

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

July 2nd, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt respond to a listener's question regarding the location of the United Nation's headquarters. In the interview segment, ER discusses life in the South Pacific with James Michener, author of *Tales of the South Pacific* and *Return to Paradise*.

Participants: Eleanor Roosevelt, Elliott Roosevelt, James Michener

[ER:] Good day. This is Eleanor Roosevelt. Every Monday through Friday my son Elliott and I have the opportunity to visit with you here in my living room at the Park-Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Each day it our desire to bring interesting guests that we're hopeful you will enjoy meeting. Elliott, will you tell our listeners today's plans?

[Elliott Roosevelt:] One of our popular writers was recently asked to give his own opinion of a book of stories for which he has been awarded the Pulitzer novel prize in 1948. "I had no great opinion of my novel stories. It seemed to me both when I was writing and later that anyone ought to be able to do as well as I had," he said. He was talking about *Tales of the South Pacific*, which not only was awarded the Pulitzer novel prize, but as a musical has entertained more moviegoers--uh show-goers rather, uh than any other musical ever offered on Broadway. His name is James A. Michener [1907-1997]. And fortunately his opinions on most subjects are colorful and fascinating, and far from understated; as I'm sure you'll agree in his comment on his writing. He is Mrs. Roosevelt's guest on our recorded-recorded program today, and you'll meet him after our own discussion period and after a brief word from the sponsors.

[Break 1:32-1:40]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Today in our discussion period, we're going to combine two letters from listeners as they both touch on the same subject. The first is from Mrs. Jean C. Ritzy of Walpole, Massachusetts. She says, "May I ask you if you will please discuss in some future broadcast, why was the United States chosen as the headquarters for the United Nations? I have heard so many people say to the effect, it is no wonder the Russians do not trust us, along with their satellite nations, since we dominate the UN, inasmuch as it located in this country. May we hear what your answer would be to this question?" And pursuing the same subject, Mrs. Edith Halpern of the Bronx, New York, writes, "It has occurred to me that I would like your opinion on the following matter, which I have been giving some thought to lately. Why do we not have the United Nations, such as the Security Council and its other branches, take their sessions to Russia and rotate to all the other nations in the United Nations instead of us always having them in New York City? I believe that this would give the different people of the world a better knowledge of what this body is for and what is expected of them. I doubt whether Russia would like this idea because the people there might get better acquainted with the other people's ideas. Especially those of the democracies, and this would not be in the interest of the Kremlin. I think it at least should be proposed, and if Russia and her satellites refuse this idea, they should give their reasons."

[ER:] Well, there was a great deal of discussion of course after the first meeting for organization in London as to whether uh the seat of the United Nations should be in Geneva or in what other country. A um-- it was widely discussed, all the countries were visited by a committee that was appointed to choose the country. It was found that Geneva um would not be adequate to a United Nations today. It had been the headquarters of the League of Nations, but of course the League of Nations was a very much smaller thing [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] than the United Nations today. And after much discussion, it seemed to

the majority of the nations-- it was put up to the General Assembly--eh that the United States was the place. Then they appointed a committee to study different parts of the United States. Many Nations would have preferred it to be in San Francisco. Some nations would have preferred it to be in a country area, far away from a big city. But the final decision was that it should be in New York City. Uh I think perhaps the gift of land may have had a slight uh balance in the scale, but I think also it was the wish of a great many nations uh to be in a big city because of the opportunities a big city um gives you for reference material, for uh-uh-um entertainment when you're not at work, [Elliott Roosevelt: Yes.] and for cultural advantages.

Now uh one reason of course that you can't keep moving a great organization all the time is that it's very expensive. You have to have, first of all, all your translators; you have to have installed machinery wherever eh you meet for simultaneous translation, otherwise uh you can have small meetings but that means you have um the interpretation done consecutively and you--One speech for instance, a fifteen minute speech, has to be translated in--has to be said in French, for instance, if that's the language used, or in English, then it must be translated into French, because those are the two working languages. But if a man's native language is Russian or Chinese or Spanish, it must be translated again into both French and English. So that you can see if a Spaniard made a speech lasting fifteen minutes, it would be forty-five minutes before you could go on to the next speech, [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] unless you had this simultaneous translation um which requires the installation of a good deal of machinery and very able translators and interpreters, [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] so those have to go wherever you have a meeting.

