

October 14, 1938

[Motivation For Human Needs]

1175

FDR Speech File

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
1938 MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS
THE WHITE HOUSE
OCTOBER 14, 1938

In troubled days when the nerves of men and women have been strained almost to the breaking point we have been in danger of losing sight of one very important fact -- the all-pervading human kindness of men and women. This human kindness cannot be created artificially out of speeches and appeals -- it is part of life itself.

In accordance with this thought, I am not this year making a speech or an appeal in behalf of the 1938 Mobilization for Human Needs, but I am calling your attention to the past and present generosity of the people of America. That generosity never has failed and please God it never will fail. In full faith and confidence, therefore, I present to you the news that local Community Chest drives will shortly be undertaken in all parts of the country.

There are some persons who say that the need for voluntary private agencies has decreased. They say that the government -- Federal, state and local -- has moved in and taken over part of the jurisdiction of the private agencies. Such persons talk as if the scope of voluntary action and of mutual aid had been limited, or even eliminated.

Private community effort is not contradictory in principle to government effort, whether local, state or national. All of these are needed to make up the partnership upon which our Nation is founded. The scope of voluntary action cannot be limited, because the very desire to help the less fortunate is a basic and spontaneous human urge that knows no boundary lines. It is an urge that advances civilization. I like to think it is a national characteristic.

Let me give you an example of successful working-together. One section of our country, New England, has recently been devastated by hurricane and tidal wave.

Hundreds of lives were lost and millions of dollars worth of property were destroyed. This was indeed a tragedy. But there was one consolation in this New England tragedy. Hardly had the hurricane subsided when all the forces of government, assisting and cooperating with private agencies, were rushed to the aid of the injured, the sick and the homeless. How many lives were saved because of these efforts no one can say. The extent to which human suffering was alleviated is beyond all estimate. And we can say that no effort was spared to aid the victims of this disaster.

The rehabilitation work is still going on. The Red Cross, the WPA, the CCC, the NYA, the Army Engineers and other Federal agencies are working with the local agencies, both private and public, to rehabilitate those stricken areas and to assist those who are in need. Certainly, there has been no conflict between government and private agencies --
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there has been more than enough work for both. And there is more than enough work for both in our national effort to lift up the lower one-third of our Nation to a standard of living which will conform with decency and comfort and self-respect.

It is true that our Government has assumed increased responsibilities for social welfare. We are giving work to more than three million men and women, unemployed through no fault of their own, on our WPA program. Through our Social Security program we are aiding the states in caring for the aged, for widows and children and for the blind. We are providing new opportunities for more than a half million boys and girls through our CCC and NYA programs; and in many other ways the Federal Government, in cooperation with the state and local governments, is aiding our under-privileged citizens.

But you may well ask if the need for community action is as great as before, now that your Government has provided a national program of social security. I would answer that the need is just as great as before, because Government help was intended and is intended to improve the old conditions and if local help and private help decrease today, we will nullify the improvement and return to just where we were before. Very definitely we need the effort

of the pioneer agencies, the local voluntary agencies, because it is expended on concrete problems which must be met if our whole program is to go forward with the coordination that is its basic aim.

Community leaders have met the challenge of changing conditions. They are not looking backward with resentment against the Government. They have welcomed the acts of their Government as a liberation of their efforts, as an opportunity to move forward on the front of social progress.

It is these men and women whom I salute. They are the shock troops of the social conscience. I call upon the American people to fall in behind such leadership and to widen the social horizon. I am thoroughly convinced that no matter how much the Government does, the private agencies of America still have much to do before any of us can rest on our oars or on our laurels. ^A I am thoroughly convinced that the American people want to participate on a voluntary and individual basis in the endeavor to make this country

the best possible place in which to live. I feel confident that this year's Community Chest drive will be successful, as it has been successful in the past and as it will continue to be successful for long years to come.

Fredrik Wessels

By radio - original reading copy

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
Broadcast from the White House in Behalf of the
1938 Mobilization for Human Needs
October 14, 1938, 10:08 P.M.

I want to say a few words tonight to you, my fellow Americans,
who believe in social welfare and social justice:

In troubled days when the nerves of men and women have been strained almost to the breaking point we have been in danger of losing sight of one very important fact -- the all-pervading human kindness of men and women. This human kindness cannot be created artificially out of speeches and appeals -- it is part of life itself.

And so in accordance with this thought, I am not this year
making a speech or an appeal in behalf of the 1938 Mobilization for Human Needs, but I am calling your attention to the past and present generosity of the people of America. That generosity never has failed and please God it never will fail. In full faith and confidence, therefore, I present to you the news that local Community Chest drives will shortly be undertaken in all parts of the country.

There are some persons who say that the need for voluntary private agencies has decreased. They say that the government -- Federal and state and local -- has moved in and taken over part of the jurisdiction of the private agencies. Such persons talk as if the scope of voluntary action and (of) mutual aid had been limited, or even eliminated.

