

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

August 1st, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott respond to a listener's question regarding communist China's expansion into neighboring countries. In the interview segment, ER and entertainer Phil Regan discuss Regan's recent appointment as US ambassador to Ireland.

Participants: ER, Elliott, Phil Regan

[ER:] How do you do? This is Eleanor Roosevelt. Every Monday through Friday, my son Elliott and I have the opportunity to visit with you here in my living room at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Each day it is our desire to bring interesting guests that we are hopeful you will enjoy meeting. Elliott, will you tell our listeners today's plans?

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Most people know that Mr. Phil Regan is a star in both the moving picture and radio worlds. But few people know of his deep interest in world affairs, and the fact that he was recently considered for the distinguished post of United States Ambassador to Ireland. Mrs. Roosevelt will present Phil Regan as soon as we've had a brief discussion of our own on a subject suggested by a number of our listeners. First though, let's hear some words of good advice from our announcer.

[Break 0:56-1:07]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mrs. August Jones of Philadelphia has written in to Mrs. Roosevelt because she's puzzled by the most recent Chinese communist pact that they have signed with uh Tibet. She says that she saw in the paper that uh they'd signed an agreement for, quote, "the peaceful liberation of Tibet." Mrs. Jones wants to know if this means that the Chinese Reds will next strike at India and Pakistan in order to bring about a peaceful liberation of those countries.

[ER:] [Laughs] Well, um peaceful liberation uh in communist terms always means the taking over of the present form of government and establishing a communist one. And um so that what has happened to Tibet, of course, means I think that they will put in some uh person who is willing to accept uh their um particular jurisdiction in the way they want to exercise it. It doesn't of necessity mean that they will strike at India and Pakistan next um because as yet they may not uh feel that time is right to strike at Pakistan and India. Um they may feel they need to do a little more work, a little more preparation within India, with the people. But as far as uh Tibet goes, uh they felt it was part of China in a way, and that uh it was probably impossible for uh the people there to do anything against their attack, and the Chinese communists, very easily, they moved in. And I think that [ER coughs] any speculation as to what will follow is um not very fruitful because, of course, the-the um communists quite frankly have always said that um their object was become uh--the conquering of the world as a whole, [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] but that doesn't mean that they move into the next country until they think that country is ready to be taken over.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well now, I'd like to ask you uh about India and Pakistan. These two countries were one uh before uh England uh gave them their complete freedom, and uh there seems to be a great rift that exists because of religious backgrounds of the people between the Mohammedan religion and the Hindu religions. Uh do you think that there is a good possibility of the exploitation of uh the antagonism that exists there for the--to enable the communists to substitute a communist form of government?

[ER:] I don't believe so because communism is in many ways very contrary [Elliott Roosevelt coughs] to um either religion, either one or the other. Um I-- and I also think that though they are so much opposed, um to each other, and it's an emotion rather than any reason, if they learn what is obvious to anyone looking from the outside in, that they must cooperate because they will-- they are economically not able to get along unless they are one, really, friendly economic uh area. If they do learn that then it's only a step further if they are attacked, to standing together, and they will have a much better chance of um putting out anyone who tries to come into their country if they stand together. And they have some pretty fierce border tribes that unless the war is conducted entirely along modern lines, which means plenty of aeroplanes and bombs, et cetera, uh they could defend their passes probably pretty well, for a long time.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm. Well, that-that raises another point of interest to me because uh with the absorption of uh Tibet, uh we come to the question of what you think that the next move will be in the Far East by the communists uh in their war to uh take over more of these beaten down people, a people who have suffered the most economically and physically over many centuries. Uh do you think that the chances of their throwing more aid into the communists in um French Indochina are very great?

[ER:] Yes, I think they will do that, and I think they will throw a great deal of propaganda into all those countries, um into Siam and into Burma and into all those uh countries. Whether they will succeed or not depends on how much--how good our programs are, how really much we honestly help the people through ECA and through various programs that are going on there. Um I-I rather think that they do better grassroots propaganda than we do. Um and they don't do it with Russians, they do it with people that they've taken from the countries and thoroughly indoctrinated and sent back, so that you don't see Russians preaching an alien doctrine, you hear it from the voices of your own people. That is a much cleverer way of getting across new ideas and new promises. Uh--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] But what are we doing uh, for instance, French Indochina, the French government is uh is trying its best to stamp out the communist aggression there, uh what are we doing to back up the-the war effort of the French and to establish an uh a feeling that on the part of the people that we're not trying to be conquerors, we're trying to work for the betterment of the people?

