
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. 811

1935 October 24

**Radio Address for 1935 Mobilization for Human
Needs**

Reserve copy

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT DELIVERED FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE - OCTOBER 24, 1935 - IN BEHALF OF THE
MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS

It is a high privilege once more to appeal
to the men, women and children of America for support of
another year's Mobilization for Human Needs. I can properly
175
congratulate and thank the country for their splendid
response to the appeal for the care of the needy in the
years of deep depression from which we are happily and
rapidly emerging.

Since I spoke to you at this time last year,
in behalf of this great national undertaking, much good
has been accomplished, both through private charity of all
kinds and through generous assistance by federal, state and
local government authorities.

During the past year the Congress and the
Administration have been making provisions for the employment
of approximately three and a half million unemployed persons
in bona fide jobs, and the coming month will see the great

majority of these people at work in the several States.

The Congress has also enacted, and I have signed, the great Social Security Act which establishes for the future the framework for unemployment insurance, for old age assistance and for aid to dependent children. The full force and effect of the Social Security law cannot, of course, become operative until several years have elapsed, nor will this law in any sense replace the proper and legitimate fields now covered by private contributions to private charities.

I can, however, bring you good news this evening. The results of the September survey have just come to me from the Secretary of Labor. During the month of September 350,000 men and women were returned to private employment in the reporting industries of the nation, and the money in the weekly pay envelopes of these industries was \$12,000,000 greater than their weekly pay envelopes in the previous month of August. This means that the workers in these reporting industries had \$12,000,000 more each week to

spend for the necessities of life. Furthermore, these latest and continued gains mean that nearly 5,000,000 men and women have found employment in the reporting private industries since the low point of the depression in March, 1933, and during this same period there has been an increase of over \$104,000,000 per week in the payrolls of these industries.

The September gain is the largest for any single month in the past year and a half. It brings back employment industries in these ~~XXX~~ to the level of November, 1930, and it brings the payrolls back to the level of May, 1931.

Recently I expressed the hope that private industry would strain every nerve to increase their payrolls, increase the number of those whom they employed, and thus take from the Federal Government and their local governments a great share of the burden of relief. The figures which I have cited lead me to a greater confidence that private industry is living up to my hope. We seem to be taking up the slack.

Even those industries which were long backward in showing signs of recovery are putting their best foot forward. The so-called heavy industries, for example, show encouraging signs of improvement. Employment in this so-called durable goods group is now 62% higher than it was in the spring of 1933; their weekly payrolls are 139% greater; and this represents a net increase in employment of 1,185,000 men and women, and a rise of over \$40,000,000 in weekly payrolls.

I cite all of these figures because they relate to that kind of employment for which the Government has definite statistics. They do not apply to the many other forms of employment of which there is no adequate record. The small retail businesses and the farms of the nation are not included in the totals of employment and of weekly wages which I have cited, but in their case also it is common knowledge that many thousands of additional men and women have been provided with work.

In direct proportion as the Nation as a whole more greatly receives so is the Nation in a position more greatly to give.

Why, you may ask, if the distress and the unemployment are less, should the giving be greater. The answer is twofold: first of all, it is, I know, your hope and mine that the necessities of Government relief furnished by funds received by taxation should decrease as rapidly as human needs will allow.

But the other reason is of deeper significance, greater importance. There are, as you and I know, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children ~~in many cases~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~United~~ ~~States~~ who require the kind of assistance which private charity and not Government should give. There still remains, and will long remain, a sadly distressed segment of our population, destitute and unprovided for, in the communities of the United States. These are the ones whose plight you, as a good neighbor, go out this week to call to the attention of their more fortunate fellows. It is with them that our private, social agencies are

primarily concerned. We know that medical care still needs to be extended to thousands who have not the means to pay for it. We know that great numbers of children still suffer from mal-nutrition. We know that families separated by economic circumstance must be reunited and given opportunities to move forward. We know that the hospitals, clinics and day nurseries need and deserve our help; that homes for the aged, for the blind, for the incurable, must carry on their splendid work; that the agencies that build and help the youth of our community must and should expand their splendid work.

But we do want to emphasize that word "work." Neither private charity nor government relief wants to continue to help people who can work but who won't work. There is only one legitimate excuse for unwillingness to work and that is bad health or advanced age.

