

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

October 25, 1950

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt answer a listener's question about the prospects of a young couple living a rural life. In the interview segment, ER interviews actor Van Heflin.

Participants: ER, Elliott, Van Heflin

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mother, I have a question here from Dick Harety, an old friend of ours and a neighbor of ours up in the country. And, uh, here's his question: "As a lover of country life yourself, can you offer to a young couple who have just bought a place in the country a solution to their problem. How can we earn a living in the country with no knowledge of farming?"

[ER:] Well, of course if you want to make a living on farming, you better go to work and get knowledge on farming and do it very quickly. If you're living in the East, I don't believe, unless you intend to do all the work yourself and intend to take up some specialty and do it on a big scale, um, so that you have a specialized market, I don't believe you can make a living. And in order to do that, you'll have to do some really hard work, you have probably have to go to the Agricultural College at Cornell and take their short course in winter and specialize in the one thing you've decided you can do. Now, if you want to live in the country and work in town that's fairly easy [ER coughs] to do if you can find a place near enough to make commuting possible. If you want to live in the county and find some kind of work, uh, which you can carry on, then it becomes much more difficult because it's possible for someone who is an artist or does, or writes, or uh, can find, uh, something which he can do alone, um, I know for instance of a young couple who um, had, happened to have some uh, rather unusual recipes. They were down to very little money. They moved in to an old um, building and um, made it gradually into a factory in which they make marmalade and one other product for which they had recipes, a sauce of a certain kind. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm] And, um, uh, the man is the business manager; the woman uh, supervises the making of the product.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well now let's take uh, their particular case. You say they had practically no money and uh, that they moved into an old ramshackle building and uh, they gradually built it into a factory for turning out these products. How did uh, this man, uh, work out the marketing of that product?

[ER:] Well, it started, as I understand it, by um, selling it first to a few friends and they recommended others and it grew rather slowly, a--at first. And then it happened to be very good and it caught on, and they got one or two orders from, uh, they were recommended, of course, to one or two specialty shops. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm] Um, and they got uh a few big orders and from that they now have a mail order business plus they uh, supply to these big uh-uh, well they're not really very big because specialty stores are very-- rarely very big, but it's a good continuous backlog of business. And um, apparently they do very well.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well I know of another case. Uh, uh, a friend of mine who lives in Fort Worth, uh, uh, this is Mrs. Van Zandt. Many years ago, uh, she uh, uh was left as a widow, and she had uh, uh, the problem of trying to augment her income so that she could live on her place in the country. And she started in uh, a business of smoking turkeys. [ER: Well--] In fact, I think she was one of the first in the United States and she built up a tremendous business. (4:35)

[ER:] Well, you see she was one of the first and it was a specialty. Now, those are, uh that-that is really the only way that I think you can live in a, on a small farm in the country. Eh, and uh, make a living, and I don't know um whether it will bring you riches exactly, but if it--what you want is life in the country uh and a good living, and you are willing to do the work yourself. You cannot [Elliott Roosevelt: mhm] expect uh, to pay for enough outside work to make a living. You've really got to do a good deal of the work yourself. And only take on other people as your business permits you to do so.

[ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I know of another man uh, that is a good example of this ingenuity, of course he had specialized training as a craftsman. Uh, you remember Otto Berg up at East Park. Uh, he has uh built up, he has practically no land, he has a small uh barn back of his house, he's built up a--

[ER:] [over Elliott Roosevelt] A very charming old house, an old stone house that goes way back to Washington.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] A wonderful house. Well, I think his case I think you ought to tell about that because uh--

[ER:] Well he's right near the uh, East Park on 9 G and um, he worked in our factory to begin with and then--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] He was an immigrant wasn't he?

[ER:] In the old days, yes I think he came over to this country. But in the old days when we ran, at Val-Kill, a furniture factory, he was one of our skilled craftspeople. And then he went in for himself and now I, uh, he gets big orders for people for furniture.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yes, I know of one gentleman uh who's a friend of mine uh C.R. Smith, that gave him a tremendous order for several rooms full of furniture. And uh--

[ER:] [over Elliott Roosevelt] Well, he makes beautiful things.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] He does all that work himself, doesn't he?

