
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. 1140

1938 June 30

**New York City, NY - Start of Construction of U.S.
Building at the New York World's Fair**

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
 NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR
 THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1939

On this occasion we formally commence the construction of the Building of the Government of the United States. I gladly express the appreciation of that Government to the representatives of so many other nations who have graciously decided to take part in the New York World's Fair of 1939.

Already the plans for their participation are drawn and to them I want to stress my hope that many of their countrymen will visit the Fair next year. To them also a hearty welcome will be given. I emphasize this on the ground of reciprocity, because for many years the visiting balance has been somewhat uneven. Far more Americans have been traveling to the shores of other Continents, especially Europe, than visitors from the other nations to our shores. I encourage all of my compatriots to learn all they can at first hand about other nations and to make friends there, but I wish that more of the citizens of other nations could visit us and make friends here.

All of us realize, of course, that the affairs of many parts of the world are, to put it politely, somewhat distraught. Such a condition necessarily accompanies wars and rumors of wars.

We in this Hemisphere are happily removed, in large measure, both from fear and from the controversies which breed it. In a larger sense, however, we cannot remain unconcerned, especially because it is our fortune to enjoy friendship and good relations with all nations.

You who represent the other nations here today have heard of what is known as the policy of the Good Neighbor. To that policy we have steadily adhered, and it may well be said that it is the definite policy of all the American Republics.

It is a policy which can never be merely unilateral. In stressing it the American Republics appreciate, I am confident, that it is bilateral and multilateral and that the fair dealing which it implies must be reciprocated.

It is a policy, ~~however~~, which was not in its inception, or subsequently, limited to one Hemisphere. It has proven so successful in the Western Hemisphere that the American Republics believe that it could succeed in the rest of the world if the spirit which lies behind it were better understood and more actively striven for in the other parts of the world.

Furthermore, the policy of the Good Neighbor is, as we know, not limited to those problems of international relations which may result in war. We are against war and have agreed among ourselves quietly to discuss difficulties in such a way that the possibility of war has become remote. But the policy involves also matters of trade and matters affecting the interchange of culture.

In these modern days when so many new economic and social problems call for the revision of many old economic and social tenets, closer personal contacts are an essential to the well-being of nations.

That is why the New York World's Fair and the San Francisco Fair are well-timed for 1939. They will encourage that interchange of thought, of culture, and of trade which are so vital today. They will give to the opposite ends of our country an opportunity to see the exhibits and visitors from the rest of the world -- they will give to those visitors a splendid chance to see something of the length and breadth of the United States.

All of us who are here today look forward to April, 1939, when this great Exposition will be formally opened. It has been well said that you cannot hate a man you know. Therefore, this Exposition will stand as a symbol of world peace for, without doubt, it is a useful advance on the patient road to peace.

Fredrik D. Quarles

Original reading copy

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

On the Occasion of the Laying of the Cornerstone
Of the Federal Building, New York World's Fair Grounds
New York City, June 30, 1938, 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR LEHMAN, MAYOR LA GUARDIA, COMMISSIONER FLYNN, COMMISSIONER

WHALEN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

The master mason certifies that the cornerstone is well and truly laid and, in turn, I have assured him that I hold a union card.

(Laughter)

I am glad that Mr. Whalen has spoken of his visits to Washington. He has never left Washington empty-handed. He is the most persuasive salesman in all the world. (Laughter)

On this occasion we formally commence the construction of the Building of the Government of the United States at the New York World's Fair of 1939. I gladly express the appreciation of that Government to the representatives of (so many) sixty-two other nations who have graciously decided to take part in the (New York World's) Fair (of 1939).

Already the plans for their participation are drawn and to them I want to stress my hope that many of their countrymen will (visit) come to the Fair next year. To (them also) those countrymen of theirs a hearty welcome will be given. I emphasize this on the ground of reciprocity, because for many years the visiting balance has been somewhat uneven. Far more Americans have been traveling to the shores of other continents, especially Europe, than visitors from the other nations to our shores. I encourage all of my compatriots to learn all that they can at first hand about other nations and to make friends there, but I wish that more 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.

... when we find I have had enough and I am at the end thereof

(referred)

... when we have been too long and too much and too late on

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and at such

(referred) ... when we find it is necessary to postpone

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

... when we find it is necessary to postpone that term and to postpone the

citizens of other nations (could) would visit us and make friends here. (Applause)

All of us realize, of course, that the affairs of many parts of the world are, to put it politely, somewhat distraught at this time. Such a condition necessarily accompanies wars and rumors of wars.

We in this Hemisphere are happily removed, in large measure, both from fear and from the controversies which breed it. In a larger sense, however, we cannot remain unconcerned, especially because it is our fortune to enjoy friendship and good relations with all nations.

