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**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**

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**File No. 1097**

**1937 October 18**

**Hyde Park, NY –  
Radio Message for Mobilization of Human Needs**

# Reading Copy

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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CAUTION: This radio address of the President, part of the program in connection with the annual Community Mobilization for Human Needs, is to be held for release upon delivery, expected about 10:30 P.M., Eastern Standard Time, Monday, October 18, 1937.

PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

M. H. MCINTYRE  
Secretary to the President.

CHAIRMAN TAFT, COMMUNITY CHEST WORKERS,  
FRIENDS OF HUMAN NEEDS:

Each year, as we emerge further from the insecurity and want of the depression, we have a better right to look back with satisfaction at the ground which we have covered. But even while we can take satisfaction in this glance backward we have a serious, inescapable obligation to look forward at the same time and to do it with honesty and vision.

There is danger that we may be blinded by the welcome light of returning prosperity to the very real need that still exists for a considerable part of our population. We must not forget that there are people who are still hungry, their children undernourished; that rags are the clothing of many of our countrymen and miserable shacks or crowded city tenements their only home. These are the things that make it imperative for us to go forward without hesitation in our efforts to bring security, opportunity, and a decent standard of living to all our people, so that our prosperity may be a more true prosperity for the whole Nation.

In this great effort to better the conditions of those who do not now share the freedom from actual want which most of us enjoy, it is important that all agencies, both public and private, receive the Nation's support. It must not be thought that the responsibility which the public assumed through its government, local or national, for the problems of welfare lessens the need for the many services of the private agencies. This need continues and can only be met with generous support from those who are fortunate in their ability to give, even though the gift be relatively a small one.

Again this year, Community Chests representing these agencies in your own community, will appeal to you for moral and financial support so that these needs may be met. All of us have an obligation to face this need honestly and then to give as generously as our individual means will permit. To help our neighbors is a part of the best American tradition. For us the long view of life has included at every turn the principle of mutual aid.

The Federal Government with the return of prosperity must more and more narrow the circle of its relief activities and reduce the amount of Federal revenue to be expended in the amelioration of human want and distress in the various communities of our land. I say this because we all agree that unless Federal taxes are to be greatly increased, the expenditures have to be brought within the existing tax receipts. Although Federal Government relief activities have to be curtailed, there must needs be no abatement of state, local and individual relief work. Indeed, local and private activities must be increased.

I would, therefore, make an especial appeal that Federal officials and our government employees wherever they are found

ought to take a leading part in cooperating with local and community relief workers in carrying forward their unrelenting campaign for the alleviation of the want and suffering that still stalk the land. The wholehearted cooperation of Federal workers will not only aid the work immediately in hand but it will also afford an excellent and practical example of the right community spirit.

And as I dwell upon the practical force of good example in well-doing there comes to my mind the example of the City of Denver which now for half a century has given to the other cities of the country. Denver, I am informed, is observing tonight the fiftieth anniversary of joint financing. The Denver beginning was a forerunner of what has been developed into the four hundred fifty Community Chests of the country.

State and local governments are assuming an increased responsibility for those unable to work, for those who are ill, for the provision of adequate educational and recreational opportunities for all. In every American community the generosity of private giving makes possible the never-ceasing campaign waged by private welfare agencies to bring opportunities otherwise denied; to render needed services not otherwise available and to pioneer in new fields that widen the horizon of us all.

This work can only go forward with the generous cooperation of all of us. The Community Chest offers us once again the opportunity to express our fundamental belief in the principles on which our democracy was founded, by the generous, wholehearted and spontaneous giving of our money and our good will. I ask you to help even more greatly than ever before.

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*Franklin Roosevelt*

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FRIENDS OF HUMAN NEEDS:

Each year, as we emerge further from the insecurity and want of the depression, we have a better right to look back with satisfaction at the ground which we have covered. But even while we can take satisfaction in this glance backward we have a serious, inescapable obligation to look forward at the same time and to do it with honesty and vision.

There is danger that we may be blinded by the welcome light of returning prosperity to the very real need that still exists for a considerable part of our population. We must not forget that there are people who are still hungry, their children undernourished; that rags are the clothing of many of our countrymen and miserable shacks or crowded city tenements their only home. These are the things that make it imperative for us to go forward without hesitation in our efforts to bring security, opportunity, and a decent standard of living to all our people, that our prosperity may be a more true prosperity for the whole Nation.

In this great effort to better the conditions of those who do not now share the freedom from actual want which most of us enjoy, it is important that all agencies, both public and private, receive the nation's support. It must not be thought that the responsibility which the public assumed through its government, local or national, for the problems of welfare lessens the need for the many services of the private agencies. This need continues and can only be met with continuing support from those who are fortunate in their ability to give, even though the gift be relatively a small one.

Again this year, Community Chests representing these agencies in your own community, will appeal to you for moral and financial support so that these needs may be met. All of us have an obligation to face this need honestly and then to give as generously as our individual means will permit. To help our neighbors is a part of the best American tradition. For us the long view of life is summed up every turn/the principle of mutual aid.