[ER:] Yes, he makes beautiful things. I don't know whether he has one helper now. Sometimes he has a helper, but he's very slow uh for that reason that he insists on doing everything himself, but his work is beautiful.

[Elliott Roosevelt and ER overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well now uh we-we recognize that if you can build up a specialty, or if you're a skilled craftsman and you can work at your craft in your own home or in a barn right next to your house, that you can build up and make a living living in the country. What about the person that has a uh-uh, say a small income like a writer or uh an artist and uh they'd like to supplement their living by saving money by using the, the soil to uh grow the things that they can ill afford in--to buy in the-in the market. Would they actually save by growing their own vegetables and having their own cow?

[ER:] If they did all the work themselves. They would not save if they had to pay labor because the minute you pay labor um you do not save, but if they did all the work on their garden, for instance, themselves, and had a deep freeze and did all the putting up themselves, they could save a great deal.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, in other words if you only had to buy the seed and the necessary tools to work the garden, you could raise the, the food stuff for an entire year if you had say an acre or two of land, uh to feed yourself and your family, and if you knew how to put it up in your own kitchen and you knew how to put it away in the deep freeze, then you would have fresh uh fruits and vegetables the year round, is that right? (8:35)

[ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap]

[ER:] Yes, you wouldn't perhaps be able to grow all your fruit, but you could buy at the lowest price if you watched prices and um uh save a good deal in that way. Course you would still be buying your meat, and your uh eggs and butter and milk and that sort of thing unless you had enough land uh to have um a cow, or a couple of cows.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Alright, alright. Say you've got enough land for the grazing of a cow or a couple of cows so that you could have your own milk and your own butter. Uh, do you think that--

[ER:] It's still a question of doing all the work yourself.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yes, but you still have to feed a cow. Do-do you think that the price that you pay for a quart of milk or a pound of butter in the market, uh, that it's sufficiently cheap to feed that cow in addition to the grazing that they get off of the soil.

[ER:] No, no. Not uh, not unless you have enough uh, land so that you can grow the uh, food that you feed the cow. All the—[Elliott Roosevelt: All the year round] Or whatever the uh, the animals are that you decide to have. [Elliott Roosevelt: Yeah] Have, if you can grow everything they eat, and you do all the work yourself--

[ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Then it pays.

[ER:] Then it-then it pays you.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I see. Well I'm afraid we're running out of time again. I got so interested in that that I'm not even watching the clock any more. Do you think we'd better move on now?

[ER:] Perhaps we had. [ER laughs]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Alright.

(Break: 10:09-10:22)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] If you're like, um, most of us, the chances are you like to begin the day with a large frosty glass of orange juice. But maybe you aren't having it now because you're tired of the fuss and bother of squeezing the oranges. If you are, you can begin again tomorrow morning by buying Flamingo, fresh frozen orange juice packed with Vitamin C. The other day I told you about Flamingo's fine money saving offer for you to make the mixing of Flamingo Frozen Orange Juice and water even easier for you. They have made available a handsome plastic shaker. This wonderful orange colored shaker has two lines pressed into the plastic to ensure accurate measuring and it takes up no more room in your re-refrigerator than a milk bottle. It's attractive on the table too. For a limited time only, when you purchase this

marvelous new shaker at the special low price of sixty-nine cents, you get a can of Premium Quality Flamingo Orange Juice free. So if you haven't tried Flamingo, take advantage of this offer today. You're in for a treat.

And now ladies, for a beautiful, soft home wave in half the time, use BOBBI pin-curl home wave. It's not only quick, but safe and easy too. If you put up your hair in pin-curls, you can give yourself a lovely BOBBI home wave. You need no curlers, and there's no blocking or resetting, all it requires is pin-curls and BOBBI. Your hair will be so easy to comb and easy to arrange. So ask for BOBBI, spelt "B-O-B-B-I," today. And now, Mother will bring our star onto the stage, will you introduce him please?

