

October 28, 1936

[Roosevelt Park, NY C]

FDR Speech File

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READING COPY

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
ROOSEVELT PARK
NEW YORK CITY
OCTOBER 28, 1936.

I have just come from the ceremonies at the Statue of Liberty. I spoke there of the steady stream of human resources which the old world poured on our shores and out of which our American civilization has been built.

Many of the people who came past the Statue of Liberty settled in this section of New York City. Here they wove into the pattern of American life some of the color and the richness of the cultures from which they came. Here they joined in that great process out of which we have welded an American citizenship.

We gave them freedom. I am proud -- America is proud -- of what they have given to us.

They have never been -- they are not now -- half-hearted Americans. In Americanization classes and at night schools they have burned the midnight oil in order to be worthy of their new allegiance.

They were not satisfied merely to find here the realization of the material hopes which had guided them from their native land. They were not satisfied merely to build a material home for themselves and their families.

They were intent also upon building a place for themselves in the ideals of America. They sought an assurance of permanency in the new land for themselves and their children based upon active participation in its civilization and culture.

Those who have come here of late understand and appreciate our free institutions and our free opportunity, as well as those who have been here for many generations. The great majority of the new and the old do not confuse the word "liberty" with the word "license." They appreciate that the American standard of freedom does not include the right to do things to hurt their neighbors. All of us -- old-comers and new-comers -- agree that for the speculator to gamble with and lose the savings of the clients of his bank is just as contrary to American ideals of liberty as it is for the poor man to upset the peddler's cart and steal his wares. To our newer Americans

America is a great discovery. They who have never been so free before rejoice in our freedom. Our liberty is warmed by the fire of their devotion.

I am inclined to think that in some cases the newer citizens have discharged their obligations to us better than we have discharged our obligations to them. For example, their coming helped to intensify the housing problem in many of our great cities. We have not yet worked out an adequate answer to that problem.

As a matter of fact, we have, for too long, neglected the housing problem for all our lower-income groups. We have spent large sums of money on parks, on highways, on bridges, on museums, and for other projects of civic betterment. For the most part, that was money well spent. But we have not yet begun adequately to spend money in order to help the families in the over-crowded sections of our cities to live as American citizens have a right to live.

You and I will not be content until every American

family ~~is able~~ to live that way.

*City, State and Federal governments
10 in with private capital in helping*

We need action to get better city housing. Senator Wagner and I had hoped for a new law at the last session of the Congress. We who believe in better housing have not been defeated. I am confident that the next Congress will start us on our way with a sound housing policy. We shall certainly get it if on November third you vote to send to Washington the kind of government which I am confident you want -- a government which will continue to work for security of the home, for security of jobs, for security of savings, and for better homes in every part of the nation.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Original reading copy

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
ROOSEVELT PARK, NEW YORK CITY
October 28, 1936, 4.00 P.M.

Governor Lehman, Mr. Mayor, my friends of the

East Side: (Applause)

There are some experiences in this life which give one new strength, a new purpose to carry on. Today, at the Statue of Liberty, and now seeing this great gathering, I obtain inspiration to go on with the task that is mine. And I am very happy for the first time, because I have not driven through here for two or three years, to see this Park that was named after my dear mother. (Applause) When that was done, I can tell you very simply that I don't believe I have ever seen her made more happy in all her life. (Applause) And that, also, is something that I will always remember, and my children and my grandchildren in the years to come. (Applause)

I have just come from the ceremonies at the Statue of Liberty. I suggested there that we should rededicate that Statue not to Liberty alone but also to Peace. (Applause) I spoke there of the steady stream of human resources which the old world poured on our shores and out of which our American civilization has been built.

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 previously prepared reading copy text. (Fords in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.)

(Address)

I have a few experiences in this life which give me the new strength, a new purpose, a new hope, at the State of Liberty, and now seeing this great crisis, I believe in action to go on with the task that is ahead. And I am very happy for the first time, because I have not spoken through here for two or three years. So see this task that was handed after my last message. (Ap- please) When that was done, I can tell you very clearly that I don't believe I have ever seen any more peace in all my life. (Applauds) And that, also, is something that I will always remember, and my children and my grandchildren in the years to come. (Applauds)

I have just come from the conveniences of the State of Liberty. I suggested that we should rededicate that State not to Liberty alone but also to Peace. (Ap- please) I spoke there of the steady stream of human resources which the old world poured on our shores and out of which our American civilization has been built.