[ER:] Well, that is exactly your difficulty there. I believe that we have um given a certain amount of aid to the French armies, but, unfortunately, the nationalist feeling which is growing in Indochina wants to throw out the French armies. So-- but the nationalists are unfortunately also infiltrated by communism and therefore we have helped uh the French armies because they were opposed to communism. It's a most unpopular attitude on our part in the rest of Southeast Asia. And um uh it's-it's but it's a very difficult problem because you-you either apparently help the nationalists who want their freedom but at the same time help the communists because communism has come into those nationalist parties, or you-you uh support the colonial system, [ER clears throat] which is more and more unpopular and which is bound to be thrown out in time everywhere. Now I'm not sure that if we had faith enough in the United Nations and ourselves um as democracies we wouldn't do better to help the nationalist urge, regardless of whether we help the communists, and simply make our aid so much more important than the communist aid that we would win out through actually their feeling that uh communists um were unable to give them as much as the democracies. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] But that's a gamble. I don't know whether we could do it or couldn't do it. Um I'm in no position to find out. But I would think it was a good gamble and one that we should take.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, uh that would presuppose that you agree uh also to that course in uh the-the-- lower down in the Himalayan-- in the, not Himalayan, the Malayan-- [ER: Malayan.] the Malayan peninsula, uh where the British are fighting a sporadic war with uh Chinese infiltrators and uh communist-led troops.

[ER:] Well, I think you have to realize that sooner or later these people are going to be free. And um all of the nations that now occupy um countries, uh which they do as con-as uh colonial powers, I'm afraid that they're going to have to face the fact that the era of colonialism is over. And just as the era of business exploitation by strong powers of weaker powers is over. And there is no use in thinking [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] either on our part that we can walk in and get economic advantage for nothing, or on the part of colonial powers that they can preserve uh [Elliott Roosevelt: Feudal systems.] power for political reasons in different parts of the world.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, what about countries that have been given their freedom such as Burma and Thailand, or Siam as it is more often named?

[ER: Well, I think that there um you try to support the non-communist elements in the government whether you succeed or not, and if you can do a good job of showing that the democracies provide them with a better standard of living and more chances to attain it than Soviets do. I- it's a gamble, but I think we may win out and I think it's a gamble we're going to take in every part of the world and we might just well face it.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm. So in-in your opinion, our government and the United Nations should adopt a policy--

[ER:] I think our government should do whatever it does through the [Elliott Roosevelt coughs] United Nations because in those areas of the world uh where there is antagonism between white and colored peoples it's far better to have it come through the United Nations. It saves face; it does not give the same suspicion for everything that happens; it's much better that we work through the United Nations.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I think that gives a very good answer to Mrs. Jones, and I think on that note that we'll go on to another part of our program now.

[Break 12:47-13:01]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mrs. Roosevelt's guest today is Mr. Phil Regan. You've listened to him frequently I'm sure on his own radio program, and today we're delighted that he's consented to join us on ours. He needs no introduction to radio audiences, so I'll just turn the microphone over to you, Mother, to welcome him officially.

[Break 13:21-13:31]

[ER:] It's a very real pleasure to welcome Mr. Phil Regan to the program today. I can remember enjoying your singing on many occasions, Mr. Regan, and I remember with special pleasure the times you sang at the presidential conventions and inaugurations. It's nice to see you again.

[Phil Regan:] Well, thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt, it's more than nice to be here.

[ER:] Mr. Regan, I understand that not long ago, the secretary- the uh secretary of the navy uh made some very kind remarks to you and told you that you were soon going to receive the Navy Legion of Merit. Now I don't know whether you have received it yet, or whether it uh has actually uh become a fact. But it seems to me that when such kind things are said to one and one is told of honors that are coming you must have had some sensations that were not just the usual feelings on the subject. How did you feel?

[Phil Regan:] Well, to be truthful with you, Mrs. Roosevelt, it's a wonderful feeling to be commended for doing some work that you feel is the right kind of work that you're doing for the boys in the armed service, and I'll be more than happy when I do receive the Medal of Merit for services that I'm giving the boys in our armed forces.

