

PAN-AMERICAN COFFEE BUREAU

February 8th, 1942

Description: ER discusses American youth during wartime. She also reads a letter from a mother who lost her son in a plane crash.

Radio show. ER discusses American youth during wartime.

Participants: ER, Dan Seymour, Unknown Announcer

[Dan Seymour:] This is Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's regular Sunday evening broadcast sponsored by the *Pan-American Coffee Bureau*, representing seven good neighbor coffee growing nations. This evening, Mrs. Roosevelt speaks to you from the busy and hectic center of our great victory offensive, Washington. Probably not since the Civil War has Washington seen such a flurry of excitement as it knows these days and nights. Yet Washington is not the only hive of activity. In cities and towns all over the land, busy Americans are working to draft the plans to forge the weapons of victory. And as these hardworking patriots labor for victory, coffee drinking grows more and more popular. For coffee is America's necessary drink during this period of crisis. Why? Because coffee helps give the extra energy, the extra steady nerves we all need to win through in our all-out effort for victory. It cheers us up when we need cheering up. It warms our hearts. It refreshes and relaxes. How wonderful that all of us can enjoy its delicious, energy releasing qualities with our meals and between our meals. Enjoy the steady nerves that coffee helps to give. Yes, how wonderful that we can all enjoy the delicious taste, the fragrant aroma of this grand Latin American contribution to our well-being and happiness: coffee. How wonderful that we can all say, "Get more out of life with coffee." And now we present Mrs. Franklin D Roosevelt.

[ER:] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to talk for a few minutes this evening on a very important subject of our American youth in this war. Recently I spent an afternoon and evening at the University of North Carolina at a gathering of representatives of thirty-two different universities and colleges. It was particularly interesting to me to find that these young people were all deeply concerned not only about their present preparation for winning the war, but about future planning for winning the peace.

A prayer which someone sent me kept running through my mind as I talked with these earnest boys and girls. It goes thus, "Oh Lord God, where thou give us thy servants to endeavor any great matter, grant us all so to understand that it is not the beginning but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished which yieldeth the true glory." This prayer was an expression of Sir Francis Drake's appeal to a higher power as he sailed into Cadiz Bay. I believe it is just as applicable today and should be said by every one of us. The winning of the war is our beginning, and the continuing is to go on until a job of reconstructing a world that can live in peace is done. This, I am sure, is our only chance of achieving a result which will yield true glory. In fact, this is one reason why I feel it is so important that we do not allow young people to leave school and college, even under the impetus of patriotic fervor for service, before their minds are trained and their bodies physically fit. We're going to need trained minds to see this whole situation through to the end. (3:28)

In Pensacola last week, I had an opportunity to talk to several squads of soldiers, some infantrymen and some artillerymen. I felt very humble as I looked into those young faces. It seemed cruel to be laying a heavier burden than the burden of the present upon them. And yet unless they realize now that they are in for a long struggle not just with a physical enemy, but with all the conditions which have brought us to

our present situation, we will have little chance of avoiding a repetition of past history in the future. Number one on the list of future responsibilities is facing a new world economy. The tendency has always been to go back to what we had before. We cannot do that this time. We must instead go forward to something better. There are many men already thinking of these problems. One in Chapel Hill gave me an interesting plan. The National Resources Board in Washington and many other groups are also working on the economic planning of the world of the future. They are not the ones, however, who will make the final decisions as to whether something shall be done or whether we shall stagnate again. That will rest upon the shoulders of the youth of this generation who are going to be the voters when this war comes to an end.

In this question of economic revamping for the future, I have an idea that the youngsters I saw, who may be in any part of the world a few months hence, are going to have some very distinct ideas as to what they want done with this very unsatisfactory world civilization which we have created. I also believe Congress may find itself with a much more lively group of citizens on its hands than it has ever known in the past. These men are not going to tolerate a repetition of the boom and depression years. They are going to be willing to work. But they are going to want work to be obtainable for themselves and their children. And they are going to find out how this is going to be done and demand of the government that it be done. There may have to be bitterness against the people whom they fight now, but most of this generation knows that it is fascism and Nazism which they fight and not the actual peoples of various nations who are only carrying out the will of those who dominate them.

The thing which interests me most about the younger generation is that among the educated and intelligent ones there is a consciousness of their problems wherever they grow up and an effort to look at all these problems from every angle. I think one great thing is going to come out of this war effort, and that is the realization that any final working out of problems has to take into consideration all the elements that go to make up our national life. We can no longer take a narrow point of view and allow one group to see things purely from the point of view of agriculture, or from the point of view of labor, or from the point of view of management. These interests are all too closely tied together and will merge in the future to get better results for the community as a whole.