(Break: 12:20-12:33)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yes, I do Mother. In the Garment District in one day, hundreds of moderately priced dresses come off the assembly line, are crated and shipped by the manufacturer before sundown. It just isn't feasible to give personal attention to each dress that leaves the plant. That's what interests me about McKettrick dresses. While McKettrick dresses are sold in all the leading stores throughout the country, a McKettrick's do an enviable volume of business, nevertheless listen to this: "Nevertheless, each and every dress that leaves McKettrick's is fitted to a form, not once but twice before it leaves the premises. All the details on McKettrick dresses are carefully supervised two inch hems, liberal seams, and fine trimmings. The fabrics are of wool in all the new colors: corduroys, jerseys, gabardines, and crepes in light and dark colors. All fabrics that are comparable in quality to those found in more expensive dresses, and yet these dresses sell at the astoundingly low price of twelve ninety-five to seventeen ninety-five. McKettrick dresses are tastefully chic and are to be found at Arnold Constable's, Saks 34th Street, or at Bamberger's in Newark, and in fine stores throughout the country.

Now here's something, uh, for your complexion care that works like magic: new improved Sitrue Tissues, but there's no slight of hand involved in Sitrue fine quality. There's a logical reason why Sitrue gives you better complexion care. It's due to the new cellu-weave process that Sitrue and only Sitrue uses. As a result, every tissue is stronger, yet softer and more absorbent. That's why Sitrue tissues remove more make-up more quickly without crumpling or tearing and without irritating delicate skin. Look for the rose-shaded box with the blue and white stripes and ask for Sitrue tissues, it's your guarantee of quality.

At this point it is my custom to let you in on a secret that you're probably already aware of. This is WNBC AM and FM, New York City. This announcement is required, but the next is a pleasure because it provides welcome news to a large group of people who have experienced difficulty of hearing in the past. I wonder if faulty hearing has interfered with your being completely at ease at the theater, or for that matter at any public function. If that has been the case, here is some wonderful news. Thanks to a revolutionary achievement developed by the Acousticon Company, it's called the Super-X-Ear, and with its aid the deafened are helped to hear again. This splendid innovation is worn on the wrist, or is a brooch, or a tie-pin, or a lapel button. To get complete information either for yourself or a friend, please let us help by dropping us a card, and we'll send you a booklet giving full details of Acousticon's new Super-X-Ear. Just address, add-address it to the Roosevelts at WNBC in New York. And now back to Mother and Van Heflin.

(Break 16:11-16:21)

[ER:] My guest this afternoon is a young man with a varied career, but his two main interests in life seem to be the theater and the sea. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you somebody whom you probably already know well, Mr. Van Heflin.

[ER and Van Heflin overlap]

[Van Heflin:] Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt. Uh, you know as a matter of fact I feel uh, a little chagrined in-in a way and uh highly honored to appear on the same program with you, although it's not the first time as a matter of fact. I think the last time was on the coast for a benefit, uh, which one I'm not exactly sure. Because uh, I know you appear on--

[ER:] A lot for you to remember! [ER and Van Heflin laugh]

[Van Heflin:] Well, I know you appear on a great many and I've had uh, the pleasant uh-uh--pleasant uh um oh--

[ER:] Duty of appearing on a great many too.

[Van Heflin:] Duty of appearing on a great many too, yes. [Van Heflin, ER, and Elliott Roosevelt laugh] See, I'm not really good at this adlib after all. [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] [ER: oh--]But it is uh, uh-uh-uh really a great thrill to, to appear on your program and to sit opposite you, uh, facing you, uh, because I have so much real admiration for you and the things you've done.

[ER:] Thank you that's a very kind thing to say, but I'm really very pleased to have a chance to really ask you questions tonight [ER chuckles] because in a biography which I have read about you uh they call you and I will quote, "a curious and strange mixture of college bred man, [Van Heflin: oh] two-fisted sailor, [VH: oh, oh] and man of the world," [VH and ER laugh]. And it also goes on to say that you really um love the sea first of all. And it seems to me it's quite a long ways from loving the sea and wanting to go to sea and becoming an actor and such a very good one. Um, my own husband loved the sea and became uh a politician, [Van Heflin laughs] perhaps, uh, being a politician and being an actor is uh both have some things that are similar, so [laughs] tell us why [laughs], how you happened to be lured into the theater.

[Van Heflin:] Well, I-I don't think um, uh turning to politics is quite as far a, quite a great uh come down as turning into acting. But, um, as a matter a fact, the um, the two careers, are not uh, un-similar in this respect.