Then you also have to have records of everything that's said, so you have to have people who uh are very skilled in writing what they call summaries or précis of everything that is said in a meeting. And um all of this uh requires a-a good deal of clerical uh and uh automatic work.

For that reason while up to now we have held the General Assembly in Paris, the General Assembly in London um, we have a headquarters now, a European headquarters where certain things have their headquarters, such as the World Health Organization and the ILO in the old buildings in Geneva. And they've begun to add to those buildings already for the specialized agencies. And the special--one-- UNESCO has its um headquarters in Paris. Other uh organizations have their headquarters in other parts of the world. Um and there are--there's an increasing uh number of groups that meet in different places. For instance, our Human Rights Commission met last uh time in Geneva. The suggestion was made uh that the Status of Women for instance, two years ago I think, met in Beirut. And uh as everybody knows, the last economic and social council meeting was held in Chile. And uh the economic and social coun--all these meetings do rotate.

The General Assembly is of course a tremendous undertaking this year. It will go to Paris, and they've had to build new buildings, and near temporary buildings [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm, yes.] but near the Palais Chaillot. [Elliott Roosevelt: Yes.] And it costs the United Nations just about um one and a half times as much as it would if it were here, [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] because you have to set up headquarters and it costs every nation more, because for instance the United States has to have office buildings uh and it has to house its delegates, whereas here a good many of its delegates would be not perhaps coming from quite such a distance.

And also uh um the--incidentally, on the USSR suggestion, it has been suggested a number of times, that the General Assembly or some of the organizations should go and meet in Moscow, and once I heard Mr.

[Andrey] Vyshinsky [1883-1954] accept and say he would invite us. And then about a week later I heard that uh he found that Moscow did not have sufficient housing. Uh now with their new building-building program there that will not perhaps serve as an excuse. But I doubt very much whether they would welcome a meeting of the General Assembly or of any other group [Elliott Roosevelt: Have any of the--] that have the right to move around.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Have any of the groups or agencies of the UN ever met in an Iron uh Curtain country? [ER:] Never, never because they're not uh allowed to meet in an Iron Curtain country. [Elliott Roosevelt: Well--] They're never accepted [Elliott Roosevelt: Yes] you don't-- I mean you can't impose on a country

a-- the uh [Elliot: Obligation of having to meet there.] the obligation-- they are asked if they will have the meeting, and--um-uh-um many nations for instance, France was reluctant because of the expense to have the General Assembly [Elliott Roosevelt: Yes] but finally accepted it. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] And um any country even inviting a small group uh, like Lebanon when they invited the Status of Women group, that's only eighteen people I think, it may be fifteen, it's somewhere around there. Um but it-that means uh personnel and translators and so forth so it comes up to quite a group before you get through. And um they have to uh incur eh a quite considerable expense, [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] so that a country thinks about it [Elliott Roosevelt: Yes] before they undertake it.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I think, in the closing do you happen to remember one of father's pet projects for where the UN should be located, and he used to talk about it quite a lot about having it in the Azores?
(11:16)

[ER:] Yes, I remember very well. He always loved the Azores, and he thought it would be a wonderful place to put them on an island where they would have [Elliott Roosevelt: No outside influence.] beautiful scenery and no outside influence. [ER laughs] Nothing to do but work. I sometimes think of that because of course in New York City there are a great many things that do make some of our pleasure-loving um delegates have a good time and perhaps slow up their work. But uh I think on the whole, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. And as to our dominating the UN, I would like to say that that is impossible and if the lady would kindly come out to some of the big meetings, she would find that domination is only according to majority vote. And that just at present, the majority number of people in the world are represented by near east Arab countries, Far East, and Africa. And we, the white peoples of the world, are far outnumbered by the people from other areas of the world.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, thank you very much. I think that uh successfully answers the questions put by these two ladies, and now that I see that our announcer would like to make an important statement, and then we'll come back to the remainder of the program in just a few moments.

