

## THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

August 22, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt discuss the cultural and political consequences stemming from the U.S. occupation of Japan. In the interview segment, ER discusses the importance of inventions with John C. Green, Director of the Office of Technical Services of the Department of Commerce.

Participants: ER, Elliott Roosevelt, John C. Green, Ben Grauer

---

[ER:] This is Eleanor Roosevelt speaking. Our program is coming to you from my living room here at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. I am very happy to have this little while with you each day and I hope you'll enjoy the guest we've invited to be with us today. And now for a moment, I'm going to turn the program over to Elliott.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Have you got a good idea for a method of effacing tracks in the snow, lightweight equipment that can translate speech into written words, or a personal sub-zero heating system? If you have, Washington would be interested in hearing from you. Mr. John C. Green, director of the Office of Technical Services of the Department of Commerce, is Mrs. Roosevelt's guest today, and he has many unusual things to tell us about inventions and inventors. We'll meet Mr. Green after Mrs. Roosevelt and I tackle a question sent in by a listener. Now let's listen to our announcer, who has a few words for us.

[Break 1:04-1:09]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Today our question deals with the matter of the behavior of our troops abroad, Japan in particular. And it comes from Mrs. Ruby Watts of New York. She suggests that I read the article in the *New York Herald Tribune* written by Dave McConnell before you give your comments.

Here is the article: "Japan has no more learned the ideal of Americanization from the occupation than have cats learned to live with dogs. The American occupation has in general been superior in conduct. But in the words of one observer, 'You don't teach democracy with whiskey, firearms, and the rest of what goes with a garrison nation.' The GIs have on the whole have been gentle, good-humored, often homesick, but rarely misbehaved. They have brought all the physical evidences of how American youth lives when in the army. Typical American youths seek the companionship of Japanese women. As the number of girls of their own age from the United States is naturally very small, it is said that the influence of the magazine cover type of young American lovers has encouraged jitterbugging, casual hand-holding, and even unabashed kissing. This means that something new has been added to the ways of the country. Young Japan has carefully watched the behavior of the GIs of their own age and copied their habits. The older generation, on the other hand, has disapproved, to the point of open resentment of the fact that the young Japanese are too often copying the worst features of the behavior of American boys, who in many cases are away from home for the first time.

Only recently a great upswing in the number of classical Japanese musicals and plays has appeared in an apparent effort on the part of the older generation, now anticipating completion of the peace treaty, to return to the old customs and traditions of their country. Many of these older Japanese unjustly identify the degeneration of public morals with democracy. Despite the fact that so-called nightclubs existed before the war and Japanese men have always been in the habit of leaving their wives at home while they toured the town, many conservatives have fixed the blame on democracy for the

upsurge in entertainment spots. Pre-war Japan did not tolerate large numbers of women, whether alone or in pairs, walking the streets late at night in search of companionship. The copying by Japanese youth of the worst social behavior of the GIs on their night off has led many of the older generation to conclude, 'If this is democracy we want none of it.'

On the surface the Japanese have, temporarily at least, Americanized themselves in many ways. Many men and women still dress in the old costumes, but the greater number have adopted the Western style of dress. Women have entered politics, although at home the man is still the lord and master. Male supremacy is still so firmly grounded in Japan that the best way to upset an American dinner party in Tokyo is innocently to admire the system. Such an assertion is guaranteed to send all American women within hearing distance off into apoplectic retorts. Only recently were Japanese women allowed for the first time to enter the Imperial Theater to see what correspondents in American music -- what corresponds to an American musical comedy. It is not unusual now to witness the affectionate displays between girls and boys in the movies, although such behavior was learned from the GIs.

