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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. 666**

**1933 Oct. - Nov.**

**Thanksgiving Proclamation - Suggested Drafts**

THANKSGIVING DAY -- 1933

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The people of the United States have long cherished the custom of setting aside a day in the autumn of each year to give thanks to God for the blessings of life. This year it is appropriate that we again observe the wise and reverent custom. The Nation has abundant cause for thanksgiving. During trying months we have been given courage and fortitude to surmount persistent obstacles in our national life. Our sense of social justice has deepened. We have been given vision to make new provisions for human welfare and happiness, and in a spirit of mutual helpfulness we have cooperated to translate vision into reality. A new hope pervades the land.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, hereby designate Thursday, the thirtieth day of November 1933, as a day of national thanksgiving, and invite the people throughout the nation to rest on that day from their labors and to offer in their homes and places of worship thanks to Almighty God.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this       day of  
October, in the year  
of our Lord nineteen  
hundred and thirty-  
three, and of the  
Independence of  
the United States  
of America the  
one hundred and  
fifty-eighth.

By the President:

Secretary of State.

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*State Department Draft*

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By the President:

Secretary of State.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1933

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Attached hereto you will find drafts of Thanksgiving Proclamations submitted by Kirke Simpson, by me, by Miss Shannon of my office, and by the State Department.

Suggest your Proclamation be prepared as soon as possible so as to permit its distribution by the State Department to American colonies abroad and by the church organizations in the United States which have asked for copies to be distributed to their church members throughout this country.

STEPHEN EARLY



From the blood and ashes of a cruel war we emerged still a united nation and by the horrors of that conflict, were taught the utter folly of an appeal to arms to adjust our international misunderstanding and the lust and horror that follows the evil pursuit of conquest or revenge.

From the last year of wreck and ruin of the card castles of mere material prosperity we have learned the lesson of the <sup>(sure)</sup> ~~sore~~ (punishment) of selfish greed and the (impossibility) that men or nations can climb to lasting happiness by crushing down their neighbors.

God grant, and for myself I hold it sure that our passage through the black days behind marks for more than the end of a depression, that it marks a new realizing of our dependence on each other and that we are beginning a new era of better understanding of the ties that bind to neighbor and the need of helping his ~~neighbors~~ <sup>(neighbors)</sup> if we would gain our own.

God grant, and I hold it true, that we have passed through the first trials of a new kind of nation, founded on mutual helpness and a keen sense of our responsibility to see

*in mind*  
to it that those ~~less fortunate~~ receive the aid  
and support not only of ourselves as individuals but of  
the state itself.

If this be true never had a people greater cause for  
~~(the beginning)~~ thanks. To those for ~~whom~~ a brighter day  
is already breaking there should be no need for me to urge  
them to express their gratitude to the Eternal God.

*stand*  
To those who still ~~lay~~ in the dark shadows of mis-  
fortune, I would send this message:

God must at times use sharp tools to carve men to  
his likeness and his priceless gift of patience comes most  
often wrapped in the harsh sackcloth of trial and adversity.

Likewise it is not along the easy path that we gain  
strength to conquer in this life but by struggling become  
strong.

Most of all for your comfort in the winter that lies ahead I bring you the assurance that you need no longer feel either helpless or forgotten. That there are and will be a hundred hands stretched out to help you. That you may look confidently to them for help and that from them help will surely come. Fear and the fear ~~of~~ fear ~~and~~ no longer dwell in your hearts.

And now to all those who worship God in some accustomed place I lay open to you the duty of their assembly on this day to give due thanks, and I urge upon the Mayors of all our cities and all those ~~of~~ <sup>forming</sup> plans of public assemblage that on this day they throw open the doors of such places at a stated hour that all men and women may have the privilege of gathering together for a Thanksgiving which will be long remembered in years to come.

Our faces are set towards the rising sun. Our feet are <sup>squandy placed</sup> up the path of peace. For this we give thanks to the Almighty God.

