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. 915

1936 September 10

Charlotte, NC - Informal remarks

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE GREEN PASTURES RALLY CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA September 10, 1936, 6-30 P.M.

(The President arrived at Charlotte a little under an hour list, in the midst of a thunder shower. As the President mounted the stand, the rain subsided. Just bofore he started to speak, the sun one out and there was a reinbow in the sky. Mr. Robbins, who headed up the Raily 5. Douglas of Charlotte. Sky or Douglas introduced Governor Ehringhaus, who introduced the President.)

Governor Ehringhaus, Mr. Mayor, my friends of Charlotte:

I notice that the reinbow shines in the sky (applause) and it is a fitting climax to two of the most delightful days that I have ever spent in my life. (Applause)

I am grateful, Governor Ehringhaug, for your hospitality and may I, through you, thank the people of the Old North State for the welcome that they have given me.

I am told that this meeting is a Green Pastures Meeting. And the showers that we have passed through today prove that the pastures of North Carolina are green. (Applause)

(Green Pastures!) What a memory those words call forth. In all our schooling, in every part of the land, no matter to what church we happen to belong, the <u>old</u> twenty-third psalm is in all probability better known to men, women and children than any other poem in the English language.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters."

It does not greatly matter whether that symbol of an ideal of human physical and spiritual happiness was written in its original three thousand or five thousand or ten thousand years ago. It might have been written as well in the twentieth century of the Christian era.

Have you ever stopped to think that happiness is most often described in terms of the simple ways of nature rather than in the complex ways of man's fabrications? Perhaps it is because peace is necessary to ultimate happiness. Perhaps, therefore, when we seek a symbol of happiness, we do not go to the rush of crowded city streets or to the hum of machinery to find (the simile) <u>our goal</u>.

The ancient psalmist did not use the psrable of the merchants' camel train or the royal palace or the crowded bazaar of the East. He had, in his day, as we have today, the problems of competing trade (of) and social crowding, and I venture to suggest that long before the Christian era, the ancient civilizations of the East were confronted with problems of social economics which, though small in point of (human) numbers and small in point of worldly goods were still, by comparison, as potent in their effect and as difficult in their solution as the extraordinarily similar problems of social economics that face us in this (century) <u>country</u> today.

Be it remembered then, that (the) <u>those</u> kings and prophets reverted, just as we do today, to the good earth and the still waters when they idealized security of the body and mind.

A recent writer has suggested that the present President of the United States, because <u>perhaps</u> of (birth) <u>where he was</u> <u>born</u> and <u>where he was trained</u> (training) and <u>perhaps because</u> <u>of his</u> natural proclivity, <u>he</u> inevitably reverts to terms of land and water in his approach to any great (public) problem. I fear that I must plead guilty to (this) <u>that</u> charge -- though I do so with the reservation that this is in spite of the fact that during the greater part of my life I have been in far closer contact with the more exciting and more highly competitive give and take of the profession of the law, the practice of business and the exactions of public service.

Green pastures! Millions of our fellow Americans, with whom I have been associating in the past (fortnight) <u>two weeks</u>, out on the Great Plains of America, live with prayers and hopes for the fulfillment of what those words imply. Still waters! Millions of other Americans, with whom I also have <u>been</u> associated <u>of late</u>, (live) <u>living</u> with prayers and hopes either that the floods may be stilled -- floods that bring with them destruction and disaster to fields and flocks, to homesteads and cities -- or else <u>iney</u> look for the Heaven-sent rains that will fill their wells, their ponds and their peaceful streams.

Many years ago, I talked with a learned man about this continent - <u>about</u> what (it) <u>North America</u> was like when the white man came. I asked him, (wwere) <u>if</u> the Great Plains, which extend hundreds <u>and hundreds</u> of miles (upon hundreds of miles from the Rockies near to the Mississippi, always bare of trees, always the pasturage of great waves of bison and millions of antelope?") <u>from the Mississippi to the Rockies were always bare of trees</u>, always the pasturage of buffalo and antelops.

"Yes," he (replied) <u>said</u>, "For many hundreds of years before the white man came, but it is my belief that trees could have grown and still could grow on those plains, but that they (were) <u>have been</u> prevented from (doing so) <u>growing</u> by the constant succession of prairie fires, (some of them) set <u>either</u> by the lightning (and some of them by) <u>or</u> the red men."

I asked him whether the streams of the Southland were elways brown <u>and full of silt</u> before our white ancestors moved in. (He replied,) "Mo," <u>he said</u>, "in those earlier days, during the greater part of the year, the Southern rivers were clear streams, except <u>perhaps</u> for a week or so in the Springtime, when they had (many) moderate freshets, (and) <u>small</u> floods, (just as we do. When that occurred) and when they occur, <u>some</u> soil <u>hut very little soil</u> was washed from the uplands, (and) <u>from</u> the mountains <u>of the</u> <u>South</u> into the Atlantic Ocean <u>and the Gulf</u>, but because (they) <u>these</u> were seasonal only in their effect, <u>and small</u> <u>in volume</u>, the natural accretion of new top soil took the place of that which had run off to the sea."

If history gives a name to the <u>day and</u> age (in which) we are living <u>in</u>, I hope it will call this the era of rebuilding -- for it is my firm conviction that unless we, in our generation, start to rebuild, the Americans of a century hence will have lost the greater part of their natural and national heritage. (Applause)

My friends, it is because (in) I have spent these latter years (I have spent) so much (great a part of my life) in this Southland, and because I have come to know its fine people, its brave history, its many problems, that I speak not as a stranger to you who are gathered here from (the) saven states.