Thoughtful Japanese are afraid that the reaction of the older generation against what the younger believes to be Americanization will lead to a flashback to pre-war customs. The chief problem is that only the material action and possessions resulting from the free American way of life have been shown to the Japanese by the occupation forces. One Japanese student who had been in America for a long period, asserted, 'Most Japanese view democracy as consisting of getting into a large, new automobile, driving to the Post Exchange, and buying enough at one time to last the ordinary Japanese three months, and then returning with the loot to an overheated house.' The chief problem is that many Japanese dress and act the part of what they think is a typical American, but they have not the slightest knowledge of the basic concepts of what have made the United States great. After the treaty they may continue to kiss, hold hands, and jitterbug, but most people here believe that the Japanese will return to their own culture. And perhaps as the younger generations grow, they will improve upon it." Also, Mother, I seem to remember that some time ago you had a letter which deplored the behavior of our troops in Great Britain, so I'd like to get you to comment on this particular article.

[ER:] Well it's quite obvious that you don't teach uh democracy with an occupation army. That is not the way you teach democracy. Um I think probably the occupation army um has a hard time. The boys, uh our boys, are homesick, they do console themselves on their days off by having as good a time as they can have, uh They probably drink too much; they probably play around with the young Japanese if they can get hold of any of them-- to join them, and that may um be very bad for the old Japanese customs and civilization. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] I don't wonder the old people are probably worried about it, just the way the American older generation would probably be worried by the behavior of the American boys [laughs] on their days off! [Elliott Roosevelt: Yeah.] But I-I think that you cannot expect any nation, whether it's Germany or Japan, to really grasp the principles of democracy uh through occupation. That is not possible. It's something that has to come slowly, and it has to almost be a discovery of the country itself. And when they discover that certain things can be accomplished in the way that they are told democracy would accomplish them, and that is a good way to do it, then you're on a firmer foundation. But you can't alter the habits and the customs and the thinking of a people uh quickly. Now it's true that the Japanese women's position um has been changed by the Constitution, which [Douglas] MacArthur insisted uh should be written. But that obviously doesn't mean that it has changed the feeling of every Japanese man [Elliott Roosevelt: No.] or every Japanese woman. [laughs]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well I was thinking and -- as we were reading this article, uh what about the uh these same habits which the older generation of Japanese object to, wouldn't gr-we almost say that those same habits were true of uh -- right here in this country and that there is just as much objection on the part of the older generation in the United States?

[ER:] Why of course, that's what I was trying to-to get across. [Elliott Roosevelt: Yeah.] :]But-but you can't um-um -- these-these are not uh -- it's quite-quite conceivable that to the Japanese these have become a part of democracy because they are a -- [Elliott Roosevelt: A symbol.] -- demonstration uh of um -- from their point of view of the way the United States lives. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] But um as matter of the fact, it isn't anymore. The way it lives uh then-then uh it really is um a symbol of democracy. See --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, do you think that uh we in this country should think more of training our troops uh in so-called psychological warfare for occupation? Uh so that they would be trained in behavior to depict democracy when they go abroad.

[ER:] Very difficult to do. You are not-you are not functioning, in an occupation period-od, actually in a democratic way, because you are ordering people to do things, you are not asking them to decide whether they will do them or not. [Elliott Roosevelt: Right.] So fundamentally -- [Elliott Roosevelt: So fundamentally they're not living democracy.] They are not living democracy, and it's very difficult for an occupation army eh to make them appreciate democracy. What I do think we should do, um -- not because it will teach democracy, but because it will increase the understanding and the good will between the occupied and the people who are doing the occupation -- um is I think we could do much more orienting of troops by telling them about the country they are going to, by telling them something of the customs and habits of that country, by helping them to learn the language of that country. And um by generally telling them that their own behavior uh will affect the idea that people have -- not of them as individuals -- but of the country which they represent. Therefore, they are ambassadors and they should behave like ambassadors. [Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm.] :] And they should attempt to create a better understanding of American life, a better understanding of what we think is a democratic um attitude towards life. But I don't think an occupation can teach democracy. It just doesn't go together.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Uh do you think that our occupation troops uh would do a better job if there were a more even balance of uh men and women, American nationals, in the occupation uh groups that we send over?

[ER:] Yes. Yes. Always.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Uh so that we maintain the more of an even life [ER: Yes.] uh of our own American nationals.

[ER:] Oh yes.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well uh then we should go o-on-uh-on to a more uh-uh driving program to enlist the services of more women in the armed services or occupation.

