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. 995

1936 October 26

Washington, D.C. - Dedication of Chemistry Building - Howard University
I have a special interest in Howard University, because the Government of the United States has long had a special relationship to this institution.

Since 1879 Congress has made continuous and increasing appropriation year by year to help meet the general expenses of the University and its various departments -- and to provide new buildings. And in part at least the Department of the Interior shares in the responsibility for the administration of the University. In a very real sense, therefore, Howard is one of the Nation's institutions.

But I would be interested in this University even though the Government had no such relationship to it.

Its founding as an institution for the American negro was a significant occasion. It typified America's faith in the ability of man to respond to opportunity regardless of race, or creed or color.
The American Negro's response to this opportunity in the field of higher learning has been prompt and eager as in other fields. In 1867 at the first term of Howard University ninety-four students enrolled. Today there are nearly two thousand students on the lists.

Howard University has not only grown steadily in numbers, but also in the range of its courses. To provide equal opportunities for Negro men and women, the University offers instruction in its colleges of liberal arts, medicine, dentistry and pharmacy and in the schools of law, engineering, architecture and music. A graduate school, recently organized, attracts graduates of other colleges and universities and has helped to make Howard University a real center of Negro culture in America.

Howard with justification may take pride in its high standards of scholarship among other American universities. Its schools of law and medicine are rated among the Class-A schools in the Nation.

Despite the constant raising of the scholastic standards of the University, as the years went by, the demand for higher
education among our Negro citizens increased to an extent which created a strain upon its facilities.

And so the Federal Government has provided three new structures for it. These represent the happy conjunction of two important Federal Government programs to meet the difficulties of the depression. They are a part of our nation-wide projects to reduce unemployment by building useful public works. They are also a part of our nation-wide program to ensure the normal maintenance and necessary expansion of educational facilities for youth even in a time of depression.

Our purpose was not only to provide work in all sections for all parts of the population, but to enable them all to share in the benefits to be obtained from these works so long as bricks and mortar shall endure. As far as it was humanly possible, the Government has followed the policy that among American citizens there should be no forgotten men and no forgotten races. It is a wise and truly American policy. We shall continue faithfully to observe it.
Howard University has shared as of right in our public works program. These Government-financed improvements in the facilities of this great center of Negro education should enable it to continue to provide for its students cultural opportunities comparable to those offered by other first class institutions of higher learning in the country.

As its last commencement Howard University sent forth two hundred and forty-five graduates to join nearly ten thousand Alumni in all parts of the world. Here is a record of which the Negro race may be proud. It is a record of which America is proud. It is further fulfillment of our dream of providing better and better educational facilities for all our people.

Today we dedicate this new chemistry building, this temple of science, to industrious and ambitious youth. May they come here and learn the lessons of science and carry the benefits of science to their fellow-men.

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(Draft copy)
ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION
OF THE NEW CHEMISTRY BUILDING
HOWARD UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 26, 1936, 5.00 P.M.

Mr. Secretary, President Johnson, ladies and gentlemen:

I am proud and happy on behalf of the United States of America to dedicate this building. (Applause) And I have been greatly interested in learning a moment ago from the Chairman of the Executive Committee that the origin of Howard University was in a house of prayer. (Applause)

I have a special interest in Howard (University) for one reason, because the Government of the United States has long had a special relationship to this institution.

Since 1879 Congress has made continuous and increasing appropriation year by year to help meet the general expenses of the University and its various departments -- and to provide new buildings. And in part at least the Department of the Interior shares in the responsibility for the administration of the University. In a very real sense, therefore, Howard is one of the Nation's institutions. (Applause)

But I would be interested in this University even though the Government had no such relationship to it. (Applause)

Its founding, many years ago, as an institution for the American Negro was a significant occasion. It typified...
I am happy to appear before the National Labor Relations Board.

And I have the privilege of appearing here today before the National Labor Relations Board. I have a special interest in the subject of labor relations, and I have appeared before the board on a number of occasions.

Since this Committee was formed, we have continued our investigations and researches, and we have published numerous reports. We have been studying the problems of labor relations and labor-management relations, and we have been working closely with the Department of Labor and the President's Commission on Labor-Management Relations in order to bring about a better understanding between employers and employees.

I have been a member of the President's Commission on Labor-Management Relations for three years, and I have been able to contribute to the work of the Commission in many ways. I have been able to take part in many of the meetings and discussions, and I have been able to contribute to the Commission's reports and recommendations. I have been able to take part in the work of the Commission in many ways, and I have been able to contribute to the Commission's reports and recommendations.