[Break 12:49-12:56]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] With the continent of Asia so much in the news these days and with so many of us knowing so little about this vast area and the people who inhabit it, it is a great pleasure to have with us the gentleman who is Mrs. Roosevelt's guest today. He has travelled extensively there and knows full well the importance of this mighty continent. He really needs no introduction, you all know him, but nevertheless, Mother will you do the honors?

[Break 13:24-13:33]

[ER:] Thank you, Elliott, it is indeed a pleasure. I present to you Mr. James A. Michener, author of *Tales of the South Pacific*, and the very recently published *Return to Paradise*. Mr. Michener.

[James Michener:] It's very pleasant to be here with you today.

[ER:] As I mentioned before, Mr. Michener, you recently had published a new book, *Return to Paradise*. But also recently, in *Life Magazine*, you had an extremely interesting article about Asia, and I would like to ask you some questions concerning both of these. First, about the book: what prompted you to return to the South Pacific after having been there during the War? You say in the book that the writer's job is to dig down where he is, he must write about the solid, simple things of his own land. Now, what made you change your mind?

[James Michener:] I-I believe that uh more today, even then when I wrote it. I think that the wise artist is one that stays at home and deals with his own home problems. But uh my life and my experiences have also shown me that today it's pretty difficult to say where one's home is. For example, when I was a boy I never in the world intended to spend three years of my life in the South Pacific, I never intended that at all, but that was my home for three years, and I had a lot of work to do out there. Uh today I feel somewhat the same way that uh my home, by uh virtue of experiences, has been expanded. And um certainly part of America today is in Asia, part of America is in the South Pacific, and I wish that-that my life were to be lived out here in, say in-around suburban New York, a delightful place to live. But I must admit that circumstances sometimes drive us to other parts of our home, and my circumstances drove me to the Pacific.

[ER:] Well, in a way, I'm glad to hear you say that, because [ER coughs] the more we get to feeling in America that um our home is in the world, in many parts of the world, the better our leadership is going to be, because we're going to have more people who know what home is like in different parts of the world. So that it's almost essential as the United States emerges into the world leadership that it never before has had to take, but seems to have to take today, that what you have just expressed should become a much wider feeling [James Michener: I--] among our young people.

[James Michener:] I-I feel it very deeply in my own life. I'm probably about as patriotic an American as I know of. I-I-I love this country; wish that I never had to leave it. And yet um I do feel that times do change, and I feel that uh one man, who serves a very good life, say in--running a good box factory in-in suburban Philadelphia, lives his life that way. I think others of us find the frontier of America in vastly removed places and we live our lives in [ER: That--] harmony with that. (17:11)

[ER:] Well, I agree with you, and um I'd like to ask you if you've experienced any disillusionment upon returning to the island?

[James Michener:] It's terribly risky ever to go back, it seems to me, either to personal friendships or places. And uh I had particular apprehensions because the first book I wrote about the South Pacific frankly had an awful lot of good things happen to it, and it would be unlikely to expect that any other book I wrote about it would duplicate that. So artistically it was a risk. But even more so was the fact I had known the South Pacific very widely and very well and I was afraid that going back would be just sort of a sentimental debauch, as it were, which is fun but it isn't very productive. Actually I did not find it so. For one thing, I took my wife along, uh which was a new experience for her, and I enjoyed renewing acquaintances with her. The second thing, I saw a great deal more of Australia and New Zealand than I had before. When I was out there first I was a pretty junior officer, and the big brass saw to it that not too many of us got to paradises like Australia and New Zealand. This time I was on my own and I didn't have to worry about that. So uh the disillusionment was not great.