[ER:] Or more -- or occupation, I think that would be a very good idea. Of course there are there are only uh certain things that women are expected to do, but I think it's better for our own soldiers if they had more of their own women um with them in an occupation period.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Right. Now uh -- now that we have answered the question by Mrs. Watts, I believe that what this question does point up is that uh we, in our approach to occupation troops, should think on a different basis from uh those that are not occupation troops, those that are trained to be combat troops. Don't you think so?

[ER:] Oh quite. It's quite a different thing. Absolutely different.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] All right, well I see that our time is up and we have to go to another part of the program, but I think that we have thoroughly cleared the-the entire attitude that you have toward occupation troops in other countries.

[Break 13:38-13:48]

[ER:] Thank you, Elliott. Mr. John C. Green is director of the Department of Commerce Office of Technical Services, of which the National Inventors Council is a component part. I am happy to present to you Mr. Green.

[John C. Green:] Thank you Mrs. Roosevelt, I am equally happy to be here today.

[ER:] Mr. Green, first I'd like to ask you what facilities exist in the government to foster and apply the ideas and inventions of our citizens?

[John C. Green:] Over a year before Pearl Harbor, your husband, President Roosevelt, asked Dr. Charles Kettering, our most eminent inventor, to create a National Inventors Council, which agency would be located within the Department of Commerce and would foster the inventive talent of the American people for defense. Since then Dr. Kettering has functioned in this capacity, and we have an advisory group of seventeen men of the caliber of Dr. [Oliver Ellsworth] Buckley, the president of the Bell Laboratories, Dr. [William D.] Coolidge of the General Electric Company, and men of co-comparable qualifications. Now this group uh constitutes a friendly open door to the inventor in Washington and a place where his problems can be integrated into our defense picture.

[ER:] Well now, is the government interested um only in weapons of destruction, or in all inventions?

[John C. Green:] Oh definitely not, uh -- I should make a clearance that we are interested in things that will help the public welfare. We are not interested in strictly industrial or commercial devices. But if it is something that the Voice of America might use in order to penetrate the Iron Curtain, a new idea, uh we would like to know about it and see that it reaches the right people. If it's lifesaving device, we'd also like to hear that.

[ER:] Well uh that gives you a very broad field. I'm just wondering about all the people writing to me with new ideas at the moment, and are so afraid that if they tell anyone about them uh they will be uh -- lose all control of them, and perhaps if it should become a commercial success, they would lose all chance of success. How do you safeguard people who come to you with a new idea or new invention?

[John C. Green:] We are very careful about that, and I think the best evidence that such a situation won't arise is that in World War II, we actually dealt with three hundred thousand inventors and there has been no suit filed against the government for a misuse of an invention.

[ER:] That's remarkable. Well, is any tangible assistance offered to the man who has made an industrial or commercial invention and is unable to finance it himself?

[John C. Green:] Not by us. We are strictly concerned with matters of national defense and welfare. However, the United States Patent Office does maintain a register at which an inventor who has an idea that he is unable to develop uh may place it on this register and the Patent Office will circulate it to interested manufacturers. Thereafter the manufacturer and the inventor get together directly. [ER: Get together on that.] Yes.

[ER:] Well now, we hear a lot about vast expenditures by our government for research. How is this distinguished from invention?

[John C. Green:] I think that is a question that isn't really understood even by scientists. But the basic distinction is that in order to have progress of a scientific or technical nature, you must have original seed ideas. And it isn't enough to create a team of competent scientists and give them the tools of research and tell them to attack a problem unless there is someone with the inventive faculty there. Dr. Kettering says it much more simply; he says that uh that you have the warp and the woof. And the research is the warp, which goes down in straight lines, and the woof goes back and forth and crosses fields. And he doesn't want to have a hammock which is all warp and no woof.

[ER:] I see! That-that's a very wise plan. [laughs] But since research is so complex these days and scientific investigations require such elaborate and expensive equipment, do you think the independent inventor has had his day? In other words, can we expect anything more than glorified gadgets from the private inventor from now on?

