

## PAN-AMERICAN COFFEE BUREAU SERIES

October 19, 1941

Description: In this episode, ER discusses several topics, including: a Congressional committee investigation into the motion picture industry, the death of Louis Brandeis and the importance of freedom of speech, the US Navy, and industrial accidents hampering wartime production.

Participants: ER, Dan Seymour

---

[Advertisement starts mid-sentence]

[Unknown speaker 1:] -- of your work.

[Unknown speaker 2:] Get more out of your sport.

[Unknown speaker 3:] Get more fun.

[Dan Seymour:] Get more out of your life with coffee. The Pan-American Coffee Bureau, representing seven good neighbor coffee-growing nations, presents Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's views on current events over our coffee cups. But first, let's hear how football's famous Tommy Harmon gets more out of life with coffee. Tommy, who opened his professional football career today with the New York Americans, whose Columbia picture *Harmon of Michigan* is thrilling football fans from coast to coast, tells us, and we quote:

[Tommy Harmon:] I was out there on the field back at the old game yesterday, and the boys were giving me a real workout, and I don't mean maybe. This professional game is plenty fast hard football, but I use an old trick of mine that always works. Before going into action, I took a big steaming cup of coffee. You see, that gives me that extra energy I need to carry that ball when the going is toughest. I felt like a million dollars. For steady nerves and plenty of energy give me a good cup of coffee every time.

[Dan Seymour:] Professional football players, Sunday morning quarterbacks, successful men and women in all fields of activity, in all walks of life, get more out of life with coffee. Try a cup with your evening meal tonight. See how much more pleasure you get out of life. And now, the Pan-American Coffee Bureau's charming news analyst is ready to give you over our coffee cups, her weekly digest of world events. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

[ER:] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. The moving picture industry has been under investigation by a Congressional committee. The question seems to be whether the producers have a right to present their own views through the plays they produce. I think it is permissible for Senator [Gerald P.] Nye, Senator [Burton K.] Wheeler, and Mr. [Charles] Lindbergh to present their views to the world. But I think it is equally permissible for all others. Why is one propaganda any different from any other? Freedom of speech should be accorded to all.

A very great man left us when Justice [Louis] Brandeis died recently. Many people throughout the country have paid him tribute and will continue to do so. I have been thinking about him today in connection with this hearing, or investigation, of the motion picture industry. For the two great liberals of recent years on the Supreme Court, Justice Brandeis and Justice [Oliver Wendell] Holmes [Jr.], have both had a word to say on the subject of freedom of speech. It is perfectly evident that allowing a citizen to say

yes to the government is not freedom of speech. The real test is whether a citizen has a right to say no, and that right we've had for a hundred and fifty years, and it is still ours today.

Justice Brandeis' remarks on this subject read as follows: "Those who won our independence by revolution were not cowards. They did not fear political change. They did not exalt order at the cost of liberty. To courageous, self-reliant men, with confidence in the power of free and fearless reasoning applied through the processes of popular government, no danger from speech can be deemed clear and present, unless the incidence of the evil apprehended is so imminent that it may be fatal before there is opportunity for full discussion. If there is time to expose through discussion the falsehood and fallacies, to avert the evil by the processes of education, the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence." [Whitney v. California; Justice Brandeis' concurring opinion] But there are certain kinds of free speech which are not really permissible, therefore, and this is the point made by Justice Holmes in delivering the opinion of the Court in the case of Schenck v. the United States: "The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting "fire" in a theater and causing a panic." In other words, every subject should be a matter for free and full discussion, but we have an obligation to point out to the people as a whole the fallacies of any statements which we disagree with.

Both men are apparently agreed on this, and there were never two men more deeply interested in the preservation of our basic freedoms. In our present situation, here in this country, there is no question but what we have the time for full and free discussion. Therefore, I would not curtail the expression of anyone's opinion, but I would make sure that equal opportunity is given for all sides to be presented through every avenue of communication, press, and radio. Freedom for one side only is not true freedom.

A letter's just come to me from a correspondent who is much upset because the word "traitor" she says is applied to everyone who opposes the administration's foreign policy. She never mentions, of course, that the opposition has applied the term "warmonger" to everyone who champions this policy. This type of name-calling is never confined to any one side, but it brings up the whole question of free speech, and I think we should recognize today that we not only do respect free speech and permit it in this country, but that on the whole, we carry on our differences of opinion on a higher level than we did twenty years ago. If we compare the Congressional debates on the Lend-Lease Bill last spring with those on the League Covenant in 1919, we will see how much we have gained in seriousness, and how much less vituperation and name-calling there really is in these days. It is very difficult to be a consistent people, just as it is difficult to be a consistent individual. But in this matter of freedom of speech, I think it is important enough for us to try to see that there is complete freedom of discussion and to be consistent on that one point at least.

