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Shell Oil Terminal Dedicated at Searsport

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[transcript begins]

DON MACWILLIAMS: Well, sports fans, believe it or not, this is coming to you from a train. We’re on our way to Searsport, where the new Searsport terminal of the Shell Oil Company, part of multi-million-dollar expansion program of the oil industry is going to be dedicated, at least it was, this afternoon, this is night, you know, on our Shell program, three nights a week over this station. And we have three of the prominent Shell people here on the train. We’re going to talk with them. First of all, I’d like to talk with the Marketing Vice President of the Shell Oil Company, Mr. James G. “Doc” Jordan, and he’s quite a boy, athletic wise, aren’t you, sir?

JORDAN: Well, I wouldn’t attest to that, Don, after all, I come from the old state of Missou, and I can’t brag about our football exploits this year, but I have great hopes that there will be another year when it will be far better than it has been this year. In fact, I feel that in some respects we can contrast this year with that of the all Progress Week a success, and we are here, among other things, with a view of telling the public the story of what Oil Progress Week is and how it affects them. More particularly, while we can talk about the great assets of the industry, really the chief asset are the two million people who work directly in the industry and most specifically, the 185,000 dealers and the 35,000 jobbers that serve primarily the consuming public, and I think it’s to that group that we owe a great debt of gratitude and that the public should highly respect this qualified, capable group of independent businessmen.

MACWILLIAMS: Well, thank you very, very much Doc, and I hope that your Missouri team does well next year. But here’s a more successful boy, at least in college way. He’s a Dartmouth man and Dartmouth beat Army next week, didn’t he? This is Mr. Ralph Carry, the Boston Marketing Division Manager of Shell.

CARRY: Well we beat them last week, and I must admit that I think it’s a far better team than Missouri has this year. You know, I feel quite at home here in Bangor today. In fact, I feel quite at home in most parts of New England since I was born and brought up in Newburyport, Massachusetts, which of course isn’t the state of Maine, but it still is a nice little city. Dartmouth, being in New Hampshire, isn’t in Maine, but that’s still a pretty good little place, too. You know, I feel particularly at home here because I used to play baseball up here years ago and played on the Island Falls team in Maine. Also played in Bar Harbor, Bangor, Brewer, and Houlton, Patten, and Island Falls where the team had its base at that time.
So you see I really am at home in Maine, my mother was born at Eastport, grandmother and great-grandmother.

MACWILLIAMS: Here we have a true Maine boy, fans. What do you have to say about the Shell Oil Company in New England?

CARRY: Well, I think Shell is very well represented in New England, and particularly in the state of Maine where I believe we have roughly ten percent of the business in this great state. We think that’s a good stake in the state of Maine and is one of the reasons why we’ve improved our facilities at Searsport.

MACWILLIAMS: Well, thank you very much, Ralph Carry, Boston Marketing Division Manager of the Shell Oil Company. Now we come to District Manager of Maine, here he is, Mr. Bill Ramsay, Headquarters [inaudible]. Now what do you have to say, Bill?

RAMSAY: Well Don, the other men spoke of football and their interest in that. I happen to be a Hoosier who graduated Indiana University. I don’t have too much pride football wise, nowadays, but when it comes to football, hope springs eternal. There’s always another season, and even though Michigan beat us badly last week, we still have hope even for the balance of this season.

MACWILLIAMS: And how about oil here in Maine, Bill?

RAMSAY: Well, as you said in the beginning, Don, this Searsport Terminal of ours is our latest link in our distribution system. We have spent many millions of dollars, the industry has, in improving the distribution of oil products. We feel that the addition of this new ocean terminal will contribute to the welfare of the state of Maine and assure the constant flow of products for our jobber and dealer organization, particularly in the northern section of Maine which the Searsport terminal will serve.

MACWILLIAMS: Well thank you very, very much, Bill Ramsay, District Manager of Maine in the Shell Oil Company.

[There is a second of silence, then the sound of a train chugging along.]

BILL MINCHER: In the middle of Oil Progress Week, a new development of the Shell Oil Company serves to point out the slogan that Petroleum Means Progress. This new development is the dedication of a huge terminal that Shell has built at Searsport, Maine. This is Bill Mincher, speaking to you by transcription from a special Bangor and Aroostook train that is taking the party for a tour of the site of this new terminal. In the next few minutes, WLBZ will tell you about the dedication ceremonies and also attempt to give you an idea of the size and capacity of this newest demonstration of oil progress. Regardless of the fact that is actually is this place that we’re going to examine, we want to talk first to plant superintendent Charles H. Tremble of Searsport. Mr. Tremble can you tell us exactly the idea of this tour this afternoon, just what’s going to happen?