Many of the people who came past the Statue of Liberty settled in this section of New York City. Here they wove into the pattern of American life some of the color, (and) some of the richness of the cultures from which they came. Here they joined in that great process out of which we have welded (an) our American citizenship.

We gave them freedom. I am proud -- America is proud -- of what they have given to us. (Applause)

They have never been -- they are not now -- half-hearted Americans. In (Americanization) their classes and (at night) in their schools they have burned the midnight oil in order to be worthy of their new allegiance.

They were not satisfied merely to find here the realization of the material hopes which had guided them from their native land. They were not satisfied merely to build a material home for themselves and their families.

However, they were intent also upon building a place for themselves in the ideals of America. (Applause) They sought an assurance of permanency in the new land for themselves and their children based upon active participation in its civilization and culture.

Those who have come here of late understand and appreciate our free institutions and our free opportunity,

as well as those who have been here for many generations. The great majority of the new and the old do not confuse the word "liberty" with the word "license". They appreciate that the American standard of freedom does not include the right to do things to hurt (their) our own neighbors. (Applause) (All) Every one of us -- old-comers and new-comers -- agree that for the speculator to gamble with and lose the savings of (the) his clients (of) in his bank is just as contrary to American ideals of liberty as it is for the poor man to upset the peddler's cart and steal his wares. (Applause) To our newer Americans America is a great discovery. They who have never been so free before rejoice in our freedom. Our liberty is warmed by the fire of their devotion.

I am inclined to think that in some cases the newer citizens have discharged their obligations to us better than we have discharged our obligations to them. (Applause) For example, their coming helped to intensify the housing problem in many of our great cities. We have not yet worked out an adequate answer to that problem.

As a matter of fact, we have, for too long, neglected the housing problem for all our lower-income groups. We have spent large sums of money on parks, on highways,

on bridges, on museums, and for other projects of civic betterment. For the most part that (was) money was well spent. But we have not yet begun adequately to spend money in order to help the families in the over-crowded sections of our cities to live as American citizens have a right to live. (Applause)

You and I will not be content until City, State and Federal governments join with private capital in helping every American family to live (that) the right way.

We need action to get better city housing. Senator Wagner and I had hoped for a new law at the last session of the Congress. We who believe in better housing have not been defeated. (Applause) I am confident that the next Congress will start us on our way with a sound housing policy. (Applause) We shall certainly get it if on November third you vote to send to Washington the kind of government which I am confident you want (applause) -- a government which will work and continue to work for security of the home, for security of jobs, for security of savings, and for better homes in every part of the Nation. (Applause)

And so, my friends, let me thank you for this greeting that you have given me. It has been a wonderful day in my life and I am going to end my speech by cutting a cake. (Applause, laughter)

STATEMENTS FILE
Shorthan ndBy Kannee

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

FOR THE PRESS

October 29, 1958

This address of the President, to be delivered at Roosevelt Park, New York City, on Wednesday, October twenty-eighth, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE UNTIL RELEASED.

Release upon delivery, expected about 5:46 P.M., Eastern Standard Time.

Please safeguard against premature release.

STEPHEN FARLEY
Assistant Secretary to the President

I have just come from the ceremonies at the Statue of Liberty. I spoke there of the steady streams of human resources which the old world poured on our shores and out of which our American civilization has been built.

Many of the people who came past the Statue of Liberty settled in this section of New York City. Here they wore into the pattern of American life some of the color and the plumes of the culture from which they came. Here they joined in that great process out of which we have molded an American citizenship.

It gave them freedom. I am proud -- American is proud -- of what they have given to us.

They have never been -- they are not now -- half-breasted Americans. In Americanization classes and at night schools they have burned the midnight oil in order to be worthy of their new allegiance.

They were not satisfied merely to find here the realization of the material hopes which had guided them from their native land. They were not satisfied merely to build a material home for themselves and their families.

They were intent also upon building a place for themselves in the ideals of America. They sought an assurance of permanency in the new land for themselves and their children based upon active participation in its civilization and culture.

