

March 17, 1937

[FDR Radio Address, Warm Springs, GA]

FDR Speech File

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READING COPY

President's Radio Address-
Warm Springs--Charitable Irish
Society of Boston and Hibernian
Society of Savannah.

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT

MARCH 17, 1937

My friends of Massachusetts and of Georgia.

It gives me great pleasure from this quiet spot in the Georgia hills to greet my friends of the Charitable Irish Society of Boston and the Hibernian Society of Savannah.

Although we think of ourselves sometimes as a very young civilization, I know of no better illustration of our historic background than the story of the origin of the great Irish Societies formed for charitable purposes along the whole line of our Atlantic ^{Coast.} ~~Coast.~~

You in Boston, celebrating your two hundredth anniversary, are the oldest of the family. You in Savannah, celebrating your one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary are the youngest.

Observing
~~Celebrating~~ this seventeenth of March are your ~~other~~ ^{of the other old societies} brothers --
the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the City of New York ^{the F.S.P.} and in
Philadelphia, ~~and~~ ^{the} the Hibernian Societies in Baltimore ^{the Hibernian Soc.} and
of Charleston.

In all these generations your Societies have lived up to the noble legend "non sibi sed aliis" -- not for yourselves but for others. You have aided ~~not only~~ your own members, ~~and~~ *and* many others who might be deserving of your charity. You have aided not Irishmen alone or the descendants of Irishmen -- you have contributed greatly to the good of your communities as a whole.

I have a particular tenderness for St. Patrick's Day for, as some of you know, it was on the seventeenth of March, 1905, that a Roosevelt wedding took place in New York City to the accompaniment of the bands playing their way up Fifth Avenue to the tune of "The Wearin' of the Green." On that occasion New York had two great attractions -- the St. Patrick's Day Parade and President Theodore Roosevelt who had come from Washington to give the bride away. I might add that it was wholly natural ^{and logical} that in the spotlight of these two attractions ^{distractions} the bride and the bridegroom were almost entirely overlooked, *and left in the background.*

Today, therefore, I am ~~getting over~~ ^{obtaining passage for my subscribers} -- taking an actual ^{personal} part, even though it be by telephone, in ^{unit} ~~the~~ celebration ^{of the day} in the North and another celebration ^{of the day} in the South.

Yes, I am always thrilled by St. Patrick's Day -- the day that Irishmen the world over garner to their hearts and souls their tenderest memories, recall the ancient glories of Erin and renew their allegiance to the great Apostle of fifteen hundred years ago. Through all the vicissitudes of these fifteen centuries -- through trappings and burnings -- through war and slaughter -- in times of plenty or in times of famine -- Ireland, and the descendants of Ireland, have been faithful to the heritage of St. Patrick.

The same devotion and steadfastness to the cause of liberty within the home land itself, ^{since the days of} has accompanied the Irish ^{and} wherever they have gone -- even to the far corners of the earth. Our own country owes a great debt to their contribution to its upbuilding. They have borne arms in our wars both in the colonial and the national periods. In commerce, agriculture and industry, in the arts and sciences, in literature,

in the professions and in the councils of state they have shown special aptitude and ^{unfettered} ~~peculiar~~ talent.

There is a further happy coincidence in this greeting which I am sending to ^{to} Boston and to Savannah -- my children are the direct descendants of pioneer settlers of both your cities -- Savannah through their Mother and Boston through their Father. Furthermore, I am proud to participate in these celebrations and to have this fellowship with organizations which in former years were addressed by predecessors of mine in the Presidency of the United States.

"Not for ourselves but for others." That motto can well be the inspiration of all of us -- ^{alone} not for the fine purposes of charity ~~alone~~, but also for our guidance in our public and private service. Selfishness is without doubt the greatest danger that confronts our beloved country today. Good old St. Patrick ^{and many he ever be with us - Good old St. Patrick} was the epitome of unselfishness. May we follow in his footsteps ^{through all the years}.

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
from Georgia Hall, Warm Springs, Georgia
to the Charitable Irish Society of Boston
and the Hibernian Society of Savannah
March 17 (St. Patrick's Day), 1937.

