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. 697

1934 May 4

Message to Congress Requesting Authority to Return to Canada a Mace Taken in Battle of York, 1812
TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

During the War of 1813 the Mace of the Parliament of Upper Canada, or Ontario, was taken by United States Forces at the time of the battle of York, April 27, 1813. That Mace, which had been the symbol of legislative authority at York (now Toronto) since 1793, has been preserved in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

On July 4, 1934, there is to be unveiled in Toronto a memorial tablet erected by the United States Daughters of 1813 to the memory of General Pike and others of the United States Forces who were killed in action. The Mayor and Council of Toronto are providing the site for the memorial.

The suggestion has been made that it would be a

Glorious act for the United States to return this historic Mace to Canada at the time of the unveiling of the tablet.

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The Mace is a token of representative government, established at York nearly a century and a half ago. It symbolizes the orderly rule of such government in Canada, continuing from that day to this.

Since the agreement of 1817, the two countries have by common accord maintained no hostile armaments on either side of their boundary; and every passing year cements the peace and friendship between the peoples of Canada and the United States.

I heartily recommend to the favorable consideration of the Congress the enactment of a joint resolution authorizing the return of the Mace to the Canadian Government.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

WASHINGTON,

May 4, 1934.
TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

There is now preserved at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, a Speaker's Mace captured by the United States Forces at the Battle of York during the War of 1812.

On July 4, 1834, there is to be unveiled in Toronto, Canada, a memorial tablet to be erected by the United States Daughters of 1812 to the memory of General Pike and the men of the United States Forces who were killed in action. The Mayor and Council of Toronto are to furnish the site for the memorial.

The suggestion has been made that it would be a gracious act on the part of this country and one that would promote the friendship existing between the two countries, for the United States to return the above mentioned Mace to the Dominion of Canada at the time of the unveiling of the tablet.

I heartily endorse this suggestion and recommend to the favorable consideration of the Congress the enactment of legislation authorizing the return of the Mace to the Dominion of Canada.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
May 4, 1934.