

September 23, 1935

[Motivation of Human Needs]

..0799

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT BEFORE
THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE MOBILIZA-
TION OF HUMAN NEEDS DELIVERED FROM THE SOUTH
PORTICO OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

September 23, 1935.

Mr. Swope, Ladies and Gentlemen of this Third Annual
Meeting for the Mobilization of Human Needs:

I am happy, indeed, to greet the national and community leaders of the human welfare services of the whole nation. For the third time we have the opportunity, face to face, to pledge at once the substance and the sinews of government and of private organized welfare agencies in the service of the less fortunate of the land. The problem, in spite of definitely brighter economic skies this year, demands the best that both can give.

I want to extend my congratulations and appreciation for your heroic work -- and I choose that word "heroic" deliberately -- during these years through which we have just passed. The fact that you have maintained your support of welfare services with a shrinkage of only thirteen per cent of the amount raised since 1929 is remarkable. I am glad to know that you halted the retreat at that point a year ago and now are headed once more toward the front. Let there be a general advance from that point in the 350 campaigns which have been organized for the autumn of 1935.

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.

There are very special reasons why all must cooperate to bring private welfare support back at least to the 1929 level. In pursuance of the announced policy of the legislative and administrative branches of the Federal Government, the Government is withdrawing as rapidly as possible from the field of emergency home relief. We are moving successfully toward the substitution of work for direct relief. We anticipate, in addition to the work provided by Federal funds, a very definite increase in work provided by the employers of the nation during the coming year. The great mass of private employers realize today that they again must greatly help in our economic situation by offering employment to the utmost limit of their ability.

Chiefly because of the steps taken by the Government itself during the past two and a half years to save homes and farms, to bring prices into a more fair adjustment, to make the payment of debts easier, to make loans to industry, to railroads and to banks, the actual purchasing power of the mass of the people has greatly risen from the low point of 1932. This means, therefore, that the nation as a whole is better able to do its duty to private charities than it has been for six long years, and that is a pretty good selling argument for all of you to carry to the nation.

In the task of caring for the less fortunate in this year of 1935, there are of course many important gaps

to be filled. It is to the filling of these gaps that your earnest efforts are being directed.

It cannot be emphasized too often that the task you have been doing all these years is far broader than relief. The public must realize more and more the great and necessary work you are doing in such fields as nursing, hospitals, child welfare, recreation and youth guidance. Such services as these have not and cannot be assumed as a responsibility of the Federal Government except in a most limited degree. Their very nature consigns them to private agencies.

I am very glad that the new Commission for Social Security, headed by Governor Winant, with the able assistance of Mr. Altmeyer and Mr. Miles, has come to Washington. They are about to undertake a great task; that of spreading the gospel of taking care of the aged throughout the country, of setting up unemployment insurance and, also, of co-operating with the States and communities in taking care of widows and children. That is going, in the years to come, to be considered one of the greatest steps ever taken by the American people.

The work of this new Commission dovetails -- ties in -- very closely with the human needs of every community and I am very confident that you will be able to make it clear in this campaign that you are cooperating in this new work. It is going to help every community in the land.

It is going to make more clear that all of us jointly face.

The responsibility of private welfare has become increasingly great as industrial life creates new problems of community living. Such support must come from all those whose developments have accentuated the congestion and the problems of community life.

They owe the community a very substantial sum for the maintenance of community welfare services. Such gifts should be, and I am confident will be based on the sound motive of helping those within the community who need all kinds of help and better living conditions.

Let me repeat how glad I am to come back to Washington today to join in this great conference. I am especially glad to greet your hard working, devoted Chairman, Gerard Swope, my old friend.

And, so, I say Godspeed to you, to all of your fellow-workers here and in the communities from which you come. The United States can have no higher ideal than that expressed in your slogan. To each and all of you let me say -- Be a Good Neighbor.

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT BEFORE THE
THIRD ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF
HUMAN NEEDS DELIVERED FROM THE SOUTH PORTICO
OF THE WHITE HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 23, 1935.

Mr. Swope, Ladies and Gentlemen of this Third Annual Meeting for the Mobilization of Human Needs:

I am happy, indeed, to greet the national and community leaders of the human welfare services of the whole nation. For the third time we have the opportunity, face to face, to pledge at once the substance and the sinews of government and of private organized welfare agencies in the service of the less fortunate of the land. The problem, in spite of definitely brighter economic skies this year, demands the best that both can give.

I want to extend my congratulations and appreciation for your heroic work -- and I choose that word "heroic" deliberately -- during these years through which we have just passed. The fact that you have maintained your support of welfare services with a shrinkage of only thirteen per cent of the amount raised since 1929 is remarkable. I am glad to know that you halted the retreat at that point a year ago and now are headed once more toward the front. Let there be a general advance from that point in the 350 campaigns which have been organized for the autumn of 1935.

There are very special reasons why all must cooperate to bring private welfare support back at least to the 1929 level. In pursuance of the announced policy of the legislative and administrative branches of the Federal Government, the Government is withdrawing as rapidly as possible from the field of emergency home relief. We are moving successfully toward the substitution of work for direct relief. We anticipate, in addition to the work provided by Federal funds, a very definite increase in work provided by the employers of the nation during the coming year. The great mass of private employers realize today that they again must greatly help in our economic situation by offering employment to the utmost limit of their ability.

