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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. 617**

**1933 March 13**

**Message to Congress re The Volstead Act**

CONFIDENTIAL: To be held in STRICT CONFIDENCE and no portion, synopsis, or intimation to be published or given out until its READING has been begun in either House. Extreme care must therefore be exercised to avoid premature publication

STEPHEN EARLY  
Assistant Secretary to the President.

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TO THE CONGRESS:

I recommend to the Congress the passage of legislation for the immediate modification of the Volstead Act, in order to legalize the manufacture and sale of beer and other beverages of such alcoholic content as is permissible under the Constitution; and to provide through such manufacture and sale, by substantial taxes, a proper and much needed revenue for the Government.

I deem action at this time to be of the highest importance.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

The White House,  
March 13, 1933.

*The shortest on record!*

*FDR*

File

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