I have seen the denuding of your forests; I have seen the washing away of your top soil; (I have struggled through the red clay roads in the Springtime.) <u>I have slid into the</u> <u>ditch from your red clay highways; and</u> I have taken part in your splendid efforts to save your forests, to terrace your lands, to harness your streams and to push hard-surfaced roads into every county in every state. I have even assumed the amazing role of a columnist for a Georgia newspaper in order that I might write powerful pieces against burning over the farm woodlot(s) and in favor of the cow, hog and hen program. (Applause)

May I add that it is because of practical experience on my own farm that for many years before I was inaugurated President I came to the conclusion that oction, as it stood then, was essentially a speculative crop and that the planter of oction, because he had nothing to say about the price he would receive, could never tell when he put the seed in the ground whether he would make a big profit by selling his crop for twenty-five cents a pound or go broke by selling his crop for five cents a pound. (Applause)

It is perhaps a bit of history hitherto unrecorded that in the month of March, 1933, I said this to Secretary of Agriculture, <u>Mr</u>. Wallace: <u>I said</u>, "In respect to cotton," <u>and I talked to him about lots of crops</u>, "I have a definite objective: The cotton farmer has been cursed for a generation by the fact of insecurity. The price for his crop has run up the scale and down the scale and up the scale and down the scale again. In recent years, -- <u>mind you</u>, <u>I was speaking in</u> <u>1933</u>,-- "in recent years his total aggregate production has been so great that thirteen million bales overhang the market. He will starve on five cent cotton -- the South will starve on five cent cotton -- and just as long as this appalling carryover hangs over the market, he will never get a price

-6-

that will even bring him out whole. My objective, <u>Mr</u>. <u>Secretary</u>, is to control and reduce that <u>unwieldy</u> aurplus; to get for (him) <u>the cotton planter</u> ten cent cotton (our) <u>the</u> first year <u>me are</u> in office and (to get him) twelve cent cotton or more for the next three years. (Applause) You and I must keep that goal ever before (our eyes) <u>us</u>."

And, my friends, I ask you in simple fairness, have we attained that goal? (Applause)

You know the story of cotton. You know the story of tobacco, too. There again your national government had a goal. I don't believe that the great tobacco growing states of the Mation would wish to go back to the days of "every men for himself and let the Devil take the hindmost." (Applause)

Again, long before I went to Washington, I was convinced that the long road that leads to green pastures and still waters had to begin with (a) reasonable prosperity. It seemed axiomatic to me that a cotton farmer who could get only five conts a pound for his crop could not be in a position properly to fertilize his land, or to terrace it, (or to rotate his crops, or to keep a cow or a few head of cattle,) or to plant a little orchard, or to cultivate a garden -- in other words, to work out for himself and his family a well-rounded, reasonably secure life that would tide him and them over a lean year of drought.

The same thing held true, I thought, in the case of the farmer whose principal crop was tobacco or whose principal crop was peaches or whose principal crop was corn or wheat or cattle or hogs.

In other words, we could not go ahead to the next step (in the) of prevention of soil erosion throughout the South and indeed throughout the Mation, we could not so shead to the transfer of thin pastures into forests and the transfer of submarginal plowed land into pastures and trees, (and) we could not go shead to the use of many modern methods to stop soil erosion and to prevent floods until and unless the farmers of the Southland were shle to make a reasonably decent living out of their (main crops) farms.

And what is the answer? Today, because of better prices for farm commodities, we are actually and actively engaged in taking these second steps. Not only have we aroused a public understanding, (and) <u>a public</u> approval of the need of ending soil erosion and water run-off, but we have emabled the public, through a practical prosperity, to begin to pay their debts, to paint their (houses) <u>homes</u>, to buy farm tools and automobiles, to send (mere) <u>more</u> boys and girls through school and college, to put some money in the bank and, incidentally, to know for the first time that the money in the bank is safe. (Applause)

So much for the green pastures and the still waters in their more literal physical terms. Those ancient words apply, however, with equal force to men and women and children. Your life and mine, though we work in the mill or in the

-8-

office or in the store, can still be a life in green pastures and beside still waters.

No man, (or) <u>no</u> woman, no family, can hope in any part of the country, to attain security in a city on starvation wages any more than they can hope on a farm to attain security on starvation crop prices. I do not have to tell you, who live in any of these southern states, which have factories in all of them, that a family that tries to subsist on a total wage income of <u>three or</u> four hundred dollars a year is just as much a drag on the prosperity of America as the farm family that seeks to subsist on a yearly cash income of a hundred (dollars) or two hundred dollars a year.

That is why (most) <u>a good many</u> thinking people <u>in and</u> <u>out of finance and business and every other walk of life</u>, believe that the Mational Recovery Act, during its short term of life, accomplished as much for the restoration of prosperity through the establishment of the minimum wage, the shortening of hours and the elimination of child labor, as any law put on the statute books of the Federal Government in the past century <u>and a half</u>. (Applause)

In the Summer of 1934, the head of one of the great mail order houses said to me, "Do you remember my telling you (in 1933) a year ago that the purchasing power of the South (has) had dropped to almost zero? Look at this report of our sales in all the southern states. All of our sales have increased, but those in the South have come back faster than

-9-

any, and the reason is that the South at last has (secured) begun to acquire purchasing power." (Applause)

And finally, (you and I have come) in this fourth year of definite upturn, you and I have come to appreciate another significant and inevitable result. (We) you and I live under three kinds of government -- and to all three we, as citizens, pay taxes. Our local estate taxes, mainly on real estate, go to the support of local and state functions of government such as schools and highwayg, city and county administrations, water supply, sewer systems, street lighting, peace officers and state institutions. And our Federal taxes, none of which by the way are on real estate, come in the form of tobacco and similar excises, and income, inheritance, (and) corporation taxes and are spent in the running of the Federal Government for national defense, for pensions, for forests, for parks, for highways, for public works of all kinds and for relief (for) of the unemployed.

