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**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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**File No. 438a**

**1931 August 21**

**Ellenville, NY - Speech on State Government**

Judge Schiriock, my friends and neighbors of Ellenville:

I think that I could almost add to that, my cousins of Ulster County. My forebears were in part responsible for Ulster County, for this very good reason.

The first of my <sup>family</sup> ~~particular~~ name over here lived in New Amsterdam prior to 1650, married a young lady, started a family, and proceeded to die, whereupon the young lady "up and died" too, and the five small children became the wards of the Orphans' Court down in New York City in 1656. There was no money to bring them up and we do not know exactly how they did get brought up, except the fact that they did; and one of them, the oldest, when he was very young, was evidently a husky youngster because he was then sent up to what was known as Esopus, just after the massacre by the Indians, ~~and at that particular time there~~ was a grave question as to whether any white settlers could continue around the Esopus settlement.

The result was that with their own aid and that of some youngsters, including young Nicholas Roosevelt, a company <sup>called the Military Company</sup> ~~of what we will call the Boy Militia~~ was organized, and he, I take it, was a "buck private" in that company. And so, for several years, he helped the settlers around the Esopus in keeping the Indians a number of miles back in the mountains, and as far as we know, he lived in one of those numerous fine old stone houses in the neighborhood of the Village of Hurley.

He married an Ulster County girl, one of the Hardenberghs, ~~and his~~ sons were born here, and they married Ulster County girls, and in that way I feel a very very close kinship to a great many of the old Dutch families ~~ever there by New Paltz, with people, too,~~ throughout Ulster County. ~~and so~~ It is a very nice thing when I come

here to find that the toastmaster, Harry Schirick, is also known as "Dutch."

I asked my wife coming down in the car what I should talk about. She suggested state government. I said, "That's fine. I will try hard. Of course, to talk about it adequately will take about four hours, but I will try to compress it into two." She said, "Don't talk about state government."

I am glad ~~to know~~ my old friend, Dr. Thayer, has spoken about the Department of Correction. There was every reason in the world, beside the fact that I wanted him, why it was essential for this state that he be called back from his little sojourn in Maryland.

I am glad that Dr. Thayer has told you about one phase of the state government. Now, there are ~~lots and lots~~ <sup>many other</sup> ~~and lots~~ phases. Now, <sup>if</sup> I could give what might be called a simple keynote of our state government during the past <sup>8</sup> year, I would call it the keynote of trying to bring this state government up to date. You know, government probably moves, ~~as a general proposition~~, more slowly than civilization itself. New things, new methods of life, new influences on our lives, are nearly always one or two or three jumps ahead of government itself.

And so, three years ago we started in to bring the government up to date. Perhaps I should not put it that way. We had been given the machinery and the opportunity of bringing it up to date because of the far-sighted, ~~the~~ splendid vision, and the ~~fitting~~ <sup>fighting</sup> qualities of my predecessor, <sup>500.</sup> Alfred E. Smith.

~~And~~ <sup>there</sup> in carrying out this keynote, it seems to me that ~~we~~ has been one object in mind all the way through, no matter which department we have tried to bring up to date, and that is the ~~keynote~~ <sup>thought</sup> of humanity, of recognizing the

fact that state institutions, state departments, state activities, are really not far from the <sup>people themselves, that they are</sup> position, not ~~as~~ some super-government, something ~~that is~~ out of our ken, but rather something that intimately affects and touches our everyday lives:

~~now~~, We found, for example, that the prisons of this state were about seventy-five or eighty years out of date, and it has cost and is costing <sup>much</sup> a great deal of money and a great deal of effort and a great deal of thought to bring our prisons up to the needs of modern society and also the teachings of modern science. It is not so long ago that a prisoner was a prisoner, somebody merely to be punished, ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> now we have begun to understand, for it still is a new science, ~~we have begun to understand~~ that prisoners, after all, are human beings, and that the very great majority of them, instead of being merely punished and then turned loose to come back into our midst as our neighbors, ~~that they~~ <sup>properly</sup> should be turned back as good neighbors, able and ready to take their part in our community life. That's a big goal, and I think that we are now taking the first steps in this state towards that goal.

