
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

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1931 April 1

Albany, NY - Radio Address re Conservation

RADIO ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 1 AT 7 P.M. - 1931

CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:

We are nearing the close of another legislative session, which inevitably brings with it a flood of matters that must have attention and requires intense application to legislation covering the whole range of the state's activities. But it is a genuine pleasure to me to turn for a few moments from all of that to talk to the people to whom all of us here at the Capitol are responsible; especially so to speak on a subject so important to us and so intimately associated with the future happiness of all who inhabit this Empire State.

Conservation is a word that means at least something to all of you. Broadly speaking, its implications of saving and protecting what we own that is of genuine worth, whether of wealth, of health or of happiness, is inclusive enough to take in all the

functions of government. [If we speak tonight of the word in a somewhat narrower sense, it is only slightly so. For the functions that are gathered together under what is known as the Conservation Department of our State government, do touch very closely all of these three things - wealth and health and happiness. [We use the word conservation particularly with reference to the conserving - the saving, the protecting and the increasing - of the physical resources nature has provided within our state's boundaries. We consider how to make these resources most useful in advancing the health and happiness of those who live here now and how also to hand them on as a heritage to our descendants, ~~at the very least unimpaired; at the~~ ^{yes,} ~~best,~~ augmented and increased and made more available and useful to our descendants.]

[We speak of material values that can be appraised on a balance sheet; we speak of no less material values in the protection and conservation of health; we speak of facilities for outdoor recreation and enjoy-

ment, and, not least of all, ~~we~~ speak of aesthetic values that will have much to do with shaping the future character - ~~the~~ idealism - of our citizenship.]

The State of New York has embarked upon a program of making good use of good things that have been too much neglected in the past. Our state is a great factory of the implements of what we ~~are pleased to~~ call civilization. But we - you and I and all of us - don't want it to be exclusively a factory. We want it to be a land rich in opportunities for joyful living. And we have found that there are no artificial joys to replace the natural benefits of wooded hills and fertile valleys, clear mountain air, forests peopled with protected wild life, sparkling lakes and rippling, unpolluted streams.

The green slopes of our forested hills lured our first settlers and furnished them the materials of a happy life. They and their descendants were a little careless with that asset. Those who found abundance in New York State were no different from the rest. Once there was a great wealth of timber here. Now we have

great barren areas where productive forests once stood. But modern progress in forestry and agriculture has conferred an opportunity on us. Intensive modern farming goes to the fertile plains of broad extent and rules out stubborn acres stolen from the forests. Annually hundreds of thousands of acres in this state are being abandoned for farm use. We propose to put these abandoned acres back as fast as we can into their natural and profitable use -- the use for which nature intended them - of growing trees for us. Our Conservation Department is engaged in that work. It is acquiring at low cost large areas of land suited for tree culture but now unused and planting them to new forests as fast as they are acquired. With the approval by the people in this year's election of a constitutional amendment which has twice been passed by the Legislature, a new and enlarged reforestation program will be set up, under which it will be possible to acquire and to plant to forest a million acres of idle lands by the year 1944. The Hewitt amendment provides a

continuing series of appropriations for this work which will amount in all to twenty million dollars.

To be spent over a period of 10 years
This is one phase, perhaps the most important, of the forest program. But there are others. At this session there has been enacted the law extending the border line of the Adirondack Park until now it embraces 4,604,000 acres, making it the greatest public park in the world. In it are approximately two million acres of state-owned land, constituting the perpetual forest preserve for the protection of the mountain watersheds and the regulating of the stream flow out of that great area and also to protect it as a great recreation ground for all the people of the state. In truth, as a recreation ground, enjoyment of it is not by any means limited to the people of this state. Thousands come to it from all over the United States and in fact from all of the world, for it is one of the world's great natural playgrounds and health resorts - larger indeed than the great Yellowstone Park itself.

Realizing this, the state through the Conservation Department, has been active in making it, and the similar park of 617,000 acres in the Catskills, more and more available and useful to tourists, campers and mountain hikers. This is being done by the building of roads, the marking of trails, the circulation of maps and detailed information and the provision of camp sites and rest places.

