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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. 1159**

**1938 July 14**

**San Francisco, CA - Treasure Island**

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT

TREASURE ISLAND

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

JULY 14, 1939

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Confidence that in the year 1939 the United States and all the Western Hemisphere will be at peace is shown by the fact that in this Nation two great international expositions are about to be held.

It is our hope and our expectation that that confidence is well placed -- and that the very fact of holding these two expositions means an added impetus to the cause of peace. Great gatherings of such a nature make for trade, for better understanding and for renewed good-will.

It has been suggested that it was a mistake to hold two expositions the same year -- but I cannot agree with this because it seems to me that each is a supplement to the other. Thousands of Americans will plan to visit

both of them this summer -- to see both ends of our wide Nation and perhaps to travel one way by the all-American route via the Panama Canal.

Furthermore, those who visit us from other countries will be stimulated to cross our country. Too often we are judged by those from other lands who spend a few hurried days or weeks on one seaboard and think they know America.

At New York the other day I suggested, furthermore, that we Americans much wish that many more people from other nations would come to visit us. We have the travel habit and we wish that they would acquire it. The more of them who visit us the happier we shall be.

In the construction of the Golden Gate International Exposition, the Federal Government has been glad to be of material assistance to your plans.

In addition to the allotment by the Congress of one and a half million dollars, I am told that you have received nearly five million dollars in the form of useful work paid for from WPA funds, and nearly another two million dollars

in equally useful work paid for from Public Works funds -- in other words, total Federal assistance of more than eight and a quarter million dollars.

I am glad that the Federal Government has been able so greatly to help the fine spirit which throughout the Western States encouraged this undertaking. And I am glad, too, that we have been able to help the State of California and the municipalities around San Francisco Bay in the construction of the two great bridges which I have seen today for the first time. They form a magnificent illustration of the new saying that "what nature has put asunder, man can join together".

In two hours I hope to review the United States Fleet, now at anchor in this great harbor. It is not merely a symbol -- it is a potent, ever-ready fact in the national defense of the United States.

Every right-thinking man and woman in the United States wishes that it were safe for the Nation to spend less of our national budget on our armed forces. All know that we are faced with a condition and not a theory -- and that the condition is not of our choosing. Money spent on armaments does not create permanent income producing wealth, and about the only satisfaction we can take out of the present world situation is that the proportion of our national income that we spend on armaments is only a quarter or a third of the proportion that most of the other great nations of the world are spending at this time.

We fervently hope for the day when the other leading nations of the world will realize that their present course must inevitably lead them to disaster. We stand ready to meet them and encourage them in any efforts they may make toward a definite reduction in world armament.

The year 1939 would go down in history not only as the year of the two great American World's Fairs, but would be a year of world-wide rejoicing if it could also mark definite steps toward permanent world peace. That is the hope and the prayer of the overwhelming number of men and women and children in all the earth today.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*  
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*Orig. reading copy*

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
Treasure Island, San Francisco Bay  
July 14, 1938, about 2.30 P.M.

GOVERNOR MERRIAM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Rarely, perhaps never, in my life have I been as thrilled  
as I have today, starting with the visit to my old friends of nearly  
a quarter of a century ago at the Mare Island Navy Yard, and then  
that trip by motor over wonderful highways to that view of your two  
new bridges that I had never seen before. And then that wonderful  
reception all along the line of march.

I think that you people out here on the Coast, when you  
start to do something do it better than anyone else in the United  
States. (Applause) And then, coming down from what I used to call  
Giant Island in the old days, although I believe it had a more offi-  
cial and more beautiful name, to this Island with its wonderful build-  
ings that already prove what the Exposition is going to look like  
next year, all I can tell you is that I await the passage of months  
before I come back here to see it all. (Applause)

Confidence that in {the} that year of 1939 the United States  
and all the Western Hemisphere will be at peace is shown by the fact  
that in this Nation two great international expositions are about to  
be held.

It is our hope and our expectation that that confidence is  
well placed -- and that the very fact of holding these two expositions  
means an added impetus to the cause of world peace. Great gatherings  
of such a nature make for trade, for better understanding and for re-  
newed good will between the Nations of the world.

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.

