

June 20, 1935

[Regional Resettlement Directors]

FOR Speech File

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INFORMAL REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO  
THE REGIONAL RESETTLEMENT DIRECTORS.

June 20, 1935.

The work you are doing lies particularly close to my heart. I go back a good many years to the time, in Albany, when we undertook what, so far as I know, was the first land-use survey. It related, in part, to soil but mostly to human beings and there, with the cooperation of the Cornell Agricultural College, we started our first land-use survey. I became intensely interested in it. Since that time, of course, a good many states have been working, both on the agricultural and human end of it. In the last two years we have put the Federal Government very actively into the major objectives that we all seek.

I have been trying to interest people in the cities in our work. For the first time, I think, we have begun to cause people in the cities to realize that their own prosperity depends, in a very large part, on the prosperity of people who live and work outside of cities. All of the small communities of the country understand it. We want the people in the big cities as well to understand. It is a national problem that relates, in the long run, just as much to people who live in cities as it does to people who live on farms.

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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.

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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.

... in additional circumstances where I... would be able to do  
... and even consider your book a... present to... send such a note  
... to him because our... information will be used...  
... information I... had... and we... money and... just... will...  
... when it's... time... everybody... when... and... others... grow  
... and... always... wanted to... give... and... over...  
... and... which I... could... difficult... not... when... the... no... nothing  
... about... said... anything... of... nothing... and... of... nothing... of... nothing...  
... and... no... thing... equal... given... a... nothing... nothing... more  
... like... to... nothing... more... has... evil... and... always... to... nothing  
... in... nothing... nothing... and... to... nothing... like... and... to... nothing...  
... and... good... and... nothing... said... nothing... and... nothing... and...  
... and... good... always... nothing... and... evil... and... always... of... none... as... and...  
... and... no... evil... and... always...

The practical end of the work applies to the rural population and, of course, to those people in cities who want to go either back to the farms or farming, or else to those who want to try out something new and get away from city life.

The Resettlement Administration has begun a work in which we all believe. You who are here today are entrusted with the duty of bringing not only new hope but a new program into the lives of a great many thousands of families. Their economic position has been weakened by years of depression and by two kinds of attempts on their part, either to make a living on land that was unsuitable to begin with -- where they ought never to have been -- or on land that has been so reduced in fertility, either through erosion or through improper cropping, that it is impossible for them to make a living.

One thing that fascinates me about your work is that no two cases are the same. Every single operation you conduct has to be viewed from the point of view of that case alone. For instance, some small financial help will be enough to tide over and put on their feet a great many families that have been hit by the depression. In other cases, families will have to be given an opportunity to move off the land they are on and will have to be provided with better land. In any of these cases, we have to establish

a better relationship between people and the sources of their living.

The benefits expected from this work call for the taking and keeping of these families off the relief rolls. The money we are using comes within the objective set by the Congress which is to put three and a half million people to work at a cost of four billion dollars.

Secondly, as an objective and as a benefit we seek, we shall devote our land resources to their highest uses; not only for this generation but for future generations. We approach this genuine conservation policy with the future in mind.

You will be expected to treat these problems humanly and yet, at the same time, with the highest degree of efficiency that the American Government has ever seen. That is quite a job. Determining the best use for land is a problem in itself. Moving people is difficult; yet they are always glad to move when it is clear that they and their families will receive a better chance as a result of the moving.

Under this appropriation act, we are expected to take care of as many families on relief as we possibly can. You will be doing this in two ways -- giving them work on community projects and providing funds for rehabilitation and resettlement. In this, you will center your

attention primarily on those actually on the relief rolls.

On the average, we cannot spend more than eleven hundred and forty-three dollars for each family taken care of. That makes a problem in management. It will challenge your ingenuity and require the most careful administration.

I know you won't mind my saying what I said to the Relief Administrators of the forty-eight States the other day. We cannot, must not and will not let politics enter into this work. It makes no difference what a family in need of rural resettlement, in one form or another, calls itself. The fact is that, if the need exists, you must help out and you have my authority -- as I told the Works Progress Administrators the other day -- to disregard partisan political pressure in any case where an attempt is made to exert it. You can tell them from me that you are not allowed to do it and that you are not going to do it.

You are aware, as I am, that the country regions are the great reservoir from which much of our future population will come. It is our duty to see to it that this future population comes out of homes where they have been able to live and grow under proper conditions, according to adequate, American standards. That is the task with

which you are entrusted. It is a fascinating job. It is something that will last through this coming year under this particular appropriation. It is something the results of which will last for many generations to come. That is why your responsibility is much more than a one-year responsibility.

In the course of the coming year, I hope to be able to get around the country a bit to visit and see with my own eyes what you have accomplished. I shall look forward to seeing you during the year. Thank you.

INFORMAL REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO  
THE REGIONAL RESETTLEMENT DIRECTORS.

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The work you are doing lies particularly close to my heart. I go back a good many years to the time, in Albany, when we undertook what, so far as I know, was the first land-use survey. It related, in part, to soil but mostly to human beings and there, with the cooperation of the Cornell Agricultural College, we started our first land-use survey. I became intensely interested in it. Since that time, of course, a good many states have been working, both on the agricultural and human end of it. In the last two years we have put the Federal Government very actively into the major objectives that we all seek.

