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. 660

1933 November 18

Savannah, GA - Georgia Bicentennial

Low Fullemarte, Mayor Samble

Because my other state gave me the privilege of serving as the Honorary Chairman of the Celebration of this Bicentennial year of the founding of Georgia I have come to Savannah in an official capacity.

But I come here also because of all that Georgia means to me personally, through my long association with this State and also through the kinship which my wife and my children bear to the early settlers who participated with Oglethorpe in the founding of civilization on this portion of the Atlantic Seaboard.

Apart from the ties of Colonial ancestry, I have additional kinship with the founders of the thirteen American colonies. It has been remarked of late by certain modern Tories that those who are today in charge of your National Government are guilty of great experimentation. If I read my history right, the same suggestion was used when Englishmen, protesting in vain against intolerable conditions at home, founded new colonies in the American wilderness, and when Englishmen and Adamses and Bullochs conducted another great experiment in 1776. Three quarters of a year have passed since I left Georgia; during that time you have conducted a dignified and history teaching statewide celebration. During that same time the lives of the people of this commonwealth, like the lives of the inhabitants of the other states, have unlergone a great change.

I am happy in the thought that it has been a change for the better; that I come back to see smiles replacing gloom, to see hope replacing despair, to see faith restored to its rightful place.

While we are celebrating the planting of the Colony of Georgia by the content wetter of the X Seaboard, we remember that if the early settlers had been coast, there would have been no Georgia today. It was the spirit of moving forward that led to the exploration of the great domain of piedmont and mountains that drove the western border of the Colony to the very banks of the Mississippi River itself. In all those years of the pioneer, there were the doubting Thomases, there was the persistent opposition of those who feared change, of those who played the part of the mule who had to be goaded to get him out of the stable.

And that reminds me of a letter I received the other day from a man who congratulated me on my success up to the present time at least of making mules go along in the harness of the present day. At the end of the letter he gave me this warning: He said, "Oh, how persistent these modern mules can be! Watch them! Remember the man who said that at a mule's funeral he would be on the safe side and stand at the head of the grav."

In coming for a two weeks' visit among you, my neighbors, I shall have opportunity to improve myself by reading of the doings and locds of the makers of our history with the thought before me that although problems and terms change, the principles and objectives of American self-government remain the same. I have heard so much of so-called economics in recent weeks that it was refreshing the other day to have my friend, the Governor of New Hampshire, call my attention to a paragraph written a century ago by that father of economists, John Stuart Mill. He said,

"History shows that great economic and social forces flow like a tide over communities only half conscious of that which is befalling them. Wise statesmen foresee what time is thus bringing, and try to shape institutions and mold men's thoughts and purposes in accordance with the change that is silently coming on.

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"The unwise are those who bring nothing constructive to the process, and who greatly imperil the future of mankind, by leaving great questions to be fought out between ignorant change on one hand, and ignorant opposition to change, on the other."

The saving grace of America lies in the fact that the overwhelming majority of Americans are possessed of two great qualities -- a sense of humor and a sense of proportion. With the one they smile at those who would divide up all the **Sector Sector** bills in the Nation on a per capita basis every Saturday night and at those who lament that they would rather pounds and francs than dollars. With our sense of proportion we understand and accept the fact that

The short space of

in one year we cannot cure the chronic illness that beset us for a dozen years, nor restore the social and economic order with equal and simultaneous success in every part of the Nation and in every walk of life.

It is this same pioneering spirit and understanding perspective of the people of the United States which already is making itself felt among other nations of the world. The simple translation of the peaceful and neighborly purposes of the United States has already given to our sister American republics a greater faith in our professions of friendship than they have held since the time. over a century ago, when James Monroe encouraged them in their struggles for freedom. So, too, I have had an example of the effect of honest statement and simple explanation of the fundamental American policy during the past week in Washington. For sixteen long years a nation, larger even than ours in population and extent of territory, has been unable to speak officially with the United States or to maintain normal relations. I believe sincerely that the most impelling motive that has

lain behind the conversations which were successfully concluded yesterday between Russia and the United States was the desire of both countries for peace and for the strengthening of the peaceful purpose of the civilized world.

