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. 1139

1938 June 27

Wilmington, DE - Tercentenary Celebration
[Acceptance Speech, Swedish Monument]
YOUR ROYAL HIGNESSES:

This is a day of happy significance to three nations.

I welcome you, for you represent a true friendship under which we have lived from the earliest times, unmarred by any rift, unbroken by any misunderstanding. You are thrice welcome to our shores.

It is a matter of keen sorrow to me that His Royal Highness the Crown Prince is unable to be at this historic spot today, but all of us pray that his recovery will be speedy and complete -- and I personally look forward to welcoming him and his family at the end of this week.

I accept with profound gratitude, in behalf of the people of the United States, this noble monument placed here through the generosity of the people of Sweden. I am confident that to generations yet unborn in Sweden and in the United States it will typify close association and continued good-will between our two nations.
I am fortunate in having personal association with the Colony of New Sweden, for one of my ancestors, William Beekman, served as Vice Director or Governor of the Colony of Sweden on the Delaware River from 1658 to 1663. And I am also proud that Swedish blood runs in my veins, for another of my ancestors, Martin Hoffman, was an early Swedish settler of New Amsterdam.

My friend, the Governor of Delaware, holds office in direct descent from the Governors of New Sweden -- which reminds me of a recent rhyme descriptive of the famous Governor Johan Printz, that doughty pioneer who is said to have tipped the scales at three hundred pounds.

"No Gov. of Del. Before or since Has weighed as much As Johan Printz."

Your Royal Highnesses, it is a privilege to make grateful acknowledgment of the outstanding contributions made to our national life by men and women of Swedish blood.
To this spot came the pioneers. But in the succeeding centuries tens of thousands of others have come to our shores and added their strength and their fine qualities of citizenship to the American nation. In every phase of our history, in every endeavor -- in commerce and industry, in science and art, in agriculture, in education and religion, in statecraft and government, they have well played their part.

Nor have we as Americans forgotten that after the War of the Revolution, Sweden was the first neutral European power to negotiate a treaty of amity and trade with our young and struggling nation. All these things we recall today with grateful hearts.

And to you who are here as representatives of the people of Finland, I extend an equally hearty welcome. Men and women from Finland have also contributed greatly to our American civilization. Finland, small in size but mighty in honor, occupies an especially warm place in the American heart.
Sweden, Finland and the United States will continue their service in the days to come in the cause of friendship and of peace among the nations of the world.

[Signature]

Original. typing copy
Alternate suggestions:

It is therefore with much pleasure and with sincere appreciation that I turn over to the Governor of the State of Delaware this monument to hold in custody for the American people.

It is therefore with much pleasure and with sincere appreciation that I deliver this monument, symbolic of our friendship and high regard -- deliver it to the Governor of the State of Delaware to be held in custody for the American people.

It is therefore with much pleasure and with sincere appreciation that I deliver this monument, symbolic of that friendship -- deliver it to the Governor of the State of Delaware to be held in custody for the American people.
ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

At the Tercentenary Celebration
Fort Christina Park, Wilmington, Delaware
June 27, 1938, 10.00 A.M.

(It rained heavily during all of the ceremonies.)

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES:

This is a day of happy significance, happy significance to three nations. I welcome you, for you represent a true friendship under which we have lived from the earliest times unmarrred by any rift, unbroken by any misunderstanding. So, you are thrice welcome to our shores. (Applause)

It is a matter of keen sorrow and regret to me that His Royal Highness the Crown Prince is unable to be at this historic spot today, but all of us pray that his recovery will be speedy and complete -- and I personally look forward to welcoming him and his family at Hyde Park or at Washington the end of this week. (Applause)

And I am grateful to Prince Bertel for the message that he has given to us from his distinguished grandfather and, when he returns to Stockholm, I hope that he will give to His Majesty King Gustavus V. my affectionate regards and the affectionate regards of all the American people. (Applause)

I accept with profound gratitude, in behalf of the people of the United States, this noble monument placed here through the generosity of the people of Sweden. I am confident that to generations yet unborn in Sweden and in the United States it will typify close association and continued good will between our two nations.

It is therefore with much pleasure and sincere apprecia-
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.
tion that I turn over to the Governor of the State of Delaware this monument to hold in perpetuity in custody for the American people.

(Appplause)

I am fortunate in having personal association with the Colony of New Sweden, for one of my ancestors, (William) Wilhelm Beekman, served as Vice (Director or) Governor of the Colony of New Sweden on the Delaware River from 1658 to 1663. And I am also proud that Swedish blood runs in my veins, (applause) for another of my ancestors, old Martinus Hoffman, was an early Swedish settler (of) in New Amsterdam.

