

## MRS. ROOSEVELT MEETS THE PUBLIC

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1951

Description: In this episode, ER spends her Easter episode by having Rev. Dr. Franklin Frye, president of the United Lutheran Church of America, to discuss the circumstances of refugees from all over the world. She also has William Warfield, Bass Soloist and the Cantata Singers to perform selections from Bach's *Passion According to St. John* entitled "He of Everything took Heed in his Hour Dying," conducted by Arthur Mandel.

Participants: ER, Arthur Mandel, William Warfield, Otto Hertz, Nellist DeLay, and Franklin Clark Fry

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(0:24)

[NBC Announcer:] Mercedes McCambridge, Fletcher Markle, Regina Resnick, James J. Braddock, how would you like to meet all these famous personalities? Well you can just by enjoying Star Night at the Versailles at ten-thirty this evening. Bill Stern and Candy Jones are your host and hostess for this gay [unclear term] session, there's informal fun a ten tonight at Garraway at large. WMBT New York Channel Four.

[Theme Music 0:52-1:1:15]

[Unknown Announcer:] From the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City NBC television presents *Mrs. Roosevelt Meets the Public*, with today a special Easter program. Mrs. Roosevelt's guests are the Rev. Dr. Franklin Frye, president of the United Lutheran Church of America, William Warfield, Bass Soloist and the Cantata Singers conducted by Arthur Mandel. The Cantata Singers open's todays program with a selection from Bach's *Passion According to St. John* entitled "He of Everything took Heed in his Hour Dying."

[Singing "He of Everything Took Heed in his Hour Dying" 1:51-3:05]

[ER:] Good Afternoon, on this Eastern afternoon through music and words we are going to try to bring you something of the spirit and significance of this holiday. The chorale you just heard "He of Everything Took Heed" is from Bach's great *Passion According to St. John* it was sung by the Cantata Singers directed by Arthur Mandel. We are also privileged to have as our guest today the Rev. Dr. Franklin Clark Frye, president of the United Lutheran Church in America. Dr. Frye has recently returned from a tour of the globe to learn how we might help the plight of that alarmingly large proportion of the world's population who have become refugees, the innocent victims of the ravages of war, tyranny and famine. But before we hear from Dr. Frye the Cantata Singers are going to sing another portion of Bach's *St. John's Passion* this time they will be joined by the very talented bass Mr. William Warfield. Mr. Warfield's aria comes at the point in the story where Jesus has just expired on the cross. In it the solo bass represents the believing soul, tremulous with hope that by Jesus death he has been saved. (4:58)

[*Passion According to St. John* 4:58-9:26]

[ER:] Easter has a deep religious significance for many us, but it is also associated with the coming of spring and is a joyous season, but for the many millions of homeless refugees throughout the world there can be no joy, so it is also appropriate that we think about their suffering at this time. Dr. Frye on your trip around the world to learn about refugee conditions where did you find the most disturbing conditions?

[Dr. Frye:] It's quite a trial to a man's conscious to answer that question directly Mrs. Roosevelt because there are heartrending situations in many parts of the world. I presume, however, that an honest answer would have to be Korea because there a large percentage of the total population of the country has been dispossessed by this terrible war. President Syngman Rhee told my companion and me that he believed that two thirds of the population of North Korea had flowed down down into South Korea and they had been driven back and forth before the armies, along with most of the residents of South Korea itself.

[ER:] Well pictures show that I believe

[Dr. Frye:] Yes, yes, everyone who's seen it in the motion pictures must be impressed with the endless streams of numb refugees. Really that was my major impression of these people, that they'd borne so much that they seem to have gotten into a position of numbness not looking forward and hardly looking back, not knowing from day to day where their subsistence will come.

[ER:] It's a sad commentary that to bring freedom we have to bring so much unhappiness.

[Dr. Frye:] And I do hope the American public will feel that once this terrible war is over that we, who against our wills have had to cause some of the u-unhappiness should also bring back some comfort, some shelter, some food for these homeless people.

[ER:] Well I'm sure the United Nations means to do that and I'm sure that we mean to do our share.

[Dr. Frye:] That, I'm confident of that and uh that's part of my pride in being an American Mrs. Roosevelt.

[ER:] Well I'm-I'm sure we do, now tell me some of the other places that you saw the refugees?

[Dr. Frye:] Well on this Easter day I'm thinking particularly of Berlin at the moment for some reason, and there rises before my mind's eye uh the picture of a school where there are uh perhaps seventy or eighty boys all of them are the sons of intellectuals of ministers or of professors in the Eastern zone of Germany. Under the law of that country the children of such people are not eligible to have higher education and so these families have parted from their children and sent them into West Berlin, knowing that the children will never be able to return that is under the present Communist regime. I was very happy again to be an American and a Christian American because uh practically all the supplies in that school as well as the building itself have come from our people [ER: oh and the world church service] Church World Service and the various allied organizations through the American churches.