It will interest you to know that in the year 1809 the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, wrote as follows to his Russian friend, Mons. Mashkoff:

"Russiand and the United States being in character and practice essentially pacific, a common interest in the rights of peaceable nations gives us a common cause in their maintenance."

In this spirit of Thomas Jefferson, Mr. Litvinoff and I believe that through the resumption of normal relations the prospects of peace over all the world are greatly strengthened.

Furthermore, I am confident that in a State like Georgia, which had its roots in religious teachings and was the first state in which a Sunday School was established, there must be satisfaction to know that from now on any American sojourning among the great Russian people will be free to worship God in his own way.

It is perhaps especially significant that I should speak of the resumption of relations with Russia in the City from which a century ago the first trans-Atlantic steamship set out on its voyage to the old world.

I am glad to be back on Georgia soil. I mm hurrying to Warm Springs with special interest, for I shall see a splendid new building, given to the cause of helping crippled children by the citizens of the State of Georgia. And I am hurrying back to my cottage there for the almost equally important objective of seeing to it that a prize Georgia turkey is put into the primest possible condition for the Thanksgiving Day feast.

On this Thanksgiving, I like to think that many more fathers and mothers and children will partake of turkey than for many years past. What a splendid thing it would be if in every community throughout the land, in celebration of this Thanksgiving -- and here in Georgia in celebration of the Bicentennial of the founding of the Colony -- every community would set as its Thanksgiving Day objective the providing of a Thanksgiving dinner for those who have not yet

been blessed by the returning prosperity sufficiently to provide their own.

Let me read to you in closing a message delivered a generation ago by a great son of a great Georgia mother, Theodore Roosevelt:

"Materially we must strive to secure a broader economic opportunity for all men so that each shall have a better chance to show the stuff of which he is made. Spiritually and ethically we must strive to bring about clean living and right thinking. We appreciate that the things of the body are important; but we appreciate also that the things of the soul are immeasurably more important. The foundation stone of national life is and ever must be the high individual character of the individual citizen."

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American march of progress-Frunk In Musande loning reading copy

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT SAVANNAH, GEORGIA November 18, 1933

Mayor Campbell, Governor Talmadge, My Friends of Georgia and South Carolina:

I am glad to come back again to my own State, (applause) and because Georgia has given me the privilege of serving as the Honorary Chairman of the Celebration of this Bicentennial year of the founding of Georgia, I have come to Savannah in an official capacity.

But I come here also because of all that Georgia means to me personally, through my long association with this State and also through the kinship which my wife and my children bear to the early settlers who participated with Oglethorpe in the founding of civilization on this portion of the Atlantic Seaboard. (Applause)

I feel that apart from the ties of Colonial ancestry, I have additional kinship with the founders of the thirteen American colonies. It has been remarked of late by certain modern Tories that those who are today in charge of your National Government are guilty of great experimentation. And they are right. (Applause) If I read my history correctly, the same suggestion was used when Englishmen, <u>two centuries ago</u>, protesting in vain against intolerable conditions at home, founded new

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken to the one 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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Three quarters of a year have <u>gone by</u> since I left Georgia; during that time you have conducted a dignified and history-teaching State-wide celebration. During that time, the lives of the people of this Commonwealth, like the lives of the inhabitants of all the other States, have undergone a great change.

I am happy in the thought that it has been a change for the better; that I have come back to see smiles replacing gloom, (applause) to see hope replacing despair, and to see faith restored to its rightful place. <u>You good people have</u> given me evidence of that this morning.

While we are celebrating the planting of the Colony of Georgia, we remember that if the early settlers had been content to remain on the coast, there would have been no Georgia today. It was the spirit of moving forward that led to the exploration of the great domain of Piedmont and <u>the</u> mountains that drove the western border of <u>this</u> Colony to the very banks of the Mississippi River itself. <u>Yet</u>, <u>all through those</u> great years of the pioneer, <u>we must remember that</u> there were the doubting Thomases, there was the persistent opposition of those who feared change, of those who <u>wanted to let things alone</u>. (played the part of the mule who had to be goaded to get him out of the stable).

