

December 24, 1933

[Community Christmas Tree lighting - Washington, DC]

FDR Speech File

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 ~~for~~ my 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."

  
(Original reading copy)

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time 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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(End)

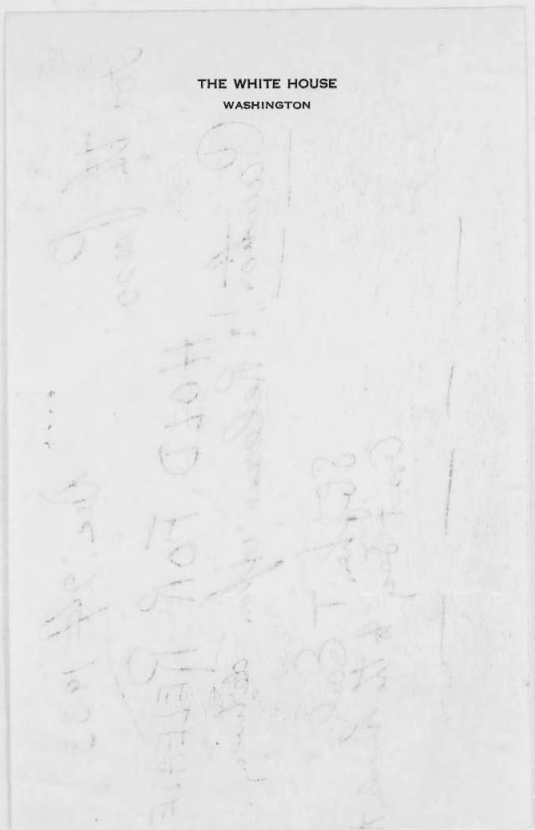
For the Press

Dec 24 1933

HOLD FOR RELEASE  
Caution!: Release upon delivery

Stephen T. Early  
Asst Secy to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



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