TREMBLE: Well the general idea is this is a special train leaving Bangor, we’re now on our way to Searsport to have the dedication ceremonies at their new plant. We’ll have a brief ceremony at the gate and a ribbon cutting by our vice-president and then we will have a tour of the plant.
MINCHER: Thank you very much, Mr. Tremble. Also on the train among the many honored guests and dignitaries attending this interesting tour this afternoon is Senator Owen Brewster of Dexter. Senator, I understand that you’re here today representing not only yourself but Governor Frederick Payne, is that right, sir?

BREWSTER: Yes, the Governor was unable to get over here and asked me to convey his greetings to the great group that you’ve gathered here for this most significant occasion. I was very happy I could be in the state for the day and be able to participate in this very promising development.

MINCHER: I think we’re going to see very interesting sights later on this afternoon, sir, and your remarks at the dedication will be heard by the folks listening to the program later on.

BREWSTER: Well, it’s very nice to be a guest for this affair, a very lovely day, this is just Maine weather, of course.

MINCHER: That it is. The only trouble is it doesn’t last long enough.

BREWSTER: Uh, huh.

[A few seconds of silence.]

MINCHER: We’re at Searsport now, ladies and gentlemen, where a very many dignitaries of the Shell Oil Company and also of government here in Maine and nationally. We have Senator Owen Brewster, senator form the state of Maine, and I’m going to ask him one big question. Some political observers, Mr. Brewster, say that Mr. Taft has prematurely announced his candidacy for president. What do you think about that, Senator Brewster?

BREWSTER: I think in this instance, his action is both fully warranted and very desirable as a result of the way the situation’s been shaping up. I think the more rapidly the campaign unfolds, the American people have the opportunity to learn what it’s all about, the better it will mean for them and for the country. That’s why I welcome this announcement, in fact I constituted myself a committee of one on the public safety last spring to try and persuade Mr. Taft to announce himself and I am profoundly gratified that he’s now become a candidate and you’re going to see one of the greatest campaigns we’ve ever seen in American history.

MINCHER: Thank you very, very much, Senator Brewster.

[A few seconds of silence, perhaps skipping of the record.]

TREMBLE: [First portion inaudible] … the people joined our Vice-President Doc Jordan, cutting the ribbon and is dedicating the Searsport Terminal. Just before I do that, may I caution you, please do not smoke after you pass the gate. It isn’t safe. And now it’s my pleasure to present, to welcome, the honorable Owen Brewster, United States Senator.

[Audience applauds.]
BREWSTER: I’m very happy for so good an excuse to get away from the Washington madhouse for a day and be here with you. I don’t want to spoil your day, but at just this moment, 3 o’clock, the tax conferees are going in session to see how much more they’ll jack your taxes. [Some in audience laugh.] I was very glad to escape for a few minutes today and not be responsible for what might happen. I was happy to get in on this dedication. I talked with the Governor in Washington yesterday and in Portland today and he wanted me to convey his very keen regret that he couldn’t be here with us. He said he had provided the weather for the occasion which I’m sure that’s a [job?] the others will appreciate. This is a perfectly typical Maine day. Out in California where he comes from, you know they have only two kinds of weather, perfect and unusual. We only have one kind, it’s always perfect just like this and the flower garden that Maine is today, I have never seen anything anywhere in the world more marvelous.

I’m particularly happy to be able to participate with Shell. I’ll let you in on a secret. I not only had a free ride down here on the Bangor and Aroostook today, Drew Pearson please note [audience laughs], but two weeks ago, I had a free plane ride in Venezuela in a Shell plane from Maracaibo to Caracas with the manager Mr. McKerney who is a good American boy down there, right in the Shell operation. I was perfectly impartial, because Standard flew me, also. So, I discovered a little something of the vast and far-flung oil operations of our country and of our friends across the seas. I’ve been over in the Middle East, too, and seen the operations there where they are carrying on. Petroleum is the key to our modern civilization whether or not we win or lose wars. The petroleum war is the keystone to the security of the next 25 years. After that, the atom bomb may take over, but we still need the petroleum boys. That’s why I’m glad to be acquainted with them, to know what they’re doing, and they are a glorious example of what free enterprise can do, because that’s what they’ve done around the world. And whether or not that’s going to survive is the issue of the present, but I must not get into politics.

[Although it is clear that Senator Brewster’s remarks continued, the recording ends.]

[transcript ends]