
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

File No. 657

1933 October 15

Radio Address - Mobilization for Human Needs

I have spoken on several occasions of the vital importance to our Country that private charity in all that that broad term covers, must be kept up at least to the levels, and I hope even beyond the levels, of former years. At this Opening of the Four Weeks 1933 Mobilization for Human Needs, I want not only to reaffirm what I have said before, but to stress the fact that the fine teamwork in the recovery program cannot be successful if an important horse is lying back in the traces.

It is true that I have declared that Government must not let anyone starve this winter: but at the same time this policy is predicated on the assumption that the individual American citizen will continue to do his and her part, even more unselfishly than in the past.

Let me stress that a great many people will still need the help of relief agencies this winter. It is true that because of a partial, but I believe a steadily

growing, reemployment of the unemployed, many families and many individuals have been taken off the local relief rolls. But on the other hand, the needs of those who are still on the rolls is proportionately greater than it was before, and, in addition to the work of direct relief, it is necessary for us to continue our support of the permanent hospital and welfare services that exist in every county and in most communities.

A number -- I am glad to say a small number -- of people have written to me to express the thought that all relief work should be taken over by the Government, and have intimated that they would not feel any duty this year to subscribe to local relief or local charity. These people have a wholly wrong slant on the fundamental basis of our American civilization. They deny the civic responsibility of the individual, and would seek to

toss every problem into the lap of Government. They are "buck passers".

On the other hand, the overwhelming majority of the American people understand clearly that it is first the duty of the individual and the local community to do all that they can to maintain relief and welfare; that it is then the obligation of the State Government to supplement local efforts, and that finally, if all of this put together is not sufficient, the Federal Government stands ready to help.

This Mobilization for Human Needs will keep the long established hospital and welfare services going. These services existed long before the depression; they will exist long after the depression is over.

I ask every citizen to give his or her support to the community chests and to other organizations that

raise funds for the regular welfare services -- bodies which express the instincts of charity, of humanity and of neighborliness. They are an essential to the whole American scheme of life. Their meaning is expressed in the name - The Mobilization for Human Needs.

I am glad indeed that my old friend, Newton D. Baker, once more is heading the forces of mobilization. This time we are all happy that it is a mobilization of peace.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Orig. reading copy

Oct 15 - 1933

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from the radio broadcast made by the President on October 15, 1933. The transcript was prepared by the White House stenographer and is subject to correction by the President.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
Delivered by Radio from The White House for the
1933 Mobilization for Human Needs
October 15, 1933

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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is proportionately greater than it was before, and, in addition to the work of direct relief, it is necessary for us to continue our support of the permanent hospital and welfare services that exist in every county and in most communities.

A number -- I am glad to say a small number -- of people have written to me to express the thought that all relief work should be taken over by the Government, and have intimated that they would not feel any duty this year to subscribe to local relief or local charity. These people have a wholly wrong slant on the fundamental basis of our American civilization. They deny the civic responsibility of the individual and would seek to toss every problem into the lap of Government. They are "buck passers".

On the other hand, the overwhelming majority of the American people understand clearly that it is first the duty of the individual and the local community to do all that they can to maintain relief and welfare; that it is then the obligation of the State Government to supplement local efforts, and that finally, if all of this put together is not sufficient, the Federal Government stands ready to help.

This Mobilization for Human Needs will keep the long established hospital and welfare services going. These services existed long before the depression; they will exist long after the depression is over.

I ask every citizen to give his or her support to the community chests and to other organizations that raise funds for the regular welfare services -- bodies which express the instincts of charity, of humanity, and of neighborliness. They are an essential to the whole American scheme of life. Their meaning is expressed in the name -- The Mobilization for Human Needs.

I am glad indeed that my old friend, Newton D. Baker, once more is heading the forces of mobilization, and this time we are all happy that it is a mobilization of peace.

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