My friends of Massachusetts and of Georgia:

It gives me great pleasure from this quiet spot in the Georgia hills to greet my friends of the Charitable Irish Society of Boston and the Hibernian Society of Savannah.

Although we think of ourselves sometimes as a very young civilization, I know of no better illustration of our historic background than the story of the origin of the great Irish Societies formed for charitable purposes generations ago along the whole line of our Atlantic Seaboard.

You in Boston, celebrating your two hundredth anniversary, are the oldest of the family. You in Savannah, celebrating your one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary are the youngest. Observing this seventeenth of March are your brothers of the other old societies -- the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the City of New York, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in Philadelphia, the Hibernian Society in Baltimore and the Hibernian Society of Charleston.

In all these generations your Societies have lived up to the noble legend "non sibi sed Aliis" -- not for yourselves but for others. You have aided your own members, and many others who might be deserving of your charity. You have aided not Irishmen alone or the descendants of Irishmen -- you have contributed greatly to the good of your communities as a whole.

I have a particular tenderness for St. Patrick's Day for, as

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

I have a particular pleasure for Dr. White's lay for, as
committee as a whole.
note of Ireland -- you have contributed greatly to the good of your
lay of your country. You have aided our friends here on the continent
You have aided your own country, and many others who might be deemed
noble legend "and said all this" -- not for yourselves but for others.
In all these generations your country has lived up to the
and the American Society of Scientists.
some of Dr. White in Philadelphia, the American Society in Baltimore
the friendly work of Dr. White in the City of New York, the friendly
recognition of them and your history of the class and activities --
history and twenty-five activities and the progress. Operating this
are the object of the faculty. You in Germany, celebrating your own
You in Boston, celebrating your two hundred anniversary,
of our scientific community.

some of you know, it was on the seventeenth of March, 1905, that a Roosevelt wedding took place in New York City to the accompaniment of the bands playing their way up Fifth Avenue to the tune of "The Wearin' of the Green." On that occasion New York had two great attractions -- the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and President Theodore Roosevelt, who had come from Washington to give the bride away. I might add that it was wholly natural and logical that in the spotlight of these two simultaneous attractions the bride and the bridegroom were almost entirely overlooked, and left in the background.

Today, therefore, I am obtaining revenge for my obscurity for that occasion, for I am taking an actual personal part, even though it be by telephone, in one celebration of the day of the North and another celebration of the day in the South.

Yes, I am always thrilled by St. Patrick's Day -- the day that Irishmen the world over garner to their hearts and souls their tenderest memories, recall the ancient glories of Erin and renew their allegiance to the great Apostle of fifteen hundred years ago. Through all the vicissitudes of these fifteen centuries -- through trappings and burnings -- through war and slaughter -- in times of plenty or in times of famine -- Ireland, and the descendants of Ireland, have been faithful to the heritage of St. Patrick.

The same devotion and steadfastness to the cause of liberty within the homeland itself, has accompanied the sons and daughters of Ireland wherever they have gone -- even to the far corners of the earth. Our own country owes a great debt to their contribution to its upbuilding. They have borne arms in our wars both in the colonial and the national periods. In commerce, agriculture and industry, in the

arts and sciences, in literature, in the professions and in the councils of state they have shown special aptitude and outstanding talent.

There is a further happy coincidence in this greeting which I am sending tonight to Boston and to Savannah -- my children are the direct descendants of pioneer settlers of both your cities -- Savannah through their mother and Boston through their father. Furthermore, I am proud to participate in these celebrations and to have this fellowship with organizations which in former years were addressed by predecessors of mine in the Presidency of the United States.

"Not for ourselves but for others." That motto can well be the inspiration of all of us -- not alone for the fine purposes of charity, but also for our guidance in our public and private service. Selfishness is without doubt the greatest danger that confronts our beloved country today. Good old St. Patrick and may he ever be with us -- Good old St. Patrick was the epitome of unselfishness. May we follow in his footsteps through all of the years.