People come to me from all over the United States and ask to find out what our program is. Other states are copying, and the same thing is true about other social activities of the state. We have, for example, in the care of the state, over sixty thousand men and women and children who have some mental condition that requires care, and it is only in our generation that we have recognized the fact that mental trouble is in most cases merely a disease, and that in most cases that disease can be cured, ~~and~~ <sup>so</sup> we have started and are now bringing to completion the great

program for the care of these unfortunates, knowing that as the years go by we will cure a larger and larger percentage of people, whereas in the old days you and I know that when a person went into one of the state hospitals for the insane, the chances were ninety-nine to one that they would never come out. ~~That is~~ <sup>These hospitals are</sup> true of other things, too, the care of crippled children, the care of tubercular people, not only in the city and larger towns and villages, but also in the more remote rural sections of the state. In other words, we are constantly trying to keep up to and actually ~~to~~ lead government practice not only in our state but all through the Union.

I could go on and point out other phases in which we have tried to be socially minded. The great program of highways, and especially the great program of parks in the state, that were begun under Governor Smith, have been very greatly extended during the past three years, ~~and it is only within a couple of days that I have been talking with the Commissioner of Conservation about it.~~ It affects more and more people's lives every year. The Conservation Department has been re-organized since the first of this year. The Conservation Commissioner, Henry Morganthau, Jr., told me an interesting fact the other day. I said to him that I supposed, because of present conditions, because of <sup>all say,</sup> a decrease of prosperity, "I suppose that there are not nearly as many people using our state parks this year as there were last year." He said, "Why, you are absolutely wrong." ~~Warren~~ This year the records show that thirty per cent more people are camping out in state parks than last year.

And one of the things that I have asked him to do is to pay some attention to the Catskills. You know, people have talked a great deal not only in this state, but all

over, about the beauties and natural wonders of the Adirondacks. I am not going to say anything against the Adirondacks, but I am going to say this, and that is, there are not nearly enough people in this state and neighboring states that know of the Catskills. ~~I want to say this vast~~ acreage that the state controls, literally hundreds of thousands of acres, with magnificent views, with high altitudes, I want to say the state will open up the Catskills more than they are today for the use and benefit of the people <sup>of the State</sup> who own them.

I use these subjects as illustrations to point out to you, first, where your money is going, and secondly, the fact that your state government is trying to be of practical service. There are a number of other things which we are trying to do all the time. We are trying in one sense to experiment. Why not? If the spirit of the experiment is right, I say, let's try it. You know of the gentleman from New York who went out to Kansas in the clothing business and opened a clothing store out there, and sent for the insurance man and said, "I want a full line of coverage." The insurance man said, "All right. I will give you a fire policy, a water damage policy, and plate glass window policy, and burglary policy. That ought to take care of you all right." "Well," said the clothing man, "is that all you have got?" "No," the Kansas agent said, "most people here take out cyclone insurance." And the clothing man said, "All right, put me down for a full line of coverage of cyclone insurance." As the agent was walking out, the clothing man called him back and said to him in a whisper, "Tell me, my friend, how do you start a cyclone?"

We are having quite a bad storm. It has not reached cyclone proportions yet, but it is just possible that

the storm may get worse, and while all of us want to do our best not to start a cyclone, but to stop it, naturally, it is just as well for us, I think, throughout this state and throughout this country, to do what we can to take out cyclone insurance. One of the ways of taking out cyclone insurance is, of course, to take care of people who have been injured by the storm up to this present time, and I am sorry to say that there are not just thousands but hundreds of thousands in this state and millions in the country who have been hurt by the storm. There are many things that we can do to prevent storms like this from occurring in the days to come. There are still many experiments that we must make with our social order, with the economics of the nation.

For instance, I am working very hard, as I have for a couple of years, to get the Legislature of this state seriously to go into the question of local government. I am inclined to think that the state government is on a pretty fair basis, but I am inclined to think also that, taking it by and large, in the cities and the counties and some of the villages and many of the towns, we are spending altogether too much on the process of local government, and yet it seems very difficult to get politically minded people to change existing local government. There are many ways in which better financing of new and necessary public works and projects can be worked out; there are many ways in which the burden of local government which we are carrying, and incidentally, passing on in very large measure to our children, can be lightened.