Four years ago all of us, in every part of the United States, found that without any change in the local or state tax schedules, the tax receipts had fellen off to an alarming degree. The result was that counties (and municipalities) and states were failing to balance their budgets or else were unable to carry out the ordinary and orderly functions and obligations of state and local government. Schools were being closed or curtalled; teachers were unpaid; roads lacked repairs; the borrowing of money for permanent improvements had were compelled to pay unconscionable and ruinous interest (charges) <u>rates</u>.

History will also record that by the year 1936 a very much larger number of individuals are back in the black, so are most of our small business men, so are most of our corporations and so are almost all of our municipal and county and state governments. (Applause)

History will also record that individuals and corporations and governments are paying today a far more reasonable rate of interest than at any previous time in the history of the American Republic.

In the process of attaining these successful ends, my friends, individual liberties have not been removed, and I believe that the Governor of Morth Carolina and elmost every other Governor in every one of these 43 States will agree sloo that the inherent rights of the sovereign states have not been inwaded. It was obvious, of course, because of the eccondic unity of the entire (country) <u>Nation in these modern</u> days that no group of individuals and no individual states acting all slong could, by themselves, take the action necessary to restore the purchasing power of the (Nation) <u>United States as a whole</u>. Only the Federal Government could (accomplish that) <u>ask and receive the cooperation of all the</u> States in heading up a nation-wide plan.

And so I speak to you today as common-sense American men and women. You will agree that from the material aspect, based on the sound concept of restoring purchasing nover and prosperity to the great mass of our citizeng, this Nation's consuming power has been <u>and is being</u> repidly restored. I trust, <u>therefore</u>, that you will (likewise) agree <u>to the other proposition</u> in the thetre conditions on the farms, <u>better conditions</u> in the factories, (and) <u>better</u> <u>conditions</u> in the homes of <u>America</u> are leading us to (the) <u>that beautiful</u> spiritual figure of the <u>ald</u> psalmist --green pastures and still waters. (Prolonged applause) had and or with the memory those words call forth.

In all our schooling, in every part of the land, no matter to what church we happen to belong, the twenty-third psalm is in all probability better known to men, women and children than any other poem in the English language.

And in this great lyric, what do we best remember? ---

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters."

It does not greatly matter whether that symbol of an ideal of human physical and spiritual happiness was written in its original three thousand or five thousand or ten thousand years ago. It might have been written as well in the twentieth century of the Christian era.

Have you ever stopped to think that happiness is most often described in terms of the simple ways of nature rather than in the complex ways of man's fabrications? Perhaps it is because peace is necessary to ultimate happiness. Perhaps, therefore, when we seek a symbol of happiness, we do not go to the rush of crowded city streets or to the hum of machinery to find the simile.

The ancient peaksist did not use the parable of the merchants' camel train or the royal palace or the crowded bazaar. He had, as we have, the problems of competing trade, of social crowding; and I venture to suggest that long before the Christian era, the ancient civilizations of the East were confronted with problems of social economics which, though small in point of human numbers and small in point of worldly goods, were still, by comparison, as potent in their effect and as difficult in their solution as the extraordinarily similar problems of social economics that face us in this century.

-2-

Be it remembered then, that the ancient kings and prophets reverted, just as we do today, to the good earth and the still waters when they idealized security of the body and mind.

A recent writer has suggested that the present President of the United States, because of birth and training and natural proclivity inevitably reverts to terms of land and water in his approach to any great public problem. I fear that I must plead guilty to this charge --- though I do so with the reservation that this is in spite of the fact that during the greater part of my life I have been in far closer contact with the more exciting and more highly competitive give and take of the profession of the law, the practice of business and the exactions of public service.

-3-

Green pastures! Millions of our fellow Americans, with whom I have been associating in the past fortnight, out on the Great Flains of America, live with prayers and hopes for the fulfillment of what those words imply. Still waters! Millions of other Americans, with whom I also have associated, live with prayers and hopes either that the floods may be stilled -- floods that bring with them destruction and disaster to fields and flooks, to homesteads and cities -or else look for the Heaven sent rains that will fill their wells, their ponds and their peaceful streems.

Many years ago, I talked with a learned man about this continent -- what it was like when the white man came. I asked him, "More the Great Plains, which extend hundreds of miles upon hundreds of miles from the Rockies near to the Mississippi, always bare of trees, slways the pasturage of great waves of bison and millions of antelope?"

-4-

"Yes," he replied, "For many hundreds of years before the white man came, but it is my belief that trees could have grown and still could grow on those plains, but that they were prevented from doing so by the constant succession of preirie fires, some of them set by the lightning and some of them by the red men."

-5-

I asked him whether the streams of the Southland were always brown before our white ancestors moved in. He replied, "No, in those earlier days, during the greater part of the year, the Southern rivers were clear streams, except in the Springtime, when they had many freshets and floods, just as we do. When that occurred, soil was washed from the uplands and the mountains into the Atlantic Ocean, but because they were seasonal only in their effect, the natural accretion of new topsoil took the place of that which had run off to the sea." If history gives a name to the age in which we are living, I hope it will call this the era of rebuilding -- for it is my firm conviction that unless we, in our generation, start to rebuild, the Americans of a century hence will have lost the greater part of their natural and national heritage.

It is because in these latter years I have spent so great a part of my life in this Southland, and because I have come to know its fine people, its brave history, its many problems, that I speak not as a stranger to you who are gathered here from the seven states.

I have seen the denuling of your forests; I have seen the washing away of your topsoil; I have struggled through the red clay roads in the Springtime. I have taken part in your splendid efforts to save your forests, to terrace your lands, to harness your streams and to push hard-surfaced roads into every county in every state.

-6-

I have even assumed the amazing role of a columnist for a Georgia newspaper that I might write powerful pieces against burning over the farm wordlots and in favor of the cow, hog and hen program.

