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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

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**Series 2: “ You have nothing to fear but fear itself:” FDR  
and the New Deal**

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**File No. 838**

**1936 January 18**

**Newark, NJ - State Emergency Council Meeting -  
Remarks**

1936

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P. [redacted] Governor

Hoffman, Mr. Mayor: I suppose the most correct term for all of you people is to say, "My fellow-workers." (Laughter and applause)

I have been wanting to come to one of these meetings for a long time to see how they were conducted, and when I heard of the first meeting you attended under the chairmanship of Charley Edison I wanted to see how New Jersey works. And I am very proud of New Jersey. You have been one of the first states in the Union to carry through the coordination, the tying together of all of our Government activities. You pointed a lesson that is being followed out in every other state in the Union, with the objective within a very short time of having an excellent organization similar to this one operating in all of the other states.

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That is why I think that all of you, in addition to your own individual work within your own offices and agencies, have still another duty, and that is to become walking encyclopedias. (Applause)

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states of the Union is working with extraordinary efficiency toward this end.

*Copy & make a score*

Your other duty, along the same line, is your relationship with the public. I don't suppose that I am any exception to the rule. The number of fool questions and the number of fool stories that come to me in Washington are duplicated in the experience of everyone of you here today. (Laughter)

FSL

*Chairman*

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our duty to correct that lack of information on the part of  
the public. People who come around saying all sorts of things  
that you and I know are not true indicate in most cases  
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*FSL*

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*Open but  
do not endorse*

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(Laughter and applause)

The point, of course, is that all of these projects, all of this work that we are doing, springs from a necessity, a definite human need, a need of this generation, a need of the year in which we live and of last year, and the year before. In carrying out this work, we are filling a current need, but in addition to that, we are trying to do it in such a way that it is going to be useful in some way to the community next year and the year after and for generations to come.

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Now they are cooperating with the Federal Government and no mayor in this country has been shorn of any of the responsibilities of his office. (Applause)

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To you who are representing in the State of New Jersey, all of these great agencies, working cooperatively with the State of New Jersey, with the counties, and with the cities, I want to extend to you my thanks for what you are doing. I am very, very proud of you.

And so, my friends, I am glad to have had this opportunity. I wish I could have been with you through all the meeting~~s~~, this morning's session and the whole of this afternoon's session. I have learned a good deal just by looking at the program, and I wish that everybody who is a visitor here today would read that program. It might give them a broader and a more American point of view.

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a long way off down there in Washington, you have no idea, I think, of the many details of all your work that actually come across my own personal desk. I have a fellow-feeling for your work. I not only want you to work with me, but I am going to do the best I can to work with you. (Applause)

... The orchestra played a selection as  
The President left the rostrum ...

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE NEW JERSEY STATE EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING

Newark, New Jersey

January 18, 1936

(The meeting was presided over by Charles Edison,  
State Director.

The President's speech was stenographically re-  
ported, edited by Mr. E. S. Leggett, of the Na-  
tional Emergency Council, and copies given to  
the Press.

Underscoring in the following indicates that  
which was omitted in the printed version.)

Governor Hoffman, Mr. Mayor:

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people is to say, "My fellow-workers." (Laughter and ap-  
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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 added 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.

the following responses are based on the best copy text  
and add to it what is believed to be the best of what  
of newly seized has been done to prevent further  
losses and

fair treatment given to all Americans  
(believeably nothing else is being done to help)

Franklin D. Roosevelt

say to him not just because from one another I

say this to you) "you're well off" has at all times  
(especially

said to one of men of business used even I  
business man talk had no or only good a not against  
other business not business itself add to this I now have  
had one of business I could afford to give him add  
social well to among you as I am a citizen social well  
or mainly all estate itself add to one need even not  
to mention only add to business add to business you  
need a bettering now .solidifies themselves and to the  
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It is tremendously important, of course, especially in view of the fact that a lot of this work is comparatively new -- it has been started within the past two or three years -- that as little as possible should we step on each other's toes. That can be avoided principally through information, through knowledge of what people are doing in other branches of this big, broad program.

That is why I think that all of you, in addition to your own individual work within your own offices and agencies, have still another duty, and that is to become walking encyclopedias. (Applause)

Somebody in the Housing Administration is going to be asked about the operation of the CCC Camps. Of course, he cannot become letter perfect on it, but it is very distinctly up to him to know something about the general purpose and the general operation, not only of CCC Camps, but of all other Governmental agencies.

In that connection we have two duties or obligations. The first is through this information about what everybody else is doing to seek every reasonable means for

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(Laughter)

Of course, let us be charitable, those statements and those questions result from a lack of information. It is our duty to correct that lack of information on the part of the public.

People who come around saying all sorts of things that you and I know are not true indicate in most cases just plain lack of information. And so each and every one of you has that further duty to explain what it is all about to the public as a whole. I have been interested in several of the questions asked today. One of them, for example, was

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I want to say just one word about the usefulness of what we are doing. There is a grand word that is going around, "boondoggle". (Laughter) It is a pretty good word. If we can "boondoggle" ourselves out of this depression that word is going to be enshrined in the hearts of the American people for many years to come. (Laughter and applause)

The point, of course, is that all of these projects, all of this work that we are doing, springs from a necessity, a definite human need, a need of this generation, a need of the year in which we live and of last year, and the year before. In carrying out this work, we are

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And I believe that people appreciate the fact that not just the majority but that the overwhelming

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I am particularly happy to see the exhibits around these walls. A great many citizens do not know of the many ramifications of this work. A tying-in of new agencies with many of the old agencies that are almost as old as the Government of the United States, they are working in a harmonious whole, and it is a very heartening thing to realize that the older departments of the Government, the ones that go back fifty, one hundred, and one hundred fifty years, have taken in the younger brethren and sisters in the Federal work.

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STATEMENTS FILE

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