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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 2: “You have nothing to fear but fear itself:”**  
**FDR and the New Deal**

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**File No. 611**

**1933 March 5**

**Washington, D.C. - Radio Address to Veterans**

The President announced this  
afternoon that he has issued a  
call for a special session of the  
Congress to convene ~~at~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~  
~~place~~ on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at  
twelve o'clock, noon.

This is the first statement to the press issued by  
President Roosevelt after he became President of the United States  
and written in his own handwriting.

3/5/33

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Statements Filed

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Suggestions:

2nd par. end of 1st line. "Exacting" instead of "serious".

We must battle to eliminate or subjugate these enemies and to remedy the havoc they have wrought. And from the lessons taught and the experience gained in the war upon which we now embark we will use these same forces to build the fortifications to secure us against the menace of future invasion.

We must enlist for that war the forces which recognize the value of discipline and can teach others -- enlist those who can take their designated places in the ranks and sacrifice selfishness and greed in the inevitable battle for the good of all. And I can promise you that the spoils of this war will be a spiritual happiness and material prosperity incomparably greater than ~~that which~~ the meager dividends which victory has thus far paid or ever will pay in "wars of death."

As ~~xxx~~ new commander-in-chief under the oath to which you are still bound I reserve to myself the right to command you in any phase of the situation which now confronts us. That is the highest compliment within my power.

FOR RELEASE MORNINGPAPERS MONDAY MARCH 6th, 1933 -

Stephen T. Early, Secretary

930

Radio Address of President Roosevelt to the American Legion  
as delivered by him from the White House Sunday  
Night, March 5, 1933.

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*I am glad*  
~~that this, the first~~ word addressed by me to the people of this country from the White House, can be dedicated to the great ideals of <sup>Loyalty,</sup> sacrifice and service. The men of the Legion know, as we all know now, that the essential things of life are related intimately to these two great words.

The men of the ~~Legion~~ the Legion, in the trying days of fifteen years ago, offered for the welfare and preservation of their country the <sup>greatest gift</sup> ~~ultimate contribution~~ that a human being can give.

The ~~deep~~ necessities of peace are no less <sup>in action</sup> ~~as~~. It is a mistake to assume that the virtues of war differ essentially from the virtues of peace. All life is a battle against the forces of nature, against the mistakes and human limitations of man, against the ~~forces~~ forces of selfishness and inertia, of laziness and fear. These are enemies with whom we never con-



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

-2-

clude an armistice.

To the end that the efforts I am giving in these first days of my administration may be crowned with success and that we may achieve a really lasting restoration of national well-being, I invite the support of the men of the Legion. I ask this of men who love their country, who know the meaning of sacrifice and who, in every emergency, have given splendid and generous service to the nation.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

FOR RELEASE MORNING PAPERS MONDAY MARCH ~~4th~~<sup>5</sup>, 1933 -

Stephen T' Early, Secretary

Radio Address of President Roosevelt to the American Legion  
as delivered by him from the White House Sunday  
Night, March 5, 1933.

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*Am glad*  
I ~~rejoice in the opportunity~~ that this, the first  
word addressed by me to the people of this country from the  
White House, can be dedicated to the great ideals of sacrifice  
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that the essential things of life are related intimately to  
these two great words.

The men of the ranks of the Legion, in the trying  
days of fifteen years ago, offered for the welfare and preser-  
vation of their country the ultimate contribution that a human  
being can give.

The deep necessities of peace are no less serious.  
It is a mistake to assume that the virtues of war differ  
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against the forces of nature, against the mistakes and human  
limitations of man, against the forces of selfishness and inertia,  
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-2-

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To the end that the efforts I am giving in these first days of my administration may be crowned with success and that we may achieve a ~~really~~ lasting restoration of national well-being, I invite the support of the men of the Legion <sup>and of</sup> ~~I ask this~~ <sup>all</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>and women</sup> ~~men~~ who love their country, who know the meaning of sacrifice and who, in every emergency, have given splendid and generous service to the nation.

Woodrow Wilson

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
In American Legion National Broadcast  
March 5, 1933

I am glad that this, the first word addressed by me to the people of the country, can be dedicated to the great ideals of sacrifice and service. The men of the Legion and indeed all veterans, and all good citizens know that the essential things of life are related intimately to those two great words.

The men of the ranks of the Legion, in the trying days of fifteen years ago, offered for the welfare and preservation of our country the ultimate contribution that a human can give.

The deep necessities of peace are no less serious. It is a mistake to assume that the virtues of war differ essentially from the virtues of peace. All life is a battle against the forces of nature, against the mistakes and human limitations of man, against the forces of selfishness and inertia, of laziness and fear.

These are enemies with whom we never conclude an armistice.

To the end that the efforts I am giving in these first days of my administration may be crowned with success

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

ADDITION OF 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 PREPARED. WORDS  
THEY APPEAR IN THE PREVIOUSLY PREPARED  
READING COPY TEXT MAY BE REPRODUCED.

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floods and human limitations of man, against the forces of  
selfishness and inertia, of laziness and fear.

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and that we may achieve a lasting restoration of national well-being, I invite the support of the men of the Legion and of all men and women who love their country, who know the meaning of sacrifice and who, in every emergency, have given splendid and generous service to the nation.

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American Legion - March 5, 1933 - 11.30 P.M.

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FOR RELEASE MONDAY MORNING PAPERS - MARCH 6th, 1933 -

Stephen T. Early, ~~Secretary~~

Radio Address of President Roosevelt to the American Legion as delivered by him from the White House, Sunday night, March 5, 1933.

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS  
In American Legion National Broadcast  
March 5, 1933

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