May I add that it is because of practical experience on my own farm that many years before I was inaugurated President I came to the conclusion that cotton, as it stood then, was essentially a speculative crop and that the planter of cotton, because he had nothing to say about the price he would receive, could never tell when he put the seed in the ground whether he would make a big profit by selling his crop for twenty-five cents a pound or go broke by selling his crop for five cents a pound.

It is perhaps a bit of history hitherto unrecorded that in the month of March, 1983, I said this to Secretary of Agriculture Wallace: "In respect to cotton, I have a definite

-7-

objective: The cotton farmer has been cursed for a generation by the fact of insecurity. The price for his crop has run up the scale and down the scale and up the scale and down the scale again. In recent years his total aggregate production has been so great that thirteen million bales overhang the market. He will starve on five cent cotton -- the South will starve on five cent cotton -- and just as long as this appalling carryover hangs over the market, he will never get a price that will even bring him out whole. My objective is to control and reduce that surplus; to get for him ten cent cotton our first year in office and to get him twelve cent cotton or more for the next three years. You and I must keep that goal ever before our eyes."

And, my friends, I ask you in simple fairness, have we attained that goal?

-8-

You know the story of cotton. You know the story of tobacco, too. There again your national government had a goal. I don't believe that the great tobacco growing states of the Nation would wish to go back to the days of "every man for himself and let the Devil take the hindmost."

Again, long before I went to Washington, I was convinced that the long road that leads to green pastures and still waters had to begin with a reasonable prosperity. It seemed axiomatic to me that a cotton farmer who could get only five cents a pound for his crop could not be in a position properly to fertilize his land, or to terrace it, or to rotate his crops, or to keep a cow or a few head of cattle, or to plant a little orchard, or to cultivate a garden -- in other words, to work out for himself and his family a well-rounded, reasonably secure life that would tide him over a lean year of drought.

-9-

The same thing held true, I thought, in the case of the farmer whose principal crop was tobacco or whose principal crop was peaches or whose principal crop was corn.

In other words, we could not go ahead to the next step of the prevention of soil erosion throughout the South, to the transfer of thin pastures into forests and of submarginal plowed land into pastures and trees, and the use of many modern methods to stop soil erosion and to prevent floods until and unless the farmers of the Southland were able to make a reasonably decent living out of their main crops.

Today, because of better prices for farm commodities, we are actually and actively engaged in taking these second steps. Not only have we aroused a public understanding and approval of the need of ending soil erosion and water runoff, but we have enabled the public, through a practical prosperity, to begin to pay their debts, to paint their houses, to buy farm tools and automobiles, to send mere boys and girls through school and college, to put some money in the

-10-

bank and, incidentally, to know for the first time that the money in the bank is safe.

So much for the green pastures and the still waters in their more literal physical terms. Those ancient words apply, however, with equal force to men and women and children. Your life and mine, though we work in the mill or in the office or in the store, can still be a life in green pastures and beside still waters.

No man or woman, no family, can hope in any part of the country, to attain security in a city on starvation wages any more than they can hope on a farm to attain security on starvation crop prices. I do not have to tell you, who live in any of these southern states, which have factories in all of them, that a family that tries to subsist on a total wage income of four hundred dollars a year is just as much a drag on the prosperity of America as the farm family that seeks to subsist on a yearly cash income of a hundred dollars.

-11-

That is why most thinking people believe that the National Recovery Act, during its short term of life, accomplished as much for the restoration of prosperity through the establishment of the minimum wage, the shortening of hours and the elimination of child labor, as any law put on the statute books of the Federal Government in the past century.

In the Summer of 1934, the head of one of the great mail order houses said to me, "Do you remember my telling you, in 1933, fhat the purchasing power of the South has dropped to almost zero? Look at this report of our sales in all the southern states. All of our sales have increased, but those in the South have come back faster than any, and the reason is that the South at last has secured purchasing power."

Finally, you and ¹ have come in this fourth year of appreciate definite upturn to / another significant and inevitable result. We live under three kinds of government -- and to

-12-

all three we, as citizens, pay taxes. Our local estate taxes, mainly on real estate, go to the support of local and state functions of government such as schools, city and county administrations, water supply, sewer systems, street lighting, peace officers and state institutions. Our Federal taxes, nome of which is on real estate, come in the form of tobacco and similar excises, and income, inheritance and corporation taxes and are spent in the running of the Federal Government for mational defence, pensions, forests, parks, highways, public works and relief for the unemployed.

Four years ago all of us, in every part of the United States, found that without any change in the local or state tax schedules, the tax receipts had fallen off to an alarming degree. The result was that counties and municipalities and states wore failing to balance their budgets or else were umeble to carry out the ordinary and orderly functions and obligations of state and local government.

-13-

Schools were being closed or curtailed; teachers were unpaid; roads lacked repairs; the borrowing of money for permanent improvements had become impossible. With the Federal Government, despite additional new forms of taxes, receipts of revenue in 1988 had been out in half.

The value of those tangible private assets on which taxes were levied had falien so low that even if the income had been there to pay taxes with, the sums received would have put all forms of government increasingly in the red. And even when some remnant of value remained on which to levy a tax, the taxpayer did not have the wherewithal to make the payment and was beginning to lose the very property which was taxed.

That is why I go back to the original thesis that any commonsense, logical governmental policy had to begin with the building up of farm and other property values, and crop values and the increase of workers' wages if that now historic corner was ever to be turned.

-14-

History records that only a few years ago farmers were not making both ends meet; workers in factories were not making both ends meet; the small business man was not making both ends meet and the corporation was not making both ends meet. As a logical result, local governments were not making both ends meet and neither were state governments and neither was the National Government. Incidentally, as another result, the individual who had to borrow, the corporation which had to borrow and the government which had to borrow -- all were compelled to pay unconscionable and ruinous interest charges.

History will also record that by the year 1936 a very much larger number of individuals are back in the black, so are most of our small business men, so are most of our corporations and so are almost all of our municipal and county and state governments.

