[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mother the question that we have in the mail bag today is one that asks uh in relation to Governor Dewey's asking that New York State be placed on a virtual war footing whether you consider this necessary right now.

[ER:] I don't know that it's absolutely necessary but I think it's very advisable. I think that um we can't tell when things will be necessary and I think that uh it's a very good thing to be prepared, the mere fact that you are prepared will minimize the danger uh and will make it uh very much uh um less harmful if anything does happen because everybody will know what they're supposed to do. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] I've was-- been reading in the papers this morning what the directions are in case of a sneak attack and so forth [Elliott Roosevelt: Yeah.] also I was so amused because they're all the exact same things that they did in London and I remember well [Elliott Roosevelt: uh-huh.] everybody was told and I saw pictures of people hiding under the dining room table and [ER laughs] [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] and uh so I don't think there seem to be any very new things that we have to learn but nevertheless I think it's a good thing and I-I think a little practice is probably excellent. (1:28)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, Governor Dewey asked for some rather sweeping uh powers uh for the state government, for instance he said uh that uh state-defeat-- defense agencies should receive the right to seize and use private property in the event of an emergency, which would be determined by the state government.

[ER:] Well that is a sweeping um [Elliott Roosevelt coughs] power. And I don't think it should be granted except in actual uh need, but when the actual need comes it will have to be granted, of course.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm. Well another thing that he asked for were powers of local defense agencies and the uh to be greatly strengthened and then the institution of a loyalty program for state employees.

[ER:] Well I hate to see this uh fear of disloyalty spreading, but I think that if uh you are going to entrust secrets to people, or defense secrets to people in state employment that it's fair uh to make a--an investigation before you employ them [Elliott Roosevelt: mhm.] I don't think just asking them, requiring of them that they take a loyalty oath makes sense at all because any communist I know would take a loyalty oath without the slightest uh turning of a hair um. But if what they mean is that they will um really find out about the people they're employing as well as they can, I think that's sensible if they're going to give them um secrets of defense.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well he makes another very interesting charge when he--when he says the federal government uh had as yet revealed no adequate plans to provide civil defense and New York State must act for its own salvation.
[ER:] Well I don't know that they would like it very much if the federal government told him suddenly they must spend large sums of money. I noticed that one of the things Governor Dewey is asking is that the federal government provide the money. Ay uh And [Elliott Roosevelt: Yeah.] now I think they would object considerably if the plans came from the federal government and then he were asked to provide the money or in the states, [Elliott Roosevelt: uh-huh.] so I think that's a very good thing that the governor can make his own plans, and then if he doesn't get money from the federal government why uh the state of course won't feel so badly at having to pay for it. (4:04)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Huh well he's got another uh um thing that he has stated in his message and that was, he uh he called for sharp curtailment of state activities not related to defense, and promised that the strictest of economy would be observed in the expenditure of state funds. The only real uh uh exception to that was that the urged higher pay for teachers and state workers.

[ER:] Well I'm glad he urged that [coughing] because that is fair, now the only other things that I can think of that this would mean would be um curtailment of any improvements in our state hospitals for the insane and our various state institutions [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.], uh I don't know how many people um are familiar with conditions in these institutions. In um many cases they have been lagging behind. Uh any war always brings overcrowding because you don't do the normal amount of building. Now we have only had a very short time uh to catch up and I'm quite sure that if before we actually are are in need of using all these powers we find ourselves stopping doing the regular things uh that should be done in state institutions, for instance of learning or state institutions for delinquent children or um training school for delinquent girls or the hospitals for the mentally affected or any one of the hundred and one things

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yeah.] the state carries on. I am very much afraid that uh in a very short time a group of citizens that knew enough to understand what the-- how it was being run would be quite shocked by the conditions in those institutions. [Elliott Roosevelt: Yeah.] So I hope that while economy must of course be used that it will be used wisely and that um perhaps there will be some spending um that um is economy in the long run, because it's not economy to risk uh having people not get proper care [Elliott Roosevelt: mhm.] It's not economy to stop for instance giving um reform schools for young children um the chance to uh have activities, now that happened in the last war [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] I saw the best kind of shops all equipped and ready uh -- in uh Warwick for instance and the boys weren't having a class in anything. When I asked why it was because uh they couldn't afford to buy the materials [Elliott Roosevelt: mhm.] for the boys to use. [ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap] Now I think --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And in actuality they could have used the-thes the shops for the turning out of say war goods.