[John C. Green:] I think we must have uh something more, although it's getting much more difficult every day for the private inventor. The cost of development of an idea has uh risen tremendously. And unfortunately our courts have had a tendency to-to disparage invention by throwing patents, which are one of the marks of invention, out and indicating that they are rather unimportant. And inventors are just like anyone else: if they are to make a profession of invention it has to be remunerative, and the patent is their technique for recovering some compensation. I think we need a real national educational program as to how inventions are made and the problems of the inventor.

[ER:] Well, that's a very good idea, because I have heard even um doctors who do research in medical things say that um it's important to have the benefit of other minds. And uh yet unless patents uh in-in that field, unless patents were respected um you would hardly -- an inventor would hardly dare talk to other people.

[John C. Green:] It's a very delicate problem, and we must have that cross-fertilization of knowledge between people.

[ER:] Well, what about the claims the Russians have been making to all basic inventions?

[John C. Green:] Well, there are several ways of looking at that. Of course it does have its ridiculous side, but there are two other factors that I think should be considered, one of which you might call the nationalism of invention. I remember several years ago when the Commissioner of Patents and I visited the British Science Museum and saw several exhibits indicating that the British had made a large number of important inventions which we thought were American concepts. And I do believe it's true that you have inventions springing up -- uh what you might call simultaneous thinking in several countries. Someone goes ahead a little faster than the other fellow, but there is that type of thinking, and therefore there are multiple claims. Perhaps the most famous case was in our own telephone. The art of telegraphy had advanced to a certain degree and seemed that it was -- next natural step was the telephone. And a man named [Elisha] Gray and Alexander Graham Bell were working independently and unknowingly to each other on the same things. And Gray filed his patent application two hours after Bell, and lost the priority and what has been said to be the most valuable patent that our country has ever issued.

ER: That's very interesting. Well [clears throat] Mr. Green, um with the gradual rehabilitation of industry abroad, do you think we can expect important inventions to arise outside this country in the future?

[Mr. Green:] Oh, very definitely. Uh we have a pardonable feeling that we have a monopoly on brains, but of course it isn't so. And there are some marvelous individual thinkers in Europe who are hard at work today and we can always hope uh that we will be able to borrow the knowledge of Europe, and I sometimes think of that as a sort of a reciprocal Marshall Plan to be able to take ideas of Europe, because they are a fertile field for new and original thinking.

[ER:] Y-yes, in the old days we did once upon a time think of Germany -- eh when they were allowed to think before the Hitler days [laughs] -- um of-of them as very good um scientific uh research people-le and-and inventors. And I know that the French have always had a certain feeling of pride in their ability to invent. So I suppose uh perhaps if these --I-I think it's largely a question of remaining free, because I have a feeling the Russians will lose if they do not have freedom. They will lose their power to-to do honest research and-and therefore to have inventions.

[John C. Green:] I think that's exactly right. You must have uh that uh concept of freedom, original thinking, uh to be able to go down diversified channels. To do things in a unconventional way, or what seems unconventional uh in order to really have scientific progress.

[ER:] Which is the more fertile field for inventiveness: a new fundamental invention, or an improvement of an existing item?

[John C. Green:] There is a good deal of controversy on this point. Uh my own opinion is that the improvement of the existing device is the one that you can bring into use much quicker and easier. A new fundamental idea only comes along occasionally, and you have a-a very difficult educational problem with pe-with people who are not accustomed to it. Whereas where you have a device which has some defects and you are trying to improve it it's much easier to introduce those improvements. They're demonstrable.

[ER:] Yes I suppose that would be true. But you must, I should think, have both. I don't see how you could limit yourself to either one. It's quite evident that naturally one, um when you are developing something where the fundamental principles are already known, um you could hope to go faster. Uh but if you didn't have uh fresh thinking on new principles, uh you-you would I think lose a great deal.

[John C. Green:] You're exactly right. That's a very helpful clarification of my statement.