[ER:] Uh I-I have always thought that the actual soldiers who fought in the Pacific and who'd always heard of this soft and wonderful country of the South Pacific islands must have had a little disillusionment when they first landed. (18:53)

[James Michener:] Well, I run into a great deal of that myself. People go see *South Pacific* or they read one of my books and they say "what a fraud." Because they lived and worked in Army and Navy in the very bad part of the Pacific, around Guadalcanal and Bougainville and New Guinea and they were dreadful places. There is another part of the Pacific of course which isn't so dreadful, [ER: Well, I--] Bora Bora and Tahiti and--

[ER:] I-I hopped by air to seventeen islands in the summer of '43, so I know a good many of them. But I can understand the army point of view because I did go to Guadalcanal, and um--

[James Michener:] Yes. Boys who served there really served in one of the worst battlegrounds America has ever ventured upon. It was truly dreadful.

[ER:] I knew that. Well, I was very much interested in your chapter on Polynesia. It proves so well that diverse races can live together in harmony. So I wonder if you would tell us a little bit about the Polynesian islands themselves and their geography and their history. (20:04)

[James Michener:] Ah yes, the-the wonderful Polynesian Islands, and they are as good as-as the writers have said--lie just about south of Hawaii. People think they lie much farther west, the finest ones live some little bit east of Hawaii, even. They're all east of the date-line, most of them are south of the equator. The thing to remember about them is when they were discovered by white men their civilization was in its last stages of decay. It was a rapidly declining civilization. The best people were siphoned off into strange religious rites and so on. Uh they--there was great warfare between the races, an-and um great trouble throughout. The uh result was that they had not much to offer to stand up against white man's civilization, and they were knocked in the head pretty hard, particularly by the French and British sailors, the first group that came out. They weren't able to stand up to our diet, they weren't able to stand up to our military way of life, they weren't able to stand up to our religions. Um they were a dying race, but today infused with uh other races that came in, particularly the British and the Chinese, the Polynesian is a very vital person today, in fine shape. Not the old Polynesian that--that the dreamers weep about, they're pretty well gone. But the new Polynesian, adjusting to modern life, is a pretty fine specimen. Some of the finest looking people in the world are those Polynesians.

[ER:] I think they're a very fine looking people. [James Michener: Yes] Um well what um what are the colonizing nations in the Pacific, in order of their importance? [James Michener:] Uh I'm going to have to--[ER:] What uh what do you think um about the countries that have colonized there, which do you think um have been the greatest-- have brought the greatest advantages to this territory? (22:15)

[James Michener:] Yes. We must remember always that the South Pacific has been governed by a large number of nations. I didn't know it myself when I went out there this time, even though I lived there for three years. So I actually did some research; there have been about nine nations altogether have governed out there. And it's a peculiar thing, but in-in material things, if one were interested only in that, the-the best nation by far was Germany. A part of that is due to the fact they wanted to prove to the rest of the world that they were ace colonizers, since they didn't have very many colonies. And one of the first they picked up was in the South Pacific. They were wonderful. The Dutch were very good, and I'd put Great Britain third. America doesn't rate too highly in the South Pacific, in the Philippines we do, because we had only Samoa and it was always kept as very minor appendage to our uh mainland. We didn't do a very good job that way. But I don't think that very many people are willing to judge a nation or a people by material things alone. And if we take the spiritual values, uh I-I think you would put France first, by all odds. They have done more to retain the spirit of life. I think people are happier under French rule than under any other. But right after them I'd put the United States. And if you take them both together, the material and the spiritual, which I think is a fair judge, we would be pretty high. I think we have nothing to be particularly ashamed of in the Pacific, I think we've done a good job. [ER: Mhm.] There's always a question of whether we should have made Samoa a state, whether we should have done certain things that many people think, but taking it all and all, and I-I know almost every island in the Pacific, I'm not at all ashamed of America in the Pacific, we've done a good job.

