
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. 1090

1937 October 4

St. Paul. MN - Address re Agriculture

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
St. Paul, Minnesota
October 4, 1937, 8:45 P.M., C.T.

(The President spoke from a temporary platform erected alongside the rear platform of his special train, which had been spotted on an embankment overlooking a railroad yard in which was gathered an audience of about 35,000 people. The President was introduced by Governor Benson.)

I am glad to return to St. Paul after an absence of less than a year. I appreciate the welcome that has been given me in (to) this State (given me) by my old friend, Governor Benson.

I cannot come to Minnesota, however, without thinking of another old friend who has passed on - Floyd Olson, (applause) whose memory as a great liberal leader will always be with us.

This morning in Grand Forks I spoke of the pressing need for national legislation to preserve soil fertility and safeguard farmers' income. For three years the Agricultural Adjustment Act was a great cornerstone in the new and permanent structure that we Americans are trying to rear on the ruins of the old. That cornerstone was destroyed by the verdict of the Supreme Court of the United States. (Applause and boos) It has been partly, but only partly, replaced by the Soil Conservation Act. The National Farm Act, which I hope the Congress will pass at its next session, will, I am confident, preserve and strengthen the present Soil Conservation Program, and at the same time give us provision against the piling up of unmanageable surpluses and provide for storage of reserve food supplies in an ever-normal granary.

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

as I am going to continue on my reading

(as soon as possible)

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

as I am going to continue on my reading

knowing all to what I will speak at greater length

knowing has given the meaning of multitudinous benefits to the individual families and many more and without

any full disclosure knowing has been set at Shakespeare's fame a new

lesson still this will be done all to make one sensitive

but still in turn emerged all to follow all to be perfect and who

either give the public need and all based on knowledge

of all and learned all the multitudinous that all go together

than as I like, please from all to any like material all right I

report concerning the family all together one person

to go with all ready making an evil will come out to us

the book without to oppose not only the world's strongest

country Germany as all fully

It must be repeated over and over again that such a policy is intended not only to maintain farmers' prices by holding down huge surpluses which destroy those prices, but also to assure adequate supplies of food to the consuming public in the event of severe and widespread drought. Farmers and processors alike realize, I am sure, that there must be a wholly adequate supply of food for the Nation at reasonable prices. There must never be a shortage of food -- nor must the price of food rise so greatly that the consuming public cannot afford to eat. (Applause)

On (my) this trip of mine to the Pacific Coast and back I have found overwhelming evidence in favor of that twin piece of legislation which like the Crop Bill is intended to replace (a) another cornerstone which was knocked out by the Supreme Court. The wage and hour legislation proposed for the benefit of those industrial workers who are processing products that will move in interstate commerce, is of course not intended to restore all the features of the National Industrial Recovery Act. But it is intended to restore certain fair standards for the workers of (the Nation) America. It is intended to prevent over-long hours of labor. And it is intended to establish a reasonable minimum wage, and it is intended to end child labor in every state in the Union. (Applause)

As in the case of farm legislation, a wages and hour and child labor law will undoubtedly accomplish two great purposes -- first, an increase in employment, and secondly, an increase in the total of the Nation's income.

As a result of both of these the actual cost of relief for the unemployed should decrease, and existing taxes -- not higher

taxes -- should make the financial problem of our local and State and Federal Governments more easy.

(It is) It seems to me axiomatic that no part of the country can truly prosper if its standards of living and its standards of pay are far below those of all the other parts of the country. Therefore, I am looking for substantial support for wage and hour legislation from every part of the (country) Union, North, East, West and South.

A prominent manufacturer told me the other day that because of the expansion of his business he is looking for a new site for a new factory, and he is not the only one. He said that he and his directors had definitely decided against locating in any of the communities which had held out as an attraction low wages and unrestricted hours of work. Therefore, he is locating his new plant in a community (which) that pays high wages, works the men and women only forty hours a week, gives them Saturdays and Sundays off, and maintains a high standard of living. (Applause)

Yes, the more I study the subject the more I become convinced that it does not pay any community or any region in the long run to maintain low wages or low living standards. Throughout the Nation we are working toward fairly uniform standards of pay and work in every section and in every community. And the only exception to (this) that rule will give some effect to a small differential based on (an) the actual cost, the actual lower or (an) the actual higher cost of living in some communities or sections as compared with the average of the country.

This greater uniformity, my friends, is being encouraged

every day by the amazing progress that has been made in transportation (during the) in these last few years. People are traveling more, (and) getting to know their neighbors (one) a hundred or five hundred (or) and a thousand miles away for the first time.