And then there is this question of law, and though I am a lawyer, I hesitate somewhat to speak of the processes

of law in the presence of Walter Bliss and these other distinguished jurists, and yet, isn't it a fact that today law is a pretty expensive commodity for most of the people who have to use it, and most of the people who have to use it are not lawyers. I am wondering whether law is so sacred as to its forms and its procedure and its practice that we can afford to take it apart, to dissect it and look it over with care, and then put it together again with the purpose of having it function more quickly, more safely, and with more justice for the average American citizen. That is something that we are undertaking this year, ~~and in some~~  
~~where~~ I hope in every part of our state we shall have more co-operation, even with the things that are recommended that are something a little bit new.

I always think of the first week that I was up in Albany, in the year 1911, in the State Senate, and a Committee of the Legislature made its report to the Legislature. I was interested in the fact that this particular committee had been at work for five whole years. I said to myself, "Is it possible that any committee could work for five whole years? What was their assignment?" I found that their assignment was to revise ~~the Code~~, the Code of Civil Procedure. And I found that the reason they were appointed was that the Code of Civil Procedure contained fifty-five hundred sections, and it was hoped when they were appointed that this revision would very materially reduce the size of that Code and simplify it, and the committee, after five years of investigating fifty-five hundred sections, brought in the report that they had revised the Code from A to Z, and they had simplified it down to seven thousand two hundred sections!



But I was talking about storms. We can, by going after it with definite positive action do everything that we can humanly do to prevent storms like this from striking this nation again. But there is something that is more immediate, and that is the taking care of the thousands and hundreds of thousands within our State who this year, and especially, I fear, this coming winter, are going to be in want or distress of some kind or another. I have been thinking over the problem for some time. We got through this last winter, as you know, fairly well. The governments county, city, and town, did their best to create public work, to hire as many people as they possibly could, people who were out of work and otherwise would have been out of food and shelter, and then individual citizens throughout the state did their work magnificently in contributing to the various forms of charities. Unfortunately the surveys show that this coming winter those forms of assistance are going to be more sorely pressed than they were, even last year. In the first place, a great many of our communities have come to the point where they cannot borrow any more money. They are up to the debt limit, or they have not got any more useful public works that they can employ people on, and in the second place, a great many people who gave to private ~~ex~~ relief funds are unable to give as much now as they did then. On the other side of the picture, the amount <sup>of relief</sup> that has got to be extended is possibly greater than last year, and that is why, after thinking it over very, very, carefully, I came to the definite conclusion this morning, and announced that at the coming session of the Legislature I was going to ask the Legislature to take up the matter of state assistance for the relief of people

who have not got clothes to keep on their backs, who have not got shelter over their heads. When all is said and done, while we cannot go, in our civilization, to the point of saying that government owes every man and every family a job, I believe we can go to the point of saying that government cannot allow any of its citizens to starve!

It is perfectly true, as Judge Schirrick has said, that I have had lots of problems up in Albany. They have been three strenuous years, but on the whole, the old state is going along. We have kept the government up to date, and more than that, I think we have made this state, on the whole, ~~conservative~~ <sup>a</sup> government, ~~but it is not~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>part in</sup> the hundreds of thousands of men and women who are co-operating with ~~that government~~ <sup>it</sup> every day and every week and every month; we have made our government looked up to and respected by all of the other states in the Union.

I want to add just a word of tribute to the people of this state for the way they have seemed to understand what their state government was driving at, and seemed to understand that there was a definite program; that there was a high purpose in seeking to serve the people. I am not afraid of experiments, but I hope that as these difficult years go on that this period in our history will be looked back to as a period when the State of New York lead the United States in sane, useful experimental work, ~~that is what~~ <sup>that is</sup> what civilization is for, that is what our form of government is for.

If we were to run Ellenville under the same form of government that it had in 1880, it would not be much of an Ellenville. If we ran Ulster County in the same way that it was run in 1880, it would not be much of an Ulster County.

We do not want to go back to the condition of the highways, to the conditions of sanitation and hygiene, to the general conditions of living of even fifty years ago. Clearly, we do not want to stand still, lest as a community and as a state, people a few years from now will point their fingers at us and say, "Why, they are living in the past."

And so I am proud of the state, and may I say that I have just a touch more of pride in this part of the state, pride in the old Hudson River Counties, pride in the county that I live in, pride in the county north of me, from which my wife came, and pride in the county of my cousins across the river.

