
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. 738

1934 September 27

**Radio Address to the 4th Annual Conference on
Human Problems**

9/27/20
Radio Address of the Conf. on Current Problems

I wish that I could have attended in person
all of the sessions of ^{year} ~~the~~ Conference ~~on Current Problems~~
because of the wide field of human endeavor which it has
covered and because of the distinguished group of speakers
to whom you have listened. The world as a whole is making
progress in meeting current problems, because the world
as a whole realizes that the problems are new and, as
such, must be met ^{in large part} with new answers.

If you were to ask me, I would tell you
frankly that the greatest achievement of the past two
years in the United States has been the fact that the
American people have taken, and are taking, a greater
interest in, and have acquired a better understanding
of, current problems affecting their welfare and the
world's welfare than at any time at least during the
present generation. That is a very heartening thought
to all of us ^{who} believe in the republican form of
government as carried into effect by majority rule.

In every walk of life in every part of the country, it has become a normal and an interesting thing, when two or more persons are gathered together, for them to talk over methods of improving the economic and social lot of our citizenry.

More and more people are doing their own thinking. The number of poll parrots in our midst is steadily declining - for which we must be very thankful. More and more men and women are looking up their own facts and forming their own opinions.

And equally important, We are learning to discriminate between news *and* *mere* and rumor. As a people we put our tongues in our cheeks when a fact or a series of facts are distorted, no matter what motive is the cause of that distortion.

We as a people are *and his* less inclined to believe those who would create fear or encourage panic. We as a people pay small attention to those gossip-mongers who *of course* invent tales, generally with a

Fortunately the overwhelming mass of the American people pay no more attention to this kind of rumor than I do. Today's story ^{of course} happens to be wholly

untrue, *but I assume you that I do not take the trouble to read dailies, because I have an abiding faith*
It is with a very definite sense of

gratification and thanks that I tell you of my conviction *the great mass of*
that our people have both feet on the ground; that they
are increasingly interested in the truth and increasingly
interested in arriving at sound conclusions regarding our
national progress in meeting current problems.

For that reason I am glad to have this
opportunity of sending my greetings to a gathering of
intelligent men and women, who know how to discriminate
in making up their minds about the current problems of
American life. *Keep up the good work*

*Since up
proportion
and the
Since up
horror
of our
reading
and the*

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
to the
Fourth Annual Women's Conference on Current Problems
September 27, 1934, 10.00 P.M.

I wish that I could have attended in person all of the sessions of the Conference on Current Problems because of the wide field of human endeavor which it has covered and because of the distinguished group of speakers to whom you have listened. The world as a whole is making progress in meeting current problems, because the world as a whole realizes that the problems are new and, as such, must be met with new answers.

If you were to ask me, I would tell you frankly that the greatest achievement of the past two years in the United States has been the fact that the American people have taken, and are taking, a greater interest in, and have acquired a better understanding of, current problems affecting their welfare and the world's welfare than at any time at least during the present generation. That is a very heartening thought to all of us who believe in the republican form of government as carried into effect by majority rule.

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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.

To all persons who attended the conference

the sessions of the Conference on Current Problems because

of the wide field of human endeavor

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More and more people are doing their own thinking. The number of poll-parrots in our midst is steadily declining -- for which we must be very thankful. More and more men and women are looking up their own facts and forming their own opinions.

We are learning to discriminate between news and rumor. As a people we put our tongues in our cheeks when a fact or a series of facts are distorted, no matter what motive is the cause of that distortion.

We as a people are less inclined to believe those who would create fear or encourage panic. We as a people pay small attention to those gossip-mongers who invent tales, generally with a selfish objective behind the tales.

You and I as sensible Americans know of daily instances which mar rather than help our efforts for calm discussion of current problems. Just for example, I cite one which occurred this very day; a rumor which started in Wall Street, spread to Chicago, and came back to Washington for verification. The rumor was the immediate retirement of three members of my Cabinet -- the Secretary of Agriculture and his Undersecretary, the Secretary of Labor and the

Secretary of the Treasury. It even went to the extent of announcing the name of a new Secretary of the Treasury.

The origin of the report comes from what is politely called "an anonymous source". I urge that every one of you consider and analyze the source and motive back of every report you read.

Fortunately the overwhelming mass of the American people pay no more attention to this kind of rumor than I do. Today's story happens to be wholly untrue.

It is with a very definite sense of gratification and thanks that I tell you of my conviction that our people have both feet on the ground; that they are increasingly interested in the truth and increasingly interested in arriving at sound conclusions regarding our national progress in meeting current problems.

For that reason I am glad to have this opportunity of sending my greetings to a gathering of intelligent men and women, who know how to discriminate in making up their minds about the current problems of American life.

September 27, 1934

The following radio address of the President to the Fourth Annual Womens Conference on Current Problems, meeting in New York City, is released for publication in editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 10:00 P.M., Eastern Standard Time, today, September 27, 1934.

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I wish that I could have attended in person all of the sessions of the Conference on Current Problems because of the wide field of human endeavor which it has covered and because of the distinguished group of speakers to whom you have listened. The world as a whole is making progress in meeting current problems, because the world as a whole realizes that the problems are new and, as such, must be met with new answers.

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We are learning to discriminate between news and rumor. As a people we put our tongues in our cheeks when a fact or a series of facts are distorted, ~~no matter what motive is the cause of whether that distortion is the result of merely partisan political motives or by the desire of some special group to gain selfish ends or by some individual to obtain notoriety.~~

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The origin of the report comes from what is politely called "an anonymous source." ~~I am told that on this anonymous report the general Stock Market list advanced, except in the case of mining shares which broke sharply.~~

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consider and analyze the source of every report you read.

Fortunately the overwhelming mass of the American people pay no more attention to this kind of rumor than I do. Today's story happens to be wholly untrue, ~~and I don't half a dozen stories, most of which appear in print, which I read every day of my life.~~

It is with a very definite sense of gratification and thanks that I tell you of my conviction that our ~~people have~~ *people have* both ~~its~~ feet on the ground; ~~that they are~~ *that they are* increasingly interested in the truth and increasingly interested ~~(and that truth)~~ in arriving at sound conclusions regarding our national progress in meeting ~~our~~ current problems.

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