[ER:] Well, I-I think everyone will be happy for you, too, because uh I-I think most of us are so grateful to those of the entertainment world who have something to give in the way of both pleasure and education to uh the men in the service, and who take the time and the trouble to do it because I know it's quite a burden to hop [ER laughs] around the country!

[Phil Regan:] And besides the burden, it's sorely needed.

[ER:] Well, I've been interested in your tour of army camps and defense plants throughout the country. I understand you're calling it the 50,000 mile tour of happiness. [ER and Phil Regan laugh] It must have given you a really excellent opportunity to really study the morale of our young men in training camps, and I would be interested to know what your impressions are of their morale at present.

[Phil Regan:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, it's certainly given me uh an opportunity to study the morale of our boys in the training camps, and I've learned in talking to these boys that the spirit of '76 is still flowing very strongly in the veins of the GI Joe of 1951.

[ER:] Well, I'm glad to hear that. I suppose you've talked to many of the men who've returned from active service in Korea, and I would particularly like to know how you find their morale.

[Phil Regan:] Well, I've played up in uh San uh San Francisco at Suisun Air Base and I've talked to many of them, and that's where they're bringing the boys directly back from Korea. And some of these boys are just fresh back from Korea, or flown into Travis Air Base. Their wounds were still fresh, but despite their hardships, their morale was at an extremely high peak, to say nothing of their wonderful sense of humor.

[ER:] [Laughs] I've always found that their sense of humor stays very much to the fore. But I wonder if you find that these men know what they have been fighting for in Korea. That worries me a little, because so many of the families at home seem to me to lack that knowledge.

[Phil Regan:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, I personally took it upon myself to question many of the boys on my 50,000 mile tour of what I like to call happiness, because that's what it is, bringing a little happiness to these boys in the services. And now and around I ask different boys these questions. And I as a parent, of course, I was more than interested to know what their answers would be. When I asked a twenty-two year old pilot who has a son of his own, "What are we fighting for?" he said, "Well, Phil," he said, "we're fighting so that my son and the sons of future generations will be insulated against communism."

[ER:] That's a good answer.

[Phil Regan:] When I asked the eighteen year old infantrymen, "Will you be able to go to college after you've done your time in the service?" This young boy's reply was: "Well, perhaps not at the time planned, but with the technical and academic training I'm getting in this armed forces, I'm receiving an education of the heart that cannot be injected through books." And when I asked a first class seaman, "How can you plan your future?," he gave me a first class answer by saying, "Mr. Regan, we can only plan the future by completing the job at hand, and if we fail on this job, there will be no future."

[ER:] I think that's really remarkable that those boys gave you such clear answers. Where has your tour taken you?

[Phil Regan:] Well, it's taken us all over the United States, Mrs. Roosevelt, and into fifty military installations, defense plants, and veterans hospitals. To date I've played over, well, I guess over 500,000 servicemen and women I've played to.

[ER:] That is a [ER laughs] tremendous number to have actually seen. Well, I know your armed services show is designed as a morale booster, and I'd be interested to know how you do that. The reason I am interested is that in war, World War II, my husband used to send me out and say that I was to take a message from him because he couldn't go himself everywhere. I used to have moments of great anxiety whether I was delivering that message with any value to anyone [ER laughs].

[Phil Regan:] Well, I know that you did, Mrs. Roosevelt, because I, being an admirer of Mr. Roosevelt's and an admirer of yours, I know that you've done a great job in helping our boys and our girls in the armed services. We mustn't forget the girls, you know, we have several hundred thousand girls.

[ER:] Oh, I know well.

[Phil Regan:] Well, I tried to get the--

[ER:] Well, after all I never could be entertaining. Now, you did entertaining!

[Phil Regan:] Well, you're doing very well now, I must say that. By trying to entertain the boys, I take their minds off other things, I hope. Even if it is for a brief period of the day, it brings a little extra happiness into these boys' lives. You know, Mrs. Roosevelt, a doctor told us that the results of these visits that we have frequently accomplished more than medicine has. You know, I'd sort of like to believe that the doctors are telling the truth and not just pulling my leg.