In coming for a two weeks' visit among you, my neighbors, I shall have opportunity to improve myself and my own perspective by reading of the makers of our history with the thought before me that although problems and terms <u>of problems</u> change, the principles and objectives of American self-government remain the same. I have heard so much of (so-called) economics <u>during</u> <u>the past few months</u> (in recent weeks) that it was refreshing the other day to have my friend, the Governor of New Hampshire, call my attention to a paragraph written <u>by one of the Daddies</u> <u>of all economists about</u> a century ago (by that father of economists,) John Stuart Mill. He said this:

"History shows that great economic and social forces flow like a tide over communities only half conscious of that which is befalling them. Wise statesmen foresee what time is thus bringing and try to shape institutions and mold men's thoughts and purposes in accordance with the change that is silently coming on.

"The unwise are those who bring nothing constructive to the process, and who greatly imperil the future of mankind, by leaving great questions to be fought out between ignorant change on one hand, and ignorant opposition to change, on the other."

(Applause)

<u>I sometimes think that</u> the saving grace of America lies in the fact that the overwhelming majority of Americans are possessed of two great qualities -- a sense of humor and a sense of proportion. With the <u>sense of humor they smile</u> <u>good naturedly</u> at those who would divide up all the money in the Nation on a per capita basis every Saturday night and <u>smile equally</u> at those who lament that they would rather possess pounds and francs than dollars. (Applause) <u>And with that</u> <u>other quality</u>, our sense of proportion, we understand and accept the fact that in the short space of one year we cannot cure <u>a</u> chronic illness that beset us for <u>twelve</u> years, nor restore the social and economic order with equal and simultaneous success in every part of the Nation and in every walk of life. <u>But my friends, we are on our way</u>. (Applause)

It is the pioneering spirit and understanding perspective of the people of the United States which already is making itself felt <u>not only here but</u> among other nations of the world. The simple translation of the peaceful and neighborly purposes of the United States has already given to our sister American republics a greater faith in professions of friendship than they have held since the time, a century ago, when James Monroe encouraged <u>South America and Central America</u> in their struggles for freedom. So, too, <u>my friends</u>, I have had <u>a good</u> example of the effect of honest statement and simple explanation of the fundamental American policy during the past week in Washington. For sixteen long years a nation, larger even than ours in population and extent of territory, has been unable to speak officially with the United States or to maintain normal

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relations. I believe sincerely that the most impelling motive that has lain behind the conversations which were successfully concluded yesterday between Russia and the United States was the desire of both countries for peace and for the strengthening of the peaceful purpose of the civilized world. (Applause)

<u>I think</u> it will interest you to know that in the year 1809 the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, wrote as follows to his Russian friend, Monsieur Dashkoff:

"Russia and the United States being in character and practice essentially pacific, a common interest in the rights of peaceable nations gives us a common cause in their maintenance."

<u>And so</u> in this spirit of Thomas Jefferson, Mr. Litvinoff and I <u>have believed</u> that through the resumption of normal relations the prospects of peace over all the world are greatly strengthened.

Furthermore, my friends, I am confident that in a State like Georgia, which had its roots in religious teachings and religious liberty, a state in which the first Sunday School was established, there must be satisfaction to know that from now on any American sojourning among the great Russian people will be free to worship God in his own way. (Applause)

It is perhaps <u>equally</u> especially significant that I should speak of the resumption of relations with Russia in the City from which <u>over</u> a century ago the first trans-Atlantic steamship set out on its voyage to the old world. (Applause)

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I am glad to be back on Georgia soil. I am hurrying to Warm Springs with special interest, for I shall <u>find there</u> a splendid new building, given to the cause of helping crippled children by the citizens of the State of Georgia. (Applause) And I am hurrying back <u>there</u> to my cottage for the almost equally important objective of seeing to it that a prize Georgia turkey (laughter) is put into the primest possible condition for the Thanksgiving Day feast. (Applause)