I have been trying to interest people in the cities in our work. For the first time, I think, we have begun to cause people in the cities to realize that their own prosperity depends, in a very large part, on the prosperity of people who live and work outside of cities. All of the small communities of the country understand it. We want the people in the big cities as well to understand. It is a national problem that relates, in the long run, just as much to people who live in cities as it does to people who live on farms.

The practical end of the work applies to the rural population and, of course, to those people in cities who want to go either back to the farms or farming, or else to those who want to try out something new and get away from city life.

The Resettlement Administration has begun a work in which we all believe. You who are here today are entrusted with the duty of bringing not only new hope but a new program into the lives of a great many thousands of families. Their economic position has been weakened by years of depression and by two kinds of attempts on their part, either to make a living on land that was unsuitable to begin with -- where they ought never to have been -- or on land that has been so reduced in fertility, either through erosion or through improper cropping, that it is impossible for them to make a living.

One thing that fascinates me about your work is that no two cases are the same. Every single operation you conduct has to be viewed from the point of view of that case alone. For instance, some small financial help will be enough to tide over and put on their feet a great many families that have been hit by the depression. In other cases, families will have to be given an opportunity to move off the land they are on and will have to be provided with better land. In any of these cases, we have to establish a better relationship between people and the sources of their living.

The benefits expected from this work call for the taking and keeping of these families off the relief rolls. The money we are using comes within the objective set by the Congress which is to put three and a half million people to work at a cost of four billion dollars.

Secondly, as an objective and as a benefit we seek, we shall devote our land resources to their highest uses; not only for this generation but for future generations. We approach this genuine conservation policy with the future in mind.

You will be expected to treat these problems humanly and yet, at the same time, with the highest degree of efficiency that the American Government has ever seen. That is quite a job. Determining the best use for land is a problem in itself. Moving people is difficult; yet they are always glad to move when it is clear that they and their families will receive a better chance as a result of the moving.

Under this appropriation act, we are expected to take care of as many families on relief as we possibly can. You will be doing this in two ways -- giving them work on community projects and providing funds for rehabilitation and resettlement. In this, you will center your attention primarily on those actually on the relief rolls.

On the average, we cannot spend more than eleven hundred and forty-three dollars for each family taken care of. That makes a problem in management. It will challenge your ingenuity and require the most careful administration.

I know you won't mind my saying what I said to the Relief Administrators of the Forty-eight States the other day. We cannot, must not and will not let politics enter into this work. It makes no difference what a family in need of rural resettlement, in one form or another, calls itself. The fact is that, if the need exists, you must help out and you have my authority -- as I told the Works Progress Administrators the other day -- to disregard partisan political pressure in any case where an attempt is made to exert it. You can tell them from me that you are not allowed to do it and that you are not going to do it.

You are aware, as I am, that the country regions are the great reservoir from which much of our future population will come. It is our duty to see to it that this future population comes out of homes where they have been able to live and grow under proper conditions, according to adequate, American standards. That is the task with which you are entrusted. It is a fascinating job. It is something that will last through this coming year under this particular appropriation. It is something the results of which will last for many generations to come. That is why your responsibility is much more than a one-year responsibility.

In the course of the coming year, I hope to be able to get around the country a bit to visit and see with my own eyes what you have accomplished. I shall look forward to seeing you during the year. Thank you.

## STATEMENTS FILE

INFORMAL REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE  
REGIONAL RESETTLEMENT DIRECTORS -  
The White House, June 20, 1935.

You know, this particular work you are doing lies particularly close to my heart. I go back a good many years — I think it was six years ago, when I first went up to Albany, that we undertook what, so far as I know, was the first land-use survey which related in part to soil but mostly to human beings and up there, with the cooperation of Cornell Agricultural College we started our first land-use survey and I got intensely interested in it, and since that time of course a good many states have been both working, both on the agricultural and human end of it. In the last two years, down here, we have put the Federal Government very actively into the major objectives that we are all seeking.

I have been trying to interest people in the cities in our work and I think for the first time we have begun to make people in the cities realize that their own prosperity depends in a very large part on the prosperity of people who live and work outside of cities. All of the small

communities of the country understand it and we want to sell the idea to the people in the big cities as well. In other words, it is not just an agricultural problem or a small town problem, it is a national problem that relates in the long run just as much to people who live in cities as it does

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to people who live on farms. Of course, the practical end of the work does apply to the rural population and also, of course, to those people in cities who want to either go back to the farms or farming from which they came, or else to people who prefer to try out something new and get away from city life.

There are a number of points that I wanted to make, so I just jotted them down on paper here: the Resettlement Administration — and I think probably "resettlement" is a better word than "rehabilitation" — it is easier to say — has begun a work in which we all believe and you who are here today are entrusted with the duty of bringing not only new bringing hope but beginning a new program into the lives of a great many thousands of farm families. You all know, speaking of these families that we are

going to work with, that their economic position has been weakened by years of depression and by two kinds of attempts on their part, either to make a living on land that was unsuitable to begin with, where they ought never to have been, or else land that has been so reduced in fertility, either through erosion or through improper cropping, that it is impossible for them to make a living off of it.