Closely related to this forest recreational work is the state's ever-growing program of park extension and improvement. Under the general direction of the ten state park commissions grouped together in the State Council of Parks more than sixty separate park areas exclusive of those embraced in the forest preserve region are being developed, extended and improved. These parks extend from Niagara Falls to the tip of Long Island and they embrace hundreds of scenic camp sites, scores of bathing beaches, picnic grounds, improved parkways and other facilities for rest and relaxation convenient to the millions who live in our cities as well as the

remotest rural dwellers who also seek beauty and variety in nature. The great Long Island park development, The Palisades Interstate park and the Taconic system with their great connecting park highways are among the important projects under development for the most densely populated eastern portion of the state, but the facilities of the Finger Lakes and Allegany regions and of other sections are not being neglected.

A feature of our conservation work of great interest to me and of paramount importance to that great group of lovers of nature - the sportsmen who love to carry rod and gun into the woods - is the protection and development of the wild life of forest, lake and stream. It may seem strange that the state which has the greatest population in the union and the greatest number of city dwellers is also among the leading game states; yet this is the fact. More skins of fur-bearing animals are taken in the state than in Alaska. We have deer in great numbers, bears and wildcats, besides the smaller fur-bearing animals. There are pheasants and ducks in considerable

abundance, geese, quail and woodcock. The state is actively engaged in propagating pheasants and recently the Conservation Department has undertaken a new project by which the services of farm boys and girls are being enlisted, on a basis profitable to them, to increase the pheasant population. Studies are being made by an expert attached to the Department to bring back, if possible, the ruffed grouse as an important game bird, and there is excellent prospect of success for this venture. The state has established refuges for game birds and animals and the Department is now engaged in a study with the most competent authorities as advisers on how to improve the location of these refuges and how to provide for the hunters of the future public hunting grounds adjacent to the game refuges, so that the acquisition of private preserves and the extension of posted ground will not bar the average sportsman who is not rich, from attractive hunting grounds.

The state's fish hatcheries and rearing ponds are

constantly supplying fresh stocks of fish to streams and lakes and there is in progress a complete biological survey of the waters of the state under the direction of the Department's biologist and with the co-operation of scientists from colleges of several states. This survey is to be used as a guide in the effective restocking of the waters of the state and the care of the fish so placed.

Conservation of water and water power resources is another activity of the state in which the Conservation Department works in coordination with other departments through the Water Power and Control Commission. Among its enterprises is river regulation by storage reservoirs. [Under its direction there was built and placed in service last year the great Sacandaga river reservoir, the largest artificial body of water in the state, which stores flood waters of the Sacandaga to be liberated during periods of low water to maintain the level of the Hudson river. This great reservoir has a total capacity of 283

billions of gallons and has already proved itself of immense value in augmenting the flow of the Hudson during a drought period.] The Commission supervises drainage and water supply projects so as to guarantee equitable use of the state's water supplies and to protect them from wasteful exploitation.

Commissioner Morgenthau has been wise and fortunate in obtaining the advice and enthusiastic cooperation of many citizens of the state not in official life in furthering his plans for serving the best interests of all the people of the State through the activities of his Department. Especially has the advice of the Conservation Advisory Council which he inaugurated since he came into office the first of this year, been of the very greatest helpfulness. I speak of this because it seems to me to be a type of the close cooperation between the people through voluntary bodies and their regular

employees of the state's service which promises much for wise and efficient administration of their affairs.

I wish to bespeak tonight for the Conservation Department the same disinterested cooperation from all who hear my voice, and to assure them that it is my desire and that of Commissioner Morgenthau to serve their highest interests and the interests of those who come after all of us to the full extent of our powers.

[April 1, 1931]

18.

Address by Governor Roosevelt to be delivered over the radio Wednesday evening, April 1, at 7 P.M.

Citizens of the State of New York:

We are nearing the close of another legislative session, which inevitably brings with it a flood of matters that must have attention and requires intense application to legislation covering the whole range of the state's activities. But it is a genuine pleasure to me to turn for a few moments from all of that to talk to the people to whom all of us here at the capitol are responsible; especially so to speak on a subject so important to us and so intimately associated with the future happiness of all who inhabit this Empire State.