[ER:] They could have found something that those boys could have learned skills with and-and gotten materials for comparatively little money.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And participated in the war effort.

[ER:] In the war effort. And I cannot believe that um that is wise economy and that is one-one thing that I'm a little afraid of when they just say in a blanket way that every government activity is to be cut out soon--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well then I'd like to go into some other phases for instance uh they must mean then that they're going to cut down on the state uh uh highway program uh that they're going to restrict work uh in the building [ER: I--] of new highways --
[ER:] I doubt if you find highways as much restricted because as a rule there's a pretty strong lobby for highways.

[Elliot Roosevelt:] Well n--[ER laughs] I could see a real reason for that program going full out because in time of war transportation, particularly [ER: Is very important] if you're invaded [ER: Yes.] is of the utmost importance [ER: Yes. That's perfectly true.] And uh the deterioration of our roads would mean a dreadful catastrophe in time of war, not only if we're invaded but in the movement of war goods.

[ER:] Of war goods. I-I think you're quite right and [Elliot Roosevelt: and--] of course repairs will be more needed because there will be heavier use -- [ER and Elliot Roosevelt overlap] of roads.

[Elliot Roosevelt:] Then I see a--another field that if they uh restrict the building of our educational institutions then they can permanently do damage uh in if they uh--

[ER:] Well that's what I said about, just a minute ago [Elliot Roosevelt: Sure.] about educational institutions.

[Elliot Roosevelt:] So it strikes at health and education uh --

[ER:] It strikes at all those things.

[Elliot Roosevelt:] And certainly those are the last things that should be touched and shouldn't be touched even in an all-out war effort.

[ER:] No, even in an all-out war effort it shouldn't be touched-- (9:18)

[Elliot Roosevelt:] So we come down to the question of uh really the-the best thing that can happen in time of all-out emergency is for the servants of the government to just double the number of hours that they put in at their job.

[ER and Elliot Roosevelt laugh]

[ER:] No, I don't think it can be done quite that way. But there are ways in which economy can be practiced without really curtailing the um efficiency eh-of the-the needed expenditures. [Elliot Roosevelt: Mhm.], Now there is one thing to be said, I think you can build schools and not put in um marble halls.

[Elliot Roosevelt: Mhm.] I have seen schools which I thought it would have been far better to have built very much more simply [Elliot Roosevelt: Mhm.], eh and to have spent a little more on the salaries of the teachers. [Elliot Roosevelt: Yeah.] And um I don't mean to curtail any of the activities of the school you see [Elliot Roosevelt: Mhm.] but uh I've been in schools in various places in our states where I thought it was just utter nonsense the money that had been spent on um well what I would call uh uh frills that were not necessary [Elliot Roosevelt: Mhm.], and that doesn't mean that you shouldn't have a home economics program or a program -- a well equipped kitchen it means that you shouldn't have a hall with marble pillars.

[Elliot Roosevelt:] Mhm.

[ER laughs]

[Elliot Roosevelt:] Mhm. Yeah. Well I'm afraid that our time has just about run out so we can't continue this discussion, although I'd like to more fully in another time particularly as the emergency program for
the state uh develops and we being to see in what direction [ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap] the economy is going --

[ER:] What direction the economy has come.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Right.

(Break 11:09-11:19)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] You know uh cancer is the subject about which everyone is talking. Yet few speak authoritatively. In recent years public education has made us aware of the signs of cancer, where to go for treatment, or how to watch for indications of the disease. Yet this very awareness has made the subject a pretty frightening one. Today we've invited two very distinguished men who have certainly earned the right to speak with authority and hope on the subject of cancer and the work they're doing in it. Mother will you introduce our guests?