It has been ~~awfully~~ good of you to have this fine banquet tonight. I am very fond of Ellenville. I go back in my own personal memory to a day <sup>I think</sup> when I was ten or twelve years old and came up the old Delaware <sup>encl</sup> Hudson Canal on a canal boat all the way from Rondout clear out to the Pennsylvania mines, going over the strangest kind of a railroad the last part of the way, going over it in a coal bucket, up mountains and down into valleys, and up into mountains again, but I shall always remember that trip because it was my first introduction, when I was a boy, to Ulster County.

I look across from my home every day and look into Ulster County. The more I look into it the happier I am to see its natural beauty and surroundings, and I am glad to be here to meet again my friends and neighbors.

And so may I say that my wife and I have had a perfectly delightful evening, not a state <sup>duty</sup> ~~duty~~, but <sup>only</sup> ~~only~~ a family party. Good night, and let me come here very soon again.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Received  
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10/24/94  
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Judge Bellbrook, my friends and neighbors of Milanville;

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ponsible for Ulster County, for this very good reason.

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in New Amsterdam prior to 1650, married a young lady,  
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The result was that with their own aid and that  
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He married an Ulster County girl, one of the  
Hartenberghs, and his sons were born here, and they married  
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Ulster County, and so it is a very nice thing when I come

here to find that the toastmaster, Harry Schirick, is also known as "Dutch."

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fact that state institutions, state departments, state activities, are really not far from the <sup>people themselves, that they are</sup> ~~position~~, not ~~as~~ some super-government, something ~~that is~~ out of our ken, but rather something that intimately affects and touches our everyday lives.

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program for the care of these unfortunates, knowing that as the years go by we will cure a larger and larger percentage of people, whereas in the old days you and I know that when a person went into one of the state hospitals for the insane, the chances were ninety-nine to one that they would never come out. ~~That is~~ <sup>These two efforts are</sup> true of other things, too, the care of crippled children, the care of tubercular people, not only in the city and larger towns and villages, but also in the more remote rural sections of the state. In other words, we are constantly trying to keep up to and actually ~~to~~ lead government practice not only in our state but all through the Union.

I could go on and point out other phases in which we have tried to be socially minded. The great program of highways, and especially the great program of parks in the state, that were begun under Governor Smith, have been very greatly extended during the past three years, and it is only ~~within a couple of days that I have been talking with the Commissioner of Conservation about it.~~ It affects more and more people's lives every year. The Conservation Department has been re-organized since the first of this year. The Conservation Commissioner, Henry Morganthau, Jr., told me an interesting fact the other day. I said to him that I supposed, because of present conditions, because of <sup>will say,</sup> a decrease of prosperity, "I suppose that there are not nearly as many people using our state parks this year as there were last year." He said, "Why, you are absolutely wrong." ~~Why~~ This year the records show that thirty per cent more people are camping out in state parks than last year. And one of the things that I have asked him to do is to pay some attention to the Catskills. You know, people have talked a great deal not only in this state, but all

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the storm may get worse, and while all of us want to do our best not to start a cyclone, but to stop it, naturally, it is just as well for us, I think, throughout this state and throughout this country, to do what we can to take out cyclone insurance. One of the ways of taking out cyclone insurance is, of course, to take care of people who have been injured by the storm up to this present time, and I am sorry to say that there are not just thousands but hundreds of thousands in this state and millions in the country who have been hurt by the storm. There are many things that we can do to prevent storms like this from occurring in the days to come. There are still many experiments that we must make with our social order, with the economics of the nation.

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And so I am proud of the state, and may I say that I have just a touch more of pride in this part of the state, pride in the old Hudson River Counties, pride in the county that I live in, pride in the county north of me, from which my wife came, and pride in the county of my cousins across the river.

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I look across from my home every day and look into Ulster County. The more I look into it the happier I am to see its natural beauty and surroundings, and I am glad to be here to meet again my friends and neighbors.

And so may I say that my wife and I have had a perfectly delightful evening, not a state <sup>party</sup> ~~banquet~~, but <sup>just</sup> ~~only~~ a nice family party. Good night, and let us come here very soon again.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

# CHRISTIE'S

10 November 1999

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library  
Mr. Mark Renovitch, Archivist  
511 Albany Post Road  
Hyde Park, NY 12538



Dear Mr. Renovitch,

A very interesting FDR item was consigned to us for sale in a December 10 auction: his reading text of a speech delivered as Governor, in Ulster County. The collector who has owned this for many years had made a xerox copy at some point.