You who represent the other nations here today have heard of what is known as the policy of the Good Neighbor. To that policy we have steadily adhered, and it may well be said that it is the definite policy of all the American Republics. (Applause)

It is a policy which can never be merely unilateral. In stressing it the American Republics appreciate, I am confident, that it is a bilateral, (and) a multilateral policy and that the fair dealing which it implies must be reciprocated.

It is a policy which was not in its inception, or subsequently, limited to one hemisphere. It has proven so successful in the Western Hemisphere that the American Republics believe that it could succeed in all the rest of the world if the spirit which lies behind it were better understood and more actively striven for in the other parts of the world. (Applause)

Furthermore, the policy of the Good Neighbor is, as we know, not limited to those problems of international relations which may result in war. We are against war and have agreed among

ourselves quietly to discuss difficulties in such a way that the possibility of war has become remote. But the policy involves also matters of trade and matters affecting the interchange of culture between nations.

In these modern days when so many new economic and social problems call for the revision of many old economic and social tenets, closer personal contacts are an essential, an absolute essential, to the well-being of nations of the world.

That is why the New York World's Fair and the San Francisco Fair are well-timed for 1939. They will encourage that interchange of thought, of culture, and of trade which (are) is so vital today. They will give to the opposite ends of our country an opportunity to see the exhibits and the visitors from all the rest of the world -- and they will give to those visitors a splendid chance to see something of the length and breadth of the United States.

All of us who are here today are looking forward to April 1939, when this great Exposition will be formally opened, and al-
though the plans were made some time ago, I do not think that it
has yet been announced that the United States Fleet this coming
winter will come to the Atlantic Ocean and will be present at the
opening of the World's Fair. Yes, we are looking forward to that day, a day of meeting and of greeting. It has been well said that you cannot hate a man you know. Therefore, this Exposition will stand as a symbol of world peace for, without doubt, it is a useful advance on the patient road to peace that America treads. (Applause)

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

C A U T I O N: This address of the President on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the Federal Building, in the New York World's Fair Grounds, New York City, June 30, 1938, is for release upon delivery, expected about two o'clock P. M., Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

M. H. McIntyre
Secretary to the President.

On this occasion we formally commence the construction of the Building of the Government of the United States. I gladly express the appreciation of that Government to the representatives of so many other nations who have graciously decided to take part in the New York World's Fair of 1939.

Already the plans for their participation are drawn and to them I want to stress my hope that many of their countrymen will visit the Fair next year. To them also a hearty welcome will be given. I emphasize this on the ground of reciprocity, because for many years the visiting-balance has been somewhat uneven. Far more Americans have been traveling to the shores of other Continents, especially Europe, than visitors from the other nations to our shores. I encourage all of my compatriots to learn all they can at first hand about other nations and to make friends there, but I wish that more of the citizens of other nations could visit us and make friends here.

All of us realize, of course, that the affairs of many parts of the world are, to put it politely, somewhat distraught. Such a condition necessarily accompanies war and rumors of wars.

We in this Hemisphere are happily removed, in large measure, both from fear and from the controversies which breed it. In a larger sense, however, we cannot remain unconcerned, especially because it is our fortune to enjoy friendship and good relations with all nations.

You who represent the other nations here today have heard of what is known as the policy of the Good Neighbor. To that policy we have steadily adhered, and it may well be said that it is the definite policy of all the American Republics.

It is a policy which can never be merely unilateral. In stressing it the American Republics appreciate, I am confident, that it is bilateral and multilateral and that the fair dealing which it implies must be reciprocated.

It is a policy which was not in its inception, or subsequently, limited to one Hemisphere. It has proven so successful in the Western Hemisphere that the American Republics believe that it could succeed in the rest of the world if the spirit which lies behind it were better understood and more actively striven for in the other parts of the world.

Furthermore, the policy of the Good Neighbor is, as we know, not limited to those problems of international relations which may result in war. We are against war and have agreed among ourselves quietly to discuss difficulties in such a way that the possibility of war has become remote. But the policy involves also matters of trade and matters affecting the interchange of culture.

In these modern days when so many new economic and

social problems call for the revision of many old economic and social tenets, closer personal contacts are an essential to the well-being of nations.

That is why the New York World's Fair and the San Francisco Fair are well-timed for 1939. They will encourage that interchange of thought, of culture, and of trade which are so vital today. They will give to the opposite ends of our country an opportunity to see the exhibits and visitors from the rest of the world -- they will give to those visitors a splendid chance to see something of the length and breadth of the United States.

All of us who are here today look forward to April, 1939, when this great Exposition will be formally opened. It has been well said that you cannot hate a man you know. Therefore, this Exposition will stand as a symbol of world peace for, without doubt, it is a useful advance on the patient road to peace.