[ER:] Well I-I'm very glad to hear that, I think it's most encouraging to know we have done a good job. There were--uh from my point of view, I only spent a- so little time in each place that I couldn't have been any judge, but I-I felt that in Samoa um where the natives were concerned, we hadn't done such a bad job. (24:28)

[James Michener:] No. No we've-we've uh kept them alive, they've increased in number, I think we've provided very good medical services, good food, we've taken the young men into the Marine Corps.

[ER:] And we've let them go on with pride [James Michener: Yes.] in their own civilization [James Michener: Yes.] which I think is one of the best things we've done. [James Michener: Yes. Yes.] And now I'm sorry to say that I see we have to give our announcer a minute, but we'll come right back to this talk.

[Break 24:55-25:06]

[ER:] And now we're coming back to our talk, with Mr. James A. Michener, on the subject of the South Pacific. And I'd like to ask you, first of all, how much influence you think religion has on events in Asia?

[James Michener:] Oh yes. I have recently had the very good luck to be quite in the middle of that, Mrs. Roosevelt, and I think that America is going to find that religion will play a vital role in all that's happening in Asia. Um I would stress it this way: uh that you have in India, uh the oldest known religion--successful religion, on Earth, Hinduism, and it dates Christianity by several thousand years. Uh it has been invaded by all other religions--major religions of the world -- and absorbed them all. It was driven out by Buddhism for a while, it came back, it is-it is an enormous religion. It is peculiar to India, it has never been successful elsewhere. And the very fact that it alienates some of the people of Asia would mean that India's natural leadership, because of geographical position and the intelligence of her people, men like [Jawaharlal] Nehru [1889-1964] and [Bhimrao Ramji] Ambedkar, I think will be halted a bit by the fact that the religion is so alien to the other nations nearby.

The most vital religion by all odds is-is uh Islam--Muslimism. They never use the word Mohammedanism although that's how I grew up. They-they-they object to that strongly. They point out that Muhammad is merely one prophet among many, he happens to be the best. Uh they acknowledge Jesus, they say he also was a prophet but not quite so good as Muhammed. They acknowledge uh the God that we acknowledge, but they stress always Muhammed's teaching. Therefore, to call them Mohammedans, Muhammed merely being another human being, [ER: Yes, another prophet.] is objectionable to them. It is a very vital religion today. Um the-the--is-- the people of Islam are greatly disturbed by the fact that uh they lost a war in-in uh Palestine. They cannot understand it, and a great fervor of nationalism is sweeping them all. The-the-the major Islamic nations are Iran and Iraq in the west, Pakistan, a very great and powerful nation-- [ER: Pakistan is the greatest in number of them all.] Ah yes. Pakistan may interest Americans who haven't heard of it even, to know that it is the fifth largest nation on Earth in numbers, an enormously important nation. And then to the east, Indonesia is almost pure Muslim. There-there are enclaves of Hinduism there, and a little Buddhism, but primarily it's a-it's a Muslim nation. Now if they combine, as-as great leaders are urging them to do, uh the-they might an enormous force in Asia.

Then the third of the great Asiatic religious, Buddhism, uh with its corollary in a sense Confucianism, uh has entirely different values. It ranges from very ah oh esoteric religion in Japan, Buddhism there, to a very liberal and almost formless religion in China, to an extremely conservative and ritualistic religion in uh Burma and Ceylon and-and Siam. Well, those three religions are going to have a great influence in balancing out Asia. I can honestly say I read about this before I went to Asia, in my mind I knew about it, but until I got there and saw the vigor with which these religions move, I didn't appreciate it. (27:57)

[ER:] No, I don't think any of us realize how-how they feel about their religion until we actually come in contact with them [James Michener:] Yes--[ER:] and find out what it means. [James Michener: It's a-it's a vital uh experience--] And how much it comes into their daily lives [James Michener: Yes.] Comes in a

way they practice their religion in their daily lives in a way that um those of us who are Christians don't understand, it's quite a different uh it's quite a-it's a quite a-a ritual for many of them.

[James Michener:] Yes, in India the religion is the social system. And it's interesting that one is uh-- who is a Hindu there, whether he adheres to the religion or not because the social system establishes his whole life.