The Federal Government with the return of prosperity must more and more narrow the circle of its relief activities and reduce the amount of Federal revenue to be expended in the amelioration of human want and distress in the various communities of our land. I say this because we all agree that unless Federal taxes are to be greatly increased, the expenditures have to be brought within the existing tax receipts. Although Federal Government relief activities have to be curtailed, there must needs be no abatement of state, local and individual relief work. Indeed, local and private activities must be increased.

I would, therefore, make an especial appeal that Federal officials and our government employees wherever they are found

ought to take a leading part in cooperating with local and community relief workers in carrying forward their unremitting campaign for the alleviation of the want and suffering that still stalk the land. ~~The wholehearted cooperation of Federal workers will not only aid the many immediately in hand but it will also afford an excellent and practical example of the right community spirit.~~

And as I dwell upon the practical force of good example in well-doing there comes to my mind the example of the city of Denver which now for half a century has given to the other cities of the country. Denver, I am informed, is observing tonight the fifteenth anniversary of joint financing. The Denver beginning was a forerunner of what has been developed into the four hundred fifty Community Chests of the country.

State and local governments are assuming an increased responsibility for those unable to work, for those who are ill, for the provision of adequate educational and recreational opportunities for all. In every American community the generosity of private giving makes possible the never-ceasing campaign waged by private welfare agencies to bring opportunities otherwise denied; to render needed services not otherwise available and to pioneer in new fields that widen the horizon of us all.

This work can only go forward with the generous cooperation of all of us. The Community Chest offers us once again the opportunity to express our fundamental belief in the principles on which our democracy was founded, by the generous, wholehearted and spontaneous giving of our money and our good will. I ask you to help even more greatly than ever before.

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FEDERAL FEDERATION OF FRIENDS

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
in connection with the program of the annual  
Community Mobilization for Human Needs  
from Hyde Park, New York  
October 18, 1937, 10.30 P.M., E.S.T.

CHAIRMAN TAFT, COMMUNITY CHEST WORKERS, FRIENDS OF HUMAN NEEDS:

Each year, as we emerge further from the insecurity and want of the depression, we have a better right to look back with satisfaction at the ground which we have covered. But even while we can take satisfaction in this glance backward, we have a serious, inescapable obligation to look forward at the same time and to do it with honesty and vision.

There is danger that we may be blinded by the welcome light of returning prosperity to the very real need that still exists for a considerable part of our population. We must not forget that there are people who are still hungry, their children undernourished; that rags are the clothing of many of our countrymen and miserable shacks or crowded city tenements their only home. These are the things that make it imperative for us to go forward without hesitation in our efforts to bring security, opportunity, and a decent standard of living to all our people, so that our prosperity may be a more true prosperity for the whole Nation.

In this great effort to better the conditions of those who do not now share the freedom from actual want which most of us enjoy, it is important that all agencies, both public and private, receive the Nation's support. It must not be thought that the responsibility which the public assumed through its government, local or national, for the problems of welfare lessens the need for the many services of the

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.

private agencies. This need continues and can only be met with generous support from those who are fortunate in their ability to give, even though the gift be relatively a small one.

Again this year, Community Chests representing these agencies in your own community, will appeal to you for moral and financial support so that these needs may be met. All of us have an obligation to face this need honestly and then to give as generously as our individual means will permit. To help our neighbors is a part of the best American tradition. For us the long view of life has included at every turn the principle of mutual aid.

The Federal Government with the return of prosperity must more and more narrow the circle of its relief activities and reduce the amount of Federal revenue to be expended in the amelioration of human want and distress in the various communities of our land. I say this because we all agree that unless Federal taxes are to be greatly increased, the expenditures have to be brought within the existing tax receipts. Although Federal Government relief activities have to be curtailed, there must needs be no abatement of state, and local and, especially, of individual relief work. Indeed, local and private activities (must be) ought to be increased.

I would, therefore, make an especial appeal that Federal officials and our Government employees wherever they are found ought to take a leading part in cooperating with local and community relief workers in carrying forward their unremitting campaign for the alleviation of the want and suffering that still stalk the land. The whole-hearted cooperation of Federal workers will not only aid the work immediately in hand but it will also afford an excellent and practical

example of the right kind of community spirit.

And as I dwell upon the practical force of good example in well-doing there comes to my mind the example of the City of Denver which now for half a century has given to the other cities of the country. Denver, I am informed, is observing tonight the fiftieth anniversary of joint financing. The Denver beginning was a forerunner of what has been developed into the four hundred and fifty Community Chests (of) throughout the country.

State and local governments are assuming an increased responsibility for those who are unable to work, for those who are ill, for the provision of adequate educational and recreational opportunities for all. In every American community the generosity of private giving makes possible the never-ceasing campaign waged by private welfare agencies to bring opportunities otherwise denied; to render needed services not otherwise available and to pioneer in new fields that widen the horizon of (us) all of us.