The interchange of goods between different parts of the country is also making amazing strides. In this part, (of the Nation) the new nine-foot channel from the Twin Cities to St. Louis is a good illustration of what I mean. You have long known of my interest in its development. Last year, in spite of the election, I had planned a trip (by) a trip by boat from St. Paul and Minneapolis to New Orleans, but the drought came along. This year I had planned to make that trip without fail and then the Congress stayed and I could not do it. (Next year I hope to make it.) But next year I am going to do it. (Applause)

You, the people of Minnesota, have proved in the past that you favor progress and continued progress in Government. (Applause) You are not wild-eyed radicals, as some people in Wall Street believes. You believe in a constitutional, representative democracy just as I do. You understand me when I (speak) talk in national terms. You believe with me that the business (man) men of the Nation will most greatly prosper if the workers and the farmers prosper also.

Yes, (we) you and I have worked toward a common goal in the past and our cooperation today and in the future is by no means at an end.

So may it be. (Applause)

(After prolonged applause the President said: "Goodnight everybody, I have got to catch the train again.")

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
AT ST. PAUL, MINN.,
OCTOBER 4, 1937.

I am glad to return to St. Paul after an absence of less than a year. I appreciate the welcome to this State given me by my old friend Governor Benson.

I cannot come to Minnesota, however, without thinking of another old friend who has passed on - Floyd Olson, whose memory as a great liberal leader will always be with us.

This morning in Grand Forks I spoke of the pressing need for national legislation to preserve soil fertility and safeguard farmers' income. For three years the Agricultural Adjustment Act was a great cornerstone in the new and permanent structure that we Americans are trying to rear on the ruins of the old. That cornerstone was destroyed by the verdict of the Supreme Court. It has been partly, but only partly, replaced by the Soil Conservation Act. The National Farm Act,

which I hope the Congress will pass, will, I am confident, preserve and strengthen the present Soil Conservation Program, and at the same time give us provision against the piling up of unmanageable surpluses and provide for storage of reserve food supplies in an ever normal granary.

It must be repeated over and over again that such a policy is intended not only to maintain farmers' prices by holding down huge surpluses which destroy those prices, but also to assure adequate supplies of food to the consuming public in the event of severe and widespread drought.

Farmers and processors alike realize, I am sure, that there must be a wholly adequate supply of food for the Nation at reasonable prices. There must never be a shortage of food - nor must ~~the~~ price of food rise so greatly that the ^A consuming public cannot afford to eat.

On my trip to the Pacific Coast and back I have found

overwhelming evidence in favor of ~~the~~ twin piece of
legislation which like the Crop Bill is intended to replace
a cornerstone which was knocked out by the Supreme Court.

wages and hours
The legislation proposed for the benefit of those industrial
workers who are processing products that will move in
interstate commerce, is of course not intended to restore
But
all of the National Industrial Recovery Act. It is intended
to restore certain fair standards for the workers of the
Nation. It is intended to prevent over-long hours of labor.
It is intended to establish a reasonable minimum wage, and
it is intended to end child labor in every state in the
Union.

As in the case of farm legislation, wages and hour and
new
child labor ~~legislation~~ will undoubtedly accomplish two
great purposes - first, an increase in employment, and
secondly, an increase in the total of the Nation's income.

As a result of both of these the actual cost of relief for the unemployed should decrease, and existing taxes -- not higher taxes -- should make the financial problem of local and State and Federal governments more easy.

It is axiomatic that no part of the country can truly prosper if its standards of living and its standards of pay are far below those of all the other parts of the country. Therefore, I am looking for substantial support for wage and hour legislation from every part of the country, North, East, West and South.

A prominent manufacturer told me the other day that because of the expansion of his business he is looking for a new site for a new factory. He said that he and his Directors had definitely decided against locating in any of the communities which had held out as an attraction low wages and unrestricted hours of work.

He is locating his new plant in a community which pays high wages, works the men and women forty hours a week, gives them Saturdays and Sundays off, and maintains a high standard of living.

The more I study the subject the more I become convinced that it does not pay any community or any region in the long-run to maintain low wage or low living standards. Throughout the Nation we are working toward fairly uniform standards of pay and work in every section and in every community. And the only exception to this will give some effect to a small differential based on an actual lower or an actual higher cost of living in some communities or sections as compared with the average of the country.

This greater uniformity is being encouraged every day by the amazing progress that has been made in transportation during the last few years. People are traveling more and getting to know their neighbors one hundred or five hundred or a thousand miles away for the first time.

The interchange of goods between different parts of the country is also making amazing strides. In this part of the Nation the new channel from the Twin Cities to St. Louis is a good illustration of what I mean. You have long known my interest in its development. Last year I had planned a trip by boat from St. Paul and Minneapolis to New Orleans. Next year I hope to make it.