[ER:] Mhm, many people think that you have to be a good actor to be in politics. [ER laughs]

[Van Heflin:] Well, uh, I never quite associated acting with uh, uh the late President because I um, he was--

[ER:] He was a showman.

[Van Heflin:] He was a great showman, but, first of all he was a great statesman, uh. [ER: That I agree] Actually, uh I don't um--uh I-I've-I've found many similarities between um going to sea and um and uh the theater. These, uh, th--this may sound very strange, but actually it's not because, uh, very few sailors ever stay on a ship more than one trip. Um, and very few actors stay in a cast for more than one play uh that is you, you have a different cast for each play and you have a different crew for each ship that you go on. So you get the wonderful advantage of meeting new people, new personalities, and each play represents a new story, and each ship represents a new group of uh ports that you may see at one time or another. So in reality you're-you're constantly running into something new, something varied, something exciting. Uh, actually my reason for leaving the--this uh sea was because I sort of caught myself turning into a hobo--uh kind of a delightful tramp. You know, [Van Heflin, ER and Elliott Roosevelt laugh] (20:47)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Van, uh, you know I'd like to ask you because I've known you now for a number of years, and I've known your brother Marty, and I know that you come from Oklahoma and that's a long

ways from the sea. Now, just why did you get this lure for the sea, uh when really you should have turned into a cowboy?

[Van Heflin:] Well, maybe that's uh, maybe that's the reason, you know uh Elliott. I-I know that a great many of our finest uh-uh naval personnel during the War uh actually came from the Midwest, and maybe it's because they got a little tired of the rolling plains and the hills and whatnot, and they wanted to see a-a little water, you know.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Oh well, there's something in that uh I know that Admiral Nimitz uh came from San Antonio, Texas, but of course uh Texas is famous for its navy, you know [Elliott Roosevelt and Van Heflin laugh]. So they're very, very proud of the uh fact that they have the largest navy in of all the states. [Van Heflin laughs]

[ER and Van Heflin overlap]

[ER:] Well, I've, I think there is uh a very interesting point there because um, you'll find I think in the Naval Academy a great many boys from inland and always among your sailors uh I would really have more experience among the actual Navy boys than I would in the um uh merchant marine oh, but uh I used to notice in going through the hospitals uh how many boys came from the middle part of the United States and had gone to sea, gone to [unclear terms].

[Van Heflin:] Yes, that's very true. You know this-this strikes me as very strange because uh during the War, I know you must have been um in hot water all the time because I know the President was more or less of a navy man having been the Assistant Secretary of the Navy in his uh, early career and um uh you--the--all of the boys sort of uh branched out into the Marines, the Air Corps, and the Navy and uh the Army.

[ER:] Oh, but um, my husband felt the Marine Corps was part of the Navy,) the only [Van Heflin laughs] one, the only one who had a hard time was the one who was in the Army. He used to come home [Van Heflin laughs] and say what chance did he have because he had uh, not only the traditional feeling that Franklin had from having been connected with the Navy and always having cared about it, but then he had all three brothers in the Navy. [ER and Van Heflin laugh]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Van, I must admit, I'm that sad character, the only one of the brothers that had no connection with the Navy. [Van Heflin laughs] And I was in the Army Air Force and felt like a step child all the way through the War.

[ER:] Well you complained loudly I will say [ER and Elliott Roosevelt laugh].

[ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I know I was very fortunate actually in having been in the Air Force because it turned out that I was stationed in all of the various parts of the world and had been there for some time before Father ever turned up at the conferences, so I was the one fortunate member of the family who got to see something of his father during the war years, [VH laughs: I know] when he came to visit us.

[ER:] Except, you remember Frankie turned up in the Mediterranean um at Casablanca.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Oh yes, he was there on that destroyer that got bombed off of Palermo. [ER laughs] He was feeling very sad at that time. [ER, Elliott Roosevelt and Van Heflin laugh]

[Van Heflin:] But the only thing, eh-eh Elliott is that uh and you know I-I must admit something uh, just between the two of us now, the three of us now, that uh I get a great thrill out of calling you “Elliott” now because during the war, [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] I-I would have been terrified to use anything other than “General Roosevelt” because you were a General in the 8th Air Force and I was a Second Lieutenant in the 9th Air Force [Elliott Roosevelt and Van Heflin laugh], and we were only about twenty miles apart in England.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yes, I know that. [Elliott Roosevelt laughs]