Now one thing that fascinates me about your work is that no two cases are the same. Every single operation that you conduct is so <sup>indefinite</sup> dangerous (?) — it is a brand new, specific case that has to be viewed from the point of view of that case alone. For instance, for a great many families that have been hit by the depression, some small financial help will be enough to tide them over and put them on their feet again. In other cases, they will have to be given an opportunity to move off the land they are on and be provided with better land. But in any of these cases, the attempt we have to make is to establish a better relationship between ~~two~~ people and the source of their living.

The benefits expected from this work are that these families will be taken and kept off the relief rolls; in other words, the money we are using comes within the objectives set by the Congress which is to put three and a half million people to work at a cost of four billion dollars.

Secondly, as an objective, as a benefit, we seek, we shall be able to devote <sup>our</sup> land resources to their highest uses, that is, not only for this generation but for future generations, and that we shall approach this genuine conservation policy with the future in mind.

What I can say to you at the beginning of this work is that you will be expected to treat these problems humanly and yet, at the same time, with the highest degree of efficiency that the American Government has ever seen. Now, that is quite a job. Determining the best use for land is a problem in itself and yet it can be done. Moving people is difficult; and yet they are always glad to do it when it is clear that they and their families will have a better chance as a result of the moving. Under this appropriation act, we are expected to take care of as many

families that are now on relief as we possibly can. You will be doing this in two ways, by giving them work on community projects and by providing funds for rehabilitation and resettlement. In this, you will have to center your attention on those actually on the relief rolls. — We have rolls or people who will be on them immediately if something isn't done to prevent it, but primarily it is the people who are actually on the relief rolls.

Now I spoke of doing it economically. The actual number of dollars of the appropriation call~~sixfmx~~ for it. In other words, on the average we cannot spend more than eleven hundred and forty-three dollars for each family taken care of. That makes a problem in management. It will challenge your ingenuity and require the most careful administration. And I am very certain that you are capable of it.

I know you won't mind my saying to you what I have said to the Relief Administrators of the forty-eight States the other day, that we cannot, must not and will not let politics — partisan politics — enter

into this work. I do not much care what a family that needs rural resettlement in one form or another -- what they call themselves. The fact is that if they need it, you have got to help them out and therefore you have my authority, as I told the gentlemen the other day, in case any effort is made to bring political -- partisan political -- pressure on you, you can tell them from me that you are not allowed to do it and you are not going to do it. I think that may help in some sections of the United States or some communities of the United States.

You are aware, as I am, that the country regions ~~of~~<sup>are</sup> the great reservoir from which our future population will come. It is our duty to see to it that this future population comes out of homes where they have been able to live and grow under conditions which we consider are up to proper, adequate American standards. That is the task with which you are entrusted and my only directions to you are to carry out this task to the very best of your ability. It is a fascinating job. It is something that will last through this coming year under this particular appropriation, but it is something the results of which will last for a good many generations to come, and that is why your responsibility is much more than a one-year responsibility.

I shall probably, I hope, in the course of the coming year, be able to get around the country a bit and visit and see with my own eyes what you have actually accomplished, and so I shall look forward to seeing you during the year. Thank you.

The Resettlement Administration has begun a work in which we all believe. You are entrusted with the duty of bringing new hope into the lives of farm families. The economic position of these families has been weakened by years of depression and by the attempt to make a living on land which was either unsuitable to begin with or which has been reduced in fertility through erosion or too hard use.

The attack has to be different in different cases. For some who have been hit by depression some small financial help will be enough to tide them over and put them on their feet again. For others new opportunities will have to be provided on better land. In any case the attempt you must make is to establish a better relationship between people and the source of their living.

The benefits expected from this work are: that these families will be taken off and kept off the relief rolls, that we shall be able to devote our land resources to their highest uses, and that we shall approach a genuine conservation policy for the future.

What I can say to you at the beginning of this work is that you will be expected to treat these problems humanly and yet with technical efficiency. Determining the best use for land is difficult and yet it can be done. Moving people is difficult; and yet they are always glad to do it when it is clear that they and their families will have a better chance as a result. Under this appropriation act we are expected to take care of as many families who

are now on relief as we can. You will be doing this in two ways by giving them work on community projects and by providing the funds for rehabilitation and resettlement. In this you must center your attention on those who are actually on the relief rolls or who will be on them immediately if something is not done to prevent it.

All this must be done economically. Our funds require that. On an average we must not spend more than \$1,143 for each family taken care of. This makes a problem in management which may at first dismay you. It will challenge your ingenuity and require careful administration. But I am sure you are capable of it.

You are aware, as well as I am, that the country regions are the great reservoir from which our future citizens will come. It is our duty to see to it that these citizens come out of homes where they have been able to live and grow as we expect Americans to be able to do. This is the task you are entrusted with and my only directions are that you do it to the best of your ability.

Note: - Suggest reiterate orders against "politics" in this work -- the same as in work relief. J.E.