

THE ELEANOR AND ANNA ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

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Description: From Hollywood, Anna talks about the need for better public schooling or order for America to compete in the world. From Paris, ER discusses the conflict in Greece with Secretary of State George Marshall.

Participants: Eleanor Roosevelt, Anna Roosevelt, John Nelson, George Marshall

[John Nelson:] From Paris and Hollywood, the American Broadcasting Company brings you by transcription Eleanor and Anna Roosevelt.

[Anna Roosevelt:] Good morning and thank you, John Nelson. In a few minutes we'll hear from Mother and a very exciting guest, Secretary of State George Marshall, in Paris. But first, here's something in this country that ought to make all of us stop, look, and listen. Do you know how much money we Americans spend each year on such things as tobacco, alcohol, cosmetics, and soap? Twenty billion dollars. Which is perfectly fine, except do you know how much money we spend a year on education? Three billion dollars. And in Russia, they spend seven and a half billion dollars a year to teach their children, to make big Marxists out of little ones. So today, I wish to take special note of this week set aside by the National Education Association to emphasize the need for better schooling in this country. True, I have a personal interest in this matter, I have a son in public school here in Los Angeles, but my stake in our educational system, like yours, is more than just a personal one. Did you know that in our country today more than three million children between the ages of six and seventeen aren't going to school at all? Let's face it; we have to compete in this world with highly trained and regimented adherence of Marxism. We have to prove our system is better than theirs, and we believe we can. But what should we do about it? Well the first step, as I see it, is to get behind a proposed program of federal aid to education. It's one of the things that the eighty-first Congress has to tackle next year. This plan allocates federal funds to states which are financially poor. It would do so on the basis of the number of children in these states to be educated. The opponents of federal aid argue that such a program would give Washington power to dictate to the states in the matter of their schools, but the federal aid proposal specifically forbids the federal government to interfere. It insists that state domination over schools shall not be tampered with. (2:24)

Dr. Herschel Griffin, executive secretary of the affil-affiliated teachers' organizations of Los Angeles, told me yesterday federal aid to education is a must if an adequate free educational opportunity is to be assured to every American child. Our schools are facing a serious challenge, Dr. Griffin told me. To expect the schools to accept this challenge without fully trained teachers, without enough books and supplies, is like expecting a nation to win a war without trained leaders or effective weapons. And he added, this does not make sense. No, Dr. Griffin, it does not make sense to spend three billion dollars yearly on our schools and five billion gambling on horse races. Education has been described as the chief defense of nations, and in the Bible it's written that wisdom is better than weapons of war.

And now, for a visit with a man who knows something of all three, defense, weapons, and wisdom. Here is my mother, in Paris, talking with Secretary of State George Marshall by short wave radio telephone.

[Break from 3:42-3:48]

[ER:] Thank you, Anna. One thing I'm grateful for in this radio series with my daughter is that it gives me an opportunity to bring the American people, and especially American women, a little closer to what is being done at the United Nations General Assembly here in Paris. The work of the United Nations is often, by its nature, complex and rather difficult to understand. Yet, what they're doing here has a very direct effect on the people in their homes in America as well as in the rest of the world. So I'm going to try to make it just as understandable as possible to people in America, not through my own words, but through interviews with leaders of the United Nations and of the various countries here for this assembly. Therefore, I think it is not only appropriate but a great honor that we have as one of our first guests a man for whom my husband had a deep admiration and respect, once general of our victorious armies, now our distinguished secretary of state, George Marshall. Sir, I know you spent a great deal of time lately on the questions concerning Greece. I wonder if you would care to say something on the situation in Greece.

[George Marshall:] Mrs. Roosevelt, I was fortunate in being able to visit Greece a few weeks ago and see for myself that real progress is being made in the rehabilitation of the country, both in the field against the guerrillas and economically against the terrible devastation of the war. I was also given an opportunity to meet many of the principal officials in the government of Greece, as well as our own officials of the uh embassy staff of the mission and of the military. Steps are now underway to permit an increase in the military strength in order to provide a replacement procedure so that soldiers who have fought through and endured the eight long years of war and then have had to continue the fight for the preservation of their government, so that they may have some relief. Now steady progress appeared to be made in the economic field, transportation and communications generally are being restored. Commerce is reactivated, and the standard of living is being gradually raised. Much-- very much remains to be done. The actions of this general assembly here in Paris, of the United Nations, should be helpful to the restoration of normal conditions. The political committee of the assembly has given special attention to the problem of Greek children abducted by the guerillas from their homes and carried outside of the territory of Greece. Support was expressed for a proposal which would recommend to all states on whose territory any of the Greek children are present, to take steps necessary for their return to Greece. The proposal also provides for the cooperation of national organizations, with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the league of Red Cross societies in carrying out this humanitarian task. (7:21)

[ER:] Well, that leads me to a difficult question. How do you think work is progressing in the present session of the General Assembly?