This work can only go forward with the generous cooperation of all of us. The Community Chest offers us once again the opportunity to express our fundamental belief in the principles on which our democracy was founded, by the generous, wholehearted and spontaneous giving of our money and our good will. And so I ask you to help, to help even more greatly than ever before.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 16, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE P. S.

I have some copies at  
Hyde Park of "Old School Lectures"  
and I will inscribe it to  
Knollenberg for the Library.  
Will you remind me at Hyde Park?

F. D. R.

(Meet A)

I say this because  
we all agree that  
unless Federal taxes  
are to be greatly increased,  
the expenditures have to  
be brought within the  
existing tax receipts.

Draft for consideration of the President in preparation of his speech for Mobilization for Human Needs to be delivered October 18, at 10:30 P.M. A six minute speech was requested by Charles P. Taft, Chairman, Community Mobilization for Human Needs. Allen T. Burns, Executive Director, requested that the President include in his remarks an appeal for cooperation of Federal employees and a reference to the fiftieth anniversary of joint financing in Denver.

CHAIRMAN TAFT, COMMUNITY CHEST WORKERS, FRIENDS

of Human Needs:

Each year as we emerge further from the insecurity and want of the depression, we have a better right to look back with satisfaction at the ground which we have covered. But even while we can take satisfaction in this glance backward we have a serious, inescapable obligation to look forward ~~at this~~ <sup>at this</sup> ~~time~~ <sup>time</sup> and to do it with honesty and vision.

There is danger that we may be blinded by the welcome light of returning prosperity to the very real need that still exists for a considerable part of our population. We must not forget that there are people who are still hungry, their children undernourished; that rags are the clothing of many of our countrymen and miserable shacks or crowded city tenements their only home. These are the things that make it imperative for us to go forward ~~despite~~ <sup>with</sup> in our efforts to bring security, opportunity, and a decent standard of living to all our people so that our prosperity may be a true prosperity for the whole Nation, ~~and otherwise~~.

In this great effort to better the conditions of those who do not now share the ~~common~~ <sup>actual</sup> freedom from want which ~~we~~ <sup>most</sup> of us enjoy, it is important that all agencies, both public and private, receive the Nation's support. It must not be thought that the responsibility which the public assumed through its government, local or national, for the problems of welfare lessens the need for the many services of the private agencies. This need continues and can only be met with generous support from those who are fortunate in their ability to give, ~~even~~ <sup>through the gift</sup> to relatively a small ~~amount~~.

Again this year, Community Chests representing these agencies in your own community, will appeal to you for moral and financial support so that these needs may be met. All of us have an obligation to face this need honestly and then to give as generously as our individual means will permit. To help our neighbors is a part of the best American tradition. For us the long view of life has included at every turn the principle of mutual aid.

The Federal Government with the return of prosperity must more and more narrow the circle of its relief activities and reduce the amount of Federal revenue to be expended in the amelioration of human want and distress in the various communities of our land. Although Federal Government relief activities ~~should~~ <sup>ought to</sup> be curtailed, there must needs be no abatement of state, local and individual relief work. Indeed, local and private activities must be ~~moderately increased~~.

I would, therefore, make an especial appeal that Federal officials and our government employees wherever they are found take a leading part in cooperating with local and community relief workers in carrying forward their unremitting campaign for the alleviation of the want and suffering that still stalk the land. The wholehearted cooperation of Federal workers will not only aid the work immediately in hand but it will also afford an excellent and practical example of the right community spirit.

And as I dwell upon the practical force of good example in well-doing there comes to my mind the example of the City of Denver which now for half a century has ~~surpassed~~ the other cities of the country. Denver, I am informed, is observing tonight the fiftieth anniversary of joint financing. The Denver beginning was a forerunner of what has been developed into the four hundred fifty Community Chests of the country.

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Yale University Library  
New Haven Connecticut

Bernhard Knollenberg  
*Librarian*



September 15, 1939

Miss Margaret Lehand  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Lehand:

I have received from Miss Emily H. Hall, superintendent of our Rare Book Room, a note reading as follows:

"I asked Dr. Cushing about the propriety of our writing to President Roosevelt to ask for a manuscript to file with our collection of manuscripts of the President's. He suggested that you write to Miss Margaret Lehand at the White House and ask her. Dr. Cushing says that he has some letters, but he considers them confidential and does not think they would do. He believes that Miss Lehand would get us something."

By way of explanation I should tell you that we have a very attractive exhibition room in the library in which exhibits of books are arranged every few weeks. It greatly adds to the interest of the exhibit if we can have as a central feature a manuscript written by the person who is the theme of the exhibit. Miss Hall's thought is that the President might be willing to let us have a few notes that he had jotted down for a speech, or a signed typewritten copy of a speech or article that we could use for exhibition purposes along the lines above indicated.

It goes without saying that we would be extremely grateful if the President could see his way clear to make such a contribution to Yale.

Sincerely yours,

*Bernhard Knollenberg.*

# STATEMENTS FILE

Shorthand By Kenne

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*See Good Wc*

*... to help*  
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