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. 756

1934 December 10

Address to the Attorney General's Crime Conference During the past two years there have been uppermost in our minds the problems of feeding and clothing the destitute, making secure the foundations of our agricultural, industrial and financial structures, and releasing and directing the vital forces that make for a healthy national life. As a component part of the large objective we include our constant struggle to safeguard ourselves against the attacks of the lawless and the criminal elements of our population.

Relentlessly and without compromise the Department of Justice has moved forward in its major offensive against these forces. With increasing effectiveness, state and local agencies are directing their efforts toward the achievement of law enforcement; and with them, in more marked degree than ever before, the Federal Government has worked toward the common objective.

It is a privilege to pay tribute to the men and women who, in many capacities, official and otherwise, have contributed to our growing success. To a much greater extent than is generally realized our law enforcement officers throughout the country have rendered devoted, conscientious and effective service, often under exasperating and hazardous circumstances.

Their effectiveness has, unfortunately, been impaired because of inadequate organization, unscientific administration and lack of public support and understanding.

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In many instances we may as well frankly admit, bandits have been better equipped and better organized than have the officials who are supposed to keep them in check. This is particularly true because of the lack of coordination between local agencies within the states. It is, also, contributed to in serious measure by the lack of facilities for training skilled men for the work of detection, apprehension and prosecution of accused persons, and by similar lack of facilities for the study and supervision of certain types of criminals capable of rehabilitation.

It is important, too, that we recognize clearly the increasing scope and complexity of the problem of criminal

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law administration. Undoubtedly there are unfortunate aspects of our national life which seriously threaten the American home; increase the danger of juvenile delinquency and multiply offenses against the good order of society. The regulation of the illicit traffic in drugs, the prevention of commerce in stolen goods, and generally, the interstate character of offenses attributable to the roving criminal have presented national problems against which primitive forms of law enforcement are relatively powerless.

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This can come only through expert service in marshalling the assets of home, school, church, community and other social agencies, to work in common purpose with our law enforcement agencies. We deceive ourselves when we fail to realize that it is an interrelated problem of immense difficulty. Scientific research, highly trained personnel, expert service are just as necessary here as in any field of human endeavor. To the extent that we provide, instead, unscientific methods, poorly trained personnel end hit-or-miss procedures, we may expect bungling, heartbreaking results.

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I ask you, therefore, to do all in your power to interpret the problem of crime to the people of this country. They must realize the many implications of that word "Crime." It is not enough that they become interested in one phase only. At one moment popular resentment and anger may be roused by an outbreak of some particular form of crime such, for example, as widespread banditry; or at another moment, of appalling kidnappings; or at another of widespread drug peddling; or at another of horrifying lynchings.

It is your positive duty to keep before the country

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the facts in regard to crime as a whole -- great crimes, lesser crimes and little crimes -- to build up a body of public opinion which, I regret to be compelled to say, is not in this day and age sufficiently active or alive to the situation in which we find ourselves.

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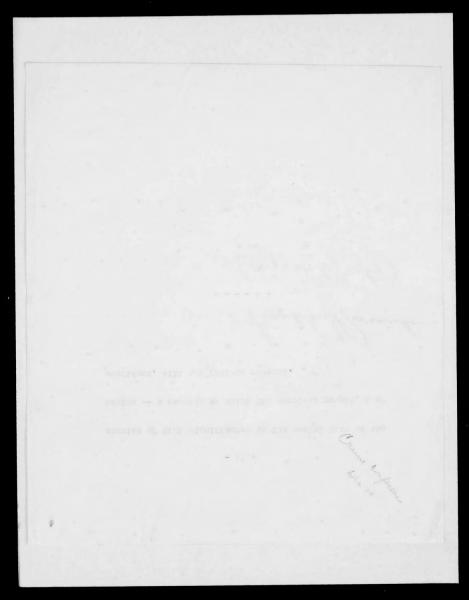
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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT to the Attorney General's Crime Conference Monday, December 10, 1934, 9.30 P.M.

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Tranklin D. Roosevelt Library

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THE PRESIDENT

At the Attorney General's Crime Conference, Constitution Hall, Washington, D. C., December 10, 1934.

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FOR THE PRESS

The following address of the President, to be delivered at the Attorney General's Grime Conference, Constitution Hall, Wachington, D. C., at 9:30 P. M. today must be held for release.

Release is automatic, at 9:30 P. N., <u>Eastern Standard Time</u>, Nonday, Decembor 10, 1834. Please safeguard against premature publication.

> STEPHEN EARLY Assistant Secretary to the President.

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SUGGESTED ADDRESS

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BY

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HOLD FOR RELEASE CONFIDENTIAL HOLD FOR RELEASE CONFIDENTIAL HOLD FOR RELEASE CONFIDENTIAL

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I Your second task is of equal importance. An administrative structure that is perfect will still be ineffective in its results unless the people of the United States understand the larger purposes and cooperate with these purposes.

I ask you, therefore, to do all in your power to interpret the problem of crime to the people of this country. They must realize the many implications of that word "Crime." It is not enough that they become interested in one phase only. (And Internet) At one period popular resentment and anger may be roused by an outbreak of some particular form of crime such, for example, as widespread banditry; or at another for of appalling kidnappings; or at another for of widespread drug peddling; or at another of horrifying lynchings. It is your positive duty to keep before the country the facts in regard to crime as a whole -great crimes, lesser crimes end little crimes -- to build up a body of public opinion which I regret to be compelled to say is not in this day and age sufficiently active or alive to the situation x in which we find curselves.

