

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

January 10th, 1951

Description: In this segment, ER plays a clip from ER Meets the Public that discusses the Brussels Conference and the responses to economic depression.

Participants: Eleanor Roosevelt, Secretary Frank Pace, Jr., Senator Homer Capehart, and Elliott Roosevelt

[ER:] And now Elliott, I think our radio audience would be interested in hearing a recording of part of a very timely discussion which took place on our Sunday afternoon NBC television program.

[Cuts to other recording of ER]

[ER:] At the recent Brussels conference of the North Atlantic powers, the question of a European policy for the western nations was discussed and important decisions were made. Secretary of the Army, Frank Pace Jr., who is our guest today, officially opened this conference and before returning to the United States, he also visited Germany. We all realize that the question of rearming Germany is one of the important questions that are under consideration, in the whole European picture. Secretary Pace's views will of course reflect those of our administration. There is, on the other hand, a strong group in this country who believe we have overextended ourselves in the far East and in Europe. They believe we can best defend democracy by marshalling our manpower and our resources closer to our home shores. Senator Homer Capehart, republican from Indiana, has been a prominent spokesman for this outlook for some time. I think, it might help the audience er that is listening to just be reminded of the fact that the reason you feel so strongly er is because we are a nation that has naturally a resilience and a power, er, which is far greater than any nation can have. That in the past few years has been occupied and conquered. We, because our men fought away from our shores, were never bombed, were never occupied, were never actually conquered. Now every nation practically in Europe has had to live through an occupation and believe me that does something to the souls of men. [male voice overlaps]

[Senator Homer Capehart:] Well, I agree with you, Mrs. Roosevelt, but don't you think maybe your own argument the very reason why, having experienced what you just described, that they ought to be more interested in the moment and should have been more interested in the past four or five years? [ER and Senator Homer Capehart] Don't you own—doesn't your own argument—

(From this point onward, transcribed by Jay Fondin, edited by Isabel Maier)

[ER:] No, I think it explains why we have to do more help than [Senator Homer Capehart: I think—] ever before, because I'd like to go back for one minute and remind you, Senator—and Secretary Pace, 'cause you're both so young! [Secretary Frank Pace, Jr. and Senator Homer Capehart laughing] You don't remember— [Senator Homer Capehart: I served in World War One, Mrs. Roosevelt! I'm older than you think.] I just want to remind you of a little thing that uh is hard for us to remember, but is the only thing that we can use as a comparison. Do you remember what happened to some of our people who'd been out of work five years in thirty-three, and were actually having to be helped by the government? Do you remember how long it took them to gain back their confidence in themselves so they had initiative? I watched in specific places, and I saw people in different areas take as much as three, five, some of them eight years before they actually were ready to go out again and stand, say "I am ready to decide."

[Cuts back to regular recording]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] You've been listening to the *Eleanor Roosevelt Program*, which comes to you each day Monday through Friday at 12:30 and at 6:60 on your dial. And it's recorded from Mrs. Roosevelt's living room at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. This is Elliott Roosevelt speaking, and wishing you all a very good afternoon.

Transcribed from holdings at Franklin D. Roosevelt Library (FDRL)
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