[ER:] I uh I-I would be uh -- I sometimes think uh that perhaps in the United States, too many people think of themselves as inventors. When they send me in letters explaining some new thing that they're quite sure is going to revolutionize the world, I'm quite sure it isn't, as a rule! [laughs] Do you get an enormous number of-of um people sending you in drawings and ideas all the time?

[John C. Green:] Indeed we do, and uh w-I personally consider them as amateur inventors, not in the sense of a professional man with considerable background in the field which he is discussing. And whereas from the public relations point of view it is necessary to examine their ideas very carefully -- and occasionally you do find a helpful suggestion there -- it has been our experience that good ideas come from people who understand the basic problems and have some practical experience.

[ER:] Well that is what I have always uh supposed one would find was true. But I'm glad to hear it from you because uh I've never dared turn anything down. I've always uh felt it had to go to somebody at least that I'd thought had more knowledge than I had, so I'm-I'm glad to hear you say it's not often that you find things in-in that um sort of-of outpouring. And now, our announcer um must have a word and then we'll come right back to our interview.

[Break 24:55-25:00]

[ER:] Now, we return to our interview with Mr. John C. Green, Director of the Department of Commerce Office of Technical Services. I'd like to ask you, Mr. Green, if there are any perceptible trends, which tend to stifle or impair inventive thinking today?

[John C. Green:] I believe there are three, and I touched on two of them earlier. The first is the fact that the courts and other bodies disparage the product of invention, the patent. And since there is no incentive or the incentive is diminishing to take out a patent, the incentive to become an inventor is diminishing. Second, this uh cost of development, which is getting so high, makes it very hard for a man after he has his concept to reduce it to a practical demonstrable device. And third is the public feeling uh-concerning the inventor. So many people think of an inventor as an unrealistic i-impractical individual and tend to disparage him, and therefore competent engineers are almost ashamed of being inventors. And that's something we must reverse.

[ER:] Mhm-Well that's something I have never thought of. I suppose it's true that the popular idea of an inventor is a long-haired eccentric moving in an atmosphere of mystery or secrecy! Um But, naturally, that isn't so at all, and I don't believe that uh idea coincides with your idea of what a really good inventor would be.

[John C. Green:] Oh definitely not. That is the fraction of one percent of what I sometimes say of the amateur, the pseudo, the would-be inventor -- the man that the cartoon strips likes to portray and the stories tell about. But those people uh are on the fringe of invention. And the-the sound inventor is the man who studies the problem, analyzes all the possible solutions, and then comes up with a new, original, feasible way of doing it. And he's really a hardheaded citizen.

[ER:] And-and a man who would do that uh would um-would need the background of training, it- um it just doesn't happen to people; it-it's the result of training and work, isn't it?

[John C. Green:] Ordinarily yes, occasionally you have the near genius who can enter a field in which he has no qualifications and come up with a revolutionary idea, but it's a needle in a haystack proposition.  
[ER: A very rare thing.] Very rare.

[ER:] Well now, for the benefit of those who don't live in Washington, I'd like to ask how people outside of Washington um can find out about our defense needs and the various areas, since you said that it was not just in defense needs but also in anything which benefited mankind, uh where you were anxious, or the government was anxious, to get ideas. How do people find out in what areas ideas -- inventive ideas -- are most wanted, and where do they get the necessary information?

[John C. Green:] Well, we strive to do that at our office in Washington, and I'm sure it's quite imperfect. Uh One technique which we use is to seek from the technical branches of the military those problems that they are now facing on which an inventive solution would be helpful. Then we are faced with the task of compiling those problems in a form, which is non-confidential, doesn't violate secrecy, and we release that. Again we have in cooperation with the patent office, a master list of competent inventors, men who are inventing today in all fields, and we feed to them directly the problems uh which we are informed that fit their specific qualifications. We would very much like to broaden our uh contact with competent people, particularly the ex-GI, who in World War II used military equipment and knew its defects and is now back in civilian life perhaps with additional expe-engineering experience and knows how to make it better.