I suggested to him that, in case the Roosevelt Library does not already have a copy of the speech and FDR's revisions, he might want to furnish the copy to you. I'm happy to say, he agreed without reservation. The copy is enclosed and I hope it proves to be a useful addition to your splendid archival holdings on the 32<sup>nd</sup> President. .

Sincerely,

Chris Coover  
Sr. Specialist, Manuscripts

Judge Scfirick? my friends and neighbors of Ellenville:

I think that I could almost add to that, my cousins of Ulster County. My forebears were in part responsible for Ulster County, for this very good reason.

The first of my <sup>family</sup> ~~particular~~ name over here lived in New Amsterdam prior to 1650, married a young lady, started a family, and proceeded to die, whereupon the young lady "up and died" too, and the five small children became the wards of the Orphans' Court down in New York City in 1656. There was no money to bring them up and we do not know exactly how they did get brought up, except the fact that they did; and one of them, the oldest, when he was very young, was evidently a husky youngster because he was then sent up to what was known as Esopus, just after the massacre by the Indians, ~~and~~ At that particular time there was a grave question as to whether any white settlers could continue around the Esopus settlement.

The result was that with their own aid and that of some youngsters, including young Nicholas Roosevelt, a company <sup>called the Military Company</sup> ~~of what we will call the Boy Militia~~ was organized, and he, I take it, was a "buck private" in that company. And so, for several years, he helped the settlers around the Esopus in keeping the Indians a number of miles back in the mountains, and as far as we know, he lived in one of those numerous fine old stone houses in the neighborhood of the Village of Hurley.

He married an Ulster County girl, one of the Hardenberghs, ~~and~~ His sons were born here, and they married Ulster County girls, and in that way I feel a very very close kinship to a great many of the old Dutch families ~~over there by New Paltz, with people, too, throughout~~ Ulster County. ~~And so~~ It is a very nice thing when I come

here to find that the toastmaster, Harry Schmitt, known as "Dutch," institutions, state departments, state

I asked my wife coming down in the car what I should talk about. She suggested state government. I said, "That's fine. I will try hard. Of course, to talk about it adequately will take about four hours, but I will try to compress it into two." She said, "Don't talk about state government."

I am glad to know my old friend, Dr. Thayer, has spoken about the Department of Correction. There was every reason in the world, beside the fact that I wanted him, why it was essential for this state that he be called back from his little sojourn in Maryland.

I am glad that Dr. Thayer has told you about one phase of the state government. Now, there are <sup>many other</sup> lots and lots of phases. Now, if I could give what might be called a simple keynote of our state government during the past <sup>3</sup> years, I would call it the keynote of trying to bring this state government up to date. You know, government probably moves, as a general proposition, more slowly than civilization itself. New things, new methods of life, new influences on our lives, are nearly always one or two or three jumps ahead of government itself.

And so, three years ago we started in to bring the government up to date. Perhaps I should not put it that way. We had been given the machinery and the opportunity of bringing it up to date because of the far-sighted, the splendid vision, and the <sup>fighting</sup> qualities of my predecessor, <sup>sup.</sup> Alfred E. Smith. We have recognized the fact

and <sup>there</sup> in carrying out this keynote, it seems to me that ~~as~~ has been one object in mind all the way through, no matter which department we have tried to bring up to date, and that is the <sup>thought</sup> ~~quest~~ of humanity, of recognizing the



I expect that after coming down in the last part I  
know we have  
been to that point and the Government's policy is also

fact that state institutions, state departments, state activities, are really not far from the <sup>people themselves, that they are</sup> ~~position~~, not ~~at~~ ~~some~~ super-government, something ~~that is~~ out of our ken, but rather something that intimately affects and touches our everyday lives.

~~now~~ We found, for example, that the prisons of this state were about seventy-five or eighty years out of date, and it has cost and is costing <sup>much</sup> ~~a great deal of~~ money and ~~a great deal of~~ effort and ~~a great deal of~~ thought to bring our prisons up to the needs of modern society and also the teachings of modern science. It is not so long ago that a prisoner was a prisoner, somebody merely to be punished, <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ now we have begun to understand, for it still is a new science, ~~we have begun to understand~~ that prisoners, after all, are human beings, and that the very great majority of them, instead of being merely punished and then turned loose to come back into our midst as our neighbors, <sup>properly</sup> ~~that they~~ should be turned back as good neighbors, able and ready to take their part in our community life. That's a big goal, and I think that we are now taking the first steps in this state towards that goal.