Conservation is a word that means at least something to all of you. Broadly speaking, its implications of saving and protecting what we own that is of genuine worth, whether of wealth, of health or of happiness, is inclusive enough to take in all the functions of government. If we speak tonight of the word in a somewhat narrower sense, it is only slightly so. For the functions that are gathered together under what is known as the Conservation Department of our State government, do touch very closely all of these three things - wealth and health and happiness. We use the word conservation particularly with reference to the conserving - the saving, the protecting and the increasing - of the physical resources nature has provided within our state's boundaries. We consider how to make these resources most useful in advancing the health

and happiness of those who live here now and how also to hand them on as a heritage to our descendants, at the very least unimpaired; at the best, augmented and increased and made more available and useful to our descendants.

We speak of material values that can be appraised on a balance sheet; we speak of no less material values in the protection and conservation of health; we speak of facilities for outdoor recreation and enjoyment, and, not least of all, we speak of aesthetic values that will have much to do with shaping the future character - the idealism - of our citizenship.

The State of New York has embarked upon a program of making good use of good things that have been too much neglected in the past. Our state is a great factory of the implements of what we are pleased to call civilization. But we - you and I and all of us - don't want it to be exclusively a factory. We want it to be a land rich in opportunities for joyful living. And we have found that there are no artificial joys to replace the natural benefits of wooded hills and fertile valleys, clear mountain air, forests peopled with protected wild life, sparkling lakes and rippling,, unpolluted streams.

The green slopes of our forested hills lured our first settlers and furnished them the materials of a happy life. They and their descendants were a little careless with that asset. Those who found abundance in New York State were no different from the rest. Once there was a great wealth of timber here. Now we have great barren areas where productive forests once stood. But modern progress in forestry and agriculture has conferred an opportunity on us. Intensive modern farming goes to the fertile plains of broad extent and

rules out stubborn acres stolen from the forests. Annually hundreds of thousands of acres in this state are being abandoned for farm use. We propose to put these abandoned acres back as fast as we can into their natural and profitable use - the use for which nature intended them - of growing trees for us. Our Conservation Department is engaged in that work. It is acquiring at low cost large areas of land suited for tree culture but now unused and planting them to new forests as fast as they are acquired. With the approval by the people in this year's election of a constitutional amendment which has twice been passed by the Legislature, a new and enlarged reforestation program will be set up, under which it will be possible to acquire and to plant to forest a million acres of idle lands by the year 1944. The Hewitt amendment provides a continuing series of appropriations for this work which will amount in all to twenty million dollars.

This is one phase, perhaps the most important, of the forest program. But there are others. At this session there has been enacted the law extending the border line of the Adirondack Park until now it embraces 4,604,000 acres, making it the greatest public park in the world. In it are approximately two million acres of state-owned land, constituting the perpetual forest preserve for the protection of the mountain watersheds and the regulating of the stream flow out of that great area and also to protect it as a great recreation ground for all the people of the state. In truth, as a recreation ground, enjoyment of it is not by any means limited to the people of this state. Thousands come to it from all over the United States and in fact from all of the

world, for it is one of the world's great natural playgrounds and health resorts - larger indeed than the great Yellowstone Park itself.

Realizing this, the state through the Conservation Department, has been active in making it, and the similar park of 617,000 acres in the Catskills, more and more available and useful to tourists, campers and mountain hikers. This is being done by the building of roads, the marking of trails, the circulation of maps and detailed information and the provision of camp sites and rest places.

Closely related to this forest recreational work is the state's ever-growing program of park extension and improvement. Under the general direction of the ten state park commissions grouped together in the State Council of Parks more than sixty separate park areas exclusive of those embraced in the forest preserve region are being developed, extended and improved. These parks extend from Niagara Falls to the tip of Long Island and they embrace hundreds of scenic camp sites, scores of bathing beaches, picnic grounds, improved parkways and other facilities for rest and relaxation convenient to the millions who live in our cities as well as the remotest rural dwellers who also seek beauty and variety in nature. The great Long Island park development and the Taconic system with their great connecting park highways are among the important projects under development for the most densely populated eastern portion of the state, but the facilities of the Finger Lakes and Allegany regions and of other sections are not being neglected.

