

April 3, 1933

[Message - Farm Mortgage]

FOR Speech File

P.P.F.

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TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

As an integral part of the broad plan to end the forced liquidation of property, to increase purchasing power and to broaden the credit structure for the benefit of both the producing and consuming elements in our population, I ask the Congress at this time for specific legislation relating to ^{the} mortgages and other forms of indebtedness of the farmers of the nation. The inability of many thousands of farmers in all parts of the country to meet indebtedness incurred ^{when their crops prices had a very} at a time when the ^{are unable} purchasing power of the dollar was, on a basis wholly ^{very considerably larger} different from the present, is well known to all of you. ^{I have proposed some alternative proposals} The legislation now pending, which seeks ^{to correct} ~~that~~ to raise agricultural commodity prices, is a definite step to enable farm debtors to pay their indebtedness in commodity terms more closely approximating those ⁱⁿ which the indebtedness was incurred; ^{but that} ~~but~~ ^{is} not enough.

different money value

PH

[Handwritten signature]

In addition the Federal government should provide for the refinancing of mortgage and other indebtedness so as to accomplish a more equitable readjustment of the ^{principal of the debt} ~~principal~~, a reduction of interest rates, which in many instances are so unconscionably high as to be contrary to a sound public policy, and, by a temporary readjustment of amortization, ^{to} give sufficient time to farmers to restore to them the hope of ultimate free ownership of their own land. I seek an end ^{to} the ^{threatened} ~~serious~~ ^{loss of the} ~~danger of losing their~~ homes and ~~their~~ productive capacity, which hundreds of thousands of American farm families ^{now faced by}

The legislation I suggest will not impose a heavy burden upon the national Treasury. It will instead provide a means by which, through existing agencies of the government, the farm owners of the nation will be enabled to refinance themselves on reasonable terms, lighten their harfassing burdens and give them ^a fair opportunity to return to sound conditions.

I shall presently ask for additional legislation as a part of the broad program, extending

this wholesome principle to the small home owners of
the nation, ~~the~~ likewise faced with this threat. *It*
Also, I shall ask the Congress for legislation
enabling us to initiate practical reciprocal tariff
agreements to break ~~down~~ ^{through} trade barriers and establish
foreign markets for farm and industrial products.