[Van Heflin:] And another thing, you were a flying General and I was a non-flying Second Lieutenant and I had a lot of admiration for you. [Elliott Roosevelt laughs]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, [ER: Well--] thanks very much, but uh, uh, I think that the part that you did during the War was just as important as the part that I played. (25:22)

[ER:] Well, will you please tell me how you happened not to be in the Navy? [Elliott Roosevelt laughs]

[Van Heflin:] I will never be able to figure that out other than the fact that I would say um I was uh-in the uh field artillery reserve from the University of Oklahoma, so after many years out of college and when the War came about, I wanted to get back in the Army naturally. So the only branch I knew was the field artillery so I went back into that. The only thing was that when I was trained it was horse-drawn and it was French seventy-fives, uh which was the field piece of that time. And when I came back into the army, it was mechanized and it was Howitzers and I knew nothing about it. It had been a good many years since I was out of math and calculus and what-not and I had a rather rugged time, so I transferred over to the Air Corps.

[ER:] Well, that’s a very good reason. And now, I think Elliott has something to say.

(Break 26:24-26:38)

[ER:] Mr. Heflin, now I want to go back to the question of acting. Uh, just how much work goes into being a good actor? I know it takes years of hard work to get to the top, but is being a good performer, working with good directors and technicians um the major part of becoming a good actor, or must you personally do a tremendous amount of work?

[Van Heflin:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, I don’t think there’s--I don’t think any two actors have had the same experience along that line. Uh, one actor probably gets to the top um, by luck, by breaks, by great parts, by um--probably uh-uh an instinctive thing, but you can’t exactly put your finger on; it’s pretty hard to define. Another may get to the top by very hard work by studying Stanislavski or Delsarte, working with fine people and um taking the training that they give-they give him. Uh, another one may get to the top by observing human beings, humanity in general and um, trying to, well sort of condense it into uh, some form that he can follow for himself. It’s very hard to say exactly how eh I don’t believe there’s any formula any more than there’s a formula for any kind of--any kind of artistic-uh achievement. It’s not like medicine or law or uh any of the other professions in that respect I think it differs primarily from the other professions. A good lawyer can uh study and work and strive and what-not and he-he knows uh what uh is necessary for a good lawyer to know and he can be a good lawyer because he knows that amount. A good doctor the same way, but an actor no. Sometimes actors have on their first appearance been tremendously successful and have gone to the top and uh, it’s something instinctive in them. Others have worked for years; I’ve known many examples of people who have been around Broadway for years and years and then all of a sudden the right part, the right play comes along and maybe the years of

experience, of heart aches and hard work suddenly pay off and they become very successful. Uh, I don't know it's-it's--

[ER and Van Heflin overlap]

[ER:] It's different for everybody isn't it?

[Van Heflin:] It's different for everybody, it really is.

[ER:] That's um, that's so of course with nearly all the arts I imagine, it's a--

[Van Heflin:] I think so.

[ER:] It's just a gift. Well, I understand that you've recently severed your motion picture contract to freelance in pictures and do some parts in plays and that you plan as well to produce even though you may be the star in the show. [Van Heflin laughs] Is this an independent film venture, and we're going to see you on Broadway soon?

[Van Heflin:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, actually my reason for severing a, my connections with a major studio is-is to freelance and the reason for it is basically this, that I would like to um, make my own mistakes, let me put it that way, rather than have other people make them for me. I know I'm going to make them, I'm not omnipotent, no one is. But the only thing is that after you reach a certain age uh either in years or in experience, you like to know that if you make a mistake it's going to be your own mistake and not somebody else's. So I'll-I may play on the stage or in pictures, or probably in this new frightening medium, television uh but at least I'll want to be free to do what I want to do. (31:06)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Van uh I know you've been back here for quite a while uh and you've been staying right here in the hotel with us, and uh I understand that you've been looking around for a play. Tell me, have you found one?

[Van Heflin:] Haven't found one yet.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well now, [Van Heflin laughs] just before you leave town now, you come and see me because my partner and I and the uh television and radio packaging business, we also are interested in plays and we have a few scripts that we think are rather good.