On this Thanksgiving, I like to think that many more fathers and mothers and children will partake of turkey than they have in recent years. What a splendid thing it would be if in every community, in every State in the land, in celebration of this Thanksgiving -- and here in Georgia in celebration of the Bicentennial of the founding of the Colony -- every community would set as its Thanksgiving Day objective the providing of a Thanksgiving dinner for those who have not yet been blessed by the returning prosperity sufficiently to provide their own. (Applause)

Let me, <u>in closing</u>, read to you <u>a very short passage</u> <u>from</u> a message delivered a generation ago by a great son of a great Georgia mother, Theodore Roosevelt: (Applause) He said:

"Materially we must strive to secure a broader economic opportunity for all men so that each shall have a better chance to show the stuff of which he is made. Spiritually and ethically we must strive to bring about clean living and right thinking. We appreciate that the things of the body are important; but we appreciate also that the things of the soul are

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immeasurably more important. The foundation stone of national life is and ever must be the high individual character of the individual citizen."

My friends, I count on that individual citizen, and on his character and on her character, to continue with me our American march of progress. (Applause, prolonged)

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

NOV. 18, 1933.

Because my ether state gave me the privilege of sorving as the Honorary Chairman of the Celebration of this Bicontannial year of the founding of Georgis I have come to Savannah in an official expacity.

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Apart from the ties of Colenial ancestry. I have additional kinship with the founders of the thirteen American weelonios. It has been remarked of late by cortain modern fories that these who are today in ohange of your National Government are guilty of great experimentation. If I read my history right, the same suggestion was used when Englishmon, protesting in wain against intolerable conditions at home, founded new solonies in the American wildernoss, and when Weshingtons and Adamses and Bullochs cembucted another great experiment in 1776.

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CONFIDENT STATEMENTS FILE

CONFIDENTShorthand By Kannee FIDENTIAL

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVELY

ADDRINGS OF THE FRESIDENT, SAVALLAN, CHORGIA, HOV. 18, 1933.

T'is address must be held in strict confidence until CAUTION: delivery actually is commenced. Please guard against premature publication. Stephen Early, Assistant Secretary.

Because my other state gave me the privilege of serving as the Congrary Christman of the Celebration of this Bicentennial year of the founding of Georgia I have come to Savannah in an official capacity.

But I come here also because of all that Georgia means to me personally, through my long accountion with this State and also through the kinnily wildling 'ife and my cilldrem bear to the early settlers the participated with Oglethorpe in the founding of civilization on this portion of the 'thankie Seabeard. (

Apart from the ties of Colonial ancestry, Ihave additional kinship with the founders of the thirteen American coloniss. It kinsing with the founders of the Virteen American colonies. It has been remarked of late by cortain nodern forles that those who are today in charge of our Kational Covernment are guilty of great wight from the same suggestion was used when milliamen, protesting in vain against intolerable combitions at hore, founded new colonies in the American wilder-ness, and them "assimptions end" Adapted and Bulloops conducted another great experiment in 1776.

Three quaters of a year have passal since I left Georgia; during that time you have conducted a dignified and history that in the state ide cabes to a contra taginities and the buy of the people of this Connormealth, like the lives of the inhabi-tants of the other states, have undergone a great change.

I an happy in the thought that it has been a clance for the better; that I come back to see smilles replacing gloom, to see hope replacing descair, to see faith restored to its rightful place.

This we are celebrating the planting of the Colony of Georgia, we remember that if the carly ettlers had seen content to remain on the coast, there would have been no Secrit atoday. It was the spirit of noving forward that led to the exploration of the great contain of piedmont and montains that drove the usetern burder of the Colony to the very banks of the Hississippi Tiver itself. In the those wars of the pincer, there were the colubring Thomass, there was the persistent opposition of those who feered change, of those to played the part of the set who had to be conved to get

In comin; for a two weaks' visit among pet for neidbors, I shall have opportunity to improve syself by reading of the makers of our history with the thought before he that although problems and terms chan, e, the principles and objectives of American self-covernment remain the same. I have heard so much of so celled economics in recent mains that it was refreshing the other day to have by field, the covernor of Hew Hampshire, call my attention to a paragraph written a century ago by that father of recommission. Wohn Start Mill. He said: Witsory shows that great economic and social forces flow live a file over communities only half conceious of that which is be-failing them. The states on forces what time is thus bringing-find try to shape institutions and mold ends thoughts and purposed in accordance with the came that is silently coming on. Stuart

"The unvise are those the bring nothing constructive to the process, and who greatly imperil the future of mankind, by leav-ing great questions to be fought out between i norant change on one hand, and ignorant opposition to change, on the other.

