-----December 24, 1933 Community Christmas Tree Lighting - Washington, DC] FDR Speech File 0670

Reading Copy

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, AT THE LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY TREE IN WASHINGTON. DECEMBER 24, 1933.

We in the Nation's Capital are gathered around this symbolic tree celebrating the coming of Christmas; in spirit we join with millions of others, men and women and children, throughout our own land and in other countries and continents, in happy and reverend observance of the spirit of Christmas.

For me and formy family it is the happiest of Christmases. To the many thousands of you who have thought of me and have sent me greetings, and I hope all of you are hearing my voice, I want to tell you how profoundly grateful I am. If it were within my power so to do I would personally thank each and every one of you for your remembrance of me, but there are so many thousands of you that that happy task is impossible.

Even more greatly, my happiness springs from the deep conviction that this year marks a greater national understanding of the significance in our modern lives of the teachings of Him whose birth we celebrate. To more and more of us the words "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" have taken on a meaning that is showing itself and proving itself in our purposes and daily lives.

May the practice of that high ideal grow in us all in the year to come.

I give you and send you one and all, old and young, a Merry Christmas and a truly Happy New Year.

And so, for now and for always "God Bless Us Every One."

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This is a transcript made by the White Fouse stemographer from his shorthand notes taken at the the appearing and the constraint made. Underlining interacts words and the state of the prepared rein recept test. Words in the reduced parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the proviously prepared reading copy test.

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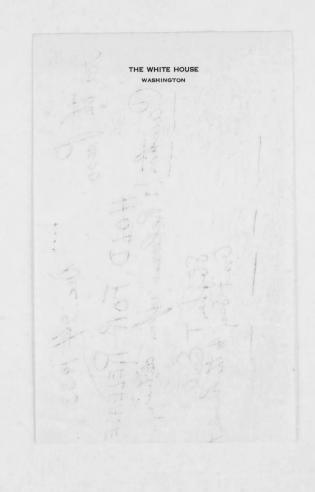
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