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**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**

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**File No. 762**

**1935 January 17**

**Greetings to the Holland Society of New York**  
**(via telephone)**

Reading Copy

Delivered by the President  
over telephone from Oval Room at  
White House to Holland Society at  
the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New  
York. --Jan. 17, 1935.

Paula

Reading Copy

January 17, 1935.

MY FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES OF THE HOLLAND SOCIETY OF NEW YORK:

Presidential plans for future engagements are, I find, to my sorrow, more susceptible to change than the plans of any private citizen. I had counted for many months on being with all of you tonight on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Holland Society. At least I take some comfort in the fact that it required a reception in the White House to the <sup>Judiciary</sup> ~~and other members of the Judiciary~~ (Supreme Court) of the United States to keep me away from your dinner.

I need not tell you of my long interest in and association with the Holland Society. I feel a just pride in what the Society has stood for as the exponent and recorder of the great contribution made, through three hundred years, by men and women of Netherland descent in the building of the United States.

Our early forebears brought from the Netherlands a quality of endurance against great odds -- a quality of quiet determination to conquer obstacles of nature and obstacles of man. That is why for many years I have been so deeply interested in the preservation of the records and monuments left in New York City and the Hudson River Valley by the Dutch pioneers. The influence of New Netherland on the whole Colonial period of our history, which culminated in the War for Independence, has not as yet been fully recognized.

It was an influence which made itself felt in all of the other twelve Colonies, and it is an influence which manifests itself today in almost every part of our Union of States.

To all of you I send my greetings. We honor those men and women of early days who made so much out of such small beginnings. Let us who treasure their memories not fall short of the measure of their deeds.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
at the 50th Anniversary of the  
Holland Society of New York  
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City  
(Telephoned from the Oval Room Study at the White House)  
January 17, 1935, 8.45 P. M.

My friends and associates of The Holland Society of New York:

Presidential plans for future engagements are, I find to my sorrow, more susceptible to change than the plans of any private citizen. I had counted for many months on being with all of you tonight on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Holland Society. At least I take some comfort in the fact that it required a reception in the White House to the Judiciary of the United States to keep me away from your dinner.

I need not tell you of my long interest in and association with the Holland Society. I feel a just pride in what the Society has stood for as the exponent and recorder of the great contribution made, through three hundred years, by men and women of Netherland descent in the building of the United States.

Our early forebears brought from the Netherlands a quality of endurance against great odds -- a quality of quiet determination to conquer obstacles of nature and obstacles of man. That is why for many years I have been so deeply

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.

My friends and associates of the Holland Society of New York  
I find to my sorrow, more susceptible to change than the plans  
of my private citizens. I had counted for many months on be-  
ing with all of you tonight on the occasion of the English  
Anniversary of the Holland Society. At least I take some  
comfort in the fact that it requires a reputation in the White  
House to the Judiciary of the United States to keep so away  
from your dinner.  
I need not tell you of my long interest in and as-  
sociation with the Holland Society. I feel a just pride in  
what the Society has stood for as the earnest and resolute  
of the great contribution made, through three hundred years,  
by men and women of Netherlands descent in the building of  
the United States.  
Our early forefathers brought from the Netherlands a  
quality of endurance against great odds -- a quality of unshak-  
determination to conquer obstacles of nature and obstacles of  
man. That is why for many years I have been so deeply

interested in the preservation of the records and monuments left in New York City and the Hudson River Valley by the Dutch pioneers. The influence of New Netherland on the whole Colonial period of our history, which culminated in the War for Independence, has not as yet been fully recognized. It was an influence which made itself felt in all of the other twelve Colonies, and it is an influence which manifests itself today in almost every part of our Union of States.

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January 17, 1935

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The President, at 8:45 tonight, E. S. T., will address the Holland Society of New York, meeting at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in celebration of its fiftieth anniversary. The address will be telephoned by the President, speaking from his Oval Room study in the White House a few minutes before he and Mrs. Roosevelt receive the guests attending the White House reception in honor of the Judiciary.

RELEASE is automatic at 8:45 P. M., Eastern Standard Time.  
Please safeguard against premature release.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Assistant Secretary to the President

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My friends and associates of The Holland Society of New York:

Presidential plans for future engagements are, I find to my sorrow, more susceptible to change than the plans of any private citizen. I had counted for many months on being with all of you to-night on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Holland Society. At least I take some comfort in the fact that it required a reception in the White House to the Judiciary of the United States to keep me away from your dinner.

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Our early forebears brought from the Netherlands a quality of endurance against great odds -- a quality of quiet determination to conquer obstacles of nature and obstacles of man. That is why for many years I have been so deeply interested in the preservation of the records and monuments left in New York City and the Hudson River Valley by the Dutch pioneers. The influence of New Netherland on the whole Colonial period of our history, which culminated in the War for Independence, has not as yet been fully recognized. It was an influence which made itself felt in all of the other twelve Colonies, and it is an influence which manifests itself today in almost every part of our Union of States.

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