People come to me from all over the United States and ask to find out what our program is. Other states are copying, and the same thing is true about other social activities of the state. We have, for example, in the care of the state, over sixty thousand men and women and children who have some mental condition that requires care, and it is only in our generation that we have recognized the fact that mental trouble is in most cases merely a disease, and that in most cases that disease can be cured, ~~and~~ <sup>So</sup> we have started and are now bringing to completion the great

program for the care of these unfortunates, knowing that as the years go by we will cure a larger and larger percentage of people, whereas in the old days you and I know that when a person went into one of the state hospitals for the insane, the chances were ninety-nine to one that they would never come out. <sup>These few efforts are</sup> ~~That is~~ true of other things, too, the care of crippled children, the care of tubercular people, not only in the city and larger towns and villages, but also into the more remote rural sections of the state. In other words, we are constantly trying to keep up to and actually ~~to~~ lead government practice not only in our state but all through the Union. !

I could go on and point out other phases in which we have tried to be socially minded. The great program of highways, and especially the great program of parks in the state, that were begun under Governor Smith, have been very greatly extended during the past three years, and it is only ~~within a couple of days that I have been talking with the Commissioner of Conservation about it.~~ It affects more and more people's lives every year. The Conservation Department has been re-organized since the first of this year. The Conservation Commissioner, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., told me an interesting fact the other day. I said to him that I supposed, because of present conditions, because <sup>with any</sup> ~~of a de-~~ crease of prosperity, "I suppose that there are not nearly as many people using our state parks this year as there were last year." He said, "Why, you are absolutely wrong." ~~When~~ "This year the records show that thirty per cent more people are camping out in state parks than last year."

And one of the things that I have asked him to do is to pay some attention to the Catskills. You know, people have talked a great deal not only in this state, but all

over, about the beauties and natural wonders of the Adirondacks. I am not going to say anything against the Adirondacks, but I am going to say this, and that is, there are not nearly enough people in this state and neighboring states that know of the Catskills. ~~I want to say~~ <sup>to do what we can to take</sup> ~~this vast~~ acreage that the state controls, literally hundreds of thousands of acres, with magnificent views, with high altitudes, I want to say the state will open up the Catskills more than they are today for the use and benefit of the people who own them.

<sup>of the state</sup> I use these subjects as illustrations to point out to you, first, where your money is going, and secondly, the fact that your state government is trying to be of practical service. There are a number of other things which we are trying to do all the time. We are trying in one sense to experiment. Why not? If the spirit of the experiment is right, I say, let's try it. You know of the gentleman from New York who went out to Kansas in the clothing business and opened a clothing store out there, and sent for the insurance man and said, "I want a full line of coverage." The insurance man said, "All right. I will give you a fire policy, a water damage policy, and plate glass window policy, and burglary policy. That ought to take care of you all right." "Well," said the clothing man, "is that all you have got?" "No," the Kansas agent said, "most people here take out cyclone insurance." And the clothing man said, "All right, put me down for a full line of coverage of cyclone insurance." As the agent was walking out, the clothing man called him back and said to him in a whisper, "Tell me, my friend, how do you start a cyclone?"

We are having quite a bad storm. It has not reached cyclone proportions yet, but it is just possible that

people who are not going to say this, and that is the whole idea  
people who are not going to say anything against the various  
other people, and perhaps the majority of the nation.

the storm may get worse, and while all of us want to do our best not to start a cyclone, but to stop it, naturally, it is just as well for us, I think, throughout this state and throughout this country, to do what we can to take out cyclone insurance. One of the ways of taking out cyclone insurance, is, of course, to take care of people who have been injured by the storm up to this present time, and I am sorry to say that there are not just thousands but hundreds of thousands in this state and millions in the country who have been hurt by the storm. There are many things that we can do to prevent storms like this from occurring in the days to come. There are still many experiments that we must make with our social order, with the economics of the nation.