Chiefly because of the steps taken by the Government itself during the past two and a half years to save homes and farms, to bring prices into a more fair adjustment, to make the payment of debts easier, to make loans to industry, to railroads and to banks, the actual purchasing power of the mass of the people has greatly risen from the low point of 1932. This means, therefore, that the nation as a whole is better able to do its duty to private charities than it has been for six long years, and that is a pretty good selling argument for all of you to carry to the nation.

In the task of caring for the less fortunate in this year of 1935, there are of course many important gaps to be filled. It is to the filling of these gaps that your earnest efforts are being directed.

It cannot be emphasized too often that the task you have been doing all these years is far broader than relief. The public must realize more and more the great and necessary work you are doing in such fields as nursing, hospitals, child welfare, recreation and youth guidance. Such services as these have not and cannot be assumed as a responsibility of the Federal Government except in a most limited degree. Their very nature consigns them to private agencies.

I am very glad that the new Commission for Social Security, headed by Governor Winant, with the able assistance of Mr. Altzeyer and Mr. Miles, has come to Washington. They are about to undertake a great task; that of spreading the gospel of taking care of the aged throughout the country, of setting up unemployment insurance and, also, of cooperating with the States and communities in taking care of visitors and children. That is going, in the years to come, to be considered one of the greatest steps ever taken by the American people.

The work of this new Commission dovetails -- ties in -- very closely with the human needs of every community and I am very confident that you will be able to make it clear in this campaign that you are cooperating in this new work. It is going to help every community in the land. It is going to make more clear that all of us jointly face.

The responsibility of private welfare has become increasingly great as industrial life creates new problems of community living. Such support must come from all those whose developments have accentuated the congestion and the problems of community life.

They owe the community a very substantial sum for the maintenance of community welfare services. Such gifts should be, and I am confident will be based on the sound motive of helping those within the community who need all kinds of help and better living conditions.

Let me repeat how glad I am to come back to Washington today to join in this great conference. I am especially glad to greet your hard working, devoted Chairman, Gerard Swope, my old friend.

And, so, I say Godspeed to you, to all of your fellow-workers here and in the communities from which you come. The United States can have no higher ideal than that expressed in your slogan. To each and all of you let me say - Be a Good Neighbor.

- - - - -

September 23, 1935.

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS MEETING
WHITE HOUSE - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1935.

I am happy, indeed, to greet the national and community leaders of the human welfare services of the nation. For the third time we have the opportunity, face to face, to pledge at once the substance and the sinews of government and of private organized welfare agencies in the service of the less fortunate of the land. The problem, in spite of definitely brighter economic skies this year, demands the best that both can give.

I want to extend my congratulations and appreciation for your heroic work during these years through which we have just passed. The fact that you have maintained your support of welfare services with a shrinkage of only thirteen per cent of the amount raised since 1929 is remarkable. I am glad to know that you halted the retreat at that point a year ago. Let there be a general advance from that point in the 350 campaigns which are organized for the autumn of 1935.

There are very special reasons why all must cooperate to bring private welfare support back at least to the 1929 level. In pursuance of the announced policy of the legislative and administrative branches of the Federal Government, it is withdrawing as rapidly as possible from the field of emergency home relief. We are moving successfully toward

the substitution of work for direct relief. We anticipate, in addition to the work provided by Federal funds, a very definite increase in work provided by the employers of the nation during the coming year. The great mass of private employers realize today that they again must greatly help in our economic situation by offering employment to the utmost limit of their ability.

Chiefly because of the steps taken by the Government during the past two and a half years to save homes and farms, to bring prices into a more fair adjustment, to make the payment of debts easier, to make loans to industry and to banks, the actual purchasing power of the mass of the people has greatly risen from the low point of 1932. This means, therefore, that the nation as a whole is better able to do its duty to private charities than it has been for six long years.

In the task of caring for the less fortunate in this year of 1935, there are certain important gaps to be filled. It is to the filling of these gaps that your earnest efforts are being directed.

It cannot be emphasized too often that the task you have been doing all these years is far broader than relief. The public must realize more and more the great and necessary work you are doing in such fields as nursing, hospitals, child welfare, recreation and youth guidance. Such services as these have not and cannot be assumed as a responsibility of the Federal Government except in a most limited degree. Their very nature consigns them to private agencies.

The responsibility of private welfare becomes increasingly great as industrial life creates new problems of community living. Such support must come, not only from the more fortunate individual givers, but also from those business-groups known as partnerships and corporations, whose development has accentuated the congestion and the problems of industrial life.

In such communities where these businesses employ large numbers of men and women, they owe the community a very substantial sum for the maintenance of community welfare services. They have, however, no right to give for selfish motives -- such as efforts to advertise or merely to purchase good will. No stockholder, however, can ever properly object to corporate gifts to private charity just so long as such gifts are based on the sound motive of helping the employees of the business within the community in which these employees live.

Let me repeat how glad I am to come back to Washington today to join in this great conference. I am especially glad to greet your hard working, devoted Chairman, my old friend Gerard Swope.

Godspeed to you and all of your devoted fellow workers here and back in the communities from which you come. America can have no higher ideal than that expressed in your slogan. To each and all let me say - Be a Good Neighbor.