It is the duty of private charity and of state and local government agencies to take care of those who for these sound reasons are unable to work, and, as I have so

often said, it is only the duty of the Federal Government to assist in this type of relief when private and local means come to the end of their tether.

The slogan of the 1935 Mobilization for Human Needs is BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, and the practical way of being a good neighbor in this year of grace is for each and every one of us to support the splendid private agencies whose work has been so successful in the past. If each and every one of us answers — by practical giving—the sound appeal made for the continuance and growth of local welfare, we shall become the best possible neighbors in our own neighborhoods.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
1935 Mobilization for Human Needs
October 24, 1935

It is a high privilege once more to appeal to the men, women and children of America for support of another year's Mobilization for Human Needs. I can properly congratulate and thank the country for their splendid response to the appeal for the care of the needy in the years of deep depression from which we are happily and rapidly emerging.

Since I spoke to you at this time last year, in behalf of this great national undertaking, much good has been accomplished, both through private charity of all kinds and through generous assistance by Federal, state and local government authorities.

During the past year the Congress and the Administration have been making provisions for the employment of approximately three and a half million unemployed persons in bona fide jobs, and the coming month will see the great majority of these people at work in the several states.

The Congress has also enacted, and I have signed, the great Social Security Act which establishes for the future the framework for unemployment insurance, for old age assistance and for aid to dependent children. The full force and effect

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand of the speech made at the time ~~the speech was not available~~ notes taken at the time ~~the speech was not available~~ of the speech made 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.

readiness to drogue not nothing to nothing has now, non
-forgetting what I have said nothing not nothingness's may
of anything which is not yet done and that has state
-ed need to many and it been said to also and not less and
anything which has followed us on today with nothing
-ed in, may feel and said in my of things I said
need and been done, giving them nothing less said to find
has said it to him who gave it to him, nothingness
-was not has state, which is nothingness nothingness
nothingness is nothing
-nothingness is nothing
to something and not something said need and nothing
enclosed everything nothing said a has said nothingness
less and see him whom comes and has, and said and all
-estate leaves and it is now in about three to fifteen
hours and I have, between calls and said
about and not something doing so a little less than half past six and
nothingness says he is not, something nothingness not know and said
nothing has been said it to nothingness of this not has

of the Social Security law cannot, of course, become operative until several years have elapsed, nor will this law in any sense replace the proper and legitimate fields now covered by private contributions to private charities.

I can, however, bring you good news this evening. The results of the September employment survey have just come to me from the Secretary of Labor. During the month of September 350,000 men and women were returned to private employment in the reporting industries of the Nation, and the money in the weekly pay envelopes of these industries was \$12,000,000 greater than their weekly pay envelopes in the previous month of August. This means that the workers in these reporting industries had \$12,000,000 more each week to spend for the necessities of life. Furthermore, these latest and continued gains mean that nearly 5,000,000 men and women have found employment in the reporting private industries since the low point of the depression in March, 1933, and during this same period there has been an increase of over \$100,000,000 per week in the payrolls of these industries.

The September gain is the largest for any single month in the past year and a half. It brings back employment in these industries to the level of November, 1930, and it brings the payrolls back to the level of May, 1931.

Recently I expressed the hope that private industry would strain every nerve to increase their payrolls, increase the number of those whom they employed, and thus take from the Federal Government and their local governments a great share of the burden of relief. The figures which I have cited lead me to a greater confidence that private industry is living up to my hope. We seem to be taking up the slack.

Even those industries which were long backward in showing signs of recovery are putting their best foot forward. The so-called heavy industries, for example, show encouraging signs of improvement. Employment in this so-called durable goods group is now 62% higher than it was in the spring of 1933; their weekly payrolls are 139% greater; and this represents a net increase in employment of 1,185,000 men and women, and a rise of over \$40,000,000 in weekly pay rolls.

I cite all of these figures because they relate to that kind of employment for which the Government has definite statistics. They do not apply to the many other forms of employment of which there is no adequate record. The small retail businesses and the farms of the Nation are not included in the totals of employment and of weekly wages which I have cited, but in their case also it is common knowledge that many thousands of additional men and women have been provided with work.

In direct proportion as the Nation as a whole more greatly receives so is the Nation in a position more greatly to give.