The saving grace of America lies in the fact that the overwhelming majority of Americans are possessed of two great qualities a sense of humor and a sense of proportion. This has no the a sense of humor and a sense of proportion. This has no the sells at those to would divide up all the money in the Nation on a per capita basis every fasturiday might and at those who lament With the one they a per depide basis every acturacy might and at those the indicates that they would retain a possess pounds and frances than dollars. With our sense of proportion we understand and accept the fact that in the short space of one year we cannot cure take. Howing illness that baset us for a deer years, nor restore the social and common order with equal and simultaneous successions in every part of the Nation and in every talk of life. Why (

It is the pioneering spirit and, understanding perspective of the people of the United States which already is making itself felt_main. other nations of the world. The simple translation of the peaceful and neighborly purposes of the United States has already liven to ur sister American republics a greater lath in eur.yrofessions of friende in then they have held since the time, ever, wordersions of artender to the the the rate held since the time, over a conterp aco, then James lonce encouraged, then in their struggles for fraeden. So, tooy I have had an example of the ef-fect or honest state and simple explanation of the fundamental Amorican yolicy during the past west in Tashington. For sixteen long years a nation, larger oven than ours in population and extent of tarming the past under a force a force the fundamental patients. of territory, has been unable to speak officially with theUnited States or to maintain normal relations. I believe sincerely that the nest inpellin, notive that has lain beind the conversations witch were successfully concluded yesterday between "ussis and the United States "as the desire of both countries for peace and for the strengthening of the peaceful purpose of t's civilized world.

It will interest you to know that in the year 1009 the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, wrote as follows to

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In this spirit of Thomas Jefferson, Mr. Litvineff and I $\xi\to believe that through the resumption of normal relations the pros$ pects of peace over all the world are greatly strongthened.

Furthemore, I an confident that in a State like Georgia, which had its roots in religious teachings and wasgthe first state I in which a Sunday School was established, there must be satisfaction to inor that from now on any incriten sojourning amon the great Jussian people will be free to worship God in his own way.

It is perhaps especially significant that I should speak of the resumption of relations with Russia in the City from which a contury ago the first trans-Atlantic steamship set out on its voya e to the old orld.

I an cled to be beel: on Georgia soil. I am hurrying to Tarm Springs with spherial interest, for I shall beels spheridid ner building, given o the cause of elping orippied children by the cit sens of the state of Ceorgia. And I an hurrying back to my cottage there for the elmost equally important objectived seeing to it that a prize Georgia turkey is put into the primest month possible condition for the Thanksgiving Dar feast.

On this Than's div. G. I like to think that many more fathers and notiers ind children 'ill partake of turkey than for many varse yet?. Unat a splendid thin, it wold be if in every community throughout the land, in celebration of this Thanksgiving - and here in Georgia in celebration of the Bicentemial of the founding of the Colony - every community yould set as its Thanksgiving Gay objective the providing of a Thanksgiving for those the have not yet been blessed by the returning presporting mifficiently to provide their orn.

Let ue read to you in clocing a message delivered a generation ago by a great son of a great Georgia mother, Theodore Roosevelt:

"Jaterially we must strive to secure a broader economic opportunity for all on so that each shall have a better chane to show the stuff of which ho is rade. Siritizely and efficiently we must strive to bring about clean living and high thinking. 'S appreciate that the things of the body ary important; but we appreciate also that the things of the soul are irreasurably more important. The foundation stome of national life is and ever rust be the high individuel character of the individuel citizen."

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