

March 3, 1934

[Address at Installation - Chancellor of American Univ.]

FDR Speech File

Reading Copy

Pres. address at installation  
of Dr. J. M. Gray--American  
University, Washington, D. C.

March 3, 1934.

*Bushy Weyher Fiscal Angel*  
*Dr. Lany - Reference to Experts*  
*Both Am. People - Their Piss are*  
*working hard to keep up with them.*

It is very delightful to me to become today an

alumnus of American University. I am honored also in  
the association with your new chancellor which it affords.

It is a good thing for our American life that  
this University should be situated in the Capital of  
the country. It is good in the opportunity which it  
gives to higher education to come into a more intimate  
understanding of the problems of what we call government;  
it is good for government to expand its associations  
with the teachers and pupils of a liberal institution.

It is, of course, natural that I should take  
special interest in the announcement of the creation  
of a School of Public Affairs by American University.

Many articles have been written, many speeches are being made which seek to review and to estimate the history of the United States during the past year. I am willing to hazard the guess that few of these epitomes will stress what to me stands out as one of the most salient features of a salient year in our American life.

I speak of the amazing and universal increase in the intelligent interest which the people of the United States are taking in the whole subject of government. In cities, in hamlets and on farms men and women in their daily contacts are discussing, as never before except in time of war, the methods by which community and national problems are ordered; and war is not, in

the true sense, an exception because in such case there is but a single objective.

In the broader problem of government of all kinds, local and state and federal and international, we in this country today are thinking not merely in terms of the moment, but in terms that apply to the rest of our lives and to the lives of our children. It is true that the immediate cause of this logical and deep-seated interest was a crisis --- an immediate crisis which broke over our heads a year ago. It would have been possible perhaps for all of us to have sought only a temporary cure for the immediate illness of the Nation. We can be thankful that we have studied and are engaged in the

process of eradicating the deeper causes of that illness and of many other illnesses of the body politic.

In so doing, we need very definitely practical contacts between the collegiate and educational world and the operations of government. The development of our economic life requires the intelligent understanding of the hundreds of complicated elements in our society. Government needs very definitely not only the sociological and economic points of view, but also the practical assistance of men and women who represent the academic, the business, and the professional elements in the community.

We need a trained personnel in government. We need

disinterested, as well as broad gauged public officials. This part of our problem we have not yet solved, but it can be solved and it can be accomplished without the creation of a national bureaucracy which would dominate the national life of our governmental system.

That is why I am especially happy in the announcement of the establishment of this School of Public Affairs. I can assure you of the hearty cooperation of the Administration. In the conduct of this school the more widely you can draw on every part of the Nation for the membership of its student body, the greater will be its influence in the dissemination of knowledge of government throughout the country.

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Among our universities, you are young: you have  
a great future -- a great opportunity for initiative,  
for constructive thinking, for practical idealism and  
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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
at the Installation of Dr. Joseph M. M. Gray  
as Chancellor of American University  
March 3, 1934

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It is a good thing for our American life that this University should be situated in the Capital of the country. It is good in the opportunity which it gives to higher education to come into a more intimate understanding of the problems of what we call government; it is good for government to expand its associations with the teachers and pupils of a liberal institution.

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I speak of the amazing and universal increase in

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.

It is very delightful to me to be associated with you in this

association with your new Chancellor which is a pleasure.

It is a good thing for our American life that this

University should be situated in the Capital of the country.

It is good in the opportunity which it gives to higher edu-

cation to come into a more intimate understanding of the

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In so doing, we need very definitely practical contacts between the collegiate and educational world and the operations of government. The development of our economic life requires the intelligent understanding of the hundreds

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We need a trained personnel in government. We need disinterested, as well as broad-gauged public officials. This part of our problem we have not yet solved, but it can be solved and it can be accomplished without the creation of a national bureaucracy which would dominate the national life of our governmental system.

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*File*

FOR THE PRESS

MARCH 3, 1934

CAUTION -- HOLD FOR RELEASE

This Address of the President at the installation of Dr. Joseph M. M. Gray as Chancellor of The American University must be held in confidence until released.

CAUTION -- Release upon delivery.

STEPHEN EARLY

*Assistant Secretary to the President*



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Address of the President at the Installation of  
Dr. Joseph M. M. Gray as ~~President~~<sup>Chancellor</sup> of American University,  
March 3, 1934.

It is very delightful to me to become today an alumnus  
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your new ~~President~~<sup>Chancellor</sup> which it affords.

It is a good thing for our American life that this  
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UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.  
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Address of the President at the Installation of  
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