

THE ELEANOR AND ANNA ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

January 26th, 1949 (catalog date)

Description: In this segment, ER discusses her "Voice of America" broadcast.

Participants: ER

[ER:] Thank you, Anna. When you have a great many interests and a great deal to do, as so many of us have these days, you soon find that you must learn to organize your time and accomplish as much as you can within a given hour. That's why on these mornings, I come to the broadcasting studio here at Radio City, I try to get as much done as possible. For example: I've just finished making a recording for the State Department, for use on the Voice of America broadcast, saving time by doing that and this all at one sitting. Perhaps you'd like to hear a little bit about the mechanics and the theory of these Voice of America broadcasts.

I think they're of great importance in the world today. They're really the way in which we, in--as the United States government in the United States, try to get across uh life of the United States, the thinking of its people, the facts about our country to the peoples in the rest of the world. It's perhaps our best way of getting beyond the Iron Curtain. We don't really know how much we get beyond, but we hope a good deal gets beyond. Now, I was asked to do this particular broadcast for the date of the thirtieth of January, which was my husband's birthday because the Voice of America had received a great many letters from overseas, asking questions about my husband. Personal questions for the most part, and so, they thought it would be of interest to answer them and to get members of the family to answer them, if possible.

Now, of course, Congress is very much afraid of propaganda and at times it has felt that it was a mistake to spend money in this way. It seems natural uh, to us, uh to spend money for advertising when it's openly commercial, but to do something by the government uh to actually influence the thinking of peoples is new for us and uh at times, I think our people and our Congress are a little nervous about it. I'm hoping that we will do it and do it better and better because some of the ideas that people have about us in other parts of the world are strange indeed, and the more we can change those ideas and the more we can get across the truth, the better it will be for the real things that have to be done in diplomacy and in uh economic s uh with other countries. Practically, even in military questions, it's necessary that other countries get to know us better. And now, back to my daughter Anna, in Hollywood. (3:27)

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