

## THE ELEANOR AND ANNA ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1949 (catalog date)

Description: In this segment, ER talks about the coming of spring in Hyde Park.

Participants: ER

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[ER:] Thank you, Anna. The coming of spring is a subject which lacks a certain originality, I suppose, but it's a subject that most of us can't resist talking about anyway. No matter how many times we greet the arrival of the season, it is as fresh and miraculous as though it had never happened before. And actually, I think one appreciates it more each year as one grows older; perhaps one appreciates nature more. In some sections of the country, of course, the change is not so pronounced as it is here in the eastern United States. In California, for instance, although it is a beautiful state and has a wonderful climate and I always enjoy visiting it, there is a sort of perpetual spring and I hardly think I should ever care to live where the four seasons are not distinct.

Spring was impetuous here in New York State this year. Its warmth and greenery and flowers have arrived well ahead of schedule after an unusually mild winter. The crocuses came out much earlier than usual, and the forsythia and the tender green shoots on the trees and hedges. At Hyde Park, of course, we're richly surrounded by all these early expressions of the season, and when I walk in the woods with my little dogs, I notice each new sign. First of all, those rather attractive plants that have such a horrid name, the skunk cabbages, [ER chuckles] come out and they come out of the swamp and the little tops are red and curled over until they get strong and stick up straight. I like to call them jack-in-the-pulpits and after that you begin to see, day after day, new wild flowers along the sides of the road and hidden under the shrubs. So that I feel that spring at Hyde Park is beautiful and wonderful, and it's hard not to wish that one could be there all the time at this season and enjoy it as each new thing seems to come to life.

I know that when one has duties, spring should remind one that one can work harder than ever before because all the world is coming to life again after spending a winter of hibernation. But, some of us haven't hibernated too much during the winter months, and even though spring is sending new life into the trees and into the flowers and they poke their heads up from the earth, some of us feel that spring is perhaps the time when we'd like to be lazy. And instead of that, we have to come -- at least I have to come -- and spend most of every week from now on in New York City. Next week we will really be at work; this week I'm just getting ready. And I've been very busy and spent most of the time in New York even though I like to think of how everything is going on at Hyde Park and how I would really love to watch each thing come to life. But, as a columnist in the New York Times asked the other day, how about Manhattan Island, can spring penetrate that monolith of brick and stone and steel? Yes, it can, but spring in Manhattan is another story and one I'd like to tell you about tomorrow. So now, back to my daughter, Anna, in Hollywood.

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