

January 17, 1933

[Boy Scout Foundation - note from NY Times]

FDR Speech File

NEW YORK TIMES
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FROM CITY TO FARM
IS ROOSEVELT'S AIM

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Honored as Friend of Scouts,
He Praises Them for Get-
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VISIONS NEW KIND OF LIFE

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Different United States, Adds
President-Elect at Dinner.

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He gave the figure of those unemployed in the country today as approximately 12,000,000, and said it had been supplied to him by one of the country's leading economists, whom he did not name.

The President-elect indicated his belief that the ultimate solution of the unemployment problem, lay, partly at least, in a trend of population away from the cities.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

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His address was delivered at a dinner in his honor, arranged by Barron G. Collier in recognition of Mr. Roosevelt's services for ten years as president of the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York. A prepared address, made public before the dinner, was discarded completely by Mr. Roosevelt when he rose to speak.

After preliminary remarks, praising his associates in the Boy Scout movement, and telling of the joy it has been to him to be associated with it, Mr. Roosevelt swung into the theme which dominated the rest of his talk.

What to Do With 5,000,000

"One of the country's leading economists was telling me the other day," he said, "that there are at present 12,000,000 unemployed in the country -- that is, workers out of work. In 1929, when things were going ahead apparently at full speed, there were well over 3,000,000 out of work.

"If every factory wheel in the country were turning at full speed today we should still have 5,000,000 unemployed.

"When prosperity comes back, and it is coming back, what are we going to do with that 5,000,000? We have got to restore the balance of population, get them out of the big centres of population so that they will not be dependent on home relief, or call it what you will."

Mr. Roosevelt told of how unfitted city boys were for life in the country - how he had encountered boys and young men, on the roads

around his home in Dutchess County, who were seeing cows and jack-rabbits for the first time in their lives.

"There are hundreds of thousands of boys who only know the pavements of the cities," he continued, "and that means that they can take only those jobs that are directly connected with the pavements of the cities."

From this point he went on to tell how the Boy Scout movement was fitting city boys for life in the country, pointing to the large increase in the number of campers in the Catskills and Adirondacks in the last few years.

"The educational work we are doing is bearing fruit," he added. "Comparative figures show that there are fewer former Scouts who go wrong, in percentage to the total boy population, than those who were not Scouts, and that means we are building for the future."

In closing he remarked that he was glad that there were two other positions that went with the Presidency of the United States - the presidency of the Red Cross and the honorary presidency of the Boy Scouts of America.

Just before he rose to speak, Mr. Roosevelt received from Mr. Collier, the toastmaster, a scroll in recognition of his services for the Boy Scout movement here. Mr. Roosevelt was given the credit, by other speakers at the dinner, for having conceived, twelve years ago, the idea of establishing the Greater New York Foundation of the Boy Scouts.

Other speakers at the dinner were Harvey D. Gibson of the Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee, Supreme Court Justice James C. Cropley, Presiding Justice Frederic Kernochan of the Court of Special Sessions, Walter W. Head of the National Council of Boy Scouts of America, and Hermann W. Merkel of the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York.

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In the early part of Mr. Roosevelt's address he compared the Boy Scout movement to the Navy Department, which he had just left in 1921, when he formally entered the Scout Movement.

In the Navy, he declared, the department tries for adequate ships and happy crews. In the Boy Scout movement here, he said, the ship is adequate and the crew is happy, but there is plenty of room "on board" for a far larger crew. On the basis of population, New York City should have 50,000 or 60,000 Boy Scouts instead of 33,000.

"Our next effort, after financial matters are taken care of, should be to get more Scouts aboard the ship," he declared. We need to reach more young men, for I have a vision of a slightly different kind of United States in the years to come."

During the dinner distinguished service awards were given to Charles Hayden and Louis Noel for their activities in the Scout movement during the year.

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Honored 12 Years After Or-
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Franklin D. Roosevelt said last night that if every factory wheel should be turning tomorrow there still would be 5,000,000 workers out of employment. He implied that the only way to solve the problem was to get men and their families out of the big cities and back to the farms.

The President-elect was speaking at a dinner given at the Metropolitan Club by Barron Collier, acting president of the Greater New York Boy Scout Foundation in commemoration of the twelve years Mr. Roosevelt has been president of the foundation. He had been talking of the work of the Boy Scouts, paying tributes to its leaders, when he departed from his prepared address and remarked:

"One of the leading economists of the country said to me the other day 'Do you realize that the best estimates we have been able to make show that there are 12,000,000 unemployed workers in the United States today?'

3,000,000 Jobless at Boom's Peak

"We'd like to see no workers out of work, but in 1929, when things were going full speed, there were well over 3,000,000 men out of work; and so that today, if every factory wheel were turning at full speed, there would be still 5,000,000 out of work.

"When prosperity comes back - and it's going to come back - are we going to sit by and see those people living on home relief, or the Gibson Committee (or to call it by its proper name, the dole)? I am sure we are not.

"We've got to restore the balance of population and put those 5,000,000 off the dole. That means we must get them out of the big centers of populations."

The only elaboration of Mr. Roosevelt's brief remarks on the unemployment problems came in his next few short sentences, in which he told of sitting on one of several buses filled with Boy Scouts from New York City. All were "almost grown men" and few of them had ever seen the countryside before. They were camping near Governor Roosevelt's country home in Hyde Park.

Mr. Roosevelt said that some of the boys, almost grown men, had never seen a cow until that day. Then he added:

"And do you know that when a jack-rabbit ran across the road - a Belgian hare - we have some Belgian hares up there - the three boys on the front seat chorused: "Look at the baby kangaroo!"