A feature of our conservation work of great interest to me and of paramount importance to that great group of lovers of nature - the sportsmen who love to carry road and gun into the woods - is the protection and development of the wild life of forest, lake and stream. It may seem strange that the state which has the greatest population in the union and the greatest number of city dwellers is also among the leading game states; yet this is the fact. More skins of fur-bearing animals are taken in the state than in Alaska. We have deer in great numbers, bears and wildcats, besides the smaller fur-bearing animals. There are pheasants and ducks in considerable abundance, geese, quail and woodcock. The state is actively engaged in propagating pheasants and recently the Conservation Department has undertaken a new project by which the services of farm boys and girls is being enlisted on a basis profitable to them to increase the pheasant population. Studies are being made by an expert attached to the Department to bring back, if possible, the ruffed grouse as an important game bird and there is excellent prospect of success for this venture. The state has established refuges for game birds and animals and the Department is now engaged in a study with the most competent authorities as advisers on how to improve the location of these refuges and how to provide for the hunters of the future public hunting grounds adjacent to the game refuges, so that the acquisition of private preserves and the extension of posted ground will not bar the average sportsman who is not rich from attractive hunting grounds.

The state's fish hatcheries and rearing ponds are constantly supplying fresh stocks of fish to streams and lakes and there is in progress a complete biological survey of the waters of the state under the direction of the Department's biologist and with the co-operation of scientists from colleges of several states. This survey is to be used as a guide in the effective restocking of the waters of the state and the care of the fish so placed.

Conservation of water and water power resources is another activity of the state in which the Conservation Department works in co-ordination with other departments through the Water Power and Control Commission. Among its enterprises is river regulation by storage reservoirs. Under its direction there was built and placed in service last year the great Sacandaga river reservoir, the largest artificial body of water in the state, which stores flood waters of the Sacandaga to be liberated during periods of low water to maintain the level of the Hudson river. This great reservoir has a total capacity of 283 billions of gallons and has already proved itself of immense value in augmenting the flow of the Hudson during a drought period. The Commission supervises drainage and water supply projects so as to guarantee equitable use of the state's water supplies and to protect them from wasteful exploitation.

Commissioner Morgenthau has been wise and fortunate in obtaining the advice and enthusiastic co-operation of many citizens of the state not in official life in furthering his plans for serving the best interests of all the people of the state through the activities of his Department. Especially,

has the advice of the Conservation Advisory Council which he inaugurated since he came into office the first of this year, been of the very greatest helpfulness. I speak of this because it seems to me to be a type of the close co-operation between the people through voluntary bodies and their regular employees of the state's service which promises much for wise and efficient administration of their affairs.

I wish to bespeak tonight for the Conservation Department the same disinterested co-operation from all who hear my voice and to assure them that it is my desire and that of Commissioner Morgenthau to serve their highest interests and the interests of those who come after all of us to the full extent of our powers.

GUERNSEY T. CROSS

Secretary to the Governor

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

RADIO ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 1, 1931, 7 P.M.

Citizens of the State of New York:

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The State of New York has embarked upon a program of making good use of good things that have been too much neglected in the past. Our state is a great factory of the implements of what we are pleased to call civilization. But we - you and I and all of us -- don't want it to be exclusively a factory. We want it to be a land rich in opportunities for joyful living. And we have found that there are no artificial joys to replace the natural benefits of wooded hills and fertile valleys, clear mountain air, forests peopled with protected wild life, sparkling lakes and rippling, uncollected streams,