Why, you may ask, if the distress and the unemployment are less, should the giving be greater. The answer is twofold: First of all, it is, I know, your hope and mine that the necessities of Government relief furnished by funds received by taxation should decrease as rapidly as human needs will allow.

But the other reason is of deeper significance, greater importance. There are, as you and I know, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who require the kind of assistance which private charity and not Government should give. There still remains, and will long remain, a sadly distressed segment of our population, destitute and unprovided for, in the communities of the United States. These are the ones whose plight you, as a good neighbor, go out this week to call to the attention of their more fortunate fellows. It is with them that our private, social agencies are primarily concerned. We know that medical care still needs to be extended to thousands who have not the means to pay for it. We know that great numbers of children still suffer from malnutrition. We know that families separated by economic

circumstance must be reunited and given opportunities to move forward. We know that the hospitals, clinics and day nurseries need and deserve our help; that homes for the aged, for the blind, for the incurable, must carry on their splendid work; that the agencies that build and help the youth of our community must and should expand their splendid work.

But we do want to emphasize that word "work". Neither private charity nor government relief wants to continue to help people who can work but who won't work. There is only one legitimate excuse for the unwillingness to work and that is bad health or advanced age.

It is the duty of private charity and of state and local government agencies to take care of those who for these sound reasons are unable to work and, as I have so often said, it is only the duty of the Federal Government to assist in this type of relief when private and local means come to the end of their tether.

The slogan of the 1935 Mobilization for Human Needs is BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, and the practical way of being a good neighbor in this year of grace is for each and every one of us to support the splendid private agencies whose work has been so successful in the past. If each and every one of us answers -- by practical giving -- the sound appeal made for the

continuance and growth of local welfare, we shall become the
best possible neighbors in our own neighborhoods.

PPF - 11

I have spoken on several occasions of the vital importance to our Country that private charity in all that that broad term covers, must be kept up at least to the levels, and I hope even beyond the levels, of former years. At this Opening of the Four Weeks 1933 Mobilization for Human Needs, I want not only to reaffirm what I have said before, but to stress the fact that the fine teamwork in the recovery program cannot be successful if an important horse is lying back in the traces.

It is true that I have declared that Government must not let anyone starve this winter: but at the same time this policy is predicated on the assumption that the individual American citizen will continue to do his and her part, even more unselfishly than in the past.

Let me stress that a great many people will still need the help of relief agencies this winter. It is true that because of a partial, but I believe a steadily

growing, reemployment of the unemployed, many families and many individuals have been taken off the local relief rolls. But on the other hand, the needs of those who are still on the rolls is proportionately greater than it was before, and, in addition to the work of direct relief, it is necessary for us to continue our support of the permanent hospital and welfare services that exist in every county and in most communities.

A number -- I am glad to say a small number -- of people have written to me to express the thought that all relief work should be taken over by the Government, and have intimated that they would not feel any duty this year to subscribe to local relief or local charity. These people have a wholly wrong slant on the fundamental basis of our American civilization. They deny the civic responsibility of the individual, and would seek to

toss every problem into the lap of Government. They are "buck passers".

On the other hand, the overwhelming majority of the American people understand clearly that it is first the duty of the individual and the local community to do all that they can to maintain relief and welfare; that it is then the obligation of the State Government to supplement local efforts, and that finally, if all of this put together is not sufficient, the Federal Government stands ready to help.

This Mobilization for Human Needs will keep the long established hospital and welfare services going. These services existed long before the depression; they will exist long after the depression is over.

I ask every citizen to give his or her support to the community chests and to other organizations that

---4---

raise funds for the regular welfare services -- bodies which express the instincts of charity, of humanity and of neighborliness. They are an essential to the whole American scheme of life. Their meaning is expressed in the name - The Mobilization for Human Needs.

I am glad indeed that my old friend, Newton D. Baker, once more is heading the forces of mobilization and this time we are all happy that it is a mobilization of peace.

E N D

October 24, 1935

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

FOR THE PRESS

This address of the President, delivered in behalf of the 1935 Mobilization for Human Needs, is for publication in all editions of newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 9:40 P. M., Eastern Standard Time, today, October 24, 1935.

CAUTION: Please safeguard against premature release.

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the President

- - - - -
It is a high privilege once more to appeal to the men, women and children of America for support of another year's Mobilization for Human Needs. I can properly congratulate and thank the country for their splendid response to the appeal for the care of the needy in the years of deep depression from which we are happily and rapidly emerging.