You, the people of Minnesota, have proved in the past that you favor progress and continued progress in government. You are not wide-eyed radicals. You believe in a constitutional democracy as I do. You understand me when I speak in national terms. You believe with me that the business man will most greatly prosper if the workers and the farmers prosper.

We have worked toward a common goal in the past and our cooperation is by no means at an end.

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
AT ST. PAUL, MINN.,
OCTOBER 4, 1937.

I am glad to return to St. Paul after an absence of less than a year. I appreciate the welcome to this State given me by my old friend Governor Benson.

I cannot come to Minnesota, however, without thinking of another old friend who has passed on - Floyd Olson, whose memory as a great liberal leader will always be with us.

This morning in Grand Forks I spoke of the pressing need for national legislation to preserve soil fertility and safeguard farmers' income. For three years the Agricultural Adjustment Act was a great cornerstone in the new and permanent structure that we Americans are trying to rear on the ruins of the old. That cornerstone was destroyed by the verdict of the Supreme Court. It has been partly, but only partly, replaced by the Soil Conservation Act. The National Farm Act,

which I hope the Congress will pass, will, I am confident, preserve and strengthen the present Soil Conservation Program, and at the same time give us provision against the piling up of unmanageable surpluses and provide for storage of reserve food supplies in an ever normal granary.

It must be repeated over and over again that such a policy is intended not only to maintain farmers' prices by holding down huge surpluses which destroy those prices, but also to assure adequate supplies of food to the consuming public in the event of severe and widespread drought.

Farmers and processors alike realize, I am sure, that there must be a wholly adequate supply of food for the Nation at reasonable prices. There must never be a shortage of ^{the} food - nor must _{the} price of food rise so greatly that the consuming public cannot afford to eat.

On my trip to the Pacific Coast and back I have found

that
overwhelming evidence in favor of ~~the~~ twin piece of
legislation which like the Crop Bill is intended to replace
a cornerstone which was knocked out by the Supreme Court.

wage and hour
The legislation proposed for the benefit of those industrial
workers who are processing products that will move in
interstate commerce, is of course not intended to restore
But
all of the National Industrial Recovery Act. It is intended
to restore certain fair standards for the workers of the
Nation. It is intended to prevent over-long hours of labor.
It is intended to establish a reasonable minimum wage, and
it is intended to end child labor in every state in the
Union.

a
As in the case of farm legislation, wages and hour and
law
child labor legislation will undoubtedly accomplish two
great purposes - first, an increase in employment, and
secondly, an increase in the total of the Nation's income.

As a result of both of these the actual cost of relief for the unemployed should decrease, and existing taxes — not higher taxes — should make the financial problem of local and State and Federal governments more easy.

It is axiomatic that no part of the country can truly prosper if its standards of living and its standards of pay are far below those of all the other parts of the country. Therefore, I am looking for substantial support for wage and hour legislation from every part of the country, North, East, West and South.

A prominent manufacturer told me the other day that because of the expansion of his business he is looking for a new site for a new factory. He said that he and his Directors had definitely decided against locating in any of the communities which had held out as an attraction low wages and unrestricted hours of work.

He is locating his new plant in a community which pays high wages, works the men and women forty hours a week, gives them Saturdays and Sundays off, and maintains a high standard of living.

The more I study the subject the more I become convinced that it does not pay any community or any region in the long-run to maintain low wage or low living standards. Throughout the Nation we are working toward fairly uniform standards of pay and work in every section and in every community. And the only exception to this will give some effect to a small differential based on an actual lower or an actual higher cost of living in some communities or sections as compared with the average of the country.

This greater uniformity is being encouraged every day by the amazing progress that has been made in transportation during the last few years. People are traveling more and getting to know their neighbors one hundred or five hundred or a thousand miles away for the shortest time.

The interchange of goods between different parts of the country is also making amazing strides. In this part of the Nation the new channel from the Twin Cities to St. Louis is a good illustration of what I mean. You have long known my interest in its development. Last year I had planned a trip by boat from St. Paul and Minneapolis to New Orleans. Next year I hope to make it.

You, the people of Minnesota, have proved in the past that you favor progress and continued progress in government. You are not wide-eyed radicals. You believe in a constitutional democracy as I do. You understand me when I speak in national terms. You believe with me that the business man will most greatly prosper if the workers and the farmers prosper.

We have worked toward a common goal in the past and our cooperation is by no means at an end.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
St. Paul, Minnesota
October 4, 1937, 8.45 P.M., C.T.

(The President spoke from a temporary platform erected alongside the rear platform of his special train, which had been spotted on an embankment overlooking a railroad yard in which was gathered an audience of about 35,000 people. The President was introduced by Governor Benson.)

