
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**

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TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

During the War of 1812 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 1792, 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 1812 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 *gracious* ~~worthy~~ 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.

J. L. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

WASHINGTON,

May 4, 1934

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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, 1934, 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 ^{providing} ~~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 historic} ~~the above described~~ Mace to the Dominion of Canada at the time of the unveiling of the tablet.

I heartily ~~concur in this suggestion and~~ recommend to the favorable consideration of the Congress the enactment of ^{the historic} ~~legislation~~ authorizing the return of the Mace to the Dominion of Canada.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
May 4, 1934.

Furthermore this year marks the - anniversary of the founding of Toronto.

Every passing year cement the peace and friendship between the peoples of Canada & the U.S.