-15-

History will also record that individuals and corporations and governments are paying today a far more reasonable rate of interest than at any previous time in the history of the American Ropublic.

In the process of attaining these successful ends, individual liberties have not been removed, and inherent rights of the sovereign states have not been invaded. It was obvious, of course, because of the economic unity of the entire country that no group of inividuals and no individual states could, by themselves, take the action necessary to restore the purchasing power of the Nation. Only the Federal Government could accomplish that.

I speak to you today as commonsense American men and women. You will agree that from the material aspect, this Nation's consuming power has been rapidly restored. I trust that you will likewise agree that better conditions on the farms, in the factories and in the homes of America are leading us to the spiritual figure of the psalmist --- green pastures and still waters.

-16-

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Green pastures! What a memory those words call forth. In all our schooling, in every part of the land, no matter to while church we happen to belong, the twenty-third pasls is in all probability better known to men, women and children than any other poem in the English language.

And in this great lyric, what do we best remember? --

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"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; "He leadeth me beside the still waters."

It does not greatly matter whether that symbol of an $l_{affinitien}$ ideal we human physical and spiritual head for was written in its original three thousand or five thousand or ten thousand years ago. It might have been written as well in the twentieth century of the Christian era.

Have you ever stopped to think that happiness is most often described in terms of the simple ways of nature rather than in the complex ways of man's fabrications? Perhaps it is because the sequirement of peace exists in the

ultimate definitions happiness. Perhaps, therefore, when we seek a symbol of happiness, we do not go to the rush of crowded city streets or to the hum of machinery to find the simile.

The ancient parameter did not use the parablel of the merchants' cambl train or the royal palace or the crowied bagaar. He had, as we have, the problems of # competing trade, entropy that long before the Christian era, the ancient civilizations of the East were confronted with problems of social economics which, though small in point of human numbers and small in pointof worldly goods, were still as potent in their effect and as difficult in their solution as the extraordinarily similar problems of social economics that face us in this century.

-2-

Be it remembered then, that the ancient kings and prophets reverted these thousands of years age, just as we do today, to the good earth and the still of waters when they idealized security of the body and mind.

A recent writer has suggested that the present President of the United States, because of birth and training and natural proclivity inevitably reverse in the segment of land and water in his approach to any great public problem. I fear that I must plead guilty to this charge -- though I do so with the reservation that this is in spite of the fact that during the greater part of my life I have been in far C_{07EA} generative give and take of the profession of the law, the practice of business and the exections of public service.

-3-

If history gives a name to the age in which we are living, $-H_{5,2}$. I hope it will call \$\$ the era of rebuilding -- for it is my firm conviction that unless we, in our generation, start to rebuild, the Americans of a century hence will have lost the greater part of their natural and national heritage.

It is because in these latter years I have spant so great a part of my life in this land, and because I have sempt to from such an honest understanding of its fine people, its brave history, its many problems, that I speakato you who are gathered here from the seven states (ot as a stranger.)

I have seen the demuding of your forests; I have seen the washing away of your topsoil; I have struggled through the red clay roads in the Springtime. I have taken part in your splendid efforts to save your forests, to terrace your lands, to harness your streams and to push hard-surfaced roads into every county in every state.

-6-

I have even assumed the amazing role of a columnist for a Georgia geomspaper that I might write powerful pieces against burning over the farm woodlots and in favor of the cow, $\Lambda_{\rm LP}$.

hog and berd program.

May I add that it is because of practical experience on my own farm that many years before I was inaugurated President I came to the conclusion that cotton, as it slad what the planter of cotton, because he had no thing to say about the price he would receive, could never tell when he put the seed in the ground whether he would make a section by that the planter of or twenty cents a pound or go broke by selling his crop for five cents a pound.

It is perhaps a bit of history hitherto unrecorded that in the month of March, 1953, I said this to Secretary of Agriculture Wallace: "In respect to cotton, I have a definite

-7-

You know the story of cotton. You know the story of tobacco, too. There again your national government had a goal. I don't believe that the great tobacos states of the haTiondesch would wish to go back to the days of "every man for himself and let the Devil take the hindmost."

Again, long before I went to Washington, I was convinced that the long road that leads to green pastures and still waters had to begin with a reasonable prosperity. It seemed axiomatic to me that a cotton farmer who could get only five cents a pound for his crop could not be in a position to properly fertilize his land, or to terrace it, or to rotate his crops, or to keep a cow or a few head of cattle, or to plant a little orchard, or to cultivate a garden -- in other words, to work out for himself and his family a well-rounded, accure reasonable are a life that would tide him over a lean year of drought. The same thing held true, I thought, in the case of the farmer whose principal crop was tobacco or whose

-9-

principal crop was peaches or whose principal crop was corn.

In other words, we could not go ahead to the next step of the prevention of soil erosion throughout the South, to the transfer of thin pastures into forests and of submarginal plowed land into pastures and trees, and the use of many modern methods to stop soil erosion and to prevent floods until and unless the farmers of the SoutMand were able to make a reasonably desent living.out of their main crops.

Today, because of better prices for fair committies, we are actually and actively engaged in taking these second how m steps. We have Mot only aroused a public understanding and approval of the need of ending soil erosion and water runoff, but we have enabled the public, through a practical bran to find the table of the family prosperity, to start grantical distinguist entities the attent banes to be public, through a practical bran to find the full to be family prosperity, to start grant tools and automateles, attents banes to be public. To find more traje a grid through defined find reflege, to find come anony method than to the traje to the to the the to the them to be the public to the total the the total

money in the bunk is set

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So much for the green pastures and the still waters of the the still waters of the the still waters of the still be still be a still

Those ancient words apply, however, with equal force to men and women and children. Your life and mine, though we have so in the mill or in the office or in the store, can still be a $\frac{1}{2^{n}}$. $\frac{1}{2^{n}}$.