[ER:] Um that's something I would be interested in also in the um industrial field. I remember in uh-going through plants in England in uh S-and Scotland in the last war in 1942, um having the head of one of the plants show me a system by which uh any worker in the plant could put in a suggestion and the plant people agreed to try that suggestion out. Now it was um of course not limited to uh inventions on the machines they were using, but where it was a question of the way you used a machine or a change to make the machine better, they agreed to try it out and they did, and they told me that many of their workers had been responsible for ideas that had saved them time and made it possible for them to do things during the war which perhaps they could never have achieved in any other way.

[John C. Green:] That is very true, and our industry, particularly the more enlightened sectors, practices the beneficial suggestion scheme as well. It has a byproduct value in that the uh in-worker's morale is increased, and his chance of advancement in the company has strengthened through that type of technique. During World War II, the War Production Board attempted to centralize and uh exchange beneficial ideas of this type industry to industry.

[ER:] And uh did that work?

[John C. Green:] Very well, very well.

[ER:] It did work well. Um I should think that might be one of the difficult things that an industry might be jealous of sharing it with another industry if they-one of their employees made a discovery.

[John C. Green:] In normal peacetime, yes. In an emergency where we are all in this together, uh it is not the same situation.

[ER:] Then it doesn't come up. Well, what reward can a citizen hope for if his idea is adopted and used?

[John C. Green:] Well uh if he has a patent and his device is developed, the services are prepared to make a contract for him. If he has merely an idea on which the services must spend a considerable amount of money to reach a test device and-and determine themselves whether it is uh of use, it's a very difficult situation. And at the present moment at the request of the National Inventors Council, General Marshall has a committee of an Air Force general, a Navy admiral, and an Army general making a restudy of the philosophy of the services toward payments to the inventors to introduce a liberal sympathetic concept. I'm very hopeful that uh we will be able to say shortly an inventor who has anything of use to the services, even if he isn't fortunate enough to have a patent, can hope for a just adequate compensation.

[ER:] Well that would be encouraging, I'm sure, to a great many people. And I wonder if you can tell us on this program what are some of the most essential needs today?

[John C. Green:] Well it's difficult to generalize, but I think most of us can see that our troops may have to face arctic warfare. Now in arctic warfare, you are faced with problems of s-transportation over snow, comfort of the man, uh to keep your internal combustion engine running satisfactorily for long periods of time under severe operating conditions. If the uh competent a-inventor would attempt to transform himself to the arctic, he might uh be able to think better than we on the inventive need. Again uh we're very eager in the field of ideas to find out about how we might pierce the curtain with-with good ideas of our way of life. And I'm sure the people in the Voice of America, no matter how confident they are, know that they need original thinking in this field.

[ER:] They um -- and then you must uh-you must need uh-uh some way, for instance, of meeting uh the jamming of the radio [ER and John C. Green overlap] and all that sort of thing.



[John C. Green:] Oh very definitely, we have -- we-we are attacking that problem in a very interesting way. We have brought together sixty of the young men who worked on countermeasures in radar in World War Two, and they are uh an informal working panel uh advisory to the Voice of America in this field. And the Voice is very happy and tangible results are already being seen.

[ER:] Well that's very encouraging to know. Well now, some very famous people have submitted inventions to your group, haven't they?

[John C. Green:] Yes, and of course we've had some very famous inventors in the group. Uh I think Orville Wright of course, the father of the airplane, who I should have mentioned earlier. He's dead now; he's replaced by Dr. [Hugh] Dryden. But I would say in the field of famous people that we're always asked about is Hedy Lamarr. And Miss Lamarr uh had an idea of a controlled torpedo, which in general principles was quite sound, although it was not an advance on the art. And I remember her collaborator in the field, a Mr. George Antheil, telling me, "Please give them an answer quickly" because his wife was suspicious at why he and Miss Lamarr were collaborating in the evening. [laughs]

[ER:] [laughs] Oh, that's very amusing! Well now um, how many of these inventions that famous people have submitted to you have been accepted?

[John C. Green:] Uh that's a difficult question. I don't believe the percentage is in their favor or against them. Th-there is a-a uniform factor that we find that in about every hundred inventions submitted: about 98 percent of them ha-cover ideas that have been thought of before. About two percent of them are worth very serious investigation, and a fraction of one percent actually find their way into production. That may be a discouraging statistic; I hope it isn't, because we look at every one very carefully.

