

October 2, 1936

[Dedication of Medical Center, Jersey City, N.J.]

FDR Speech File

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SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
MEDICAL CENTER, JERSEY CITY  
OCTOBER 2, 1936

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It is a privilege to take part in the dedication of this Medical Center -- the third largest medical institutional group in the United States.

I am happy, too, that the Federal Government, through its Public Works expenditures, has been able to be of assistance to the municipal government of Jersey City and to Hudson County in making this Center possible. As a matter of fact, the expenditures through the Public Works Administration are increasing the capacity of American hospitals by nearly 50,000 beds. During the depression the difficulty of obtaining funds through municipal or private sources would have meant a serious shortage in caring for patients and in giving them adequate facilities had it not been for Federal assistance through loans and grants.

But there is another reason for increasing the bed capacity of the hospitals of the country. The Medical and Nursing professions are right in telling us that we must do more to help the small income families in times of sickness.

Let me with great sincerity give the praise which is due to the Doctors of the Nation for all that they have done during the depression, often at great sacrifice, in maintaining the standards of care for the sick and in devoting themselves without reservation to the high ideals of their profession.

The Medical profession can rest assured that the Federal Administration contemplates no action detrimental to their interests. The action taken in the field of health, as shown by the provisions of the splendid Social Security Act recently enacted, is clear.

There are four provisions in the Social Security Act which deal with health; and these provisions received the support of outstanding Doctors during the hearings before the Congress. The American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association and the State and Territorial Health Officers Conference came out in full support of the public health provisions. The American Child Health Association and the Child Welfare League endorsed the maternal and child health provisions.

This in itself assures that the health plans will be carried out in a manner compatible with our traditional social and political institutions. Let me make that point very clear. All States and Territories are now cooperating with the Public Health Service. All States except one are cooperating in maternal and child health service; all States but ten in service to crippled children and all States but nine in child welfare.

Public support is behind this program. But let me stress, in addition, that the Act contains every precaution for insuring the continued support and cooperation of the Medical profession.

In the actual administration of the Social Security Act we count on the cooperation in the future, as hitherto, of the whole of the Medical profession throughout the country. The overwhelming majority of the Doctors of the Nation want medicine kept out of politics. On occasions in the past attempts have been made to put medicine into politics. Such attempts have always failed and always will fail.

Government, State and National, will call upon the Doctors of the Nation for their advice in the days to come.

It is many long years ago that Mayor Hague and I discovered a common interest in the cause of the crippled child. This great Medical Center is, I know, close to his heart. I congratulate him on the fulfillment of a splendid dream. I congratulate Jersey City and Hudson County on modern facilities surpassed by no other community in America.

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ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

MEDICAL CENTER, JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY

October 2, 1936

Senator Moore, Mayor Hague, My Friends and Neighbors  
of Jersey City:

I don't think there is any person with red blood in their veins that could help but be thrilled by this wonderful sight before me. I don't think there is anybody with red blood in their veins that could help but be thrilled by these buildings behind me. (Applause) And so I am very happy to come here to take part in the dedication of this, the third largest medical institutional group in the whole of the United States.

The Mayor has been kind enough to say that this Medical Center would not have been possible without some financial help from the Federal Government. But, my friends, remember that it was not just financial help that created this Medical Center -- it was something more important than dollars and cents. It was a dream of your Mayor dating back many years. That is what built the Medical Center.

In the great work of taking care of sick people, the Federal Government and the local governments have been glad to play their part. It is true that the Public Works Administration in Washington has helped various communities in

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the prepared reading copy text. Parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

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In the great work of taking care of sick people, the Federal Government and the local governments have been glad to play their part. It is true that the Public Works Administration in Washington has helped various communities in



increasing the capacity of American hospitals in the past two years by 50,000 beds.

(All of the foregoing was extemporaneous. It took the place of the following which appears in the copy released to the Press:

It is a privilege to take part in the dedication of this Medical Center -- the third largest medical institutional group in the United States.

I am happy, too, that the Federal Government, through its Public Works expenditures, has been able to be of assistance to the municipal government of Jersey City and to Hudson County in making this Center possible. As a matter of fact, the expenditures through the Public Works Administration are increasing the capacity of American hospitals by nearly 50,000 beds.)

During the depression we know the difficulty of obtaining funds through municipal or private sources would have meant a serious shortage in (caring for patients) taking care of sick people and in giving them adequate facilities had it not been for Federal assistance through loans and grants.

