

## THE PAN-AMERICAN COFFEE BUREAU SERIES

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Description: ER discusses Winston Churchill's visit to the United States, wartime sacrifices of material goods during the holidays, and suggestions for improvements in civilian defense in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Participants: ER, Dan Seymour

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[Dan Seymour]: This is Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's regular Sunday evening broadcast sponsored by the Pan-American Coffee Bureau representing seven good neighbor, coffee growing nations. Mrs. Roosevelt has so many delightful and interesting sidelights on Mr. Churchill's visit, such vital and dramatic facts to report on the awakening of America to the need of a vigorous civilian defense that we shall take time to say only these few words for our sponsors. Like charity, true defense begins at home. In these times, extra energy, steady nerves, are just as necessary for the housewife, the factory worker, the office worker, yes, for you and your family, as for the boys in the armed forces. The army and the navy supply their men with coffee and lots of it. Be sure that you and your family drink all the coffee they need during the hard days ahead to squeeze every possible benefit out of every moment of relaxation. Coffee does give the extra energy you need. Coffee does help steady your nerves. Be sure you make full use of the good cheer, the pepping up, which an extra cup of coffee at lunch, an extra cup of coffee with the evening meal will give you. You'll find you can get more out of your life with coffee. More than ever before, coffee is America's necessary drink. And now we present Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. (01:23)

[ER]: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I know that what you want to hear about tonight is the Prime Minister of Great Britain's visit. I was as surprised as anybody else when my husband actually told me on the morning of his arrival that he was coming to stay with us. The President telephoned me the day before when I was in Hyde Park distributing Christmas parcels there to say that I might have to change some of my Christmas plans. He was so mysterious that I canvassed in my mind all the possibilities. I thought he must have some secret information that something was going to happen, which made it wiser for our usual practices to be abandoned, but it never occurred to me that we were about to live through a unique period of history. It is a very significant thing when the Prime Minister of Great Britain visits the President of the United States to plan together the conduct of the war and make the decisions which will gather in all the other free people for concerted planning on present and future policies. My husband went to the airport to meet the Prime Minister and when they came back, Diana Hopkins and I stood by the elevator door to greet the President, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Harry Hopkins. It is easy to see how the Prime Minister can inspire the people of his nation with confidence and courage. He is himself full of courage and of confidence in his people. My meetings with the Prime Minister have been very brief. In fact, they are limited to conversations at dinner, for all these men have breakfast in their rooms. The President and the Prime Minister lunch together and every spare minute during the day and evening is spent in consultation. Perhaps a small thing which will point out the different situation of our country and of the isle of Great Britain is summed up in the Prime Minister's remark to me that two poached eggs coming in on his breakfast tray seemed almost an incredible extravagance. One egg a week is all he has seen in England for a long time. That is one thing one must admire about the British people. Rationing plays no favorites and if one egg a week is all you can have, that is all you have, whether you are the Prime Minister or a miner in Wales. The Prime Minister made a wonderful impression on the members of the President's press conference because when the large group of reporters could not see him he got up on a chair so as to be visible to them all and that won their hearts. (03:58)

I think perhaps my listeners will be interested in a report of the progress of civilian defense in this country. It moved so slowly before the attack on Pearl Harbor, but since that day state defense councils, local defense councils have multiplied so quickly and been so active it's almost impossible for the federal headquarters of civilian defense and the regional headquarters to keep up with what is happening. Everywhere they want plans to meet every eventuality no matter how remote it may seem. I rejoice in this sign of the determination on the part of the American people to look after themselves though they are anxious for guidance and advice. I think you may get some idea of the strides which are being made if I tell you that in New York State 118 volunteer bureaus under local defense councils were established in the first ten days after the beginning of the war. Five new volunteer bureaus were established in New York City and 15,000 volunteers were registered and placed in that same ten day period.

Some of you may not realize why volunteer bureaus are important but I think I can make it clear to you very quickly. Anyone wishing to organize a community must know all the forces that exist in that community for use. One of the greatest forces is the work hours available and the manpower waiting to be used. If every volunteer registers in these bureaus or if they have to register somewhere else, if their names and qualifications are sent to the bureaus, the defense councils have at all times a picture of the human resources upon which they can depend. If in addition, these civilian defense bureaus know all the available agencies, both public and private, which they can call upon in any community to give training and supervision for the work of volunteers then there is added strength. Those who have never before done certain things can now learn how to do them and be under supervision til they are sure they are working well. If every agency, both private and public, examine their own work, recognize the fact that their great lack has been inadequate funds in the past coupled with too little personnel, and that this has prevented them from meeting the needs of the whole community, they will now grasp the opportunity to really face their problems as a whole and meet them. There will be no dearth of work for everyone who desires to give their time and who is willing to take training or to use what skills and experience they already have in the services of the community. There will be groups and organizations whose members will feel they can offer experience and qualifications to meet certain needs in different communities and these offers can be gratefully accepted. Labor has perhaps the biggest contribution to make because so many people are included under that broad term. Rural populations with their facilities for providing better food at home and better food for export have great opportunities for service to the nation. All of this individual effort which sums up to such a grand total must filter through the volunteer bureaus throughout the nation. Otherwise we will never know in all of our communities what are the available resources, what are the needs, and how we can meet them. (7:37)

