

May 26, 1934

[Re-opening of Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago]

FDR Speech File

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1911
May 28, 1934

~~Speech at the Exposition~~

(1)

You whom I am happy to address this evening in this unique manner have had the opportunity denied me of witnessing during ~~the~~ ^{the} day the re-opening and the re-dedication of a great international exposition, A Century of Progress.

The millions of our people who visited the Exposition of 1933 must have seen in it, as I did, an inspiring demonstration of courage and confidence. Those who will come to the Exposition of 1934 will see how abundantly that courage and that confidence were justified. They will discover in this new Exposition many evidences of the recovery that has been brought about and see many signs pointing the way along that upward path upon which we, as a nation, have set our feet.

The days ^{most critical} ~~of the extreme~~ ^{of a} national emergency have for the most part passed. The unsound structures have been and are being torn down. A re-building from the bottom up is in progress.

A plan and a definite objective existed for this Exposition. It was to show not merely the progress of the century represented by the life of Chicago as a municipality but the means by which this progress has been attained.

~~Speech at the Exposition~~
Likewise, a ^{definite objective is also} ~~plan is~~ being followed by those to whom have been entrusted the administration of national affairs. The individual parts in this planned program are by no means inflexible or infallible. As I often have said, we may in some respects ~~have to~~ change ~~the~~ method while ^{the} ~~in other~~ ^{objectives remain the same} ~~respects we may not have gone far enough~~. Time and experience will determine.

The ^{big} objective, ~~however, remains the same and~~ is constantly before us. It is the restoration of our national well-being and the providing of a greater opportunity for humanity to prosper and find happiness. ^{from the bottom up}

I am firmly convinced that this Exposition will contribute to that end. It will serve a desirable means of bringing our people into closer contact. It will aid in the strengthening of national morale. It will

(2)

create a demand for the latest products of science and industry, and ~~it~~
furthermore will add to our general enjoyment. ~~STOP~~

Now, as I employ the forces of electricity by pressing this
telegraph key on my desk and thereby illuminating the Exposition, ~~the~~
~~various lights~~, I wish for A Century of Progress the greatest measure of
success and for its visitors many happy and well spent hours.

A. W. R.

(3)

MRS. ROOSEVELT

I truly wish that I could be with all of you this evening on the grounds of A Century of Progress in Chicago and share with you the beauties that are being revealed to your eyes on the grounds of the Exposition.

I recall so vividly the strikingly beautiful lighting and color effects of the Exposition of last year, and I have heard much of the changes which have been made to add to the attractiveness of this year's Fair.

One of these additions of which I have heard much is the great fountain. I hope that it may be possible for me to see it during the coming summer. ~~(STOP)~~

I am very happy indeed to be able by a simple movement of my hand to initiate an impulse which will turn on this fountain. I am so glad to have been with you and to have had a part in the re-opening of A Century of Progress. Good-night and best wishes to you all.

Mrs H. portrait

Refers to Jones

P. P. F. 12

This week -

file

You whom I am happy to address this evening in this unique manner have had the opportunity denied me of witnessing during the day the re-opening and the re-dedication of a great international exposition, A Century of Progress.

The millions of our people who visited the Exposition of 1933 must have seen in it, as I did, an inspiring demonstration of courage and confidence. Those who will come to the Exposition of 1934 will see how abundantly that courage and that confidence were justified. They will discover in this new Exposition many evidences of the recovery that has been brought about and see many signs pointing the way along that upward path upon which we, as a nation, have set our feet.

The days of the extreme national emergency have for the most part passed. The unsound structures have been and are being torn down, new plans have been drafted, and a re-building from the bottom up is in progress. ~~It is not to be wondered that at times there may have existed some confusion in the minds of some by reason of the complexity of the task. Similar confusion and doubt probably would have possessed the minds of some people had they visited the exposition grounds even a month ago.~~

II A plan and a definite objective existed for this Exposition. It was to show not merely the progress of the century represented by the life of Chicago as a municipality but the means by which this progress has been attained. ~~So far as possible it also was desired to point the way ahead.~~

II Likewise, a plan is being followed by those to whom have been entrusted the administration of national affairs. The individual