

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

March 7, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt respond to a listener's question about the release and return to power of German war criminals and industrialists. In the interview segment, ER's guest is Suzanne Dadolle, a French actress and model who was also a former member of the French Army.

Participants: Eleanor Roosevelt, Elliott Roosevelt, Suzanne Dadolle

[ER:] Good day. This is Eleanor Roosevelt. Every Monday through Friday, my son Elliott and I have the opportunity to visit with you here in my living room at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Each day, it is our desire to bring interesting guests that we are hopeful you will enjoy meeting. Elliott, will you tell our listeners today's plans?

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Thank you, Mother. Today, Mother's guest is a young lady from France, Mademoiselle Suzanne Dadolle. Mademoiselle Dadolle is one of a group of six French models now visiting in this country. Before making modeling a career, Mademoiselle Dadolle uh was a member of the French Navy actually having served for a short time on a French war vessel. Also, a Mrs. Sussman of Brooklyn has written Mother a letter expressing consternation at the recent release of German war criminals. Mrs. Sussman asks clarification in this matter, and I am going to ask Mother to try to explain the government's position. But first, a word from our sponsor, for the people who make this recorded program possible.

[Break 1:16 to 1:23]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Today, Mother, our letter for discussion is from Mr. F. Sussman of Brooklyn, who writes, "I'm enclosing part of a clipping from an item in this week's newspaper. The entire item is of tremendous importance to me, especially the one line that I have underlined." The article reads: "American authorities today spared twenty-one German war criminals from the gallows. Freed German steel magnet Alfried Krupp" -- and this is what is underlined -- "restored his property rights in the vast Krupp industrial empire." The letter continues, "How can one condone such actions on the part of the American authorities? This is a wonderful country and worthy of every effort we make to keep it free. But I believe I would feel just as bitter even though I wouldn't be thinking in terms of sending my son into the armed forces. May I look forward to having this item discussed on one of your future broadcasts?"

[ER:] Well, all I can say about that is that I was as horrified as he is. [ER and Elliott Roosevelt laugh] I was.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I think then as long as you are horrified by the item, that then we should have a discussion this morning on how these things come to pass. That uh --

[ER:] Well, my-my own feeling, of course, is that there must be some reason, but I have never been told the reason. I have never been told the reason why these higher industrialists um are being completely absolved of responsibility for war when we all know they were responsible for war in the past. And when they are returned to power, there seems to me to be only one explanation, namely that people have come to the conclusion that they are the only people who know how to bring about production, um and therefore they feel it uh essential to use them again. Now, um [ER clears throat] I-I would've said um that

if um Krupp--Mr. Krupp was not found guilty of actually, uh or couldn't be proved guilty of actually having done certain things, um he probably should've been pardoned. But to put him back where he could do the type of thing which brought about um a condition that we all disapproved of in the last war um seems to me unthinkable. If they had wanted to say that he was entitled for life to a certain portion of the earnings of part of his old uh [Elliott Roosevelt: Empire.] holdings, uh that might have been a fair thing to do. Um that, I think, a court should've carefully discussed and decided upon um, but um short of -- the only reason I can see for returning him in full power is that they feel there is no one else who has the ability to organize and produce in Germany what must be done for the benefit of the whole of Europe, I suppose. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] Since now we think in terms of Europe as a whole. [Elliott Roosevelt: Let me, let me --] But I don't like that.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] All right, let me start thinking on the other side, uh just for the sake of argument. I don't happen to be of differing opinion to you, but I will start arguing from the other side, for--just for the sake of presenting this thing as best we can and trying to figure it out. I feel uh that we are producing, in this country, the armaments to rearm Europe. All armaments produced by a nation which are of non-productive and never returning basis, such as all war industry must be, uh should be shared by other nations. I feel that uh if Germany is better equipped to make those war armaments for the European nations, that then that economy should be built up. Uh they should be the ones who would have to do the adjusting to a peace-time economy. Now -- [ER: In the future. Well --] in the future. Now, on that basis, there is only one man capable of reorganizing that industry. [ER: Oh nonsense!] All right. That is -- uh, I'm thinking from the other side now --

[ER:] I know, I know, but nonsense!

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Uh all right. The-the only potential other operators are Americans. If we put Americans in charge, then we will not have the cooperation of the Germans.

