

February 29, 1935

[US Savings Bonds]

FDR Speech File

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Novistone: Re: U.S. Savings Bonds

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Secretary, I wish you would tell me about these new United States Savings Bonds I have been reading about. 4/11

SECRETARY MORGENTHAU: Gladly, Mr. President. These bonds are designed as a convenient and profitable investment for the savings of individual investors. As you know, since the World War the Government has done its financing by large bond issues which have been taken by banks and corporations. Now the Treasury has decided that every citizen should have a chance to buy sound Government securities and become a partner in his Government.

They are issued in denominations as low as \$25.00. The other units are \$50.00, \$100.00, \$500.00 and \$1,000.00. The \$25.00 bond will cost you \$18.75 today. It grows in value every year, and if

you hold it for the full 10 years you will increase your investment by one-third. That applies to all the other denominations.

THE PRESIDENT: But suppose I need the money in a hurry.

SECRETARY MORGENTHAU: In case of emergency, the Government will redeem your bond at any time after 60 days from the date of issue. You cannot be deprived of payment through loss, theft or destruction. The Government will always replace them. Your name is written on the face of the bond when you buy it and the United States Treasury will have a record of your ownership. It will even keep a bond for you if you request it.

THE PRESIDENT: That sounds attractive to me. I want some. Now, how do I
buy them?)

POSTMASTER GENERAL FARLEY: Mr. President, the United States Post Office Department is the sales agency for these savings bonds. You buy them from me and it is as simple as buying a Money Order. Throughout the Country these bonds are on sale in about 14,000 post offices.

I have advised Postmasters and their staffs to give every assistance to people wishing to buy these securities. In many post offices there will be separate windows and special officials to handle the sale and to help people in every way. If there is anybody who does not know how to buy them, all he or she has to do is to ask the nearest post office about United States Savings Bonds.