No man or woman, no family, can hope in any part of the country, to attain security in a city on starvation wages any more than they can hope on a farm to attain security on starvation arop prices. I do not have to tell you, who live in any of these southern states, which have factories in all of them, that a family that tries to subsist on a $\frac{U \wedge A \beta^2}{\Lambda}$ total income of four hundred dollars a year is just as much a drag on the prosperity of America as the farm family that seeks to subsist on a yearly cash income of a hundred dollars.

-11-

Schools were being closed or curtailed; teachers were unpid; roads lacked repairs; the borrowing of money for permanent improvements had become impossible. With the Federal "overnment, despite additional new forms of taxes, receipts in 1432-

of revenue had been out in half.

The value of those tangible things on which taxes were levied had fellen so low that even if the income had been there to say taxes with, the sums received would have put all forms of government increasingly in the red. And even when some remnant of value remained on which to levy a tax, the taxpayer did not have the wherewithallto make th e payment and was beginning to lose the very property which was tax e d.

That is why I go back to the original thosis that any commonsense, logical governmental policy had to begin with farmend star policy particles policy in (Low e) the building up of values and the consection (source) naw hit build and the consection (source) of workers' wages if that propagate and corner was ever to be

turned.

History records that only a few years ago farmers were not making both ends meet; workers in factories were not making both ends meet; the small business man was not making both ends meet and the corporation was not making both ends meet. As a logical result, local governments were not making both ends meet and neither were state governments and neither was the National Government. Incidentally, as # result of these conditions, the individual who had to borrow, the corporation which had to borrow and the government which had to borrow -- all were compelled to pay unconscionable and ruinous interest charges.

History will also record bhat by the year 1936 a very much larger number of individuals were back in the black, as were most of our small business men, so were most of our corporations and so were almost all of our municipal and county and state governments.

-15-

History will also record that individuals and corporations and governments are paying today a far more reasonable rate of interest than at any previous time in the history of the American Republic.

In the process of attaining these successful ends, neither individual liberties have been removed, mathematical inherent rights of the sovereign states have been invaded. It was obvious, of course, because of the economic unity of the entire country that no group of individuals and no individual states could, by themselves, take the action nacessary to restore the purchasing power of the Nation. Only the Pederal Government could accomplish that.

It is true that in the planned process of restoring the credit and purchasing power of individuals, corporations and local and state governments, the Federal Government has been called on to make large outlays. The net out-of-pocket cost of these outlays in three years and a half have amounted to less than eight billions of dollars. This sum represents about one-third of the increased in annual national income and it represents an infinitely smaller proportion of the total addition to our national wealth during the same period of three and a half years.

It is a simple fact that the Federal Government locks forward in the near future to the day when a still further increase in mational prosperity will bring in, without further tax levies, enough additional money on new income to balance the Federal budget and begin once more to reduce the public debt.

I speak to you today as average commonsense American men and women and I am going to ask you to take home with you and ponder over a simple problem in mathematics:

-17-

If you could borrow one thousand dollars to increase your income by three thousand dollars a year, would you turn it down or accept it?

It is because you and I, is average commonsense Americans know the answer to that question that we will be mindful also that batter conditions on the farms, in the factories and in the homes of America will lead us more quickly to green pustures and still waters.

End

SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

Passenger Traffic Department

Washington, D. C.

September 8, 3.936 sl

MENOPANDUM OF OPERATING SCHEDULE, WASHINGTON, D. C. TO KNOXYLLUS, TEXM., ASHEVILLE AND CHARLOTTE, N. C., SEPTEMBER 8-11, 1936.

		Septem	ber 8, 1936
Ξv.	Washington	Sou.Ry.	8:00 FM Eastern Time
Ar.	Wayburn	ю	10:20 PM - Water cars in yard limits
LV.	Weyburn	" Septer	10:25 PM ber 9, 1936
Ar.	Monroe	17	12:25 AM - Change engines and orows
Lv.	Monree	N&W Ry.	12:30 AM in station
	Roanoke	13	2:00 AM - Change engines and orews.
Lv.	Roanoke	15	2:10 AM
Ar.	Bristol		6:15 AM East T Change engines
Lv.	Bristol	Sou.Ry.	5:25 AM Cent T. and crews and water cars.
Ar.	Bulls Gap	n	7:30 AM - Water
Lv.	Bulls Gap		7:35 AM
Ar.	Knaxville		9:00 AM Cent T.
Lv.	Knoxville	19	9:30 AM Cent T.
Ar.	Asheville	n	1:00 PM Cent T.
_		Septer	12:00 Nn East T.
	Asheville	10	1:00 PM - Inspect train
Ar.	Saluda		TIOO BW - TURDECA ATGTU
Lv.	Saluda	n	1:05 PM
Ar.	Melrose		1:15 PH - Water
Lv.	Melrose		1:18 PM
Ar.	Hayne	19	2:15 FM - Change engines and crews
Lv.	Hayne	6	2:20 PM
Ar.	Charlotte		4:30 PM

(See page 2)

- Page 2 -

MENORANDUM OF CRERATING SCHEDULE

September 10, 1936

Ŀv.	Charlotte	Sou.Ry.	7:00 PM East T.		
	Salisbury Salisbury	65 68	8:00 PM - Change engines and stated 8:05 PM		
	High Point Figh Point	н г	8:55 PM 8:57 PM		
	Greensboro Greensboro	ы П	9:25 PH 9:30 PH		
Ar.	Pelham	e	10:30 FM		
<u>September 11, 1936</u>					
Lv.	Pelhan		12:15 AM		
	Monroe Monroe	n e	3:15 AM - Change engines and areas 3:20 AM		
	Weyburn Weyburn	99 10	5:40 AM - Water engine 5:45 AM		
Ar.	Washington		8:30 All Eastern Time.		

W. C. Spencer,

Division Passenger Agent.