Those who have come here of late understand and appreciate our free institutions and our free opportunity, as well as those who have been here for many generations. The great majority of the new and the old do not confuse the word "liberty" with the word "license." They appreciate that the American standard of freedom does not include the right to do things to hurt their neighbors. All of us -- old-comers and new-comers -- agree that for the speaker to gamble with and lose the savings of the clients of his bank is just as contrary to American ideals of liberty as it is for the poor man to upset the foodlover's cart and steal his wares. To our newer Americans America is a great discovery. They who have never been so free before rejoice in our freedom. Our liberty is wanted by the five of their devotion.

I am inclined to think that in some cases the newer citizens have discharged their obligations to us better than we have discharged our obligations to them. For example, their earnings helped to intensify the housing problem in many of our great cities. To have not yet worked out an adequate answer to that problem.

As a matter of fact, we have, for too long, neglected the housing problem for all our lower-income groups. We have spent large sums of money on parks, on highways, on bridges, on museums, and for other projects of civic betterment. For the most part, that was money well spent. But we have not yet begun adequately to spend money in order to help the families in the over-crowded sections of our cities to live as American citizens have a right to live.

You and I will not be content until City, State and Federal governments join with private capital in helping every American family to live that way.

We need action to get better city housing. Senator Wagner and I had hoped for a new law at the last session of the Congress. We who believe in better housing have not been defeated. I am confident that the next Congress will start us on our way with a sound housing policy. We shall certainly get it if on November third you vote to send to Washington the kind of government which I am confident you want -- a government which will continue to work for security of the home, for security of jobs, for security of savings, and for better homes in every part of the nation.



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From the Papers of
SAMUEL I. ROOSEVELT

Part of draft of speech in
Roosevelt Park NYC during
1936 Campaign

The "cheers" were put in
by FOR to "jazz up" the
speech.

Also "boil" to cut.

The final draft was quite
different

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...to have spent large sums of money on parks, on highways, on

...museums, on statues and other civic betterments but to have shut our eyes

...to the needs of American standards of housing conditions.

B.S.1

They were also intent^{ed} upon building a place for themselves as a part of ^{the new nation}
~~government in America.~~ They were provide^d for themselves and their children
 an assurance of permanency in the new land by ^{securing} ~~becoming~~ ^{the} ~~citizens~~ in its
 civilization and culture. *3rd class*

The process of rapid absorption and assimilation created of course
 many problems. Most of them have been solved in the course of time. Some
 of them still remain. Here in New York City one of the things which was
 created by this rapid influx of settlers in the new country were housing
 conditions which we have now come to realize are incompatible with the
 American scheme of things. of course in all large cities in the United
 States there is the same problem. Not all of it is, of course, due to
 immigration. In many cities where foreign immigration has played only
 a small part, the same problems of inadequate housing are with us. For too
 many years we have neglected the problem of decent living accommodations
 particularly for our lower income groups in all of the cities of America.
 We have spent large sums of money on parks, on highways, on bridges, on
 museums, on statues and other civic betterments but we have shut our eyes
 to the needs of American standards of housing conditions.

B. 1



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From the Papers of
Samuel I. Hays

Rosemont Park

The details of the proper methods for eliminating substandard housing in America are difficult to work out, but it is important that a definite start be made in the fulfillment of a principle that there is a responsibility on the part of Government--Federal, State and local--to clear the slums of our cities and provide better living conditions for the those of limited income who cannot afford to pay the rentals which unrestrained private enterprise would demand of them.

Bail checker

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From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

I had hoped that we might make a real start on a permanent policy of this kind under the Housing Bill introduced by Senator Wagner at the last session of Congress. I am sorry that bill did not become law, but I would say without doubt that it ought to go through within the next year, if we continue a liberal administration and a liberal Congress.

Land costs, interest rates and rentals which can be afforded by the lowest income groups all being what they are, there will probably never be enough certainty of profit for private enterprise in this field. And if private enterprise cannot ~~profitably~~ profitably supply the kind of minimum beautiful housing public policy requires for the lowest income groups, the city, the state, and the federal government will simply have to combine together in removing slums and, as a public service, replacing them with decent home habitations for those groups.

Big + final sheet

Put whole to 2 pgs + 4 sheets



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From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

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FOR THE PRESS

October 28, 1936

(A) This address of the President, to be delivered at Roosevelt Park, New York City, on Wednesday, October twenty-eighth, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE UNTIL RELEASED.

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Copy (b)