[ER:] Well now, uh for just one minute to leave the religion. I wonder if I could ask you um how they feel in this area of the world about the United States.

[James Michener:] Oh that's an embarrassing question because Russian propaganda has got to Asia way ahead of ours. They're in there, you-you hardly see a little village where there isn't a bookshop supplied with-with very cheap publications straight from Moscow. They've done a wonderful job of-of seducing the mind of the Asian towards Moscow rather than towards London or New York. (30:37)

[ER:] Bookshops will only effect the intellectuals, but I suppose that gets passed on by word of mouth to the--

[James Michener:] Ah yes. Uh that's a very sage observation because in many parts of Asia ninety-three percent of the people cannot read or have access to radio, but the battle in Asia, as-as you will know, is for the mind of a very few people. I know many countries where 93 percent of the people can't read. That leaves only 7 percent, and of them, two-thirds aren't interested. So we're talking about 2 percent of Asia when we're talking about keeping Asia our friend or Russia winning Asia. We must fight for those 2 percent, but we must do everything we can to get them. For-for the time being, Russia has got ahead of us with the lie that the Korea action is merely an American aggression. It's tragic to me to think that America, which helped all of the great nations in Asia win their freedom, we were the most ardent supporters of-of-uh of freedom and-and the-the revolutions that patterned our own in Asia. We helped India, we helped Burma, we helped Indonesia, we helped China. We helped them all, down to the Philippines. Even Japan, we helped get a better government. And then to have us called the "great um imperialists," the great militaristic invaders of Asia, is in a sense heartbreaking. [ER:] Well--[James Michener:] I do think we're trying repair that now. (32:08)

[ER:] I do too but I think perhaps we've been shortsighted in certain ways. I think that we haven't always had uh the right kind of people. Now I don't mean that I think uh they haven't been good people, I think they have been very often. But I think at times what they needed in many of these countries was two kinds of people: people who could help and understand the um physical things and people who had some understanding of what was going on in the minds and the spirit which are often so very separate.

[James Michener:] I-I would agree thoroughly. I think it's-it's uh pretty nearly time we begin to send our very ablest men to Asia. You could go into almost any small city in America as-as--

[ER:] But it has to be a special kind of ability, it has to be almost um--you've almost got to be a practical philosopher, I mean a philosopher with a practical streak, [James Michener: Yes.] to talk to some of the leaders in-in [James Michener: Yes.] Asia.

[James Michener:] Yes, they do place great emphasis upon a world view and a spiritual--

[ER:] At present of course they place enormous and a first importance on the leadership of um--well what do we eat. I mean that's violently important. But back of their doorways is what you really believe in, what you really think, along the lines of the spirit. And uh-and so often I think we don't quite remember that those two things walk hand in hand.

[James Michener:] We have been deficient in that. Uh they have a name they call us in India: the "banyas," that is "the traders." Not the the philosophers or the statesmen or anything, we're the banyas, the traders. But those in Indians who know America well are going back pretty well impressed of the fact that we have much more to our civilization than that. And uh I was welcomed in a variety of Indian homes, uh I always had to establish my credentials. They wanted to know what I did believe and whether we were going to merely try to invade Asia and make her knuckle down to our way of life. If you satisfied them on that, then I had some marvelous good friends there. (33:34)

[ER:] Oh, I'm sure you could make friends, they're fine people. I have most wonderful contacts always with any women that I happen to meet eh for instance in Geneva, the woman who is the health officer for India, came to the World Health Organization meeting, and she's a wonderful person, and she asked to come and see me and we had a very delightful time. We had lunch together with Madam [Hansa] Mehta who's been on the Human Rights for a long while with me, and I said to her, "do you hold this because no man had the courage to take it? It's a terrific job." And she smiled in a very gentle way and said, "Well, it is a frightening job," [James Michener: Yes, the-the--] But once you do they do believe that you really don't think your country is-is going to grab power, then you have an opening I think with all of them, don't you?