[ER:] That's not true either. Uh there is no reason to believe-eve in a country that has as much skilled uh labor and management as Germany has had in the past, that there cannot be found not one individual, but a group of individuals that can take over a part of the old cartel industry. Now, I am really worried because I think what we are doing is build up the old cartels. And if that is what we're doing, then we are building up again the old international machine that always made war in Europe and it covered every country practically. And if that is really what underneath is happening, then it is a grave danger, and it should be brought out before the public. I do not believe in cartels! Neither do the American people, I believe!

[Elliott Roosevelt:] All right, now, what are cartels? Uh a cartel is when --

[ER:] Cartels are a combination of um of the same type of interest which spread not only in one nation but throughout many nations. So that in the old days, the munitions industry was owned not just in Germany for the Germans, but in France and in England and in other countries, and those interests meshed together. Um and uh frequently, a uh people in another country would be-would have their holdings set aside during the war until the end of the war and would have them intact [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] at the end of the war, even though they lived in the enemy country!

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yeah. All right, now [ER clears throat] if the cartel system is the only way of reviving production in Europe, are we not faced with the necessity of reviving it?

[ER:] No. I do not think we are, and I don't think it is the only way. [Elliott Roosevelt: Uh --] It's utterly ridiculous and defeatist to say so.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] All right, then uh may I ask uh why uh did not the original plan of moving uh a part of the steel production of the Krupp empire uh that remained undamaged at the end of the war-w-uh of moving it in to neighboring countries that do have productive abilities such as Belgium and Luxembourg and Holland and so forth, why was that not carried out?

[ER:] I don't know. There are always a great many forces at work, and there are always many considerations that you and I here can't possibly discuss. It may have been that it seemed impossible to take that whole industry out of Germany, without throwing too many people in Germany out of work and making Germany a-a burden to the other nations of Europe.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] But as I remember it, when it was being discussed, it was planned that uh large segments of the German working population, skilled labor and so forth, engaged in that work would be resettled in these other countries.

[ER:] Well, I think that may have proved impractical, because unfortunately human beings aren't just like uh machines; you don't just pick them up and move them unless you happen to live in a state like Russia, where they don't -- [Elliott Roosevelt: Well, the Russians have done it successfully.] the Russians have done it very successfully, but they've done it within Russia. And um uh it does make some difference, and also, you have to have people who are conditioned to that sort of thing. Now, you are dealing with quite a different type of people when you deal --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] The Germans were conditioned to [ER: Oh--] movements of that kind by the-by the very nature of the dictatorship that they had before.

[ER:] Well, it hadn't lasted as long, and I don't think the Germans as a whole uh have been accustomed to being taken up en masse and moved from place to place.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] The East Germans - the East Germans have been since the war by the Russians. Uh they -- all of the in --

[ER:] That's true. And it's-and it's meant complete disruption of the German economy. That's one of the most pathetic things that you can see in Germany, is the return of German groups from Sudetenland and uh parts of uh Poland which have been taken over. They are poorer than the people in our camps, because they are on the German economy, which is poor anyway. I never, never have seen anything like the conditions in the groups of German emigres from those parts taken over by the enemy that depended on the German economy. [Elliott Roosevelt: All right, but uh --] And so you can't say -- you can't give that as a good example of what happened!

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, the East Germans that have stayed in East Germany have been moved willy-nilly around to industry and have been-and have been put into forced labor uh [ER: By the Russians.] by the Russians, and they --

[ER:] But they've stayed in their own country. They --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Not necessarily, I understand that they moved large sections--

[ER:] Ah, ah, yes. Ah, they've have moved large sections of East Germans on what are known as death trains to the mines. But that wasn't done willingly, they were driven into that. [Elliott Roosevelt: Uh no.] They didn't go willingly.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] But we-we were the conquerors. Why couldn't we have done exactly what the Soviet Union has done uh-uh --

[ER:] My goodness! Do you want us to turn into [ER laughs] dictators of that type? I wouldn't –

[ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I am using all the arguments that are available on the other side. And I am not saying [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] that these are my arguments.