The green slopes of our forested hills lured our first settlers and furnished them the materials of a happy life. They and their descendants were a little careless with that asset. Those who found abundance in New York State were no different from the rest. Once there was a great wealth of timber here. Now we have great barren areas where productive forests once stood. But

modern progress in forestry and agriculture has conferred an opportunity on us. Intensive modern farming goes to the fertile plains of broad extent and rules out stubborn acres stolen from the forests. Annually hundreds of thousands of acres in this state are being abandoned for farm use. We propose to put these abandoned acres back as fast as we can into their natural and profitable use - the use for which nature intended them - of growing trees for us. Our Conservation Department is engaged in that work. It is acquiring at low cost large areas of land suited for tree culture but now unused and planting them to new forests as fast as they are acquired. With the approval by the people in this year's election of a constitutional amendment which has twice been passed by the Legislature, a new and enlarged reforestation program will be set up, under which it will be possible to acquire and to plant to forest a million acres of idle lands by the year 1944. The Hewitt amendment provides a continuing series of appropriations for this work which will amount in all to twenty million dollars.

This is one phase, perhaps the most important, of the forest program. But there are others. At this session there has been enacted the law extending the border line of the Adirondack Park until now it embraces 4,804,000 acres, making it the greatest public park in the world. In it are approximately two million acres of state-owned land, constituting the perpetual forest preserve for the protection of the mountain watersheds and the regulating of the stream flow out of that great area and also to protect it as a great recreation ground for all the people of the state. In truth, as a recreation ground, enjoyment of it is not by any means limited to the people of this state. Thousands come to it from all over the United States and in fact from all of the world, for it is one of the world's great natural playgrounds and health resorts - larger indeed than the great Yellowstone Park itself.

Realizing this, the state through the Conservation Department, has been active in making it, and the similar park of 617,000 acres in the Catskills, more and more available and useful to tourists, campers and mountain hikers. This is being done by the building of roads, the marking of trails, the circulation of maps and detailed information and the provision of camp sites and rest places.

Closely related to this forest recreational work is the state's ever-growing program of park extension and improvement. Under the general direction of the ten state park commissions grouped together in the State Council of Parks more than sixty separate park areas exclusive of those embraced in the forest preserve region are being developed, extended and improved. These parks extend from Niagara Falls to the tip of Long Island and they embrace hundreds of scenic camp sites, scores of bathing beaches, picnic grounds, improved parkways and other facilities for rest and relaxation convenient to the millions who live in our cities as well as the remotest rural dwellers who also seek beauty and variety in nature. The great Long Island park development, the Fallisades Interstate park, and the Taconic system with their great connecting park highways are among the important projects under development for the most densely populated eastern portion of the state, but the facilities of the Finger Lakes and Allegany regions and of other sections are not being neglected.

A feature of our conservation work of great interest to me and of paramount importance to that great group of lovers of nature - the sportsmen who love to carry rod and gun into the woods - is the protection and development of the wild life of forest, lake and stream. It may seem strange that the state which has the greatest population in the union and the greatest number of city dwellers is also among the leading game states; yet this is the fact. More skins of fur-bearing animals are taken in the state than in Alaska. We have deer in great numbers, bears and wildcats, besides the smaller fur-bearing animals. There are pheasants and ducks in considerable abundance, geese, quail and

woodcock. The state is actively engaged in propagating pheasants and recently the Conservation Department has undertaken a new project by which the services of farm boys and girls are being enlisted, on a basis profitable to them, to increase the pheasant population. Studies are being made by an expert attached to the Department to bring back, if possible, the ruffed grouse as an important game bird and there is excellent prospect of success for this venture. The state has established refuges for game birds and animals and the Department is now engaged in a study with the most competent authorities as advisers on how to improve the location of these refuges and how to provide for the hunters of the future public hunting grounds adjacent to the game refuges, so that the acquisition of private preserves and the extension of posted ground will not bar the average sportsman who is not rich from attractive hunting grounds.

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Radio Address, Albany, April 1, 1931

Conservation of the State's Natural Resources

Citizens of the State of New York:

8.716
We are nearing the close of another legislative session, which inevitably brings with it a flood of matters that must have attention and requires intense application to legislation covering the whole range of the State's activities. But it is a genuine pleasure to me to turn for a few moments from all of that to talk to the people to whom all of us here at the Capitol are responsible; especially so to speak on a subject so important to us and so intimately associated with the future happiness of all who inhabit this Empire State.