Since I spoke to you at this time last year, in behalf of this great national undertaking, much good has been accomplished, both through private charity of all kinds and through generous assistance by federal, state and local government authorities.

During the past year the Congress and the Administration have been making provisions for the employment of approximately three and a half million unemployed persons in bona fide jobs, and the coming month will see the great majority of these people at work in the several States.

The Congress has also enacted, and I have signed, the great Social Security Act which establishes for the future the framework for unemployment insurance, for old age assistance and for aid to dependent children. The full force and effect of the Social Security law cannot, of course, become operative until several years have elapsed, nor will this law in any sense replace the proper and legitimate fields now covered by private contributions to private charities.

I can, however, bring you good news this evening. The results of the September employment survey have just come to me from the Secretary of Labor. During the month of September 350,000 men and women were returned to private employment in the reporting industries of the nation, and the money in the weekly pay envelopes of these industries was \$12,000,000 greater than their weekly pay envelopes in the previous month of August. This means that the workers in these reporting industries had \$12,000,000 more each week to spend for the necessities of life. Furthermore, these latest and continued gains mean that nearly 5,000,000 men and women have found employment in the reporting private industries since the low point of the depression in March, 1933, and during this same period there has been an increase of over \$104,000,000 per week in the payrolls of these industries.

The September gain is the largest for any single month in the past year and a half. It brings back employment in these industries to the level of November, 1930, and it brings the payrolls back to the level of May, 1931.

Recently I expressed the hope that private industry would strain every nerve to increase their payrolls, increase the number of those whom they employed, and thus take from the Federal Government and their local governments a great share of the burden of relief. The figures which I have cited lead me to a greater confidence that private industry is living up to my hope. We seem to be taking up the slack.

Even those industries which were long backward in showing signs of recovery are putting their best foot forward. The so-called heavy industries, for example, show encouraging signs of improvement. Employment in this so-called durable goods group is now 62% higher than it was in the spring of 1933; their weekly payrolls are 139% greater; and this represents a net increase in employment of 1,186,000 men and women, and a rise of over \$40,000,000 in weekly payrolls.

I cite all of these figures because they relate to that kind of employment for which the Government has definite statistics. They do not apply to the many other forms of employment of which there is no adequate record. The small retail businesses and the farms of the nation are not included in the totals of employment and of weekly wages which I have cited, but in their case also it is common knowledge that many thousands of additional men and women have been provided with work.

In direct proportion as the Nation as a whole more greatly receives so is the Nation in a position more greatly to give.

Why, you may ask, if the distress and the unemployment are less, should the giving be greater. The answer is twofold: first of all, it is, I know, your hope and mine that the necessities of Government relief furnished by funds received by taxation should decrease as rapidly as human needs will allow.

But the other reason is of deeper significance, greater importance. There are, as you and I know, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who require the kind of assistance which private charity and not Government should give. There still remains, and will long remain, a sadly distressed segment of our population, destitute and unprovided for, in the communities of the United States. These are the ones whose plight you, as a good neighbor, go out this week to call to the attention of their more fortunate fellows. It is with them that our private, social agencies are primarily concerned. We know that medical care still needs to be extended to thousands who have not the means to pay for it. We know that great numbers of children still suffer from malnutrition. We know that families separated by economic circumstance must be reunited and given opportunities to move forward. We know that the hospitals, clinics and day nurseries need and deserve our help; that homes for the aged, for the blind, for the incurable, must carry on their splendid work; that the agencies that build and help the youth of our community must and should expand their splendid work.

But we do want to emphasize that word "work". Neither private charity nor government relief wants to continue to help people who can work but who won't work. There is only one legitimate excuse for unwillingness to work and that is bad health or advanced age.

It is the duty of private charity and of state and local government agencies to take care of those who for these sound reasons are unable to work, and, as I have so often said, it is only the duty of the Federal Government to assist in this type of relief when private and local means come to the end of their tether.

The slogan of the 1935 Mobilization for Human Needs is BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, and the practical way of being a good neighbor in this year of grace is for each and every one of us to support the splendid private agencies whose work has been so successful in the past. If each and every one of us answers --- by practical giving --- the sound appeal made for the continuance and growth of local welfare, we shall become the best possible neighbors in our own neighborhoods.
