

THE ELEANOR AND ANNA ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

January 18th, 1949 (catalog date and air date)

Description: In this segment, ER interviews Dr. Robert Jung, editor of "The Good News Bulletin."

Participants: Eleanor Roosevelt, Dr. Robert Jung

[ER:] Thank you, Anna. This morning we introduced both a guest and a new idea in journalism, new at least in our time. Our guest is Mr. Robert Jung, native of Czechoslovakia and the correspondent for Swiss newspapers here in this country. And the new journalistic idea is Mr. Jung's own: "The Good News Bulletin." The Bulletin made its first appearance very appropriately during the Yuletide season just past. But I'm sure you would like to hear about "The Good News Bulletin" from Mr. Jung himself. How did you come to create it, Mr. Jung?

[Robert Jung:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, I think it was more or less a wedding present for my wife. When we met last spring, she first didn't want to marry me. She didn't want to marry a newspaper man at all. We had both been refugees from Hitler for twelve years and uh she thought that she had had enough disaster and crisis in her life and now she was afraid that the rest of her life would pass discussing with me over the breakfast table my latest stories. I myself had a different conception of journalism. I always, while travelling all over Europe and while going to the international conferences, had hoped to report about the constructive achievement which goes on despite of all the trouble in the world. But the newspapers didn't print it. I wonder, Mrs. Roosevelt, I have seen you in Paris and in London, at work at the UN commissions, if you don't feel the same thing?

[ER:] Oh yes! I've often felt that um the news only seem to be bad news. And that when the reports came out about the UN you never heard about the things which were really going on successfully, you always heard about the difficulties. So I'd like to know what your definition of news is, Mr. Jung.

[Robert Jung:] My def-definition of news is just that they are happenings which are interesting for the people to know. Now, most people nowadays in these difficult times would certainly like to know about good things. But the editors, as if they were bad housewives, throw away the best part in the uh total news roll material they get on their kitchen table. And the vitamins, which are the good news, are thrown away into the dustbin. (2:46)

[Brief audio interruption]

[ER:] That's interesting, what is your uh vitamin content in our current news crop?

[Robert Jung:] There are lots of good news and um for instance, I might quote today a-a [audio interruption] small story I wrote about the fighting in China. There was a soldier in [unclear. Most likely Shenzhen/Jiangzen] uh who saved about fifty women and children. He was asked by a reporter, "On whose side are you?" and he thought for a moment, and then he said quite simply, "well, I'm on the side of the women of the children."

[ER:] That's a nice story. A-- I um I should think your bulletin would be a success. Has-- I've heard in fact, that it's doing very well, is that so?

[Robert Jung:] I've had wonderful letters from all over the country. So many people told me at least there's something light in all-- some light in all this darkness. But the most encouraging thing is that I got from points as far away as Australia and Brazil and Holland and Germany, uh requests from newspapers who told me, please send us good news and we will send you good news so that you can send them to American newspapers.

[ER:] Oh, that's interesting. I think there must be lots of people who would like to help you in such an endeavor, what can they do?

[Robert Jung:] I think the best thing they could do would be to send me uh clippings from their local paper, or from professional papers, or even better things, good news they have experienced themselves. And perhaps they can help me to find subscribers for my bulletin because I'm all alone and I finance it out of my own pocket.

[ER:] You finance it out of your own pocket? Well then that is something that-that people could do, they could really subscribe and that would be um a help. In the long run, what do you hope your *Good News Bulletin* will achieve?

[Robert Jung:] I hope that it will achieve-- that it will create good news, by changing the atmosphere in the world. Nowadays newspapers are the main medium to create uh public opinion. And public opinion is not enough informed about the good news and the constructive news in the world.

[ER:] That's-- that is a very great hope for the future. I noticed that an editorial in the *Washington Post* suggests it would be quite an experiment if Mr. Jung had been given a big daily newspaper with what is called a staff of starry-eyed correspondents to report in big bold headlines those good deeds which shine like candles in a naughty world. Well, that would indeed be a noteworthy experiment. But, in the meantime I hope you continue to bring out your *Good News Bulletin*, Mr. Jung, for as you have well said, it is as though a light, a small fire had been kindled and people come to you to get their hands warm. Not only their hands, for good news these days warms our hearts as well. Thank you for visiting us, Dr. Jung. And now, back to my daughter Anna in Hollywood.

(6:19-6:35)

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File(s): 80-5(18) Track 2

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