have got what are laughingly referred to as "newspapers" down here and they are still filing a lot of Civil War news. But we