[ER:] Well, I-I think he is telling the truth because I noticed uh when I went around hospitals and I visited an enormous number of hospitals in 1942, I noticed that where people had been who had entertained the boys, the atmosphere in a ward would always be a different atmosphere. The thing, the one thing that I felt um was valuable, as far as I was concerned, aside from the fact that I did always say my husband asked me to come and tell you what a good job he felt you were all doing. But aside from that, I found that the fact that I had during the Depression covered so many-- and during the time just afterwards -- covered so many places in the country going on regular lecture tours, and then going to see what kind of things were happening to the programs that had been started to help out. I had been to all sorts of little places throughout the country, and very often a very sick boy would look up and say, "Oh, you spoke at my commencement," [Phil Regan: That's wonderful.] or "Oh, you were in my town, do you remember so-and-so?" And luckily, I nearly always -- I have a good memory for places -- and I always could say something about the place or the occasion, and the doctors told me too, just as they did the entertainers, that the fact of feeling for a minute even that you'd had a connection with home, made a lot of difference. And you see, I felt that the entertainers, in bringing them something that was a little bit of America, but what they would look for [Phil Regan: That's right.] at home um always did uh-uh wonderful job with morale, so that I envied all of you people with talents who could [ER laughs] go and do something that really was entertaining.

[Phil Regan:] it's boosting my morale just going around entertaining the boys because you can see what you're doing for them, and it's just wonderful, it brings-it brings a lot of happiness to myself and all the group with me.

[ER:] Well, I've uh heard about your great pride in the Irish people, Mr. Regan. They are special favorites of yours, I understand. [ER and Phil Regan laugh] Is that right?

[Phil Regan:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, being Irish on my mother and father's side, I have a great admiration for the Irish people -- well in fact, for any people who help themselves. You know, by speaking of the Irish, you probably know as well as I that the Irish played a great part in the dedication of the American government to the ideals of personal liberty. You know, Mrs. Roosevelt, amongst the generals in the Revolutionary War -- of course I've got to stick my chest out now [ER laughs] -- nine were of Irish birth. And among the colonels serving with the Americans in the Revolution, sixteen were of Irish birth or descent. Nine of th-those who signed the Declaration of Independence were of Irish birth or descent. [ER laughs]

[ER:] You're doing pretty well, go ahead! [ER laughs]

[Phil Regan:] The printer of the Declaration of Independence was born in Ireland. The writer who penned the Declaration, Charles Thomas, was also the secretary of Congress, came from the County Derry in Ireland. And the father of John Dixon, who first publicly read the Declaration of Independence, was born in Ireland. In the first American Congress--in the first American Congress, twenty three members were Irish or born of Irish descent. And let's not overlook the fourteen presidents who were of Irish descent. And James Hoban, the architect of the White House, is an Irishman. He fashioned it, of course, after the castle of the Duke of Leinster. Now that's why I have such a strong desire to visit Ireland and to meet some of my mother and father's--

[ER:] Haven't you ever been to Ireland?

[Phil Regan:] Never have I ever set foot in Ireland, never.

[ER:] Oh! Why I think that is perfectly terrible. [Phil Regan laughs] Well now, you've done so much talking about your Irish ancestry that I think I must say a word because on my grand--my mother's father's side, I uh can lay claim to an Irish immigrant uh great-grandfather [Phil Regan: Well now, I knew there was--] I suppose, [Phil Regan and ER laugh] or great-great-grandfather, and he was, no, his brother. His brother was the first mayor of Brooklyn.

[Phil Regan:] Oh really?

[ER:] So that--[ER laughs]

[Phil Regan:] Well now, I know why I liked the Roosevelts so much all my life. [ER and Phil Regan laugh]

[ER:] But that's on-- that is on my mother's side, so I can have um I could add any number of uh-uh Irish, I'm sure, if I really went to look it through--[ER and Phil Regan laugh]

[Phil Regan:] They say you only have to have a quarter before-- a quarter of it before you're all Irish.

[ER:] Before you're all Irish. Well now, I'm sorry to say that we have to let our announcer have a word, and then we'll come right back to this interview.

[Break 25:03-25:11]

[ER:] I remember, Mr. Regan, in 1940 when we met at the convention, you sang "The Star Spangled Banner," you were telling me a little story of a time when we had met before, which I think might amuse our audience. Would you tell it again? [ER laughs]

[Phil Regan:] Well, if I tell, I'll have to tell on myself because it was really a hammy story, Mrs.-- hammy is, of course, an actor's expression. But you know, Mrs. Roosevelt, all the entertainers like to get our pictures in the paper. And Gus Gennerich, who was the Secret Service man for President Roosevelt--

[ER:] Who we all loved very dearly.