* * *

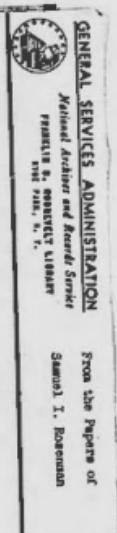
(1)

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR
THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1938

On this occasion of formally commencing the construction of the building of the Government of the United States, I gladly express the appreciation of that Government to the representatives of so many other nations who have graciously decided to take part in the New York World's Fair of 1939.

Already the plans for their participation are drawn and to them I want to stress my hope that many of their countrymen will visit the Fair next year. To them also is a hearty welcome will be given. I emphasize this on the ground of reciprocity, because for many years the visiting balance has been somewhat uneven. Far more Americans have been traveling to the shores of other Continents, especially Europe, than visitors from the other nations to our shores. I encourage all of my compatriots to learn all they can at first hand about other nations and to make friends there, but I wish that more of the citizens of other nations could visit us and make friends here.

All of us realize, of course, that the affairs of many parts of the world are, to put it politely, somewhat distraught. Such a condition necessarily accompanies wars and rumors of wars.





GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Military Analysis and Record Service

FRANCIS B. MURKIN LIBRARY

NEW YORK, N.Y.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

-2-

We in this Hemisphere are happily removed, in large measure, both from fear and from the controversies which breed it. In a larger sense, however, we cannot remain unconcerned, especially because it is our good fortune that we enjoy friendship and good relations with all nations.

You who represent the other nations here today have heard of what is known as the policy of the Good Neighbor. To that policy we have steadily adhered, and it may well be said that it is the definite policy of all the American Republics.

It is a policy, however, which was not in its inception, or subsequently, limited to one Hemisphere. It has proven so successful in the Western Hemisphere that the American Republics believe that it could succeed in the rest of the world if the spirit which lies behind it were better understood and more actively striven for in the other parts of the world.

It is a policy which can never be merely unilateral. In stressing it the American Republics appreciate, I am confident, that it is bilateral and that the fair dealing which it implies is reciprocal.

Furthermore, the policy of the Good Neighbor is, as we know, not confined to the problems of international relations which may result in war. We are against war and have agreed

among ourselves quietly to discuss difficulties in such a way that the possibility of war has become remote. But it involves also matters of trade and matters affecting the international interchange of culture.

In these modern days when so many economic and social problems call for the revision of many old economic and social tenets, closer personal contacts are an essential to the well-being of nations.

That is why the New York World's Fair and the San Francisco Fair are well-timed for 1939. They will encourage that interchange of thought, of culture, and of trade which are so vital today. They will give to the opposite ends of our country an opportunity to see the exhibits of the rest of the world, and the visitors from the rest of the world, in turn, will give to those visitors a splendid chance to see something of the length and breadth of the United States.

All of us who are here today look forward to April, 1939 when this great exposition will be formally opened. It has been well-said that you cannot hate a man you know. Therefore this exposition may well stand as a symbol of world peace, for without doubt, it is a useful advance on the patient road to peace.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Record Service
Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
West Park,
White Plains, N.Y.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR
THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1938

On this occasion ~~we~~ formally commencing the construction of the building of the Government of the United States, I gladly express the appreciation of that Government to the representatives of so many other nations who have graciously decided to take part in the New York World's Fair of 1939.

Already the plans for their participation are drawn and to them I want to stress my hope that many of their countrymen will visit the Fair next year. To them also is a hearty welcome will be given. I emphasize this on the ground of reciprocity, because for many years the visiting balance has been somewhat uneven. Far more Americans have been traveling to the shores of other Continents, especially Europe, than visitors from the other nations to our shores. I encourage all of my compatriots to learn all they can at first hand about other nations and to make friends there, but I wish that more of the citizens of other nations could visit us and make friends here.

All of us realize, of course, that the affairs of many parts of the world are, to put it politely, somewhat distraught. Such a condition necessarily accompanies wars and rumors of wars.

We in this Hemisphere are happily removed, in large measure, both from fear and from the controversies which breed it. In a larger sense, however, we cannot remain unconcerned, especially because it is our good fortune ~~themselves~~ to enjoy friendship and good relations with all nations.

You who represent the other nations here today have heard of what is known as the policy of the Good Neighbor. To that policy we have steadily adhered, and it may well be said that it is the definite policy of all the American Republics.

→ It is a policy, ~~however~~, which was not in its inception, or subsequently, limited to one Hemisphere. It has proven so successful in the Western Hemisphere that the American Republics believe that it could succeed in the rest of the world if the spirit which lies behind it were better understood and more actively striven for in the other parts of the world.