[ER:] That's a very s-satisfying feeling, now you must have also seen refugees in other places. (13:01)

[Dr. Frye:] Oh in so many others I could hardly enumerate them. Burma for instance comes to mind, there there's been a desolating civil war as everyone has read. The Karen population, a million and a half of them, have been in revolt against the Burmese population, of about thirteen million. Oh that's uh too general a statement because not every Karen has been in rebellion and not every Burmese has been opposing, but it gives a general sketch of what's going on in that country. The Karen's have many Christians among them and so of course I was specially interested in them, although you know all of the Church World Service supplies that are provided for through One Great Hour of Sharing do go to people regardless of race or color or any-anything else creed included. I remember so well one Burmese man standing in a meeting and saying something that I like to repeat on Easter he said "in spite of the warfare between our peoples I know no difference between Karen and Burmese I recognize all as belonging to the same Lord of Lords and King of Kings." He's the one that we celebrate on Easter day.

[ER:] I think that was a very fine thing to have happen there. Now you also uh if I remember rightly went to uh the Near East. [Dr. Fry: oh yes] Oh but you went to India too. (14:28)

[Dr. Frye:] We were in India, and in Japan and in the Near East. I saw in the papers yesterday that there's supposed to be 857,000 of the Arab refugees, Mrs. Roosevelt, and I can well believe it because I saw them uh in the whole circle around Palestine. In Lebanon and particular in Jordan. I remember indelibly for instance caves, just caves in the earth near Bethlehem that were inhabited by hundreds of desolate Arab people. I'm glad to say the United Nations, of which you're a distinguished member, Mrs. Roosevelt a representative I perhaps should say more accurately is supplying some of the basic needs of these persons. But there must be much more in the way of generous gifts from individuals. Why the uh the actual provision by the United Nations amounts to only fifty dollars a year, at the rate of a dollar and thirty-five cents a month for each person and I was grateful to see shoes on the childrens' feet and on uh the grown people and food that had come from our generous gifts and the generous heart of Americans.

[ER:] Well that is always uh a gratifying thing I think but of course uh most of this I mean the basic thing, like food, must come from the nations.

[Dr. Frye:] Of course but uh I'm sure you understand and I hope all our hearers will understand that when we can lay voluntary gifts alongside of national help uh everyone realizes there's more of a spirit of love and of goodwill in the total.

[ER:] Well I have always felt that uh that was probably the most important thing of all, that there should be that feeling that there really was uh a-a feeling on the part of people everywhere that they wanted to help, because uh sad as it is you feel that uh-uh if they still have hope and a feeling of fellowship with the rest of the world, that then uh the spirit of Easter will live again in their hearts [Dr. Fry: That's right]. Now uh I thank you very much for telling us about this today, and I hope it will come into and stay in the minds of many people. Now Mr. Warfield has special treat for us, he's going to sing the beautiful and most appropriate Negro spiritual "Were you There when they Crucified my Lord?"

["Where you There when they Crucified my Lord" 17:14-22:10]

[ER:] I think we-we're all moved by Mr. Warfield's song. We would, singing of that spiritual is something I think which would make us all want to try and say to the numerous refugees throughout the world that they have shared in the sorrows of the crucifixion and possibly through the resurrection and through the spirit of Easter which comes with the spring when the world comes to life again, the refugees throughout the world may have a rising of hope. They may feel that everywhere in the world there is a keener sense of the desire to help them bear their burdens, to help them rise again out of the misery and the hunger in which they and their children have fallen and perhaps through what they've suffered we will see the spirit of the world growing closer together in its desire to help all those who have suffered. At the spring season we see the earth blooming again, it is always a miracle I think, it's a miracle to all of us when we see the first little green coming up through uh the ground which has been covered with snow and frozen during the winter and so that I think at this is the season to touch the hearts of men, to make men feel that they too can grow, can flower, can bring out new thoughts. And so to the refugees of the world I would say this word of hope, I hope for them a new and better life, and now all over the world there are people whose hearts turn today to soldiers overseas soldiers in Korea, soldiers in other parts of the world and to their families I would also say that this is a season of hope, and I think that every family that has a feeling of what is happening in the world also must have a sense of hope that this experience which their young men have had to go through will bring to their young men some deep knowledge of what the world goes through and that there must be a reason for it all. We must all of us be learning something, something which will make us more alert to the values the real values and make us more willing to actually work for others. And at the present time I want to tell you that we're going to hear he

final chorale from Bach's *St. John's Passion* "Oh Lord thy Little Angel Send". But before they begin I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Arthur Mandel, the Cantata Singers and out soloist Mr. William Warfield, for being with us today and I also want to thank Mr. Otto Hertz the pianist and Miss Nellist DeLay, the cellist and of course Dr. Franklin Clark Fry for giving us so much to think about and I hope the idea that we can do something about it. Now let us listen to the concluding chorale. (27:19)

["Oh Lord thy Little Angel Send" 27:19-29:55]

[Unknown Announcer:] Next week *Mrs. Roosevelt Meets the Public* will not be presented but two weeks from today, join Mrs. Roosevelt at our regular time. Portions of today's program which originated in the Colonial room of the Park Sheraton hotel in New York were on motion picture film.

[NBC Announcer:] NBC television

[NBC Notes]

(30:18)

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