[Phil Regan:] Yes, that's the truth. And we uh we would-- uh Gus and I were very dear friends, and I was a policeman here in New York, and when I was out in California making the picture *Sweet Adeline* with lovely Irene Dunn, Gus Gennerich sent me a telegram to meet the presidential train which was arriving in California in-in 1935. So I came down with my telegram in my hand and walked up to a Secret Service man. He said, "Yes, come right on the train." And in the telegram, it said that President Roosevelt would like to see you, and it was, of course, signed by one of the secretaries, and Gus was the one who arranged it. So I walked into Gus, and Gus said, "Look, Phil," he said, "we'd like to give you a hand so you can get some publicity for you." He said, "Now uh you stand right close to me because no one else can get any closer than myself and-to the President, and you just stand beside me as I'm walking outside, and the newsreels and the cameras will all be shooting and flying."

And he said, "You'll be in the front pages of every paper." So I said, "Thank you very much, Gus, that's very thoughtful of you to think about me and getting me some good publicity." So we stepped outside at the back of the train, and lo and behold, it was raining like the dickens. So I put my hat on so I wouldn't get cold, and we walked down the gangplank and onto the car, and as we arrived to-- your car, the President's car. President Roosevelt uh turned around to me and said, "Phil, I'd like you to meet Mrs. Roosevelt." And I reached across to shake your hand, and the cameras start snapping, and the newsreels start turning, and I was so nervous at meeting you that I forgot to take my hat off. So the next day I bought every single paper that was in Los Angeles, and on the front page of all the papers, the great break that Gus Gennerich and I thought I was going to get news-wise, had me shaking hands with Mrs. Roosevelt, with my head turned to the camera-- my back turned to the camera -- and the caption on all the pictures said, "Mrs. Roosevelt shaking hands with a stranger."

[ER:] Oh-oh, that was- that was really-- [ER and Phil Regan laugh]

[Phil Regan:] So all my good-all my good friend Gus' -- all the mercy on him-- and all his good plans for Phil fell-fell through. [ER and Phil Regan laugh]

[ER:] Well, I-- it's too bad it did fall through, but I thought that was an amusing story of how sometimes things go wrong. Well now, didn't I read a while back that you were among those being considered for the post of ambassador to Ireland?

[Phil Regan:] Yes, I was mentioned last year, Mrs. Roosevelt. Naturally, I would deem it a great honor to serve my country as ambassador to Ireland. However, a wonderful man has been chosen for the post, and I know that Ambassador [Francis P.] Matthews will do a great job.

[ER:] I'm sure he will, and being in Ireland is great fun, but I almost wish now that um you had gone! [ER laughs] It would have been very appropriate. Well, as a member of the moving picture industry, you're undoubtedly concerned about any communist activity in your field. Do you believe the communists have made a special effort to achieve power in this field? (28:37)

[Phil Regan:] I certainly do, Mrs. Roosevelt. And I can readily understand why communists would choose the entertainment field as a channel for delivering their messages and propaganda because there's reported, Mrs. Roosevelt, that eighty to a hundred million people a week go to the movies. Now if the communists can place writers, directors, producers, et cetera in this strategic position then the actor frequently becomes a mouthpiece for the Reds. And if the actor's a very popular one then he can be of a real use to the party, and be quite powerful in influencing young minds. And, of course, this is the game of communists. Therefore, we should have a committee, I imagine, checking all radio, movie scripts, and moving pictures and televisions so that they do not succeed in getting their insidious message across to the trusting American people.

[ER:] Yes, I think you're quite right, we should have. But I sometimes wonder uh if um we shouldn't give the American people credit uh for themselves being able uh to detect um com-communist propaganda. I've come to think that we ought to teach more in our schools of what this is, so that our people will detect it more quickly. Uh--

[Phil Regan:] That's right.

[ER:] It seems to me that's important these days.

[Phil Regan:] Very important.

[ER:] We should know more as people.

[Phil Regan:] Very, very, very true, Mrs. Roosevelt. I think we should spend a lot of time for instead of against people. I think we'd be a lot better off.