... to absent the vice state and my visitors (before even I am  
sure) have been very useful and will be continued to be useful. It  
was easy to make ends of expenditure from notes to give back  
information that had been wanted some time ago but I fear I required some  
names to call up while the visitors  
you know, cannot tell us what two subjects were first raised. I  
believe and it will never go off without one or two instances of or finds  
line of home & industry and science, plant and industrial, which  
little time ago I had it available to myself when the old market stood  
and reference of course much less of more difficult when the old  
will deal of nation, of government and such every generic term and  
reference to agriculture and science I find at now later and I can, over time  
(several). This is not as good good when I carried  
over to business and could be used later (with) in my constituency  
now and so much as seems to be like standardized speech and the last  
of course are something favorable terms and political side of things  
which are  
all mentioned each their qualifications who has good man in all  
qualifications but could not be said that your old and new -- nearly like  
contraries itself. Under these to make end of enough nothing we know  
or not are authorizations referred to, short not clear certain a name to  
sign and be accepted and presented like today dinner

It has been suggested by those on the Pacific Coast and on the Atlantic Coast that it was a mistake to hold two expositions (the same) in one year -- but I cannot agree with (this) that because it seems to me that each is a supplement to the other. Thousands of Americans (will plan) are already planning to visit both of (them this summer) the expositions next year -- to see both ends of our wide Nation and perhaps to travel one way by the all-American route via the Panama Canal. (Applause)

Furthermore, those who visit us from other countries will be stimulated to cross our country, the way I try to do every year that passes. Too often we are judged by those from other lands who spend a few hurried (days or) weeks or even days on one seaboard and think they know America.

At New York the other day I suggested, furthermore, that we Americans much wish that many more people from other nations would come to visit us. We Americans have the travel habit and we wish that (they) other people would acquire it. The more of them who visit us next year the happier we shall be.

In the construction of the Golden Gate International Exposition, the Federal Government has been glad, glad and happy to be of material assistance to your plans.

In addition to the allotment by the Congress of (one and) a million and a half (million) dollars, I am told that you have received nearly five million dollars in the form of useful work paid for (from) by WPA funds, and nearly another two million dollars in equally useful work paid for from Public Works funds -- in other words, total Federal assistance of more than eight and a quarter million dollars.

I am glad that the Federal Government has been able so greatly to help the fine spirit which throughout the western states encouraged and is encouraging this undertaking. And I am glad, too, that we have been able to help the State of California and the municipalities around San Francisco Bay in the construction of the two great bridges (which I have seen) that I saw today for the first time. (They) Those bridges form a magnificent illustration of the new saying that "what nature has put asunder, man can join together." (Applause)

In another two hours I hope to review the United States Fleet, now at anchor in this great American harbor. (It) That Fleet is not merely a symbol -- it is a potent, ever-ready fact in the national defense of the United States. (Applause)

Every right-thinking man and woman in (the United States) our country wishes that it were safe for the Nation to spend less of our national budget on our armed forces. All know that we are faced with a condition and not a theory -- and that (the) that condition is not of our own choosing. Money spent on armaments does not create permanent income-producing wealth, and about the only satisfaction that we can take out of the present world situation is that the proportion of our national income that we spend on armaments is only a quarter or a third of the proportion that most of the other great nations of the world are spending all at once at this time.

We fervently hope for the day when the other leading nations of the world will realize that their present course must inevitably lead (them) to disaster. We stand ready to meet them, (and) to encourage them in any efforts they may make toward a definite reduction in world armament.

The year 1939, next year would go down in history not only as the year of the two great American World's Fairs, but would be a year of world-wide rejoicing if (it) that year could also mark definite steps toward permanent world peace. That, my friends, that is (the hope and) the prayer of the overwhelming number of men and women and children in all the earth today. (Prolonged applause)

CONFIDENTIAL - HOLD FOR RELEASE

The following address of the President  
MUST BE HELD FOR RELEASE.

Release upon delivery.

CAUTION : Please safeguard against  
premature release.

Stephen T. Early  
Secretary to the President.

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY  
July 14, 1938 .

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It is our hope and our expectation that that confidence is well placed — and that the very fact of holding these two expositions means an added impetus to the cause of peace. Great gatherings of such a nature make for trade, for better understanding and for renewed good-will.

It has been suggested that it was a mistake to hold two expositions the same year — but I cannot agree with this because it seems to me that each is a supplement to the other. Thousands of Americans will plan to visit both of them this summer — to see both ends of our wide Nation and perhaps to travel one way by the all-American route via the Panama Canal.

Furthermore, those who visit us from other countries will be stimulated to cross our country. Too often we are judged by those from other lands who spend a few hurried days or weeks on one seaboard and think they know America.

At New York the other day I suggested, furthermore, that we Americans much wish that many more people from other nations would come to visit us. We have the travel habit and we wish that they would acquire it. The more of them who visit us the happier we shall be.

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STATEMENTS FILE

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