[George Marshall:] Well, it's a little hard to give a short answer to such a broad question. As you know, Mrs. Roosevelt, there are six main committees working on nearly one hundred different matters. You are intimately familiar as the leader in one of these committees. Most of the committees seem to be making pretty good headway; others are being delayed by lengthy debates. For instance, on one question recently, Russia and her five satellite nations used up two and a half times more in debate than all the other fifty-two nations combined. Obviously, we have to have free debate. Usually it's a good thing and it is a necessary procedure. But undoubtedly, some countries are using the United Nations almost exclusively as a sounding board to get their propaganda before the world.

[ER:] Well sir, I've noticed that a good deal in my own committee, which is known as the social committee and is committee three. The thing about these propaganda speeches that distresses me, is that they frequently lead to clashes between the delegates. For example, just the other day uh Mr. Pavlov, who is the USSR delegate on committee three, was very much annoyed with me over an old question that we have had to discuss many times: the freedom of the press in the United States, and as usual we disagreed over American newspapers. (9:12)

[George Marshall:] Well, that's one of difficulties of using the United Nations for propaganda speeches. Free debate is a wonderful thing, but here at the United Nations it now too often abused. The General

Assembly of the United Nations is sometimes called the town meeting of the world. Clashes of ideas naturally occur in these debates. And sometimes the result is good. Unfortunately however, these clashes, under present abnormal world conditions, sometimes lead to tension between countries. It is not easy for fifty-eight different countries to work in harmonious cooperation. Our Americans are criticized at times because their speeches are too formal or too technical, but we are not trying to make news, we are simply trying to discuss the business at hand briefly and to the point.

[ER:] Well, I agree with you. I often feel so frustrated during the long speeches, I wonder if we ever get through arguing, if we'll ever be able to agree on things.

[George Marshall:] There never will be a time when all of the nations in the world will be in complete agreement. Of course we recognize that, but I am certain that the idea of the United Nations is slowly building and gaining strength, steadily if uh slowly. We're really just getting started, and we're getting started during very, very difficult world conditions. But it is encouraging to see the fifty-eight nations here in Paris at least trying to work together. It's a slow process, and bound to be discouraging at times. But we are making progress in ironing out our procedure, in interpreting the United Nations charter, and in the practical business of working with each other.

[ER:] Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary, it's been a great honor to have you with us. And now back to my daughter, Anna, in Hollywood.

[Break from 11:29-11:34]

[Anna Roosevelt:] Thank you, Mother. And Secretary Marshall we are most grateful for this opportunity to hear from you. Now, for a brief sampling of the Talk of the Nation, a sort of patchwork quilt of post-election comment. Matt Weinstock, Los Angeles Daily News columnist, says Mr. Truman may have to declare a "stop talking about the election and get back to work" week. Earl Wilson, who can be depended on to say something humorous, said, "Those pollsters, they surely predicted the election. They predicted there would be one." Marcus Childs says he hopes this will teach the experts not to talk so arrogantly about what Childs calls "that most revolting of all phrases: the little people." "But the little people," says an unnamed banker, "may have started a fire which he fears they can't put out." And thanks again to Matt Weinstock for this tidbit: "Can it be determined pollsters, polled with guns withdrawn from holsters, or is the reason merely that they never asked a Democrat?" (12:45)

[John Nash:] Anna I've told it before, the California UCLA football game last Saturday, the cry of the Bruin rooting section was "Truman did it, so could we!"

[Anna Roosevelt:] Well, that's one of the fundamentals of democracy, isn't it John?

[John Nash:] It certainly is.

[Anna Roosevelt:] The belief that if someone else can do it, we can too. Which brings up a letter I got from a listener the other day. It asked me how in blazes Mother manages to have enough energy to take on this radio program in addition to all her other activities. That should be hard to answer, but it isn't. For I think she passed on a secret to her children when we were very young. That secret is the ability and control necessary to complete relaxation whenever she feels the need to relax. I can remember when we were kids that she would make us lie flat on the floor whenever she thought her brood was overtired or overexcited. Then she'd go from one to the other of us, lifting an arm or a leg and letting it drop back to the floor. If said arm or leg didn't hit the floor with a resounding thwhack, showing it was completely relaxed, she would tell us we had that much longer to lie there. And as we wanted to be up and at 'em again as quickly as possible, believe me, we learned to make ourselves let go in a hurry.

[John Nash:] I'll-I'll bet those minutes really seemed long, didn't they?

[Anna Roosevelt:] Did they. The memory gives me an inkling of what the scientists mean by the relativity of time. And now—

[John Nash:] I don't think we'll have time for any more right now, but I'd like to say that each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at this time, over most of these same ABC stations, the American Broadcasting Company brings you Eleanor and Anna Roosevelt, transcribed from Hollywood and Paris. This is ABC, the American Broadcasting Company.

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