STATEMENTS FILE
Shorthand By Kanner

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

CAUTION: This address of the President, to be made at St. Paul, Minn., October 4th, 1937, is to be held for reblast upon delivery expected about 8:45 PM Central Time.
PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

M. H. McIntyre
Secretary to the President.

I am glad to return to St. Paul after an absence of less than a year. I appreciate the welcome to this State given me by my old friend Governor Benson.

I cannot come to Minnesota, however, without thinking of another old friend who has passed on - Elvyd Olson, whose memory as a great liberal leader will always be with us.

This morning in Grand Forks I spoke of the pressing need for national legislation to preserve soil fertility and safeguard farmers' income. For three years the Agricultural Adjustment Act was a great cornerstone in the new and permanent structure that we Americans are trying to rear on the ruins of the old. That cornerstone was destroyed by the verdict of the Supreme Court. It has been partly, but only partly, replaced by the Soil Conservation Act. The National Farm Act, which I hope the Congress will pass, will, I am confident, preserve and strengthen the present Soil Conservation Program, and at the same time give us provision against the piling up of unmanageable surpluses and provide for storage of reserve food supplies in an ever normal granary.

It must be repeated over and over again that such a policy is intended not only to maintain farmers' prices by holding down huge surpluses which destroy those prices, but also to assure adequate supplies of food to the consuming public in the event of severe and widespread drought. Farmers and processors alike realize, I am sure, that there must be a wholly adequate supply of food for the Nation at reasonable prices. There must never be a shortage of food - nor must the price of food rise so greatly that the consuming public cannot afford to eat.

On my trip to the Pacific Coast and back I have found overwhelming evidence in favor of that twin piece of legislation which like the Crop Bill is intended to replace a cornerstone which was knocked out by the Supreme Court. The wage and hour legislation proposed for the benefit of those industrial workers who are processing products that will move in interstate commerce, is of course not intended to restore all of the National Industrial Recovery Act. But it is intended to restore certain fair standards for the workers of the Nation. It is intended to prevent over-long hours of labor. It is intended to establish a reasonable minimum wage, and it is intended to end child labor in every state in the Union.

As in the case of farm legislation, a wages and hour and child labor law will undoubtedly accomplish two great purposes -- first, an increase in employment, and secondly, an increase in the total of the Nation's income.

As a result of both of these the actual cost of relief for the unemployed should decrease, and existing taxes -- not higher taxes -- should make the financial problem of local and State and Federal governments more easy.

(It is) It seems to me

-2-

It is axiomatic that no part of the country can truly prosper if its standards of living and its standards of pay are far below those of all the other parts of the country. Therefore, I am looking for substantial support for wage and hour legislation from every part of the country, North, East, West and South. *and he has not the only part.* (country) Union,

A prominent manufacturer told me the other day that because of the expansion of his business he is looking for a new site for a new factory. He said that he and his directors had definitely decided against locating in any of the communities which had held out as an attraction low wages and unrestricted hours of work. He is locating his new plant in a community which pays high wages, works the men and women forty hours a week, gives them Saturdays and Sundays off, and maintains a high standard of living.

The more I study the subject the more I become convinced that it does not pay any community or any region in the long run to maintain low wages or low living standards. Throughout the Nation we are working toward fairly uniform standards of pay and work in every section and in every community. And the only exception to this will give some effect to a small differential based on an actual lower or an actual higher cost of living in some communities or sections as compared with the average of the country. *(and) the actual cost, the*

This greater uniformity is being encouraged every day by the amazing progress that has been made in transportation during the last few years. People are traveling more, and getting to know their neighbors *one* hundred or five hundred or a thousand miles away for the first time. *(and) the*

The interchange of goods between different parts of the country is also making amazing strides. In this part of the Nation the new channel from the Twin Cities to St. Louis is a good illustration of what I mean. You have long known my interest in its development. Last year I had planned a trip to St. Paul and Minneapolis to New Orleans. Next year I hope to make it. *from the start come along.*

You, the people of Minnesota, have proved in the past that you favor progress and continued progress in government. You are not wild-eyed radicals. You believe in a constitutional democracy as I do. You understand me when I talk in national terms. You believe with me that the business will most greatly prosper if the workers and the farmers prosper. *yes, (we) and*

We have worked toward a common goal in the past and our cooperation is by no means at an end. *today and in the future*

Yours,

P. D. May it be (Affirm)

down for these
After prolonged absence
the President said
"Goodnight, everybody,
We have got to catch
the train again."

as many people as
Wall Street believe.

(men) men of the Nation

Then you I had planned to make
that trip without you and then the
Europe stayed and we
could not do it. But next
year you go
to do it. (Affirm)

Aug 19 1900
1900
1900

new approach
will take
of the big
problem
and
overlook
the
small
details
as
they
are
not
important
in
the
long
run.

Aug 27, 1973.