22	
GREENSBORG, RALEIGH AND COLDSBORO	RICHMOND AND DANVILLE
<text></text>	
TABLE 12 (Riehmon-I Division.) #101	WEST POINT AND RICHMOND (Hull St.)
Daily Miles Eastern Time Daily	TABLE 21 (Richmond Division.) 21 311 SerNate 21 311 SerNate 35md Son 3 3105 Eastern Time Son 3
10 00	Entil Heights is flag stop for Ness, 21, 22, 121 and 122. NoteBook 5 and 18. Obly stopp: Nonexity - Steamer Train, First Class Contents. Connecting: at West Fasts with steamer of Changeslee Nessenshop into to and from Rathurser, beaving West Fasts Trees, Turns: and Sett, and Jeving Rothinsee Mass, Wed and PM. Subject to change without notifely, assigns to team'r of diverger parameters to or from Rathurset and West Print.
Robank Eines, Gregory, Cela Lesis, Frovidence, Willin, Cosart, Lyon, Roper and Alda are flug stopt for Nos. 197 and 145. O. & B. Jmetion is regular stop for Nos. 197. STATE UNIVERSITY RAILROAD COMPANY	HENDERSON AND OXFORD TABLE 12 (Richmond Division.)
TABLE 19 S. S. Booko Supt. Greensitier, Transformer, Tra	Mirriell 12, 26, 4 Mirriell 2, 26, 4 Mirriell 2, 26, 4 Safety Fig. 6 A.M. Mirriell and the second the combatility of the second the second the second the second the second the secon
PM ² AM PM I PM I Hartchins is fing stop for all trains.	AN k 43

Charlitte, He. 9/10/86 Green Bature Rily (~~· / 2 ~ ~ ~ · freen 3.12.) 5

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STATEMENTS FILE

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HOLD FOR RELEASE HOLD FOR RELEASE

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT CHARLOTTE, N. C., SEPTEMBER 10, 1936.

CAUTION:

PLEASE SAPEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE. To be released upon delivery, expected about 5.50 o'clock Eistern Standard Time, Thursday, September 10th, 1035.

> M. H. McDHTTRE Assistant Secretary to the President.

> >

Green peeberort What a memory those words call forth. In all our schooling, in every part of the lond, no matter to what diurch we happent to belong, the strenky-third peels is in all probability better known to usen, women and children than any other poem in the Beglish language.

And in this great lyric, what do we best remember? -- two lines

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters."

It does not greatly matter whether that symbol of an ideal of human physical and spiritush happiness was written in its original three thousand or five thousand or ten thousand years ago. It might have been written as well in the twentieth century of the Christian era.

Here you ever stopped to thick that Mappiness is most oftem described in terms of the single ways of number sether than in the complox ways of man's fubrications? Perhaps it Mrbecause pased is necessary to ultimate happiness. Termings, therefore, when we seek a symbol of happiness, we do not go to the reach of metrics. The "review or to the hum of methicser to fink the

The uncient pandist did not use the parallel of the emerchants coment train or the royal palese or the covered basars?. No had, as we have, the problems of competing trade, of social croweling, sociant cityliancias of the bast wave controled with problems of social economics which, though ngull in point of weeks numbers will small in point of working yould were still by comparison, the attraording stills problems of social economics that free us in bile senters.

Bo it remembered then, that the cancient kings and prophets reverted, just as we do today, to the good earth and the still waters whon they idealized security of the body and mind.

A scene writer has more and that the present president of the third these, because of least that the present president of clivity, invitably revers to terms of land and sater in this spreach to usy greet public problem. I fair that I must plead guilty to that many - though I do so with the preservation these life 1 have boom in far does context with the scree scritch gain more highly competitive give and takes of the profession of the law into preside of business and the waylion or public service.

Green pastures; Millions of our fellow Americans, with whom I have been associating in the past fortnight, out on the which in have open associating in the part rearranger, but on the great Plains of America Salve with reavers and hopes for the fulfillent of what those words imply. Sill watersi Hillions of other Americana, with whom I also hvergassociated. Hive with prayers and hopes at ther the the floods may be stilled - floods that bring with them destruction and disaster to fields and flocks, by homesteads and cities -- or else(lock for the Heaven sent TSine that will fill their wells, their ponds and their pasceful streams.

Many years and initial with a lawred must built on-timentthat is as it too map the within and nears. I saide thin, Manarchar or saillas from this Rochics more of miles upon innerror or saillas from this Rochics more to be Mississiphi, always bare of trees, always the pasturage of great waves of biosen east saillang of anticoper"

from doing to by the constant succession of prairie fires, someof them set(by the lightning and some of them by the red men.

I asked him whether the streams of the Southland were always brown before our white ancestors moved in. He replied, "No, in those carlier days, during the greater part of the year, the Southern rivers were class streams, except in the Springtime, when they had meny freshets and flocds, just as we do, then that occurred, roadh was washed from the uplands and the mountains into () everywards wordt, se wednich from blog uplands wed We konnestne anno the Atlantic General both bessess they are selected in by in their effect, the starts sportshow of ber topold hock the place of the field of the selection of the sportshow of the selection of the selection of the sportshow of the selection of the field of the selection of the sportshow of the selection of the field of the selection of the sportshow of the selection of the selection of the selection of the sportshow of the selection of the selection of the selection of the selection of the both the selection of the selection of the selection of the both the selection of the selection of the selection of the both the selection of the selection of the selection of the both the selection of the selection of

conviction that unless we, in our generation, start to rebuild, the Americans of a century hence will have lost the greater part of their natural and national heritage.