But there is another reason for increasing the bed capacity of the hospitals of the country. The Medical and

Nursing professions are right in telling us that we must do more, much more, to help the small income families in times of sickness.

Let me tell you with great sincerity (give the) of the great praise which is due to the Doctors and the Nurses of the Nation for all that they have done during (the depression) those difficult years that lie behind us, often at great sacrifice, in maintaining the standards of care for the sick and in devoting themselves without reservation to the high ideals of their profession.

(The Medical) And these professions can rest assured that the Federal Administration contemplates action only in their interest (no action detrimental to their interests.) I mention, just in passing, the splendid Social Security Act recently enacted by the Congress. (The) That action taken in the field of health (as shown by the provisions of the splendid Social Security Act recently enacted,) is clear.

For that Act sets up not merely the unemployment insurance for people who, through no fault of their own, get out of work, but also that Act contains four provisions that are very often forgotten, especially in the heat of a political campaign. Those four provisions have to do with health, (there are four provisions in the Social Security Act which deal with health;) and (these) those provisions received the support of outstanding Doctors during the hearings before the Congress. The American Medical Association, the American Public Health

Association and the State and Territorial Health Officers and I think the nurses' associations as well came out in full support of the public health provisions. The (American) Child Health Association and the Child Welfare League endorsed the maternal and child health provisions.

This in itself assures the Nation that the health plans will be carried out in a manner compatible with our traditional social and political institutions. Let me make that point very clear. All States and Territories are now cooperating with the Public Health Service. (All States except one) And nearly all of them are cooperating in maternal and child health service; (all States but ten in service to crippled children and all States but nine in child welfare.) and, last but not least, in service to the crippled children of the Nation.

Public support is behind this program. (But) Let me (stress, in addition,) add that the Act contains every precaution for insuring the (continued) support and cooperation of the Medical and Nursing profession.

And so in the actual administration of the (Social Security) Act which has just been put into effect we count on the cooperation in the future, (as hitherto,) of the whole of the Medical profession throughout the country. The overwhelming majority of the Doctors of the Nation want medicine kept out of politics. On occasions in the past attempts have been made to put medicine into politics.

Such attempts have always failed and always will fail.

Government, State and National, will call upon the Doctors of the Nation for their advice in the days to come.

(It is many long years ago that Mayor Hague and I discovered a common interest in the cause of the crippled child. This great Medical Center is, I know, close to his heart. I congratulate him on the fulfillment of a splendid dream. I congratulate Jersey City and Hudson County on modern facilities surpassed by no other community in America.)

(The following was extemporaneous:)

A great many years ago I discovered something and so did Mayor Hague. We discovered a common bond, a common interest in the cause of the crippled child. That common bond has persisted through the years. I have tried to help in my limited way. Frank Hague has done a great service, not only to you good people who are alive today in Jersey City and Hudson County, but a service that is going to last for many, many generations to come. It is a service than which there is no higher within the range or the bounds of human endeavor. Mayor Hague and his associates, Mayor Hague and the people of this city have pointed the way to many other communities in the Nation. May they see the fruition of this splendid dream.

And so I congratulate him especially on this fulfillment and, indeed, I congratulate Jersey City and Hudson County on the modern facilities that are surpassed by no other community in America. (Prolonged applause)

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
MEDICAL CENTER, JERSEY CITY

OCTOBER 3, 1936

(a) It is a privilege to take part in the dedication of this Medical Center -- the third largest medical institutional group in the United States.

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But there is another reason for increasing the bed capacity of the hospitals of the country. The Medical and Nursing professions are right in telling us that we must do more to help the small income families in times of sickness.

Let me, with great sincerity <sup>34</sup> give the praise which is due to the Doctors <sup>623115</sup> of the Nation for all that they have done <sup>(C)</sup> during the depression, often at great sacrifice, in maintaining the standards of care for the sick and in devoting themselves without reservation to the high ideals of their profession.

~~The Medical profession can rest assured that the Federal Administration contemplates no action detrimental to their interests. The action taken in the field of health, as shown by the provisions of the splendid Social Security Act recently enacted, is clear.~~ <sup>5034</sup> <sup>623115</sup>

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This in itself assures that the health plans will be carried out in a manner compatible with our traditional social and political institutions. Let me make that point very clear. All States and Territories are now cooperating with the Public Health Service. *100%* All States except one are cooperating in maternal and child health service; all States but ten in service to crippled children and all States but nine in child welfare.

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