By *Kirk Simpson*

WHEREAS WE HAVE COME AGAIN TO THAT SEASON ~~OF THE~~  
~~YEAR~~ WHEN BY TRADITION AS OLD AND PRECIOUS AS OUR ~~HERITAGE~~  
LIBERTY WE TURN OUR HEARTS TO REVERENT THANKSGIVING TO  
ALMIGHTY GOD WHO HAS MADE AND PRESERVED US A FREE PEOPLE;  
NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, DO SET ASIDE AND APPOINT  
THURSDAY, THE THIRTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1933, TO BE A  
DAY OF ~~THE~~ THANKSGIVING WHEN ALL OUR PEOPLE, ~~WHEREVER THEY ARE~~  
AT HOME OR ABROAD, SHALL GATHER IN THEIR PLACES OF WORSHIP  
OR AMID GLAD REUNIONS OF SACRED HOME TIES THERE, WITH  
UPLIFTED HEARTS, TO GIVE THOUGHT TO THE BENEFICENCE OF  
DEVINE WILL THAT HAS GUIDED US THROUGH THE STORM AND STRES  
OF NEARY EIGHT SCORE YEARS, THAT STILL LEADS US ONWARD  
AND UPWARD TO A HIGHER, NOBLER NATIONAL DESTINY. MAY WE  
THEN RECALL AMID WHAT DOUBTS AND UNCERTAINTIES OUR FATHERS  
STOOD THAT FIRST THANKSGIVING DAY, A NEW-BORN NATION ON  
THE THRESHOLD OF THAT DESTINY. MAY WE REMEMBER THE BRAVE  
YET PATIENT  
HEARTS, THE UNCONQUORABLE ~~ZEAL~~, THE REVERENT RELIANCE  
UPON DEVINE GUIDANCE WITH WHICH THEY PRESSED EVER ON.  
[ AND I ESPECIALLY URGE UPON OUR PEOPLE THIS YEAR THAT IN  
OFFERING DEVOUT THANKS FOR THE BLESSINGS SO LAVISLY ~~GRANTED~~  
~~ABUNDANT~~ ABOUT US, ~~THAT~~ THEY HUMBLLY ASK HIM TO TEACH US  
HOW TO MAKE THAT PLENTY AVAYLABLE TO ALL OF US ALIKE  
THAT WE MAY BE WORTHY OF OUR RICH HERITAGE; TO GRANT US  
STILL THE COURAGE AND THE WISDOM TO PRESS FORWARD ~~AND~~  
VALIANTLY TO REALIZATION OF THAT VISION OF A HAPPY PEOPLE,  
FREE AND UNAFRAID IN A PEACEFUL WORLD, OUR FATHERS

GLIMPSED SO LONG AGO.

By  
S. T. E.  
          

By the President of the United States of America

Thanksgiving Day - 1933

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, it has been the custom since the days of the Pilgrims annually to set aside a day of national thanksgiving and, whereas, our Republic and people have enjoyed safety and happiness, civil and religious liberty, the fruits of the earth with which it has pleased God to bless us in measures far in excess of those enjoyed by the founders of this institution - - they who had the courage and staunch faith to celebrate and give thanks when there was but little to be thankful for, in comparison with the blessings of this year; the institution of Thanksgiving has more than fulfilled the mission for which the Pilgrims consecrated it and, whereas, we live in a land which the Pilgrims never dreamed of and receive great and various favors which it has pleased God to confer upon us,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, hereby designate Thursday, the thirtieth day of November 1933, as a day of national thanksgiving, and invite the people throughout the nation to rest on that day from their labors and to offer in their homes and places of worship thanks to Almighty God.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

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(Seal)                      in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-  
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America the one hundred and fifty-eighth.

By the President:

Secretary of State.

*By Miss Shannon of my office - S.T.S.*

Thanksgiving Day - 1933

By the President of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, from the early days of this Republic it has been the custom to set aside annually a day of National Thanksgiving, for the Providence of Almighty God, for his blessings and for his kind care and protection of the people of this country, and, whereas the people of this great Nation have in recent months shown by unparalleled courage and sacrifice a willingness to assist and cooperate in correcting economic evils; that a great democracy born of the people and administered by the people is capable of correcting and assuaging its own ills that the man who labors or has little means is entitled to equal rights with his more fortunate brother; that a realization that the plenty of the nation is intended for all and not for a favored few; that a helpful spirit, sympathetic to the correction of our economic afflictions pervades this great people to the extent that thousands who a few months ago walked the streets hungry, looking for some way to earn the necessities of life, have been restored to places of employment and their hunger has been appeased; that we are at peace at home and abroad; that the national granary has been abundantly stored through the beneficence of an all-wise Parent:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Thursday, November thirtieth, 1933, as a National Day of Thanksgiving to be devoted by the people of these United States to the service of Almighty God; that they reverently and devoutly assemble in their respective places of worship and there in humility and adoration offer up to God sincere thanks for these and countless other blessings; that we beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; and implore Him to enable us all, whether in private or public stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually to the end that His Great Will may be done.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred (Seal) and fifty-eighth.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

By the President:  
Cordell Hull,  
Secretary of State.