[ER:] Thank you Elliott, it would be a pleasure to introduce our guests today. They're Mr. Laurence Rockefeller, President of Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases and Dr. [Cornelius] C.P. Rhoads director of the same organization, Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases. I'm very glad to welcome you both here today. Dr. Rhoads, I understand the need for alerting our people to the very serious facts about cancer, but do you think it's possible to do this [Unknown person clears their throat] without alarming them too much?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] I do indeed Mrs. Roosevelt I feel and on the basis of some experience that it is possible to alert without alarming and to achieve by that alerting substantial increase in cure rates from this disease.

[ER:] Would you say that in the last few years considerably uh more hope has been developed for the person stricken by cancer?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] The facts are pretty convincing on that point. Indeed, the death rate for all forms of cancer but one are substantially on the downgrade, sometimes, for some forms of cancer as much as 25 percent improvement has been achieved. This has not true of the so-called overall death rate, because the number of individuals coming into the cancer age, middle age and beyond is increasing through the lifesaving achievements of medical science so we have coincidentally improved ability to cure cancer, enormously improved ability, and a steadily increasing burden of the disease. (13:49)

[ER:] I see. Well that uh that is simply because we've extended the life uh the length of life for people.

[Cornelius Rhoads:] Exactly, exactly. [ER: I see.] Our methods are very much better indeed.

[ER:] But um I think it's very hopeful that you have uh uh greater number of cures I think that's uh a very hopeful thing. Is that largely because people are aware or is it uh coming earlier now, or is it because at any point you could help them all?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] There are three factors Mrs. Roosevelt. First, the public awareness of the possible meaning of symptoms in relation to cancer has been enormously increased; they come earlier to the physician. Secondly, the physician's awareness of the means of treating cancer, of curing cancer, uh has increased greatly effective methods of cure are instituted earlier and with greater skill. Thirdly, we have better methods today than ever before, thanks to the resolution of the public which has decided it will do all it can do to control this disorder.
[ER:] That's very encouraging, and now Mr. Rockefeller as President of Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases, but particularly as a layman who has taken a deep interest in the control of this disease, can you tell us to what extent the public is cooperating?

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, it-it's most gratifying the increased and increasing interest that the public has and is showing in the support of the fight against cancer. As you all know the American Cancer Society now is endeavoring to raise, I think it's fifteen million dollars only twenty years ago they were thinking in terms of raising a hundred thousand dollars. That is one indication of the increased interest and support, and as you also know the Daymond Runyon Memorial Fund has been very active and-and got support as has the American Cancer Society, from all over this nation. We are much encouraged and very hopeful for the future.

[ER:] Haven't you got also some government support?

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Yes [coughing] very substantially so and uh I-I-I think we ought to go into that I would rather have Dr. Rhodes who's been closer to the grant making end of our fundraising uh perhaps tell you about that as we go along.

[ER:] I wasn't really expecting you --

[ER and Laurence Rockefeller overlap]

[ER:] to go into it, but I was

[Laurence Rockefeller:] We have of course tremendously benefited by the National Cancer Institute,

[ER:] Just interested in --

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Which is a part of the US health Service, they've been a very active and uh important part of the overall picture, and uh of course they too increasingly so in the last few years in particular.

[ER:] It's not um, not so very um uh habitual for Congress to really take an interest in-in doing anything along this line that's why I mentioned the fact that [Laurence Rockefeller: Well--] I thought I remembered that uh we had uh--

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Some more recent help from that source but a tremendously important one and a one that we hope will continue and I might say grow.

[ER:] Well I was very much um I was quite thrilled when I found we could get some-some interest [ER and Laurence Rockefeller overlap] and uh extra support.

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Well you and Mrs. [Mary] Lasker and a few others have pioneered in that direction.

[ER:] Well Mrs. Lascar has done something that I never thought she could get accomplished. I thought it was a wonderful achievement.