Now to turn for a moment to the subject of national defense. Last week, I gave you some figures which had come to me about our army. Today, I've acquired some about our navy. There are still many men, as you know, who think that the ultimate victory in any world situation goes to those who control the seas. That is where commerce is carried on. That is the lifeline of civilization, and therefore, it is of interest to us that our navy today is the most powerful in the world. 338 competent ships are in commission and 353 more are building. The navy has 273,315 enlisted men. The Marine Corps has 59,968 men. And with the Office of Personnel included, this figure will run upward of 350,000 men in all. Every branch of the service is putting special emphasis today on aviation, and the navy has 5,000 trained pilots, 3,600 students, and it is estimated that by July 1942, the Navy will have a minimum of 10,000 trained flying naval officers.

The value of having an aviation arm, which is attached to the navy or to the army, lies in the fact that branches of the same service work better together because they are more closely coordinated. This expansion in the navy has necessitated tremendous expansion in the Bureau of Ordnance. Navy yards and

many other allied industries are absorbing almost all available skilled labor, besides demanding certain materials, which necessitate giving priority as to delivery of materials for the defense program.

Among the men in the navy, the morale has never been higher. They are not having an easy time of it. Many of them spend weeks at a time patrolling in stormy waters. One of them wrote me about a trip down the coast in the teeth of a storm, which broke over the bridge and carried away some glass. "All of us onboard are tired, but in fine shape and ready to meet any emergency." That means hard work, and when people say that this generation of young people have become soft, I feel like saying that it is not the younger generation which is soft. Instead, the older generation is soft for them, now and then. I received a wire, for instance, from two mothers of boys in the army the other day, bemoaning the fact that their boys had been disappointed at the end of maneuvers by having their promised leaves rescinded on returning to their base camp. I can fully realize that any mother must have been disappointed, and the boys themselves must have been depressed, but we are growing up in the United States, and one of the things we learn as we grow up is to accept disappointments and to learn that the unexpected is part of everyone's existence. On the other hand, it is good to know that so much hospitality has been shown to our young Army men wherever they have gone on maneuvers, and that on the whole, their health has been extraordinarily good.

In Washington, DC, we're getting a number of women in different government departments, all of whom have interesting jobs. But those who at the moment have been attracting the most attention are the two who are working in the War and Navy Departments. Mrs. [Oveta Culp] Hobby, who is a young Texas newspaperwoman, is doing the kind of work which should reassure the families of the boys who are in camps or on maneuvers. The other one, Mrs. Lewis, does publicity for the navy. Mrs. Hobby is telling families what happens to their boys while they're playing at what may someday prove to be a very grim and real game.

And speaking of things which are real and grim, I must say that the fires which have occurred in Cleveland, Ohio, and in Fall River, Massachusetts, lately, and which have destroyed so many materials destined for defense, in this country or abroad, are most discouraging. Where there is a question of possible sabotage, it is quite evident that the FBI must be given every opportunity to find out what individuals or groups of people are responsible. Where it is a question of neglect, in the observation of certain very important rules, I think public opinion should rise up and insist that such things must not occur. We resent losing materials, which we are making sacrifices to produce, when they're on their way across the ocean; how much more should we resent the loss of materials which occur through lack of care in the observation of fire protection rules?

This has been a pretty serious talk tonight, so I'd like to close with one word of real cheer, especially for the American housewife. Dr. M. Harris, who is directing the work of the Textile Foundation, says we're going to have wool processed in such a way that it will be just as warm as it ever was, but it will not shrink in the laundry and the moths will not find it so enjoyable. This is good news to all of us who have been accustomed to having our woolens shrink and find moths have riddled them when we take them out of storage in the fall.

[Dan Seymour:] Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt. Now, for the first lady of every American home, here's a tip on how a famous Hollywood motion picture star gets more glamor out of life with coffee. Beautiful Dorothy Lamour, star of the Paramount picture *The Fleet's In*, writes us and we quote:

[Dorothy Lamour:] The other afternoon while we were filming a picture, my director came over to me and said, "Dorothy, this has been a mighty long, hard day, all those retakes and everything, but you look as fresh as a daisy. How do you do it?" Well, I just told him what I'll tell you. Whenever I feel tired or let down after a difficult day at a studio, I just send for a delicious cup of coffee. I find it pep me up, keeps

those fatigue lines from my face. I'm sure millions of women will find extra beauty in coffee, and what a pleasant way to find it.

[Dan Seymour:] Yes, motion picture stars like Dorothy Lamour, football players like Tommy Harmon, more and more people who do things, discover every day more and more ways to get more out of life with coffee. Take a tip from them. When you are feeling run down, when your nerves need steadying, pep up. Cheer up with a refreshing cup of the Americas' favorite drink: coffee. Get more out of life with coffee tonight.

Next week at this same time, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt will be with us again to give us more of her fascinating observations on the world we live in. Do your part to help defend America. Buy defense bonds and stamps now. And don't forget, this is National Donut Month, and coffee and doughboy donuts are just one more way to get more out of life with coffee. This is the National Broadcasting Company.

(14:29)

---

Transcribed from holdings at Franklin D. Roosevelt Library (FDRL)  
File(s): 46-5:25

Transcription: Anna Karditzas  
First edit: Jay Fondin  
Final Edit: Seth LaShier

The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project