[ER:] I don't think that's uh discouraging because I think most people uh do not expect to have uh their inventions accepted without very careful um consideration. And-and unless they are people who are constantly working in that field-eld, and uh naturally uh find new things much more frequently, I think it would be astonishing if the percentage was much higher.

[John C. Green:] Dr. Kettering tells me that our percentage is advance of the percentage in industry.

[ER:] It is?

[John C. Green:] It is.

[ER:] Well that's very uh-that's very interesting. Now is the major part of this done by industry in this country, or the major part done by you?

[John C. Green:] Well, it is a sharing of effort. We have a staff in Washington, which undertakes the initial work. And we have liaison arrangements in all of the technical branches. And we are backstopped by our council and their special subcommittees. We have some two hundred men on the subcommittees. It's the usual technique of enlisting competent people voluntarily within their field of specialty.

[ER:] So you really cooperate?

[John C. Green:] We hope we do.

[ER:] [laughs] Well that's very nice to hear at the close of this program, and I want to thank you very much, Mr. Green, and I'm sure what you've told us will be of great interest and-to all of our listeners. Thank you.

[John C. Green:] Thank you. Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt.

[Break 36:34-36:45]

[Ben Grauer:] Our speaker has been Mr. John C. Green, who is director of the Department of Commerce's Office of Technical Services. Uh as you heard discussing with Mrs. Roosevelt, uh his work as head of that office concerned with inventors and inventions, their role in the defense effort, and all of the interesting variety of material and personalities which comes before him. Another in the series of guest interviews by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. Before we say good afternoon, I have an announcement for the US Army and Air Force, which should be of particular interest to the young ladies in our audience.

Do you like to travel first class? The girl who is accepted for enlistment in the Women's Army Corps travels first class in everything. She has the opportunity to attend an army technical training school where she studies under the best instructors. She continues her formal education while she's in service. Her pay is better than average. And here's an interesting point: her uniforms are attractive and smart, they're designed by Hattie Carnegie. She travels to places most of us have only read about. Yes, the career girl of the Women's Army Corps is first class. She is truly a woman of distinction. And perhaps you can qualify for enlistment. You can get complete details at your nearest Army and Air Force recruiting station. Check your telephone book for the correct address. Or pay a visit to the WAC/WAF office -- that's the Women's Army Corps and the Women's Air Force -- at three-at Thirty-Nine Whitehall Street in downtown Manhattan. I'll give that address again: Thirty-Nine Whitehall Street, downtown Manhattan. Enlist in the Women's Army Corps.

This has been the Eleanor Roosevelt program recorded in Mrs. Roosevelt's living room in the Park Sheraton Hotel on the corner of 55th Street and 7th Avenue in New York City. Today, Mrs. Roosevelt's guest was John C. Green, Director of the Office of Technical Services of the Department of Commerce. And tomorrow, our guest will be -- uh in fact, our guests will be Mr. and Mrs. Amos [and Lynn] Landman, who are the authors of the interesting book on current affairs, *Profile of Red China*. Mrs. Roosevelt and Elliott Roosevelt will be with us again tomorrow with Mr. and Mrs. Landman as guests, and every day Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 1:15 PM. Till tomorrow then, at the usual time, this is Ben Grauer bidding you all good afternoon.

[Break 39:13-]

[Ben Grauer:] Friends, this is Ben Grauer speaking. "Soup's on" is a simple, homespun, and always-welcome expression that means "come and get it." And when steaming, fragrant bowls of Habitant vegetable soup are on the menu, little time is lost in accepting this invitation to good eating. The marvelous flavor and perfectly seasoned richness of heavenly tasting Habitant vegetable soup makes snacks, lunches, and dinners ever so much better. Only garden fresh vegetables, plump, juicy, and top-grade are used in Habitant vegetable soup, and you can readily taste the difference with the first sip. And for sensational soup variety, be sure to serve genuine Quebec style Habitant pea soup and tantalizing Habitant onion soup. There's a heap of economy in each can of Habitant soup, too, so rich and hearty and no diluting necessary. Heat and serve just as is; speedy, easy, and so delicious. Your grocer has Habitant vegetable, Habitant onion, and Habitant pea soup in easy-to-recognize yellow cans. Try them soon. Now, here's Elliott with a question for discussion with Mrs. Roosevelt.