[Cornelius Rhoads:] She can accomplish anything.
[ER, Laurence Rockefeller, and Elliott Roosevelt] (17:29)

[ER:] Well, Well, Dr. Rhoads, you are the director of one of the great laboratories engages exclusively in cancer research, what useful discoveries have been made in this sort of research?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] A very considerable number of discoveries have been made Mrs. Roosevelt. They can be grouped under two main divisions the first division is through research our ability to cure cancer by surgical operations, uh cancer so advanced that previously little hope could be had. This accomplishment is a research product. Uh secondly, a great deal has been done to devise chemical compounds uh which, presently can be counted upon quite regularly to control symptoms of the cancer patient, to restrain the growth of the cancer for a substantial periods, even though they are not entirely curative, they are not curative at all, these chemicals. they are most useful in making uh comfortable, productive and happy a patient who formerly had little to look forward to. There has been a tremendous development in this field; we now are able to kill cancer cells without exerting similar injurious effects on the body as a whole, it just happens we have not yet succeeded in killing all the cancer cells, but we can kill a great many of them.

[ER:] You're still hoping for more discoveries.

[Cornelius Rhoads:] I not only hope, I am confident in more discoveries a very substantial scientific effort has been instituted its progress is well defined, amazingly rapid when one considers it is--we've only had a few years to work. It took ten years to make an automatic transmission for the motor car and twenty million dollars expenditure it is little hard to expect us to do as much in a shorter time, with less money, in a field as complex as cancer. (19:38)

[ER:] That's a-- that's a good comparison! Well now I know that deaths from the infectious diseases have been greatly reduced by wonderful discoveries like Penicillin and the sulfur drugs. Are you looking for some uh agent such as that to solve cancer once and for all or do you still feel you have to find a number of different things to work with?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] Well I think the answer to that it must be a double one. Yes, we are searching actively for agents which will kill uh cancer. We are satisfied that each of the various types of cancer will require somewhat different agents perhaps they will have something in common but they will be somewhat different [ER: Mhm.] Very real progress has been made. When one looks back fifteen years, it was believed that it would be impossible to cure pneumonia with a chemical. [ER: Mhm.] Uh It has been thought to be impossible to cure cancer with a chemical but we have quite as much information about curing cancer with chemicals today, a little more indeed, than we had in 1936 about curing pneumonia with chemicals.

[ER:] Isn't that an interesting thing? I didn't realize it was so recent, I didn't realize it had come so far. Now Mr. Rockefeller I was unable to attend the recent dedication exercises of the new Children's Pavilion at the Memorial Center but I read about it in the newspapers. And I was a little surprised to learn that cancer was quite so common in children is it so common as to make necessary this large addition to their care.

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Well Mrs. Roosevelt your surprise in regards to that has been shared by a great many people. I think most, most of the public thinks of cancer as a disease of the middle and old age [ER: Yes.] groups and uh it just happens that unfortunately that uh I think in the age bracket of five to fourteen that cancer is perhaps the principle cause of death from disease among children I think that it can be established that it is the principle cause--
[ER:] Well that's astonishing.

[Laurence Rockefeller:] And-and we have therefore had to continually increase the capacity of our children's pavilion we started I think with sixteen beds we now have thirty-six and uh we can't take care of all the patients that are waiting to come in. We have to send them elsewhere or in some cases keep them waiting.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mother I hate to interrupt this very interesting and absorbing topic, but I think we have to stop for a moment and we'll come right back to it, right after the station break.

(Break 22:27- 22:31)

[Elliot Roosevelt:] And now mother, I think it's time for us to come back to our discussion with Mr. Rockefeller and Dr. Rhoads. And I think you have an-another question to ask of Mr. Rockefeller.

[ER:] Yes, Mr. Rockefeller I understand that you recently added a state hospital, the James Ewing, to your great group of buildings on sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth street. This was a most interesting example of voluntary and municipal cooperation. Can you tell me what inspired it?