I have always been interested in the problems of labor relations, and I have been able to contribute to the work of the Commission in many ways. I have been able to take part in the meetings and discussions, and I have been able to contribute to the Commission's reports and recommendations. I have been able to take part in the work of the Commission in many ways, and I have been able to contribute to the Commission's reports and recommendations.
America's faith in the ability of man to respond to opportunity regardless of race, or creed or color. (Applause)

The American Negro's response to this opportunity in the field of higher learning has been prompt and eager as in other fields. In 1867 at the first term (of Howard University) ninety-four students enrolled. Today there are nearly two thousand students on the lists.

Howard University has (not only) grown not only (steadily) in numbers, but it has grown also steadily in the range of its courses. To provide equal opportunities for Negro men and women, the University offers instruction in its colleges of liberal arts, medicine, dentistry, (and) pharmacy and in the schools of law, engineering, architecture and music. A graduate school, recently organized, attracts graduates of other colleges and universities and has helped to make Howard (University) a real center of Negro culture in America. (Applause)

(Howard) With justification you may take pride in its high standards of scholarship among other American universities. Its schools of law and medicine, for instance, are I am told rated among the Class-A schools in the whole of the United States. (Nation)

Despite the constant raising of the scholastic standards of the University, as the years went by, the demand for higher training, higher education among our Negro citizens
has increased to an extent which has created a strain upon its facilities.

And so the Federal Government has provided three new structures for it at this time, and there are more to come. (Applause) These structures, this building program, represent the happy conjunction of two important Federal Government programs to meet the difficulties of the depression. They are a part of our nation-wide projects to reduce unemployment by building useful public works. They are also a part of our nation-wide program to ensure the normal maintenance and necessary expansion of educational facilities for youth even in a time of depression.

Our purpose was not only to provide work in all sections for all parts of the population, but to enable them all to share in the benefits to be obtained from these works so long as bricks and mortar shall endure. As far as it (was) is humanly possible, the Government has followed the policy that among American citizens there should be no forgotten men and no forgotten races. (Applause) It (is) seems to me to be a wise and truly American policy. And we shall continue faithfully to observe it.

Howard University has shared as of right in our public works program. These Government-financed improvements in the facilities of this great center of Negro education should enable it to continue to provide for its students cultural opportunities comparable to those offered by other
first-class institutions of higher learning in the country.

At its last commencement Howard (University) sent forth two hundred and forty-five graduates to join nearly ten thousand Alumni in all parts of the world. Here is a record of which the Negro race may well be proud. It is a record of which America is proud. (Applause) It is a further fulfillment of our dream of providing better and better educational facilities for all our people.

And so, today, we dedicate this new chemistry building, this temple of science, to industrious and ambitious youth. May they come here and learn the lessons of science and carry the benefits of science to their fellow-men.

(Applause)
HOLD FOR RELEASE

FOR THE PRESS

October 26, 1936

This address of the President, to be delivered at Howard University on the occasion of the dedication of the new Chemistry Building, on Monday, October 26, 1936, MUST BE HELD IN STRICT CONFIDENCE UNTIL RELEASED.

Release upon delivery, expected about 5:00 P. M., Eastern Standard Time, October 26, 1936.

PLEASE SAFEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the President
I have a special interest in Howard University, because the Government of the United States has long had a special relationship to this institution.

Since 1879 Congress has made continuous and increasing appropriation year by year to help meet the general expenses of the University and its various departments — and to provide new buildings. And in part at least the Department of the Interior shares in the responsibility for the administration of the University. In a very real sense, therefore, Howard is one of the Nation's institutions.

But I would be interested in this University even though the Government had no such relationship to it.

Its founding as an institution for the American negro was a significant occasion. It typified America's faith in the ability of man to respond to opportunity regardless of race, or creed or color.
The American Negro's response to this opportunity in the field of higher learning has been prompt and eager as in other fields. In 1867 at the first term of Howard University ninety-four students enrolled. Today there are nearly two thousand students on the lists.

Howard University has not only grown steadily in numbers, but also in the range of its courses. To provide equal opportunities for Negro men and women, the University offers instruction in its colleges of liberal arts, medicine, dentistry and pharmacy and in the schools of law, engineering, architecture and music. A graduate school, recently organized, attracts graduates of other colleges and universities and has helped to make Howard University a real center of Negro culture in America.

Howard with justification may take pride in its high standards of scholarship among other American universities. Its schools of law and medicine are rated among the Class-A schools in the Nation.

Despite the constant raising of the scholastic standards of the University, as the years went by, the demand for higher
education among our colored citizens increased to an extent which created a strain upon its facilities.

And so the Federal Government has provided three new structures for it. These represent the happy conjunction of two important Federal Government programs to meet the difficulties of the depression. They are a part of our nation-wide projects to reduce unemployment by building useful public works. They are also a part of our nation-wide program to ensure the normal maintenance and necessary expansion of educational facilities for youth even in a time of depression.