[ER:] Yes, but I think that - I think that would be unthinkable for us to do and have our people here know anything about it. [ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap] They would think that it is a crime.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I'm not saying that we would move them on death trains, but it would be in the nature of a forced move uh of population uh –

[ER:] Of course you wouldn't. In the first place, I don't think you would get agreement on the part of, let's say, Holland and Luxembourg to receive a large number of Germans within their borders to be skilled laborers. If they got the industry, they would want to use their own people who are skilled laborers and who need work. In the second place, you wouldn't just move Germans as a commodity, in the same way you would move Russian peasants. Uh so –

[Elliott Roosevelt:] [Laughs] All right, I guess-I guess that covers the- [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] all the different possibilities as raised by this letter, with which you are in hearty agreement.

[ER:] Yes! [ER laughs]

[Break 12:16-12:20]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Now we return to the interview between Mademoiselle Suzanne Dadolle and Mother. Uh Mademoiselle Dadolle is over here as one of the six French models who are now visiting in this country. Mother, will you take over?

[ER:] I'm very glad to have a chance to go on with this interview. First of all, I wanted to ask you um were you an officer and -- uh in the WAVES or in your French WAVES?

[Suzanne Dadolle:] Uh in the beginning you see they uh they had not many officers in North Africa because it was just the beginning of the French navy. And they ask me to be, but I never live before in my life in officers' uh, what you call milieu, um -- [ER: Yes, in --] [Elliott Roosevelt: Circles.] [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] Yes. And I don't know any rule about for military life, and I was very afraid, more or less. And uh I prefer to uh come by the -- you see uh that you call --[ER: You came in private.] Yes. And um -- [Elliott Roosevelt: And when p -- by the ranks.] [Suzanne Dadolle laughs] [ER: By the ranks.] Yes, exactly. And after that uh at the end I was only with one-uh one stripe, that's all. [ER: Yes, one stripe]. And -- [Elliott Roosevelt: an ensign I believe] and really I'm not very glorious, no. [ER, Suzanne Dadolle and Elliott Roosevelt laugh]

[ER:] Well, I think that's doing very-that's doing very well -- were there hardships onboard ship? Did you have a -- was it uncomfortable? Did you mind it? Or did you --?

[Suzanne Dadolle:] Oh no, we were very comfortable because uh in uh -- you see, the officers were very sweet uh and very u-uh kind for the only four girls on the boat, and uh [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] and the doctor of the war ship uh for just for these four days, it was -- you see the-the Joan of Arc was a sort of uh transportation -- uh a transpo-transpor-transpor [unclear French] ? [ER: Transport.] [Elliott Roosevelt:

Transport.] He transport uh the government to France, be back to France. And uh all the officers gave more or less all their bedrooms -- eh not bedrooms, that's cabins [Elliott Roosevelt and Suzanne Dadolle laugh] to the people who are going back. And uh we were very-we were very spoiled because uh we uh we could um visit all the warship and very interested by the radar. It was the first time of the radar in-for French, I don't know maybe in America [laughs] first [ER: Well--] but uh, for us it was first time that we could see -- we didn't see man-many things that-it was only a green light. [Suzanne Dadolle laughs] [Elliott Roosevelt: Uh huh.]

[ER:] Well um, coming into the harbor is always, I think, one of the impressions that uh people coming over here for the first time uh notice. Did you have um -- were you uh -- did you come in in the daytime so that you could see the harbor as you came in? [ER and Suzanne Dadolle overlap] In New York? [Suzanne Dadolle:] We just arrive -- and I remember very well, we just arrive at the end of the day. And it was a sort of great uh gray weather with uh, just little bit rainy. And we arrived, I remember I saw uh-uh great mother -- grandmother, that is her name -- with a young boy and they wave wave with the-with the hands and we were so happy; it was the first French people that we saw after four years. And um when we uh go in the train, we fi -- it was an American train, organized by the American troops, and uh there was one lieutenant, I'm--I'm sorry to don't remember the name, and two sergeants, so sweet because they look after the-the only four girls of the train. And every- [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] every stop they came, at-at any-every station to ask, "Would you like some of café milk, would you some sandwiches," and they look after us like babies. [ER laughs] And between uh Cherbourg and Paris, it's take between two hours or three hours, and we take two days because we stop and stop many times and uh even um each time it was very long, the stop. And maybe half an hour, maybe one hour, and the only way to say to everybody "go back to the train, we go away," You just klaxonne -- what do you say, klaxonne -- [Elliott Roosevelt: Mm, uh the klaxon or the -- ?] [ER: Klaxon, yes.] Yes! And everybody like in uh-like in uh [Elliott Roosevelt: Scrambles.] Yeah! [Suzanne Dadolle laughs] It was very --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I think Mother wanted to find out what your impressions were uh when you came into New York Harbor, too.