[Van Heflin:] I'd like very much to read them. [Van Heflin and Elliott Roosevelt laugh]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Alright, well maybe we can uh join forces before we get through.

[Van Heflin:] I can't think of a better uh group to join forces with, believe me.

[Elliott Roosevelt and ER overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I'll be glad.

[ER:] Well, now I've been asking you about uh uh the acting business, and I'm equally interested in uh, how you-how you really uh, what did you do to be a sailor? How much did you sail?

[Van Heflin and Elliott Roosevelt overlap]

[Van Heflin:] Well actually uh--i that was more or less accidental. I lived next-door to a man in California when I was going to high school there who was the manager of what they called then the Marine Service Bureau, which was sort of the seaman's employment agency. And during the summer months uh vacation from high school, he got me a job on a ship and once you make one trip to sea it's sort of like doing one play in the theater, it's in your blood and you follow it. So every summer after that I went to sea, and uh then finally after a couple of years in college I sort of got fed up with college and I wasn't sure what I wanted to do and I thought the best way to find out what I wanted to do was to go away to sea where I could sort of make up my own mind and be alone and; so I went to sea then for three years straight. I wanted to see the world frankly, and uh then I wanted to make up my own mind, and I did.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] How much of the world did you see in that three years?

[Van Heflin:] Quite a bit of it. [Van Heflin laughs]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Did you really get all over to Asia and Africa and Europe?

[Van Heflin:] Well, I got to, Asia to Africa to South America. I, di--uh strange thing is that I never got to Europe until the War. I got to England, [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] but not to Europe, uh. But um I-I saw an awful lot of it and I saw a lot of the world that I would never be able to see now as a passenger because the ships that I sailed on were called tramp ships. They were um they never hit the uh- the big ports, they hit the small commercial ports. And I'm always grateful, will always be grateful for that.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm. (33:57)

[ER:] Yes, because you saw, really, um, the places in the world that um, that showed you the real uh, people. [VH: That's right.]

Uh, and not just a cosmopolitan port that had a, a similarity to every other large port probably.

[Van Heflin:] That's very true.

[ER:] Uh, I wonder if um the basic thing that you, that makes you both a good actor and a good sailor is it that you enjoy uh people? Or don't you enjoy people?

[Van Heflin:] No, I do very much.

[ER:] You do. [Elliott Roosevelt laughs]

[Van Heflin:] You may have, [Van Heflin laughs] you may have the-the key to the secret there. I don't know.

[ER:] You just like to study people and um [ER coughs] I imagine that's almost an essential for being a good actor.

[Van Heflin:] I suspect maybe you're right. I-I certainly enjoy people and I uh, I don't like to stand off and study them. I like to sit with them and sort of um, have a little of them rub off on me.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, uh I should think uh having a-a little bit of a cold audience rub off on an opening night [Elliott Roosevelt and Van Heflin laughs] would be rather a disturbing experience.

[Van Heflin:] That can be frightening! [Van Heflin, Elliott Roosevelt and ER laugh]

[ER:] Well, on the other hand um, you probably very rarely have um a cold audience either as a sailor when you get in a group of people, or as an actor because if you have the gift of drawing people out, I imagine you can use it either on the stage or eh, in a small group of people that you're with.

[Van Heflin:] Well, I-I never have a great deal of trouble with new casts that I go with or new crews that I used to sail with. I like them and uh, fortunately they seem to like me. So--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I'd like to ask you one more question. You said that uh, you're interested in uh, becoming an independent producer in the film business. Have you got any plans uh, any immediate plans in that direction?

[Van Heflin:] No, actually not. That uh-uh, I don't know where that came from exactly, Elliott, because that's on the other side of the fence. I-I just want to be--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Freelance?

[Van Heflin:] An actor. And uh, I-I'm not a good businessman and I don't want to get mixed up in it because [Van Heflin laughs] it's um uh I-I have too much respect for the people who have the talent in that res--in that line.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I see.

[ER:] Well, I have a great interest in um, uh what I think um what makes people tick. And I usually find that uh, I can make people talk uh to me in taxicabs or wherever I may be.

[Van Heflin:] Or across from a mike. [Van Heflin laughs]

[ER:] I have a feeling that you probably have that gift too and I thank you very much for being with us tonight. And now, Elliott wants to talk.

(37:12)

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