Our purpose was not only to provide work in all sections for all parts of the population, but to enable them all to share in the benefits to be obtained from these works so long as brick and mortar shall endure. As far as it was humanly possible, the Government has followed the policy that among American citizens there should be no forgotten men and no forgotten races. It is a wise and truly American policy. We shall continue faithfully to observe it.
Howard University has shared as of right in our public works program. These Government-financed improvements in the facilities of this great center of Negro education should enable it to continue to provide for its students cultural opportunities comparable to those offered by other first class institutions of higher learning in the country.

As its last commencement Howard University sent forth two hundred and forty-five graduates to join nearly ten thousand Alumni in all parts of the world. Here is a record of which the Negro race may be proud. It is a record of which America is proud. It is further fulfillment of our dream of providing better and better educational facilities for all our people.

Today we dedicate this new chemistry building, this temple of science, to industrious and ambitious youth. May they come here and learn the lessons of science and carry the benefits of science to their fellow-men.

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As President of the United States I have a special interest in Howard University, because the government of the United States has a special relationship to this institution.

Since 1879 Congress has made continuous and increasing appropriation year by year to help meet the general expenses of the University and its departments and to provide new buildings. And in part at least the Department of the Interior shares in the responsibility for the administration of the University. In a very real sense, therefore, Howard is one of the Nation's institutions.

But I would be interested in this University even though the Government had no such relationship to it. [For sixty-nine years—]

Howard University has stood as a very practical proof of the ability of man to respond to opportunity regardless of race, or creed or color.
Sixty-nine years ago Howard University was founded as an institution of learning for the American negro. That was a significant occasion. It typified America's faith in the ability of man to respond to opportunity.

The American negro's response to this opportunity in the field of higher learning has been prompt and eager as in other fields. In 1867 the first term of Howard University ninety-four students enrolled. Today there are nearly two thousand students enrolled on the lists.

Howard University has not only grown steadily in numbers, but also in the range of its courses. To provide equal opportunities for Negro colored men and women, the University offers instruction in its colleges of liberal arts, medicine, dentistry and pharmacy and in the schools of law, engineering, architecture, music and religion. A graduate school, recently organized, attracts graduates of other colleges and universities and has helped to make Howard University a real center of Negro culture in America.

Howard University, with justification take pride in its high standards of scholarship as compared with other American colleges and
universities. Its schools of law and medicine are rated among the Class-A 

law-and-medical schools in the nation.

Despite the constant raising of the scholastic standards of the 

University, as the years went by, the demand for higher education among our 
colored citizens increased to an extent which created a strain upon the 

facilities of the University.

And so the Federal Government has come to the aid of the University 

by financing three new structures for it. That aid was a part of the nation-

wide program of useful public works which the federal government determined 

to provide underwriting in turn of the nation for educational 

opportunities for American youth.

Our purpose was to provide work in all sections of the 
country for all parts of the population, but to enable them all to share in 

the benefits to be obtained from these works so long as they endure. As far 
as it was humanly possible, the Government has followed the policy that 
among American citizens there should be no forgotten men and no forgotten 
races. It is a wise and truly American policy. We shall continue faith-

fully to observe it.
These represent the happy conjunction of two important Federal Government programs to meet the difficulties of the depression. They are a part of our nationwide project to reduce unemployment by building useful public works. They are also a part of our nation-wide program to ensure the normal maintenance and necessary expansion of educational facilities for youth even in depression.
Howard University has shared as of right in our public works pro-
gram. These government-financed improvements in the facilities of this
greatest centre of negro education should enable it to continue
to provide for its students' cultural opportunities comparable to those
offered by the best institutions of higher learning in the country.

At its last commencement Howard University sent forth 245
graduates to join nearly 10,000 alumni in all parts of the world. Here
is a record of which the Negro race may be proud. It is a record of which
America is proud. It is further fulfillment of our dream of providing
better and better educational facilities for all our people.

Today we dedicate this new chemistry building, this temple of
science, to the industrious and ambitious youth of a race which is making
an ever-increasing contribution to American culture. May they come here
and learn the lessons of science and carry the benefits of science to their
fellow-men.
I have a special interest in Howard University, because the Government of the United States has long had a special relationship to this institution.

Since 1879 Congress had made continuous and increasing appropriation year by year to help meet the general expenses of the University and its various departments — and to provide new buildings. And in part at least the Department of the Interior shares in the responsibility for the administration of the University. In a very real sense, therefore, Howard is one of the Nation’s institutions.

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NOTE: Release to all editions of newspapers appearing on the street NOT EARLIER than 5:00 P.M., E.S.T. today.

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Assistant Secretary to the President

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