It is because in their latter years I have upont so great a part of an life in this Southland, and because I have cone to know its fine people, its brave history, its many problems, that I speak not as a stranger to you who are gethered here from the

seven states. I have seen ine demuling of your forest; I have seen the making only of your topools). I have seen part in your splendle forest to save your forest, to terrace your lands, to harress forest to save your forest, to terrace your lands, to harress every state. I have you for a state the making role of a columnist for a Georgia merupont has I might write powering laces against burning over the farm decodicts and in favor of the cow, hog and hen program. RANTO

May I add that it is because of practical experience on my own farm that many years before I was inaugurated President I came on "Gram that their years offere I was insugarable resident I come to the conclusion that obtain, sait stood that, was essentially nothing to any about the price he would receive, could never that when he put the seed in the grand whether he would make a big profit by selling his crop for twenty-five cents a pound or go broke by selling his crop for twenty-five cents a pound.

It is parhage a bit of history Mitharto unrecorded that in the month of March, DSS, Is and this to Decretary of Agriculture "Balaces "fin respect to otton, T have a definite objective: the octon rame has been unread for a generation by this fact of one the scale and up the scale and down the scale agdin. In recent years, his total aggregate production has been oggeent that thisteen million hales overhame, the same aggin. The scale and up the scale and down the scale agdin. The scale and up the scale and down the scale agdin. The scale aggin aggregate production has been oggeent that thisteen million hales overhame, the sufficient of the market, he will never gets a prior Bust will even the market, he will never gets a prior Bust will even the thist, he yolocitive, is to control and reduce that yourplus; b been theirs even action control for a scale scale. You and [funct teep the goal or before opense.]

And, my friends, I ask you in simple fairness, have we attained that goal?

You know the story of cotton. You know the story of tobseo, too. There again your national government had a goal. I don't believe that the great bokeo growing states of the Nation would wish to go back to the days of "every man for himself and let the Devil take the hindboart."

Again, long before I went to Washington, I was convinced that the long road that leads to green partures and will we tark had to bugin with a researching propartiey. It seemed atlantits for his crop could not be in a position properly to fertilise his land, or to terrese it, or in restarks had robot of to keeps a or streambal of resting or to pint a litble orchard, or to end his family a well-rounded, researching secure life that would tide hisyover a lean year of drought.

The same thing held true, I thought, in the case of the farmor whece principal crop was bobcoo or shops principal crop was peaches or whose principal crop was corn.

In other words, we could not go ahead to the next step in the provention of soil resion throughout the South, to the transfor of this pastures into forests and of submargingling placed land stop soil revision and to grivent floads until and unless the farmers of the Southland ward while to make a reasonably desent living out of their weak-reveal $d \to -d$.

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So much for the green pastures and the still waters in their more literal physical terms. These maciant words apply however, with equal force to men and memer and children. Your life and mine, though we work in the mill or in the office or in the store, can still be a life in green pastures and basids still waters.

No man er women, no family, cen hope in any part of the country, to attain security in a city of a starwards megenary more than they can hope on a farm to stain security on starwards or crop prices of i do not have to tail you, that bive in any of these southerm states, which have factories in all of them, that a family that this to aubiat to a statel mage income of, four

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hundred dollars a year is just as much a drag on the prosperity of America as the farm family that seeks to subsist on a yearly cash income of a hundred dollars. $|-v|_{i} > v$

That is why meat whicking people believe that the Mational Recovery Act, during its short term of life neoexplished as much for the restoration of property only of house anthelishmont of the listor, as any law put on the statute books of the Federal Operandum in the pest century. ()

In the dammer of 10%, the head of one of the great mill order houses mild to me. "Or purpresenter by tolling you, in 10% and that the purchasing power of the South had scopped to almost scopp. Jost four report of increases, but hose in the South have some back feater than any, and the reason is that the South st last has account purchasing power "d

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Finally (you sai I have compliant this fourth year of definite puturefic opportunes contraintions and invested result. The live under three kinds of covernment -- exit to all three we as sitisms, pay taxes. Or local mediated functions estimates and the satisfiest of local mediates functions estimates and the satisfiest site of local mediates functions estimates and the satisfiest of the satisfiest functions real satisfies, come in the form of tobecoo and similar excises, and income, inhoritone estimations for answering opportunity to running of the Federal Government for answer and real satisfiest force the subsports.

Four years are all of us, in every pert of the United States, found that without say themas in the isolal or states for another the tex reacipts had follow off to an slargin, degree. The follow of the state of the state of the state of the state follow of the state of the state of the state of the state the ordinary and orderly functions and collegations of state and toochoor avecuation of the state of the state of the toochoor avecuation of the state of the state of the magnetic state of the state of the state of the state toochoor of reveals local state of the state of

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That is why I go back to the original thesis that any commensume, logical governmental policy had to begin with the building up of farms and other property values, and the increase of warkors' mages if that now historic values, and the increase of warkors' mages if that now historic corner was every to be turned. (NO

History records that only five years and formers work out riking both onds most years in forcing work on the militia both ends most; the secil basiness in were not militig both ends most and the surpartion were not militig both ends most. As not and the surpartic state governments and neither was the Heistonel Government. Incidentally, as another result, 1-1, borrow, the corporation which has borrow and the government which that to borrow -- all more compelled to pey unconscionable and ruinous interest gharges.

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History will also record that by the year 1936 a vory much lorger number of individuals are back in the block, so are most of our small business man, so are most of our corporations and ac are simed: all of our municipal and county and state governments.

³ History will also record that individuals and corporations and governments are paying today a far more reasonable rate of interest then at any previous time in the history of the American ry 01 410 24Elve Republic. 142

In the process of titling these recentral and faithed to be a set of the set Wo"Y - Hation.

SUM and women.) I speak to you todayyas commonstende american mon 1) is place to you to sympt commonless about on non ann user. You will gree that from Ken steriel syster, his Keine's consum-ing power has been repidly restored. I true has you will like wise gree that better conditions on the farms/in the farcotion base in the home of iseries are leading us to the printen figure of the yestimit -z green pastures and still water. () End

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De Stores,