[James Michener:] So I frequently had the feeling, Mrs. Roosevelt, that uh my wife, who-who got right in with the people, even more than I did, uh did a lot more to uh discuss things with them basically than I did because I was always on-on sort of the political social level, uh always talking about problems. But she got out and got to know quite a few of the people as they actually lived, and uh goodness, they'd follow her back to the hotel, and then talking with me through her, we had some wonderful conversations.

[ER:] Well, I hate to say that our time has come to an end; there was lots more I wanted to talk about, but perhaps just reading the book will give us all the rest. But I thank you so much, Mr. Michener, for coming to be with me today.

[James Michener:] Oh, it's been a great pleasure to be with you, Mrs. Roosevelt.

[Break 36:25-36:31]

[Ben Grauer:] Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has just concluded her interview with her guest, James Michener, author of the recently published volume, *Return From Paradise*, and also creator of the bestseller of the *Tales of the South Pacific* for which incidentally the smash-hit musical comedy success *South Pacific* was derived.

They say that it's more blessed to give than to receive, but why not do both? You can, you know, by entering the slogan contest being conducted by United Cerebral Palsy. You give by helping United Cerebral Palsy to help those more than half a million sufferers who look to the association for their chance for health and a useful life. And you receive because the winners of the slogan will be able to choose from more than ten thousand wonderful prizes. Do this: make a wish, then write a slogan and help your wish come true. Send your slogan to Palsy, that's P-A-L-S-Y, Box 555 Radio City, New York. And with your slogan, won't you send a contribution of a dollar or more which will be used in this community because United Cerebral Palsy as affiliates throughout this country and in Canada. Remember that address for your dollar or more contribution and your slogan. It's Palsy, P-A-L-S-Y, Box 555 Radio City, New York. (38:04)

[ER:] Perhaps you have heard me speak before about the UNESCO gift coupon plan. But I want to mention it today because so many people write to me asking what they can do to help the United Nations. I like the gift coupon plan because it offers a way in which every one of us can take part in an

international program. One of the objectives of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, is to get badly needed equipment for schools in Europe which were destroyed by the war, or to teachers and schools in underprivileged countries throughout Asia. It is hard for us to believe that in many schools there can be no science classes because there are no such things as test tubes and microscopes, that teachers cannot get globes and maps and film strips, and other tools for modern teaching. Now by selling the UNESCO gift stamps, which come in denominations of twenty five cents, to their members, an organization can raise money for such equipment for a school which has been specifically selected by the group. The stamps are red and white and carry a picture of the UN headquarters. Forty of these make up a gift coupon worth ten dollars which are sent by the club to the school, together with a friendly note, and are exchanged by the school for equipment, very much like a gift coupon in our own department stores.

For five years UNESCO has been receiving lists of such needs from schools in many parts of the world, which they have now made into projects which can be adopted by organizations. A project might provide books for the first public library in India, braille typewriters for a school for the blind in Ceylon, kitchen equipment for nutrition-- for a nutrition course in a school in Greece, a radio receiver set for a girls' school in India, black boards for the forty thousand Arab refugee children who still go to school in tents in Lebanon and other Middle East countries. Or say, equipment for the very first dental college at the University of Rangoon. The low cost of the UNESCO stamps makes it possible for many individual donors to share in the cost of one gift, and gives an opportunity for children and young people to participate as well as older people. It seems to me too, that by selling gift stamps to finance a specific project, the membership of a club learns a little bit more about another part of the world, and at the same time helps to educate that club and their town in the purposes of the United Nations and UNESCO. On the other hand, we're giving other peoples the tools to help themselves, and it seems to me to be one of the most practical demonstrations of friendship I know. Perhaps your group will want to take on the UNESCO gift project this year. You can get all the details by writing to UNESCO, United Nations, New York.

[Break 41:40-41:50]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And now it's time to close the program and to remind you that you've been listening to the *Eleanor Roosevelt Program*, which comes to you each Monday through Friday at this same time, and this is Elliott Roosevelt speaking and wishing you all good day.

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