[ER:] I think we should spend a lot of time teaching our young people what they actually believe in, and why, and then I think it would be well if we really taught them some of the communist tactics so that they

[Phil Regan clears throat] wouldn't be so easy to take in. That's one of the things that I'm always a little sorry about. You see sometimes, in your own field, in the entertaining field, people who have no more idea of-- that they've-they've done something that played into the communist hands. [Phil Regan: That's right]. Um because they just don't know anything about communist propaganda or communist tactics. And I think that's one of the things we ought to begin teaching in high school. I think high school students are vulnerable, and should be taught. But--

[Phil Regan:] A lot of people, a lot of people, Mrs. Roosevelt, they believe in certain people, and they'll go on if someone uh can sell them a bill of goods. [ER: Of course.] They don't know the difference, they don't know where it stops and where it begins.

[ER:] They don't.

[Phil Regan:] Of course, I being a father of four children coming up the hard way, as is-as is known, and I guess anyone that comes up with poor parents like myself, uh I could have easily gone on a different direction if someone were to give me something and promise me a lot of things, but I believe in a different way of life. Of course, I-I believe in helping everyone, I'm always helping people, I think we have to help people; we have to help the people that can't help themselves. But I mean, a lot of people think that if someone tries to help someone, that they're communistic.

[ER:] Oh well, that of course is nonsense, but there are communist tactics that-that people can recognize. I mean it's [Phil Regan: Definitely.] it's not difficult, and I think we could do something about that. But you just said something about uh your children. And you brought up a family in the midst of the glamour and excitement of the entertainment world. Do you think your problems have been different from those faced by parents in other parts of the country?

[Phil Regan:] Well, I guess it is the way you live that counts as much as what you are, Mrs. Roosevelt. Being average people, we've had average problems that seem to work out normally. However, I do feel truly blessed in having Jo [Josephine Dwyer Regan] as my wife and mother of our four wonderful children.

[ER:] Oh, just before you say anything more about her, I saw a little booklet that which I think she wrote.

[Phil Regan: That's right.] for children, and I thought it was very clever. I-I thought it was one of the most um-- it's tiny, but uh the child-- *A Child's Magic Key to Heaven*. And-and I-I thought it was delightfully done.

[Phil Regan:] Thank you very much. I have a lot of fun reading it to my grandchildren. It seems to make them understand about hanging up their clothes and little things. Well, my wife, Jo, feels that it is more important to know how to think than what to think, and consequently she never overrated a report card. But she has stressed the importance of developing that children's thinking power, consideration of others, and knowing how to get along with people, which she feels is very important and so do I.

[ER:] Well, I think that's a very important thing. Have you found that children sometimes are more influenced by their own age than they are even by their parents, and that sometimes you have to um get together with the other parents so as not to have um uh the children trying to sort of say, well now my-my little friend is doing so-and-so, [Phil Regan laughs] can I do this?

[Phil Regan:] I want to do it.

[ER:] What?

[Phil Regan:] That's what they want to say, "I want to do it." [ER: Yes.] I'm having that trouble now with my grandchildren. [laughs]

[ER:] Well, I didn't think you could have grandchildren, I thought you were fooling a minute ago when you said you read this to your grandchildren.

[Phil Regan:] We have three. We-we were married at seventeen and sixteen, Mrs. Roosevelt. We were God blessed with four children of our own, and we have three grandchildren now. My oldest boy, Joe, is married, and has three children.

[ER:] Good gracious. Why, you certainly have. [ER laughs]

[Phil Regan:] Now I am Irish.

[ER:] Oh, you really are Irish. [Phil Regan laughs] But you were young when you married, goodness me. Well, you must have, in a way had um, had a very wonderful time together because I think uh when you start uh as young as that you go through a lot of hardships first, before you can--

[Phil Regan:] Yes, we saw-we saw many more uh dinner hours than we saw dinners when we first were married, but it was wonderful. Love overcame everything, it seems.

[ER:] Well, I think that's uh a wonderful thing to uh-uh see, a young couple that have come through. And I think as young as you are, to have grandchildren must be great fun because you can still make your grandchildren um-- do everything with them.

[Phil Regan:] That's right.

[ER:] Don't have to uh-don't have to leave that to their parents.

[Phil Regan:] Of course, I am spoiling the both of them, you know, chasing around, taking them all the places that children like to go. Their mothers and fathers are saying to me, "Please take it easy, Daddy, because we have to follow your footsteps." [ER and Phil Regan laugh]

[ER:] Well, your own story of success certainly typifies the American story, Mr. Regan. Do you want to say anything about the opportunities here in this country for the young men listening who might dream of building a career such as your own?