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Well the-the situation is-is simply this that the number of cancer patients in the city has been growing, as we've already pointed out, as other medical science has advanced more and more people live to an older age, therefore there are more patients, and the city had, in the one instance a need for greater bed capacity, so that this great hospital provides an additional three hundred beds, but of even greater importance it is provided in association with the Memorial Center, which will assure these patients the best care and the benefits of all the newest in medical research, and we are extremely pleased to have this association and feel that we can not only help the city but the city is to be very much congratulated for having taken what we feel is a forward-looking step in the care of its cancer patients.

[ER:] That is- uh is really a wonderful step forward. But I think I'm a little bit interested in what um an individual, a pure layman could do uh to help. I happen to know and we spoke earlier about what someone like Mrs. Lasker did but everyone isn't a Mrs. Lasker, [ER and Laurence Rockefeller laugh] and I think we'd like also to know what just an average layman could do to help.

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Well that--that is of course we've mentioned the-the-the support of these various organizations who are raising funds for cancer. In addition to that uh of great importance is the volunteer work. Uh we at Memorial are very proud of our two-hundred and fifty volunteers who last year put in nearly fifty thousand hours of work um and I think among the hospitals of the city we're in second place, even though in size we are way down the list. And they do all kinds of things: recreational therapy; um nurses aids; children's ward, very important to help uh look after the children and uh give them attention they need in absence of their parents, and of course in the clinics they serve coffee and help look after the patients that are waiting and in the evening we have floor volunteers. There are many other things and it's uh very difficult to exaggerate the importance of what they are doing or the need for it, and particularly so as our nurses crisis, or shortage, becomes more acute. With the--

[ER:] Now do you train these volunteers?

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Very definitely [ER coughs] very carefully organized [ER coughs] program and it's been a source of great strength physically and spiritually to the whole hospital and the whole center.
[ER:] Well I think that's wonderful news--wonderful that you get such a large number of volunteers because that really shows a very great interest I think, and willingness to work for this uh um this particular illness, that-that people are worried about. Just --

[Elliot Roosevelt:] Well I'd like to ask for the benefit of any of our listeners who might like to uh use some of their time in volunteer work of this kind. Where would they go to make application to volunteer some of their time?

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Well Dr. Rhoads do you want to specifically answer that? I mean--

[Cornelius Rhoads:] They just call the Memorial Hospital Trafalgar nine three thousand and ask for the volunteer department, Mrs. Jacque Fischl, f-i-s-c-h-l, to her goes all the credit for the organization and management of this very useful and very satisfying service.

[ER:] That's wonderful, and very specific as to what they should do [laughter]. Dr. Rhoads, as long as we're being specific, what exact advice would you give a woman anxious to be prudent and sensible about her own health and her family's concerning the threat of cancer.

[Cornelius Rhoads:] I would tell her, Mrs. Rock--Mrs. Roosevelt, firstly that the awareness of cancer and the taking of proper moves to avoid it or its progress is a proper woman's function. Secondly, I would tell her that the only way to exercise wisdom [horn honks in background] is to consult regularly a qualified physician who is interested in making an adequate examination for those early changes, which represent cancer or may become cancer. I feel sure that women should inform themselves about the problem, should face it frankly, and should be aware of what can be done to control in very large part this serious condition.

[ER:] Now what percentage of the patients who come to the hospital thinking they have cancer actually do have it, Dr. Rhoads?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] In most instances they are sent to the hospital by physicians uh without being informed that cancer is a possibility, we regard it as very unfortunate if a patient is unduly and inaccurately alarmed. The patients are sent there for examination. We see many many patients who have no cancer. For example, each year a very large number, over one thousand women, come to us for lumps in the breast. These people are operated on and only one half of them have cancer and of that one half a--well over 50 percent are cured by the operation.

[ER:] Um that of course is-is very interesting but uh do you think that one must always operate uh, don't you sometimes find that there are cases in which you don't need to operate that you know the lump is not uh uh a necessary thing to operate on? Or must you always operate?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] No, in very many instances lumps do not require operation, but I must emphasize the point Mrs. Roosevelt that lumps in the breast must be regarded with suspicion, treated by wise and informed experienced individual until they are proved to be benign. Once one has that assurance, based upon competent study and one's mind may be free of care.