It is a policy which can never be merely unilateral. In stressing it the American Republics appreciate, I am confident, that it is bilateral and that the fair dealing which it implies is reciprocal. ~~must be reciprocal~~

Furthermore, the policy of the Good Neighbor is, as we know, not ~~confined to the~~ limited to those problems of international relations which may result in war. We are against war and have agreed

among ourselves quietly to discuss difficulties in such a way that the possibility of war has become remote. But ~~it~~ involves also matters of trade and matters affecting the ~~international~~ interchange of culture.

In these modern days when so many economic and social problems call for the revision of ^{new} many old economic and social tenets, closer personal contacts are an essential to the well-being of nations.

That is why the New York World's Fair and the San Francisco Fair are well-timed for 1939. They will encourage that interchange of thought of culture and of trade which are so vital today. They will give to the opposite ends of our country an opportunity to see the exhibits ~~of~~ ^{and visitors from} the rest of the world, ~~and the visitors from the rest of the world -- and they will~~ give to those visitors a splendid chance to see something of the length and breadth of the United States.

All of us who are here today look forward to April, 1939 when this great exposition will be formally opened. It has been well-said that you cannot hate a man you know. Therefore this exposition ^{will} stand as a symbol of world peace, for without doubt, it is a useful advance on the patient road to peace.

STATEMENTS FILE

Shorthand By Kannee

- 168 Hymn 168-200
169 169-200
170 170-200
171 171-200
172 172-200
173 173-200
174 174-200
175 175-200
176 176-200
177 177-200
178 178-200
179 179-200
180 180-200
181 181-200
182 182-200
183 183-200
184 184-200
185 185-200
186 186-200
187 187-200
188 188-200
189 189-200
190 190-200
191 191-200
192 192-200
193 193-200
194 194-200
195 195-200
196 196-200
197 197-200
198 198-200
199 199-200
200 200-200

W. J. G. 1966
Very large,
dissim,

100 miles off Africa.

STATEMENTS FILE

Shorthand By Kanner

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE HOLD FOR RELEASE

(P)

CAUTION:

This address of the President at the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the Federal Building, in the New York World's Fair Grounds, New York City, June 30, 1938, is for release upon delivery, expected about two o'clock P. M., Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

M. H. McIntyre
Secretary to the President.

On this occasion we formally commence the construction of the Building of the Government of the United States. I gladly express the appreciation of that Government to the representatives of so many other nations who have graciously decided to take part in the New York World's Fair of 1939.

Already the plans for their participation are drawn and to them I want to stress my hope that many of their countrymen will visit the Fair next year. To them also a hearty welcome will be given. I emphasize this on the ground of reciprocity, because for many years the visiting balance has been somewhat uneven. Far more Americans have been traveling to the shores of other continents, especially Europe, than visitors from the other nations to our shores. I encourage all of my compatriots to learn all they can at first hand about other nations and to make friends there, but I wish that more of the citizens of other nations would visit us and make friends here.

All of us realize, of course, that the affairs of many parts of the world are, to put it politely, somewhat disengaged. Such a condition necessarily accompanies wars and rumors of wars.

We in this Hemisphere are happily removed, in large measure, both from fear and from the controversies which breed it. In a larger sense, however, we cannot remain unconcerned, especially because it is our fortune to enjoy friendship and good relations with all nations.

You who represent the other nations here today have heard of what is known as the policy of the Good Neighbor. To that policy we have steadily adhered, and it may well be said that it is the definite policy of all the American Republics.

It is a policy which can never be merely unilateral. In stressing it the American Republics appreciate, I am confident, that it is bilateral and multilateral and that the fair dealing which it implies must be reciprocated.

It is a policy which was not in its inception, or subsequently, limited to one Hemisphere. It has proven so successful in the Western Hemisphere that the American Republics believe that it could succeed in the rest of the world if the spirit which lies behind it were better understood and more actively striven for in the other parts of the world.

Furthermore, the policy of the Good Neighbor is, as we know, not limited to those problems of international relations which may result in war. We are against war and have agreed among ourselves quietly to discuss difficulties in such a way that the possibility of war has become remote. But the policy involves also matters of trade and matters affecting the interchange of culture.

In these modern days when so many new economic and

social problems call for the revision of many old economic and social tenets, closer personal contacts are an essential ^{part} to the well-being of nations.

That is why the New York World's Fair and the San Francisco Fair are well-timed for 1939. They will encourage that interchange of thought, of culture, and of trade which ~~is~~ is so vital today. They will give to the opposite ends of our country an opportunity to see the exhibits and visitors from the rest of the world -- they will give to those visitors a splendid chance to see something of the length and breadth of the United States.

All of us who are here today look forward to April, 1939, when this great Exposition will be formally opened. It has been well said that you cannot hate a man you know. Therefore, this Exposition will stand as a symbol of world peace for, without doubt, it is a useful advance on the patient road to peace. *America Trade. (S)*

* * *

{ 731am - 31 May '49
C. T. - in S.A.N.
V.W.
✓ C. W., ~~the 1st~~