

October 22, 1934

[Mobilization of Human Funds]

FDR Speech File

Reading
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RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
1934 MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS
OCTOBER 22, 1934

For the second successive year I am making a direct and frank appeal to the country to give support to worthy local charities of all kinds.

You will recognize the necessity of the general rule which prevents the President of the United States from asking for assistance or contributions on behalf of any specific ~~an~~ ^{or local} individual good cause. If I were to begin doing that I would be on the air at least ^{a dozen} ~~two or three~~ times every evening.

In this case, however, there is in existence ^{one} ~~one~~ ^{temporary} a central organization called the "1934 MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS." The object of this mobilization is to encourage and tie in together the many private organizations ^{which} ~~who~~ are seeking funds to carry on their very ^{useful} ~~essential~~ and necessary work for the coming year.

In some communities these organizations seek contributions from the public by the means of Community Chests;

in other communities they are asking for help separately but simultaneously *this autumn*.

May I very simply explain to you two facts which all of ^{us} ~~you~~ should bear in mind?

The first is that the Federal government, the State governments and local governments are all of them bearing an unusually heavy load of expenditures for relief and employment purposes -- a load so heavy that every good citizen should seek to lighten it in every way possible. This effort on the part of governments of all kinds to bear their share of the emergency needs proceeds very clearly on the assumption that the ^{very large} ~~total~~ amount of relief ^{work which has been always} ~~of human needs, heretofore~~ borne by private contributions to private organizations, will continue in the future at least at the same pace and in the same amount as in the past.

I hope that you will well realize that it is contrary to a sound public policy to transfer more burdens to the shoulders of government if it can possibly be avoided and, therefore, that private charity should, as a matter of good citizenship, be maintained at least at current levels.

The other point I would make is that ^{no one} ~~none~~ of us

wants to eliminate the personal factor in taking care of human needs. Surely ^{no one} ~~none~~ of you wants to centralize the care of relief either in Washington or in your State Capitol or in your City Hall ^{or in your county government.} The decentralization of relief - the keeping of it in the hands of private organizations as much as we possibly can - means that personal relationships, personal contacts, personal obligations and personal opportunities to do good will be preserved.

It is, therefore, without hesitation and with very deep feeling that I ask you to support your local ^{and church} charitable and welfare organizations in this 1934 MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS.

I am sure you will respond.

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~~the~~ the financial side of it, the personal giving to the social ^{religious} charitable ^{individual} ~~institutions~~ in which you are ~~personally~~ interested means much to the maintenance of these ^{original} human contacts and interests on which our American life is founded

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
Mobilization for Human Needs
October 22, 1934

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You will recognize the necessity of the general rule which prevents the President of the United States from asking for assistance or contributions on behalf of any specific or individual good cause. If I were to begin doing that I would be on the air at least two or three times every evening.

In this case, however, there is in existence a central organization called the "1934 Mobilization for Human Needs". The object of this mobilization is to encourage and tie in together the many private organizations which are seeking funds to carry on their very essential and necessary work for the coming year.

In some communities these organizations seek contributions from the public by the means of Community Chests; in other communities they are asking for help separately but simultaneously.

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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.

...and I am sure that the country will support the worthy local activities of all kinds.

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The first is that the Federal Government, the State governments and local governments are all of them bearing an unusually heavy load of expenditures for relief and employment purposes -- a load so heavy that every good citizen should seek to lighten it in every way possible. This effort on the part of governments of all kinds to bear their share of the emergency needs proceeds very clearly on the assumption that the total amount of relief of human needs, heretofore borne by private contributions to private organizations, will continue in the future at least at the same pace and in the same amount as in the past.

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It is, therefore, without hesitation and with very deep feeling that I ask you to support your local charitable and welfare organizations in this 1934 Mobilization for Human Needs.

This address of the President, delivered in behalf of the 1934 Mobilization for Human Needs, is for publication in all editions of newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 10:30 P. M., Eastern Standard Time, today, October 22, 1934.

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STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the President

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