I think that in every big city and in every county if there is not a separate bureau of information established that the central bureau and its outposts should set up an information service ready to answer any and all questions which the civilian population may ask. This will of course require a 24-hour service on the telephone and some training in the conditions and the resources of one's own community. I look upon this as an invaluable asset. Not only for meeting the present needs, but to the quality of our citizenship in the future. Some localities, particularly along the coasts have been anxious for outlines which would enable them to lay plans should it become necessary in a few isolated instances to move small groups of people. These plans, of course, will have to be adapted to special conditions (8:32), but the general outline will shortly be ready which the local defense councils can work out in detail with the military authorities in any area. It is quite evident that as time goes on there will be new problems to meet in defense industrial areas. We must establish more day nurseries and nursery schools and greatly increase the recreational facilities for older children, which will of course necessitate the using of school playgrounds and local parks and playgrounds under supervision. I have the feeling that as the problems arise, we will now be able to meet them. The important thing in all this is the awakening of the American people. I feel that the carrying out and the formulating of plans to meet defense needs will follow the understanding of the people and their insistence to be prepared for every situation. (9:28)

One interesting thing, which Mr. Churchill told me, was that he had found it very hard since the war began to take posts, even posts of responsibility, outside of the country. Over and over again the answer would be, "If anything should happen in England, I must be here." Luckily for us there is not the need to send so many people away from our own shores. I was rudely awakened however to the fact that we must do a little thinking beyond these shores when at my press conference the other day I was asked what civilian defense was doing in Puerto Rico. I had to acknowledge that I'd given it very little thought. I knew that the protective side was well organized but I am certainly remiss. Probably because I've thought primarily of our island possessions as being more directly under military rule than under civilian control. Even then there are many things which the army would have to have assistance on through the work of volunteers. In the course of the next few weeks we must see what can be done from this angle for our outlying possessions. (10:36)

There is one day in the year when I am unqualifiedly happy over the wonders that can be accomplished by the telephone. The other days in the year, I grumble at the interruptions and feel that the telephone wastes my time, but on Christmas morning when it enabled us to hear the voices of as many of our children as were within reach, I sang its praises without any reservations. Only Diana Hopkins and Fala, the President's dog felt that this particular Christmas had any resemblance to others. Fala may or may not have remembered the joys of a year ago, but in any case his master found him more cooperative this year as far as enjoying the toys which came out of his own personal Christmas stocking. I think some of you might enjoy as Christmas reading a little book, *The Well of the Stars* by Elizabeth Goudge. This story deals with a well found on the road to Bethlehem. There is a legend that the three wise men on their journey to the manger lost sight of the guiding star but pausing to water their camels at the well they found it again, reflected in the water. The story is a charming story woven about the little shepherd boy David. I think the nicest thing in it is the advice given by the angel Michael to little David to play his pipe when he is afraid for music is the voice of man's trust in God's protection, even as the gift of courage is God's voice answering. Many of the carols, much of the great music breeds that courage which is the gift of God. I can but hope all of you felt it in your Christmas service and heeded the words, "comfort ye, comfort ye my people." Before I speak to you again the New Year will have begun for us and on the New Year morning I hope we will pray together for understanding hearts. We may be called upon to forgive much in the coming months, but that should not be so difficult if we keep in mind our own failings and our own mistakes. We have a hard task and a costly one to perform and when it is over we will have an even harder task to deal justly and mercifully and to lay the foundations for a new world order. God grant us all wisdom and courage and above all humility and the love of mankind. (13:13)

[Dan Seymour]: Mrs. Roosevelt, the Pan-American Coffee Bureau is proud to bring such a New Year message to the men and women, yes, and children of America. We are glad, too, that you told the story of Mr. Churchill and the incredible extravagance of the two poached eggs, for how clearly it shows what blessings we of the United States enjoy. Like the stories the returning foreign correspondents tell us about how much they enjoy that first splendid cup of America's favorite drink, coffee, as they land back home. For coffee is a blessing to us here, particularly in these days when we need the extra energy, the steady nerves which coffee gives. But aside from these important virtues of coffee, what a drink it is. As delightful and refreshing as a visit to the beautiful Latin American hills on which it grows. Let's drink an extra cup or two tonight as a heartfelt toast to the blessings we Americans so proudly share. The blessings, as we start into the troubled year of 1942, we shall surely keep and treasure through the happier years to come. Next week Mrs. Roosevelt will be with us again at this same time. Until then, this is Dan Seymour saying good evening for the Pan-American Coffee Bureau.

[Male announcer]: This is the National Broadcasting Company.

[NBC Music]

(14:37)

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