It is a pleasure to speak a few words tonight to those gathered in Madison Square Garden at the meeting of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association of New York City. I wish it had been possible to extend this informal greeting to your members face to face, because both as a resident of the great metropolis of New York and as Governor of New York State I came into close contact with your members, with your work, and with the progress and the ideals of your organization.

I am sitting at my desk, close to an open fire, as thousands of others are doubtless doing tonight in their homes all over the United States. Most of us take our ease in our homes without giving much thought to the peace and the protection that surround us. We think too little of the activities of the members of the great police organizations which afford us this peace and protection.

Law enforcement is all too often taken for granted. But all of us know that without the vigilance and the ceaseless routine of law enforcement agencies the enterprises of anti-social individuals and groups would disrupt and disorganize the business and the pleasures of life, as well as threaten the home itself. Unless there is security of the person, as well as protection of material possessions, all of our efforts for social and economic betterment rest upon a foundation of sand.
There is a certain characteristic acceleration in the tempo of the great metropolis of New York which all of us recognize. That acceleration, doubtless, do in part to the momentum that comes from sheer size, makes life complex and sometimes even dangerous. All the complexities of transportation, of business, of trade, of commerce, of education, of entertainment, and of the mere moving of great masses of individuals from place to place at high speed during stated hours of the morning and evening, make the task of the police officer of vital importance.

I know from experience how effective, how expert, and how untiring the services of the members of your Association are. I will not refer to the unhappiness of a policeman's lot, as expressed in one of the delightful songs of Gilbert and Sullivan, because I know that in your case there is real joy in the job. I am aware of the wonderful morale of the New York police. I know of their traditions and of their pride in themselves and in the Department. And I know about their problems, both as a great group of public servants and as individuals. The work that the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association does among its members is in large degree devoted to the welfare of the thousands of individual persons who make up the great whole of the New York Police Department, which among police organizations of the world occupies one of the highest places.

And so I repeat that I wish I were on the platform at Madison Square Garden to greet you face to face, to congratulate you on the achievements of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, to wish you further success in your fine efforts, and to assure your members that I look upon you as to rescue others in your aid. I shall depend upon you, as millions of your friends and neighbors do, to secure and ensure existence.
THE PRESIDENT'S GREETING TO THE
PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION,
POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 8, 1936.

My friends of the New York Police Department and their families,

It is a pleasure to speak a few words tonight to those gathered in Madison Square Garden at the meeting of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association of New York City. I wish it had been possible to extend this informal greeting to your members face to face, because both as one who has spent much time in the great metropolis of New York and as Governor of New York State for 4 years I came into close contact with your members, with your work, and with the progress and the ideals of your organization.

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I know from experience how effective, how expert, and how untiring the services of the members of your Association are. I am aware of the splendid morale of the New York police. I know of their traditions and of their justified pride in themselves and in the Department. And I know a good deal about their problems, both as a great group of public servants and as individuals.

The work that the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association does among its members and their families, is in large degree devoted to the welfare of the thousands of individual
persons who make up the great whole of the New York City Police Department, which among police organizations of the world occupies one of the highest places.

And so I repeat that I wish I were on the platform at Madison Square Garden to greet you face to face, to congratulate you on the achievements of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, to wish you further success in your efforts, and to assure your members that in the future as in the past I shall place my dependence upon you, just as many millions of your friends and neighbors do every day and every night as they go about their lawful business.
ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
by telephone, to the  
Patrolmen's Benevolent Association  
Police Department, New York City  
Madison Square Garden, February 8, 1936

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Law enforcement is all too often taken for granted. But all of us know that without the vigilance and the ceaseless routine of law enforcement agencies the enterprises of anti-social individuals and groups would disrupt and disorganize
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.

I am a pleasure to know you and your parents. I am

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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The President tonight will speak by telephone to greet the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association, Police Department, City of New York, at its annual reception, Madison Square Garden.

The following remarks of the President are released for publication in all editions of newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER than 9:00 o’clock, P. M., Eastern Standard Time.

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the President

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