I discovered much in talking with these young people. In fact, I managed to discover many things as I travel about this country of ours. For instance, I believe that before we ask individuals to do any collecting of scrap materials, we had better clean up the dumps which exist all over the country. There are old automobile graveyards and places where towns and villages have deposited all kinds of discarded belongings over a long period of time. I don't know, of course, how much material can be salvaged, but I do know that before we begin to ask people to sacrifice their possessions, we had better clean up these eyesores. And I've discovered something else: outside some of the big cities, you see the waste of human material brought out to its full extent. No children could grow up healthily in some of the houses and localities which I have seen from train windows as I go in and out of some of our biggest cities. (7:53)

It's true that the soft, balmy air of the South makes it easier to sit in the sun and dream about the future and do be doing the best you can to actually go to work and accomplish things. But it isn't just the climate that lulls one to sleep, for people are just as indifferent in the cold and bracing places of the North. You will meet the same indifference in the North, South, East, and West, and so we must utilize every bit of patriotic fervor in the hope that more young people will have their eyes opened now. We need the type of reconstruction which farm security, NYA, and the CCC have been doing and need to go on doing if throughout the country we're going to continue our record for personal initiative and do our war work along permanent lines of community reconstruction.

Now I do want to say a few words to you about Brotherhood Week, which begins on February 11th. It is a week in which the emphasis is placed on the development of understanding among Catholics, Protestants,

and Jews, so that we shall be able to keep down the old prejudices and prevent in this country some of the things which have happened in countries in Europe as the result of religious intolerance. You see, there is no room today to drive out from our communities the people with whose religious beliefs we differ and let them settle somewhere else as was done by our forefathers with Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams. Therefore, we have to learn to work together and to play together, and yet to give each individual the right to consult his individual conscience and to observe and practice his own faith in his own way.

During the last few days I have been asked such things as whether I thought that prayer was necessary, or whether I did not think it was advisable to have young people join Bible study groups. Of course, both of these are vitally necessary. But transcending all else, I think, is the acceptance by the church as by the people, of the fact that religions are built largely to meet the needs of human beings. It is what the church people practice in their daily lives which brings recruits into the church or turns them away somewhere else to find a method of conduct which will reflect a true religious feeling. In times of stress, all people turn to religion for greater comfort and strength, but this natural desire of people to believe in something stronger than themselves must be supplemented if they are to be held by any church by a robust belief that words must be translated into actions which speak louder.

In closing, I would like to read you a letter which I believe breathes the spirit of religion and of prayer. It is a letter from the mother of one of the fifteen ferry pilots, all of great importance to the nation, who were killed in a plane with Carole Lombard and her mother. It was written in reply to the telegrams of sympathy sent by her son's commanding officers. (11:19)

This mother's letter reads: "Your telegram of sympathy has conveyed to me something of the dignity of my position. To feel that my country is sharing the loss of my son with me is the greatest honor I could ever hope to obtain. When God in his wisdom permitted my son to accept a place in that plane which had been assigned to another man, he placed on my shoulders the burden for another mother. He did that with his own begotten son. Truly, I am honored. You are great, Generals, and your very greatness makes you feel the need of divine guidance, I'm sure. May you be given keen insight and wisdom for your every task."

The courage which she voices is extraordinary and should be an example and a help to every mother who is called upon to go through the same sad trial. We still think with a shudder of the woman in Wisconsin whose three sons were lost in one fell swoop. And I know there must be many other homes throughout the nation that need this kind of help which this mother's letter will give. Nothing can bring back the boys, but I hope that every one of these mothers is going to be determined to work to arouse the youth of the nation to the thesis on which I started this broadcast: that they have a job to finish as well as to begin. They must somehow find a basis on which this world can live in peace and they cannot stop at the end of the war. They must go on until a machinery is set up and methods are devised through which a new world is built.

[Dan Seymour:] Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt. Coffee is the drink which helps us finish a job because it gives us the extra energy for our daily work. Extra steady nerves to face the crises of wartime economy, of wartime business, of the effects of wartime on the lives of our families and ourselves. An extra cup of coffee with a noonday meal, an extra cup during that letdown period in late afternoon, an extra cup with the evening meal means extra work done and done well. Yes, and extra comfort when that work is finished. Coffee is America's necessary drink these days. We at home are working harder, doing better jobs for our country, our community, our family on coffee. Again may we thank our good neighbors that we can all say, "Get more out of life with coffee." Incidentally, one of the most popular women's magazines in the famous Fawcett Group is conducting a "New Uses for Coffee" contest. Ask your news dealer about it and try for one of the many exciting money prizes.

Next week, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt will speak to you again at this same time. Until then, this is Dan Seymour saying good evening for the *Pan-American Coffee Bureau*. Remember, get more out of life with coffee.

[Unknown announcer:] This program came to you from Washington. This is the Blue Network.

[NBC chimes 14:32-14:36]

(14:38)

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