[ER:] Yes that's what I was thinking.

[Suzanne Dadolle:] Uh we did not arrive mm ah up here by boat, we arrived by Air France, and --

[ER:] Oh you came by air-airplane?

[Suzanne Dadolle:] Yes [ER: Oh.] by Air France, and I know that is not so uh-uh beautiful, because uh I had eh -- but I have seen with a car uh when I go all around -- Manhattan? [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] and uh, [ER: Ye -- Manhattan.] so I see --

[ER:] Well I w-I was just thinking because as a rule, when people first come in by boat [Suzanne Dadolle: Mm.] they notice -- particularly French people, [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] they notice the Statue of Liberty [Suzanne Dadolle: Yeah.] [Suzanne Dadolle laughs] and the fact that it was given by France you see? [Suzanne Dadolle: Mhm.] And um then the skyline of New York, as you come in by boat is uh quite impressive the first time. [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] And from the air it has -- you don't see anything, you see. [Suzanne Dadolle: Not so much.] I didn't realize you'd flown over.

[Suzanne Dadolle:] But you-you see that's something that uh really um touched me very much is uh the-the night in New York. [ER: Night.] Uh yes. [ER: Yes.] I remember -- [ER: The coming on of the lights.] Yes. I remember I go on the-in the flat of friends who gave a party, it was at the forty floor, and uh I saw all New York -- in the night in Paris is black and white. But here that's green, that's red that's all -- uh yellow uh too, and that's uh like uh what do you call, conte de fée -- [Elliott Roosevelt: Kaleidoscope of color.] Conte de fée. [ER: A conte de fée -- a fairy tale. Yes.] Yes. [Elliott Roosevelt: Fairy tale.] That's

something very uh very, very beautiful. And I was very amazed by Times Square too, that's running all that light. [ER: So much light.] And oh, full of life.

[ER:] Now when you fly, as I suppose you will [Suzanne Dadolle clears throat] uh into Los Angeles I hope you come in at night, because when you come in at night it's like looking down on, oh a myriad of jewels! [Suzanne Dadolle: Mhm.] The lights are perfectly wonderful! I don't happen to really like Los Angeles [Suzanne Dadolle clears throat] as a city, but uh [Elliott Roosevelt: Ooh, Mother.] it's scattered and it's very -- [Elliott Roosevelt: What a thing to say! Now you will --] [Suzanne Dadolle laughs] Ohh, now --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] You will have letters by the thousands from angry Los Angeles citizens.

[ER:] Well I said as a city, now. [Elliott Roosevelt and Suzanne Dadolle laugh] And I think outside, the um uh places that are built on the hills [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] have great charm, but the city part of it, I don't happen to care about. It's just like any other city. [Suzanne Dadolle: Mhm.] But as you fly in, [Suzanne Dadolle: Mhm?] it's one of the most beautiful sights that you could possibly see if it's at night [Suzanne Dadolle: Yeah.] because you have all the lights. [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] And-and color. [Elliott Roosevelt: Well as long as you've made all of the Los Angeles citizens angry with you, I'll just make it ten times worse [Suzanne Dadolle laughs] and say that probably you won't be able to get into Los Angeles at night because it'll all be fogged in with what they call smog out there.

[ER:] Oh dear! I- [ER, Elliott Roosevelt, and Suzanne Dadolle laugh] I hope they won't have smog for you. [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] I hope you can get in at night and see the colors. [ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap] I-I don't know, does smog --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well of course, I should talk up some of the other parts of the country --

[ER:] Uh does smog -does smog uh extend all over -- what makes smog, anyway?