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Realizing this, the State through the Conservation Department, has been active in making it, and the similar park of 617,000 acres in the Catskills, more and more available and useful to tourists campers and mountain hikers. This is being done by the building of roads, the marking of trails, the circulation of maps and detailed information and the provision of camp sites and rest places.

Closely related to this forest recreational work is the State's ever-growing program of park extension and improvement. Under the general direction of the ten State park commissions grouped together in the State Council of Parks more than sixty separate park areas exclusive of those embraced in the forest preserve region are being developed, extended and improved. These parks extend from Niagara Falls to the tip of Long Island and they embrace hundreds of scenic camp sites, scores of bathing beaches, picnic grounds, improved parkways and other facilities for rest and relaxation convenient to the millions who live in our cities as well as the remotest rural dwellers who also seek beauty and variety in nature. The great Long Island park development, the Palisades Interstate Park, and the Taconic system with their great connecting park highways are among the important projects under development for the most densely populated eastern portion of the State, but the facilities of the Finger Lakes and Allegany regions and of other sections are not being neglected.

A feature of our conservation work of great interest to me and of paramount importance to that great group of lovers of nature—the sportsmen who love to carry rod and gun into the woods—is the protection and development of the wild life of forest, lake and stream. It may seem strange that the State which has the greatest population in the Union and the greatest number of city dwellers has the greatest population in the Union and yet this is the fact. More skins of fur-bearing animals are taken in the State than in Alaska. We have deer in great numbers, bears and wildcats, besides the smaller fur-bearing animals. There are pheasants and ducks in considerable abundance, geese, quail and woodcock. The State is actively engaged in propagating pheasants and recently the Conservation Department has undertaken a new project by which the services of farm boys and girls are being enlisted, on a basis profitable to them, to increase the pheasant population. Studies are being made by an expert attached to the Department to bring back, if possible, the ruffed grouse as an important game bird and there is excellent prospect of success for this venture. The State has established refuges for game birds and animals and the Department is now engaged in a study with the most competent authorities as advisers on how to improve the location of these refuges and how to provide for the hunters of the future public hunting grounds adjacent to the game refuges, so that the acquisition of private preserves and the extension of posted ground will not bar the average sportsman who is not rich from attractive hunting grounds.

The State's fish hatcheries and rearing ponds are constantly supplying fresh stocks of fish to streams and lakes and there is in progress a complete biological survey of the waters of the State under the direction of the Department's biologist and with the cooperation of scientists from colleges of several States. This survey is to be used as a guide in the effective re-stocking of the waters of the State and the care of the fish so placed.

Conservation of water and water power resources is another activity of the State in which the Conservation Department works in coordination with other departments through the Water Power and Control Commission. Among its enterprises is river regulation by storage reservoirs. Under its direction there was built and placed in service last year the great Sacandaga river reservoir, the largest artificial body of water in the State, which stores flood waters of the Sacandaga to be liberated during periods of low water to maintain the level of the Hudson river. This great reservoir has a total capacity of 283 billions of gallons and has already proved itself of immense value in augmenting the flow of the Hudson during a drought period. The Commission supervises drainage and water supply projects so as to guarantee equitable use of the State's water supplies and to protect them from wasteful exploitation.

Commissioner Morgenthau has been wise and fortunate in obtaining the advice and enthusiastic cooperation of many citizens of the State not in official life in furthering his plans for serving the best interests of all the people of the State through the activities of his department. Especially has the advice of the Conservation Advisory Council, which he inaugurated since he came into office the first of this year, been of the very greatest helpfulness. I speak of this because it seems to me to be a type of the close cooperation between the people through voluntary bodies and their regular employees of the State's services which promises much for wise and efficient administration of their affairs.

I wish to bespeak tonight for the Conservation Department the same disinterested cooperation from all who hear my voice and to assure them that it is my desire and that of Commissioner Morgenthau to serve their highest interests and the interests of those who come after all of us, to the full extent of our powers.