My friend, the Governor of Delaware, holds office in direct official succession from the old Governors of New Sweden -- which reminds me of a recent rhyme descriptive of (the) that famous Swedish Governor, Johan Printz, that doughty pioneer who is said to have tipped the scales at more than three hundred pounds. (Laughter)

"No Gov. of Del.  
Before or since  
Has weighed as much  
As Johan Printz." (Laughter)

Your Royal Highnesses, it is a privilege to make grateful acknowledgment of the outstanding contributions made to our national life by men and women of Swedish blood. To this spot came the pioneers. But in the succeeding centuries tens of thousands of others have come to our shores and added their strength and their fine qualities of good citizenship to the American nation. In every phase of our history, in every endeavor -- in commerce and industry, in science and art, in agriculture, in education and religion, in statecraft and government, they have well played their part.

Nor have we as Americans forgotten that after the War of the
Revolution, Sweden was the first neutral European power to negotiate a treaty of amity and trade with our young and struggling nation. (Applause) All these things we Americans recall today with grateful hearts.

And to you who are here as representatives of the people of Finland, I extend an equally hearty welcome. Men and women from Finland through the generations have also contributed greatly to our American civilization. Finland, small in size but mighty in honor, (applause) occupies an especially warm place in the American heart.

Sweden, Finland and the United States will continue their service in the days to come in the cause of friendship and in the cause of peace among the nations of the world. (Applause, prolonged)
CAUTION: THIS ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, to be delivered at the
TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION, FORT CHRISTINA PARK,
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, is to be held for release upon
delivery, expected about 10:00 A.M., Eastern Daylight
Saving Time, June 27, 1938.
M. R. MCDONNELL,
Secretary to the President.

Your Royal Highnesses:

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you represent a true friendship under which we have lived from the earliest
times unmarred by any rift, unbroken by any misunderstanding. You are thrice
welcome to our shores.

It is a matter of keen sorrow to me that His Royal Highness the Crown
Prince is unable to be at this historic spot today, but all of us pray that
his recovery will be speedy and complete — and I personally look forward to
welcoming him and his family at Hyde Park or at Washington the end of this week.

I accept with profound gratitude, in behalf of the people of the United
States, this noble monument placed here through the generosity of the people of
Sweden. I am confident that to generations yet unborn in Sweden and in the
United States it will typify close association and continued goodwill between
our two nations.

I am fortunate in having personal association with the Colony of New
Sweden, for one of my ancestors, William Bedmin, served as Vice Director or
Governor of the Colony of New Sweden on the Delaware River from 1658 to 1663.
And I am also proud that Swedish blood runs in my veins, for another of my
ancestors, Martin Hoffen, was an early Swedish settler of New Amsterdam.

My friend, the Governor of Delaware, holds office in direct official
succession from the Governors of New Sweden — which reminds me of a recent
rhyme descriptive of the famous Governor Johan Prints, that doughty pioneer
who is said to have tipped the scales at three hundred pounds.

"No Gov. of Del.
Before or since
Has weighed as much
As Johan Prints!"

Your Royal Highnesses, it is a privilege to make grateful acknowledgment
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science and art, in agriculture, in education and religion, in statecraft and
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Nor have we as Americans forgotten that after the War of the Revolution,
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Sweden, Finland and the United States will continue their service in the
days to come in the cause of friendship and of peace among the nations of the
world.
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I welcome you, for you represent a true friendship under which we have lived from the earliest times unmarred by any rift, unbroken by any misunderstanding. You are thrice welcome to our shores.

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I am fortunate in having personal association with the Colony of New Sweden, for one of my ancestors, William Beekman, served as Vice Director or Governor of the Colony of Sweden on the Delaware River from 1658 to 1663. And I am also proud that Swedish blood runs in my veins, for another of my ancestors, Martin Hoffman, was an early Swedish settler of New Amsterdam.

My friend, the Governor of Delaware, holds office in direct descent from the Governors of New Sweden -- which reminds me of a recent rhyme descriptive of the famous Governor Johan Printz, that doughty pioneer who is said to have tipped the scales at three hundred pounds.

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And to you who are here as representatives of the people of Finland, I extend an equally hearty welcome. Men and women from Finland have also contributed greatly to our American civilization. Finland, small in size but mighty in honor, occupies an especially warm place in the American heart.
Sweden, Finland and the United States will continue their service in the days to come in the cause of friendship and of peace among the nations of the world.
STATEMENTS FILE

Your Royal Highnesses:

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I am fortunate in having personal association with the Colony of New Sweden, for one of my ancestors, William Beckman, served as Vice Director—Governor of the Colony of New Sweden on the Delaware River from 1658 to 1663. And I am also proud that Swedish blood runs in my veins. For another of my ancestors, Martin Hoffman, was an early Swedish settler of New Amsterdam.

My friend, the Governor of Delaware, holds office in direct official succession from the Governors of New Sweden — which reminds me of a recent rhyme descriptive of the famous Governor Johan Printz, that doughty pioneer who is said to have tipped the scales at three hundred pounds.

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Alternate suggestions:

It is therefore with much pleasure and with sincere appreciation that I turn over to the Governor of the State of Delaware this monument to hold in custody for the American people.

It is therefore with much pleasure and with sincere appreciation that I deliver this monument, symbolic of our friendship and high regard -- deliver it to the Governor of the State of Delaware to be held in custody for the American people.
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