[ER:] Do many patients who've been diagnosed by local doctors as cancer patients, find after their hospital examination that they do not have it. Uh in other words are most of the doctors throughout the country um sufficiently well informed to make uh a diagnosis that is a correct diagnosis?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] Doctors are steadily becoming better informed. There is an increasing tendency of doctors to consult those who have made cancer their special interest and special competence. And even in
the best hands uh sometimes rather complex uh procedures must be undertaken to establish that cancer is not present. A very s-good, substantial number of individuals come in with the thought in the doctor's mind that cancer is there, and it is found not to be cancer and that is a very pleasant thing to deal with.

[ER:] It is a very pleasant thing. Um Mr. Rockefeller, I wonder as you must be uh interested in um this type of work uh in other parts of the world uh what kind--if you know what kind of work is being done abroad, and whether important discoveries are coming to us from that part--from other parts of the world?

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Well I uh [clears throat] know there is much work being done elsewhere, and a lot of it undoubtedly is important. Uh Various representatives of Memorial went abroad this summer and frankly we're being fortunate enough to have Dr. Rhoads with us I'd rather have him--

[ER:] Him answer that question.

[Laurence Rockefeller:] Eh spell that out a little bit more. (31:19)

[ER:] Dr. Rhoads can can you tell me if there is any area where we draw um for more information.

[Cornelius Rhoads:] The fact must be recognized, Mrs. Roosevelt, that the stupidity of the fascist regimes rend it impossible in Nazi controlled countries, any sound scientific work. And thereby they reaped their own destruction. [Elliott Roosevelt: hm] Uh England and the Scandinavian countries have maintained strong programs. We are making every effort to achieve greater coordination and cooperation between the work in this country, the work continuing in England and Scandinavia and that which has sprung up since the war in the formerly occupied countries. We now have arranged matters thanks to the cooperation from the American Cancer Society, the Daymond Runyon Fund, and United State Public health service so there's constant change of personnel coming and going. A constant flow of communication back and forth so that men may receive special training by those specially competent in certain angles of this work.

[ER:] Uh I am curious do you have any contact at all with uh scientific uh students in these fields behind the iron curtain?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] Not the slightest.

[ER:] None?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] We have made every effort to achieve such contact. It is almost five years ago when a group came here from behind the iron curtain, they were very um much restrained in their ability to talk. Not a single communication has ever been received from any one of those individuals since that time or from any other engaged in this sort of scientific work.

[ER:] Isn't that sad because there's so much to be gained just from exchange?

[Cornelius Rhoads:] I think it's-it's-it's very sad and a striking criterion of what that sort of government means to advance in civic welfare.

[ER:] I think that's-that's a very discouraging thought. Um what are some of the leading hospitals in this area and in our country that are specializing in cancer research and cancer cure.

(33:35)
The—a very considerable number of hospitals have developed very strong and able organizations. This is true in Boston under what is called the Cancer Committee of the Harvard Medical School, which coordinates the work of several hospitals with particular emphasis on the Massachusetts General Hospital. Fine work is in progress at other medical schools in Boston, notably Boston University. Here in New York, Columbia University the College of Physicians and Surgeons with the-the Presbyterian hospital has a very fine and outstanding unit indeed. Work is going forward at New York University, Montefiore Hospital and in a number of other institutions. In Chicago a very outstanding unit has now been established, largely with the aid of the American Cancer Society. Recently uh the University of Texas broke ground for a great new cancer institution in Houston and we see this happening all over the country. I think it will be a great benefit to the citizen and to science as a whole.

Mother I'm terribly sorry to interrupt at this point because I'd like to continue this broadcast but I see that our time is running out and I feel that we've had a most important broadcast today by having Mr. Rockefeller and Dr. Rhoads on the program and I'm sure our listeners have benefitted greatly from gathering this information about cancer.

I thank you both Mr. Rockefeller and Dr. Rhoads for coming to us today.

Very grateful be here Mrs. Roosevelt, appreciate the opportunity.