[Phil Regan:] Well, I'm inclined to believe that there are plenty of opportunities to succeed in this great country of ours, Mrs. Roosevelt. I believe that each of us carries our own seed of success. And history has proven that there is no more fertile land to plant this seed than in the soil of the good old USA. And I'd like to say, not just for the young men listening, Mrs. Roosevelt, but for all young Americans: this country of ours was built by men who believed in themselves, who believed in a United States, and who believed in God, so much so that they even inscribed our currency "In God We Trust." Now as a result of that threefold trust, we of many nationalities and religio-religions have gotten along and progressed, so don't be afraid to believe in yourselves, young Americans, because there is magic in believing, and if your forefathers had not believed in the United States, you might be amongst the many oppressed people of Europe today.

[ER:] That is a wonderful way to end, Mr. Regan, and I would only add that you have dreamed dreams, and I hope our young people will too, and thank you very much for being with me today.

[Phil Regan:] Thank you very, very much.

[Break 36:58-37:04]

[Ben Grauer:] Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, including another in her guest interviews, and with a change of pace from our series of interviews with political figures and leaders in public life, and uh people from the literary world, today we had, as you've heard, one of the most winning personalities in the world of entertainment, Phil Regan, singing star of radio and motion pictures.

[Break 37:30-37:42]

[ER:] Perhaps you have heard me speak before about the UNESCO gift coupon plan. But I want to mention it today, because so many people write to me asking what they can do to help the United Nations. I like the gift coupon plan because it offers a way in which every one of us can take part in an international program. One of the objectives of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, is to get badly needed equipment for schools in Europe, which were destroyed by the war, or to teachers and schools in underprivileged countries throughout Asia. It is hard for us to believe that in many schools there can be no science classes because there are no such things as test tubes

and microscopes that teachers cannot get globes and maps and film strips and other tools for modern teaching. Now by selling the UNESCO gift stamps, which come in denominations of twenty five cents, to their members, an organization can raise money for such equipment for a school, which has been specifically selected by the group. The stamps are red and white and carry a picture of the UN Headquarters. Forty of these make up a gift coupon worth ten dollars, which are sent for the club to the school, together with a friendly note, and are exchanged by the school for equipment, very much like a gift coupon in our own department stores.

For five years, UNESCO has been receiving lists of such needs from schools in many parts of the world, which they have now made into projects which can be adopted by organizations. A project might provide books for the first public library in India, braille typewriters for a school for the blind in Ceylon, kitchen equipment for nutri-for a nutrition course in a school in Greece, a radio receiver set for a girls school in India, blackboards for the forty thousand Arab refugee children who still go to school in tents in Lebanon and other Middle East countries, or, say, equipment for the very first dental college at the University of Rangoon. The low cost of the UNESCO stamps makes it possible for many individual donors to share in the cost of one gift, and gives an opportunity for children and young people to participate as well as older people. It seems to me too that by selling gift stamps to finance a specific project, the membership of a club learns a little bit more about another part of the world, and at the same time helps to educate their club and their town in the purposes of the Un-United Nations and UNESCO. On the other hand, we're giving other peoples the tools to help themselves, and it seems to me to be one of the most practical demonstrations of friendship I know. Perhaps your group will want to take on a UNESCO gift project this year. You can get all the details by writing to UNESCO, United Nations, New York.

[Break 41:20-41:31]

[Ben Grauer:] This has been the *Eleanor Roosevelt Program*, recorded in Mrs. Roosevelt's living room in the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Today Mrs. Roosevelt's guest was radio and motion picture star Phil Regan. A look at the guest list for tomorrow shows that we're going to have a chat with Mrs. Eleanor Herrick, personnel director and member of the editorial staff of the *New York Herald Tribune*. Mrs. Herrick is an expert in the labor management relations field. And our guest on Friday is a member of the public advisory board, Mr. Orin Lehman. Mr. Lehman has just returned from a tour of Southeast Asia, and will discuss with Mrs. Roosevelt what he saw there firsthand, particularly the work being done in Southeast Asia by the Economic Cooperation Administration. Mrs. Roosevelt and Elliott Roosevelt will be with you again tomorrow with Eleanor Herrick of the Herald Tribune as guest, and every day Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Till tomorrow then at the usual time, this is Ben Grauer bidding you all good afternoon.

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