For instance, I am working very hard, as I have been for a couple of years, to get the Legislature of this state seriously to go into the question of local government. I am inclined to think that the state government is on a pretty fair basis, but I am inclined to think also that, taking it by and large, in the cities and the counties and some of the villages and many of the towns, we are spending altogether too much on the process of local government, and yet it seems very difficult to get politically-minded people to change existing local government. There are many ways in which better financing of new and necessary public works and projects can be worked out; there are many ways in which the burden of local government which we are carrying, and incidentally, passing on in very large measure, to our children, can be lightened.

And then there is this question of law, and though I am a lawyer, I hesitate somewhat to speak of the processes

of law in the presence of Walter Bliss and these other distinguished jurists, and yet, isn't it a fact that today law is a pretty expensive commodity for most of the people who have to use it, and most of the people who have to use it are not lawyers. I am wondering whether law is so sacred as to its forms and its procedure and its practice that we can afford to take it apart, to dissect it and look it over with care, and then put it together again with the purpose of having it function more quickly, more safely, and with more justice for the average American citizen. That is something that we are undertaking this year, ~~and in the~~ ~~future~~ I hope in every part of our state we shall have more co-operation, even with the things that are recommended that are something a little bit new.

I always think of the first week that I was up in Albany, in the year 1911, in the State Senate, and a Committee of the Legislature made its report to the Legislature. I was interested in the fact that this particular committee had been at work for five whole years. I said to myself, "Is it possible that any committee could work for five whole years? What was their assignment?" I found that their assignment was to revise ~~the Code~~ the Code of Civil Procedure. And I found that the reason they were appointed was that the Code of Civil Procedure contained fifty-five hundred sections, and it was hoped when they were appointed that this revision would very materially reduce the size of that Code and simplify it, and the committee, after five years of investigating fifty-five hundred sections, brought in the report that they had revised the Code from A to Z, and they had simplified it down to seven thousand two hundred sections!

But I was talking about storms. We can, by going after it with definite positive action do everything that we can humanly do to prevent storms like this from striking this nation again. But there is something that is more immediate, and that is the taking care of the thousands and hundreds of thousands within our State who this year, and especially, I fear, this coming winter, are going to be in want or distress of some kind or another. I have been thinking over the problem for some time. We got through this last winter, as you know, fairly well. The government, county, city, and town, did their best to create public work, to hire as many people as they possibly could, people who were out of work and otherwise would have been out of food and shelter, and then individual citizens throughout the state did their work magnificently in contributing to the various forms of charities. Unfortunately the surveys show that this coming winter those forms of assistance are going to be more sorely pressed than they were, even last year. In the first place, a great many of our communities have come to the point where they cannot borrow any more money. They are up to the debt limit, or they have not got any more useful public works that they can employ people on, and in the second place, a great many people who gave to private ~~ex~~ relief funds are unable to give as much now as they did then. On the other side of the picture, the amount <sup>of relief</sup> that has got to be extended is possibly greater than last year, and that is why, after thinking it over very, very, carefully, I came to the definite conclusion this morning, and announced that at the coming session of the Legislature I was going to ask the Legislature to take up the matter of state assistance for the relief of people

who have not got clothes to keep on their backs, who have not got shelter over their heads. When all is said and done, while we cannot go, in our civilization, to the point of saying that government owes every man and every family a job. I believe we can go to the point of saying that government cannot allow any of its citizens to starve!

It is perfectly true, as Judge Schirrick has said, that I have had lots of problems up in Albany. They have been three strenuous years, but on the whole, the old state is going along. We have kept the government up to date, and more than that, I think we have made <sup>in</sup> this state, on the whole, ~~run a~~ <sup>a</sup> government, <sup>in</sup> ~~but it is not~~ <sup>taken part in by</sup> the hundreds of thousands of men and women who are co-operating with ~~the government~~ <sup>it</sup> every day and every week and every month; we have made our government looked up to and respected by all of the other states in the Union.

I want to add just a word of tribute to the people of this state for the way they have seemed to understand what their state government was driving at, and seemed to understand that there was a definite program; that there was a high purpose in seeking to serve the people. I am not afraid of experiments, but I hope that as these difficult years go on that this period in our history will be looked back to as a period when the State of New York lead the United States in sane, useful experimental work, <sup>that is what</sup> civilization is for, that is what our form of government is for.

If we were to run Ellenville under the same <sup>form</sup> of government that it had in 1880, it would not be much of an Ellenville. If we ran Ulster County in the same way that it was run in 1820, it would not be much of an Ulster County.

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