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-6- 1 using Addition T I want the backing of every man, woman and child in every state of the United States and in every county of every state -- their backing for what you and the officers of law and order are trying to accomplish.

The sustained interest and assistance of the organizations here represented can become a public service of high significance in the social life of the nation -- a service to which the American people, I am confident, will not fail to respond.

(End)

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FOR THE FRESS

CAUTION

The following address of the President, to be delivered at the Attorney General's Crime Conference, Constitution Hall, Washington, D. C., at 9:30 P. H. today must be held for release.

NOTE:

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Release is automatic, at 9:30 P. H., Eastern Standard Time, Londay, Decembor 10, 1934. Please safeguard egainst promature publication.

> STEPHEN EARLY Assistant Secretary to the President.

During the past two years there have been uppermost in our minds the problems of feeding and clothing the destitute, making secure the foundations of our agricultural, "Industrial and financial structures, and relation and directing the vital forces that make for a healby gaional life. As a component part of the large objective "& include our constant struggle to safegurai ourselves against the attacks of the lawless and the criminal elements of our population.

Reletizesly and vitigit compromise the Department of Jutice has moved forward in Tits mjor offensive against these forces. With increasing effectiveness, state and local agencies are directing their efforts formard the schleroment of law enforcement; and with them, in more municad degree than ever before, the Federal Government has worked toward the common bejective. $t_{U} \rightarrow - \ell_{c}$

It is a privilege to pay tribute to the man and women who, in many ocpacities, official and otherwise, have contributed to our growing success. To a much greater estant than is generally realized our law enforcement officers tiroughout the country have rendered devoted, conscientious and effective service, often under ϵ_{∞} well a erasperating and hazardous circumstances.

Their effectiveness has, unfortuntely, been impaired because of indequate organization, unscientific administration and lack of Fuble support and understanding. In many instances, we may as well frunkly admit, bandite have been betwer equipped and betwer organized than have the officials the are supposed to keep them in check. This is particularly true because of the lack of coordination between local agencies within the states. I fit is also, contributed to in serious measure by the lack of facilities for training skilled ason for the work of detection, apprehension and prosecution of accuaed persons, and by similar lack of facilities for the study and supervision of certain types of criminals explaied or rehebilitation.

It is important, too, that we recognize clearly the increasing scope and complexity of the problem of oriminal law administration. Undoubtedly there are unfortunate aspects of our national life thich scriously threaten the American home; increase the danger of jurefile delinquency and multiply offenses against the goed order of society. The regulation of the illicit traffic in drugs, the provention. of occmerce in stolem goeds, and generally, the interstate character of offenses attributable to the reving criminal have presented national problems against which primitive forms of law enforcement ray solatively powerless. Is is equally necessary that we realize the importance of common action all along the line -- starting with orime prevention itself and carrying this common action all the way through to prosecution and punishment.

Effective detection of orininals may be rendered useless by indifective prosecution or by unintelligont judical disposition. B meficent and promising procedures, such as probation and parcle, may become actually sources of danger, if ignorantly or indifferently administered. So, too, reliance on mere repression cannot take the place of intelligent training and guidance of youth.

We have come to a time when our need is to discover more fully and to direct more purposefully into useful channels that gractest of all natural resources, the Genius of the younger generation. Crime is a symptom of social disorder. Widespread increase in capacity to substitute order for disorder is the remody.

This can come only through expert service in morballing the assets of mome, school, shurch, community and other social seconds, to work in common purpose with our law enforcement agencies. ''e desive ourselves when we fail to realize that it is an interrelated problem of immense difficulty, Scientific research, highly trained personnel, expert service are just as necessary here as in any field of human endeavor. To the extent that we provide, instead, unscientific methods, poorly trained personnel and hit-or-miss procedures, we may expect bungling, heartbreaking results.

I am delighted, therefore, that the Attorney General has called you together for this Conference. The country knows that under his leadership we are catting better results than ever before.

It is heartoning and reasauring to the people of the United States that you have gathered here for this purpose. They are looking to you for guidance and intelligent leadership. They have a right to expect from you a constructive program of action in which they us individuals, and collectively as communities and organizations, may participate. It should be a challenge to you to respond to these expectations.

The task of this thoroughly representative conference is two-fold.

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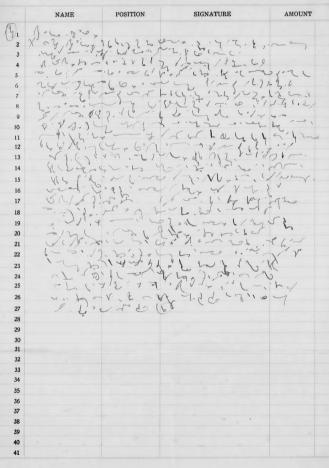
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(END)

SALARY LIST

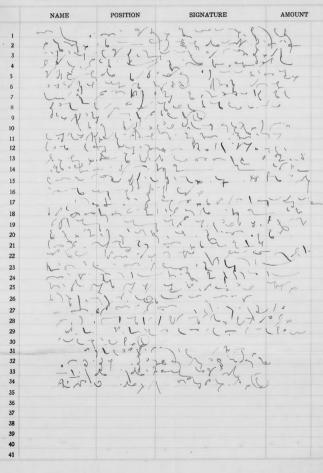
RECEIVED from the management of **THE RAPLEY THEATRE COMPANY**, the amount set opposite our respective names, in full payment and satisfaction of any and all claims which we have against said namagement, and we do hereby release the said management of any and all claims of whatsever name and nature we have against them to date.



-----Manager.

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