[Break 40:34-40:37]

[Ben Grauer:] Now we go on to our guest interview on the *Eleanor Roosevelt Program*, but before Mrs. Roosevelt introduces today's guest, I'd like to take my custom look at the program listings for our station tonight. There's lots of interesting listening on WNBC centering around the general theme of the detective story. Because at eight o'clock, we have *Pete Kelly's Blues*, a drama of the speakeasy days with jazz of the era starring Jack Webb, followed at 8:30 by *The Falcon*. A suspected murderer is cleared by Mike Waring, played by Les Damon in tonight's chapter of *The Falcon* titled "The Case of the Beautiful Bait." Hm, sounds provoking. I should say provocative.

At nine o'clock is a little interlude in the murder mysteries and whodunits with *It Pays to be Ignorant*. Again, the nerves of quizmaster Tom Howard will suffer as George Shelton, Lulu McConnell, and Harry McNaughton fail to answer simple questions in their delightful master moronic style. At nine o'clock, or rather at 9:30, *Mister District Attorney*. Uh Jay Jostyn, again as the district attorney, uh assisted by Vicki Vola and Len Doyle, and the subject for tonight is "The Case of Change for a Hundred."

At ten o'clock comes *The Big Story*, in which we have a series of true experiences of well-known reporters who go behind the files, behind the headlines in the newspaper files, and find at ten o'clock *The Big Story* is devoted to the experiences of reporter William E. Brennan of *The Boston Post* and what came out of his investigation of what seemed to be a casual news item.

Then at 10:30, there is a delightful interlude of music with *Meredith Willson's Music Room*, a new and already very popular program. And Meredith Willson of course is the orchestra leader on *The Big Show*, on Sunday nights with Tallulah Bankhead, returning in about three or four weeks, incidentally. Uh Meredith wrote that wonderful piece of music with which Tallulah concludes with her show, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You," and uh Meredith is now acting as host on his own program, *spins some records* and uh interviews famous musical personalities. His guest tonight at 10:30 is Arthur Fiedler, conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. There's the lineup for listening on WNBC tonight, and now to introduce today's guest, here is Eleanor Roosevelt.

[Break 43:03-43:10]

[Ben Grauer:] Yes, Mrs. Roosevelt, after we have our custom pause at mid-way mark for identification and a brief announcement. This is WNBC, AM and FM, New York, and you're listening to the *Eleanor Roosevelt Program* recorded in Mrs. Roosevelt's living room in the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Today, Mrs. Roosevelt's guest is Mr. John C. Green of the Office of Technical Services of the Department of Commerce.

Before we return, here's an announcement from our government. How much do you have saved? I'm sure it's harder to save these days, but you'd be surprised how many folks are doing it. Salaried folks with average jobs. They're saving systematically, automatically, and without feeling the pinch. How? It's easier than you think. They're putting aside their savings before they touch their salary. Yes, they're buying United States defense bonds through the payroll savings plan where they work. They're building themselves a future and building a stronger America. Now how about you getting in on this American plan for security? Start today by buying United States defense bonds. These are Series E bonds paying back every four dollars for every three invested when the bonds mature in ten short years. They're as safe and as sure an investment as you can make, guaranteed by your government. And remember, you save the easy, systematic way. You save a regular amount out of every paycheck when you buy defense bonds through the payroll savings plan where you work. Join now! Defend your future and defend your country's future. Buy United States defense bonds regularly.

Here again is Mrs. Roosevelt. (44:58)

---

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

File(s): 72-30(226)

Transcription: Pre-2015

First edit by Jay Fondin

Final Edit: Andreas Meyris

The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project