Mr. Roosevelt continued in the same strain by remarking that there were "thousands and hundreds of thousands of boys who only know the pavement." He said that when they reached working years their employment was "limited to one particular class of work - jobs connected with the pavement."

Tells of Education by Scouts

He then told of the educational work done by the Boy Scouts, which he seemed to think was tending to help solve the problem of getting men out of the big cities and back to rural life through its camp work. He said that every year, as the records showed, more persons were using the state-owned camping sites in the Adirondacks, living in the open around camp fires.

"Well," said Mr. Roosevelt "we are taking them out of the big communities and teaching them the possibilities of life elsewhere, and the educational work we are doing, quite apart from the welfare work, is bearing fruit."

Mr. Roosevelt paid high tribute to the work done by the late Henry Payne Whitney and the late Mortimer L. Schiff, and brought blushes to the cheeks of their sons, John M. Schiff and John Hay Whitney, by saying that he was glad that their sons were carrying on their work. He also praised Justice Frederic Kernochan, of the Court of Special Sessions, and Supreme Court Justice James C. Cropsey for their untiring work. Mr. Roosevelt established the foundation twelve years ago.

Only members of the executive board and the advisory council of the Boy Scout Foundation and a few guests interested in Scouting were present. Mr. Collier, acting president of the foundation, was the toastmaster. Distinguished service awards were given to Charles Hayden, president of Hayden, Stone & Co., and Louis W. Noel, of Noel, Berran & Langley, who have served as vice-chairmen of the committee on ways, means and endowment.

Before the Governor spoke, Hermann W. Merkel and Clyde R. Place, chairman and associate chairman of the committee on design and development, told of the facilities at the Ten Mile River camps, which care for 3,500 boys a day and are expected to be enlarged to a capacity of 5,600 a day in a few years.

The Guests at the dinner were:

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Gilbert G. Browne
George A. Brownell
Walter P. Chrysler
Jaques Cohen
Martin Conboy
Justice J. C. Cropsey
Lee J. Eastman
T. Reid Fell
Marshall Field
Charles W. Froessel
Lewis Gawtry
Harvey D. Gibson
Albert Goldman
Joseph P. Grace
Peter Grimm
Morris W. Haft
Alexander Hamilton

Hermann W. Merkel
H. Morton Merriman
William Wirt Mills
William Morris
Louis W. Noel
Kenneth O'Brien
George S. Parsons
Richard C. Patterson
Dr. Mason Pitman
Clyde R. Place
Clarkson Potter
William H. Pouch
John T. Prett, Jr.
Louis P. Rothschild
George B. St. George
John M. Schiff
Philip J. Schneider
C. Sidney Shepard
Jack I. Straus

Peter Hamilton
Charles Hayden
Bradley W. Head
Wm. W. Hoffman
Henry Ittleson
Percy Jackson
Percy H. Johnston
George L. Harrison
Thomas S. Lamont
George De Forest Lord
George MacDonald
Alrich H. Man.

Thomas J. Walsh
Fred M. Warburg
Bradley Watts, Jr.
Dr. James E. West
Charles S. Wills
John Hay Whitney
Lawrence B. Elliman
J. Edgar Hoover
Barron Collier, Jr.
Andrew M. Williams
Louis McH. Howe

Also present were Justice Frederic Kernochan, Chief Justice of the Court of Special Session, and Arthur W. Proctor, secretary of the Boy Scout Foundation.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



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FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, HONORARY PRESIDENT
 HERBERT HOOVER, HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT
 COLIN H. LIVINGSTONE, HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT
 DANIEL CARTER BEARD, HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT
 WILLIAM G. MCADOO, HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT
 WALTER H. HEAD, PRESIDENT, ST. LOUIS, MO.
 JOHN SHEPHERD HOYT, VICE PRESIDENT, DARTON, CONN.
 STUART W. FRENCH, VICE PRESIDENT, PASADENA, CALIF.
 THEODORE ROOSEVELT, VICE PRESIDENT, OUSTON, MAINE
 HELL B. WILKINSON, VICE PRESIDENT, ATLANTA, GA.
 DANIEL CARTER BEARD, NATIONAL SCOUT COMMISSIONER
 LEWIS SAWTRY, TREASURER
 JAMES E. WEST, CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE
 GEORGE J. FISHER, DEPUTY CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE

ORIGINALLY INCORPORATED
 FEBRUARY 8, 1910

GRANTED FEDERAL CHARTER
 BY CONGRESS, JUNE 15, 1916

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 CHARLES C. THOMPSON
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 THOMAS J. WATSON
 FRANK W. WOODBRIDGE

August 12, 1937

Mr. Henry M. Kannee
 Secretary to Mr. McIntyre
 The White House
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Kannee:

In Dr. West's absence I am referring again to your letter of July 16 about President Roosevelt's talk at the dinner of the Boy Scout Foundation held at the Metropolitan Club in New York on January 16, 1933.

I am very sorry to advise you that there was no stenographer present at the meeting so that there is no verbatim record. In the hopes that they may be of service, I am sending you copies of the newspaper accounts which appeared in the NEW YORK TIMES and NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE the day following the meeting.

Very sincerely yours,
 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

E. W. Vitalius
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 Secretary to the
 Chief Scout Executive

EHV:MH
 Encls.

STATEMENTS FILE

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George L. Harrison
Thomas S. Lamont
George De Forest Lord
George MacDonald
Alrich H. Wan.

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William Wirt Mills
William Morris
Louis W. Noel
Kenneth O'Brien
George S. Parsons
Richard C. Patterson
Dr. Mason Pitman
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