

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. at the naval air station, where he visited the U.S.S. *Albany*, a guided missile cruiser on which his son-in-law, Lt. (jg.) Dwight David Eisenhower

II, USN, was serving.

In his remarks, the President referred to Capt. Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr., USN, of Norfolk, Va.

47 Remarks Following a Meeting With the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, Bal Harbour, Florida.

February 19, 1973

IN THE course of this meeting, I covered a number of subjects of mutual interest, but as far as a briefing is concerned, I will leave that to President Meany. I came here as the guest of the AFL-CIO, and as I understand, he will be meeting the press at 12 o'clock.

I will only say that I was very appreciative of the reception that we had, and I also want to say on one point, if I could, that Mr. Meany—I think I could cover this—particularly in addition to discussing various other economic issues and the like,

mentioned the fact that the support that most of the leaders of organized labor gave to our program of national defense and to achieving a peace with honor in Vietnam was indispensable in achieving that peace which we are now seeing in such vivid terms as our POW's return. I expressed appreciation to the leaders of organized labor for that support.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. at the Americana Hotel.

48 Informal Remarks at the Jackie Gleason Inverrary Classic, Lauderhill, Florida. *February 19, 1973*

MR. GLEASON. Ladies and gentlemen, of course this is an extraordinary honor which we are very appreciative of, and especially because of the weather. I am going to make this very, very brief because the President is standing here in just a jacket, and it is raining.

We have introduced him to the celebrities that we have here. He was very gracious to speak to each one of them at length, and now I would like him to say a few words to you people.

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you very much. Jackie, I am delighted to be here at the opening of this tournament. I understand you don't start playing until Thursday,

except for the celebrities. Do you call that playing?

MR. GLEASON. Only when the girls are here.

THE PRESIDENT. Am I in the right place? I thought this was a golf tournament.

I want to say just a few words, if I could, about my favorite charity, and in mentioning my favorite charity I don't mean there aren't many others that are just as worthwhile. But before I was elected in 1968, I was the chairman of the board of the Boys' Clubs of America. It is a wonderful organization, one million boys in 1,000 clubs all across this country.

As a result of those clubs which this golf tournament will help fund in the years ahead, those one million boys, instead of being on the streets, have a place to play, in a Boys' Club. And so if you all come, remember you are supporting a fine charity and we express our appreciation for that.

Now, I am not through.

MR. GLEASON. My, you are loquacious.

THE PRESIDENT. Second, I want to express appreciation to celebrities. I do not mean simply those who play golf, and they, of course, deserve your applause. We expect the golfers to be here, because there is money at the end, but the celebrities—I see people like Jackie Gleason here, and Fred MacMurray, Mike Douglas, Joe DiMaggio, and the others. These celebrities are people who are here contributing their time. They help to draw the gallery a bit, but they don't only come here, but wherever there is a good cause, anyplace in America, believe me, you can call on these people and the others who will be participating in this tournament and they will come and contribute their time. I think the celebrities deserve a hand because they won't get one at the end of the tournament.

And now I want to say a word to my

Florida friends. I saw just a little bit of the end of the [Andy Williams-San Diego Open] tournament in San Diego yesterday at Torrey Pines. It was a beautiful day, 75 degrees, the sun was shining. But I had been in San Clemente—just a little way from Torrey Pines—a few days before, and it was just about like this, except it was a little colder.

So for those who are, as I am, a very great enthusiast for Florida and also an enthusiast for California, just let me say, when the tournament opens, the sun will be shining, and it will be a very safe tournament. It will be a very safe tournament because I have ordered the Vice President to be in Washington all next week.

Thank you.

MR. GLEASON. In conclusion, may I say that if he brought home the POW's, the sun will shine tomorrow.

NOTE: The exchange of remarks began at 12:15 p.m. at the Inverrary Golf and Country Club, site of the annual golf tournament for the benefit of the Boys' Clubs of America.

In his concluding remarks, the President was alluding to an incident that occurred in January 1971 at the Bing Crosby National Pro-Am golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif., where a ball hit by Vice President Agnew accidentally struck professional golfer Doug Sanders.

49 Informal Exchange With Reporters About a Meeting With the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO.

February 19, 1973

REPORTER. How did you feel about your meeting with George Meany and the labor leaders?

THE PRESIDENT. It was a very constructive meeting. We had an opportunity to talk not only to the executive meeting

but the presidents of some of the international unions. It was an opportunity to tell them what the attitudes of the Administration would be on the subjects of major concern to them and to most of the American people—on questions like trade,