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Smog is caused by [Suzanne Dadolle: [unclear] all of the industrial plants [Suzanne Dadolle: I see, I see. I see.] that have sprung up. You see, Los Angeles stretches over sixty-five miles [Suzanne Dadolle: I see, I see.] and the in-industries and the oil wells and everything are all mixed up out there together and they have built a permanent haze [Suzanne Dadolle: I see.] over the whole city. [Suzanne Dadolle:] That's always the same thing on uh- in almost cities when they are very uh indurstri-industriel -- ? [ER: Industrial.] [Elliott Roosevelt: Industrial] Yes. [ER: Yes.] And uh, uh the other day when I went to uh the country, it was more or less the same with New York when we see in the- in the fog, and like that in Paris when you arrive by plane. But that uh-that I would like to tell ma'am that uh um I go in Princeton uh-uh College the other day, and I had a wonderful impression. Because uh that was the first time that I saw um an American college, of course, because it is my first trip, but I couldn't imagine it was something so well settled, so comfortable, and uh the g-I had the great impression when I arrived in the bibliotheque. Mm? [Elliott Roosevelt: The library.] Yes. [ER: Yes.] The li-the library where all the boys were work very [ER: Yes.] um very uh [Elliott Roosevelt: Hard.] Yes, uh because uh is -- [ER: very quietly. Yes.] I know that it is the time of examination. And uh I never -- I-I couldn't imagine it was something like that. It gives an impression of comfort, of uh peace, of uh happiness. All these boys are looking so beautiful, so wealth, you see -- uh w-wealthy, and uh--oh your-I-I would, I-I-I hope-- [ER:] Well, I think you probably felt a certain difference -- I noticed, when I was in Paris, [Suzanne Dadolle: Mhm.] I went to the Sorbonne [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] a number of times, and I thought the students um looked ill. [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] I thought they were having such hardships. [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] It was so cold in both [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes. Yes.] the classrooms and the libraries [Suzanne Dadolle: Everywhere.] and places they worked, and also they had so little to eat [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] that um I-I think you would be impressed [Suzanne Dadolle: Oh yes.] by our boys who are

very comfortable [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] and um in a place like Princeton, have a great deal [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] uh which um [Suzanne Dadolle clears throat] makes it easy to work. [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] Very easy.

[Suzanne Dadolle:] And I said it was uh -- uh we when with a friend-with friends of us to take back a French boy coming back after the weekend to Princeton, and I told him "If you don't work well in the college, we must- [laughs] we must, what do you say --" [ER: Take you away.] [Elliott Roosevelt: "Whip you.]"

[Suzanne Dadolle, ER and Elliott laugh]

[ER:] Well, I'd-I went to both the Sorbonne and to Lyon, to the university there, [Suzanne Dadolle: I see.] and I was uh very much impressed [Suzanne Dadolle: Mhm. Yes.] by the hardships that the students [Suzanne Dadolle: Oh yes.] were going through, and I don't wonder that you felt that. That's your first American college? [Suzanne Dadolle: Mhm.] Well as you go to other places -- do you go to Boston?

[Suzanne Dadolle:] Uh I hope, I-I-I think so, yes ma'am.

[ER:] Well if you go to Boston on your trip, [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] you have to go out to Harvard, [Suzanne Dadolle: Mhm.] and if you go to New Haven, [Suzanne Dadolle: Mhm.] you have to go to Yale, when you're --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Some of the most beautiful of the campuses in America are those on the west coast.

[ER:] Oh yes. [Suzanne Dadolle overlapping: I know.] In-in the Midwest even, [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] if you go to um uh Chicago [Suzanne Dadolle: Mhm. We go, I think to there.] There's a-there's a very fine university there. [Suzanne Dadolle: Yes.] It's not such a fine -- I don't know, I don't know. The campus I don't remember so well.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] The University of Chicago? It's very fine.

[ER:] But it's a very fine university.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mm.

[Suzanne Dadolle:] Well that I feel uh in America immediately I arrive, that's uh -- you see, I feel in holidays, because uh the atmosphere is um lighter than in Europe actually. And it seems to me that I was in holidays because I felt safe, you see?

[ER:] Yes, yes.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mother, I'm afraid that our time is running out but-for this part of our program, so I'm afraid we'll have to call the interview to an end.

[ER:] Well then, I must thank you again for coming and tell you what a pleasure it was to have you with us today.

[Suzanne Dadolle:] Thank you very much, Madame, to receive me and I am very, very proud to um speak with you, uh with your American friends.

[ER:] Thank you, Miss Dadolle.

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File(s): 72-30(106)

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First Edit: Jay Fondin and Isabel Maier

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