Private community effort is not contradictory in principle to government effort, whether local, state or national. All of these are needed to make up the partnership (upon) on which (our) the Nation

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.

good work people here have to serve you and make you happy all
against to request of need work we being gathered out of towns business
amounts same gathering like out -- that interrupted you and to make
distinction between us common people now and self names like me to
those still to sing of it -- always our message to the
way that you do I support with all my heart
not mentioned here will be listed of course as to message a little
reading has been out of interests over which we I am ,short enough
believe and never mentioned and without to follow out in necessary
depth ,sometimes has been first of . But this was of the many but
like which most prominent local and even out way of reading I ,and
perhaps one to write this of importance of electrode
generator not been out that you are among some who really
can -- summarize our fact you went . Position and continue carrying
out to time your belief out of terms and -- but our whole law
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we ,several used had his lesson (to) has entire garrison to begin
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send to him . because to start ,local attitude ,protte ,opposition of
ourself out (no) decide in (no) givemong out up now at before one

is founded. The scope of voluntary action cannot be limited, because the very desire to help the less fortunate is a basic and spontaneous human urge that knows no boundary lines. It is an urge that advances civilization. And I like to think that it is a national characteristic.

Let me give you an example of successful working-together. One section of our country, New England, has recently been devastated by hurricane and tidal wave. Hundreds of lives were lost and millions of dollars worth of property were destroyed. This was indeed a tragedy. But there was one consolation in this New England tragedy. Hardly had the hurricane subsided when all the forces of government, assisting and cooperating with private agencies, were rushed to the aid of the injured, the sick and the homeless. How many lives were saved because of these efforts no one can say. The extent to which human suffering was alleviated is beyond all estimate. And we can say that no effort was spared to aid the victims of this disaster.

The rehabilitation work is still going on and will for many months to come. The Red Cross, the WPA, the CCC, the (NYA) National Youth Administration, the Army Engineers and other Federal agencies are working with the local agencies, both private and public, to rehabilitate those stricken areas and to assist those who are in need. Certainly, there has been no conflict between government and private agencies -- there has been more than enough work for both. And there is more than enough work for both in our national effort to lift up the lower one-third of our Nation to a standard of living (which) that will conform with decency and comfort and self-respect.

It is true that our Government has assumed increased responsibilities for social welfare. We are giving work to more than three

million men and women, unemployed through no fault of their own, work on our WPA program. Through our Social Security program we are aiding the states in caring for the aged, for widows and children and (for) the blind. We are providing new opportunities for more than a half million boys and girls through our CCC and (NYA) Youth Administration programs; and in many other ways the Federal Government, always in co-operation with the state and local governments, is aiding our under-privileged citizens.

But you may well ask if the need for community action is as great as it was before, now that your Government has provided a national program of (social) security, how far must you go? I would answer that the need is just as great as before, the need of your help, because Government help was intended and is intended to improve the old conditions and if local help and private help decrease (today), we will nullify the improvement (and) we have sought, we will return to just where we were before, and no gain will have been made. Very definitely we need the effort of the pioneer agencies, the local voluntary agencies, because it is expended on concrete problems (which) that must be met if our whole program is to go forward with the coordination that is its basic aim.

Community leaders have met the challenge of changing conditions. They are not looking backward with resentment against the Government. They have welcomed the acts of their Government as a liberation of their own efforts, as an opportunity to move forward on (the) a wider front of social progress.

It is these men and women whom I salute. They are the shock troops of the social conscience. I call upon the American people to

fall in behind (such) this leadership and to widen the social horizon. I am thoroughly convinced that no matter how much the Government does, the private agencies of America still have much to do before any of us can rest on our oars or on our laurels. I am thoroughly convinced that the American people want to participate (on) in a voluntary, (and) on an individual basis in the endeavor to make this country the best possible place in which to live. And so I feel confident that this year's Community Chest drive will be successful in every part of the Nation, as it has been successful in the past and as it will continue to be successful for long years to come.

FOR THE PRESS

FOR THE PRESS

FOR THE PRESS

11/14

October 14, 1938

CAUTION: This address of the President, to be broadcast from the White House in behalf of the 1938 Mobilization for Human Needs MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 10:00 o'clock P.M., E. S. T., October 14, 1938.

Care must be exercised to prevent premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

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1000 words

DRAFT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CONSIDERATION IN PREPARATION OF HIS APPEAL
IN BEHALF OF THE 1938 MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS, FRIDAY EVENING,
OCTOBER 14, BETWEEN 10:00 AND 10:30. (From 5 to 7 minutes has been
allotted to the President.)

In ~~the~~ troubled days ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~present~~ ~~time~~ when
the nerves of men and women have been strained almost to the breaking
point we have been in danger of losing sight of one very important fact—
~~that~~ the all-pervading human kindness of men and women. This human
kindness ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~an~~ ~~artificial~~ ~~product~~ ~~but~~ ~~cannot~~ ~~be~~ ~~created~~ ~~artificially~~
~~out~~ ~~of~~ ~~speeches~~ ~~and~~ ~~appeals~~ — it is part of life itself.

A. As an American, in making this appeal tonight in behalf of the
1938 Mobilization for Human Needs, I am proud that there is testimony all
over the world to the generosity of the people of our country. That
generosity never has failed and please God it never will fail. In full
faith and confidence, therefore, I ~~solicit~~ ^{will} ~~to~~ ~~have~~ ~~the~~ ~~privilege~~ ~~of~~ ~~urging~~ ~~the~~ ~~Nation~~ ~~that~~
~~tonight~~ ~~to~~ ~~support~~ ~~the~~ ~~local~~ ~~Community~~ ~~Chest~~ ~~drives~~ ~~which~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~undertaken~~
in all parts of the country.

There are some persons who say that the need for voluntary private
agencies has decreased. They say that the government — Federal, state and
local — has moved in and taken over part of the jurisdiction of the private
agencies. Such persons talk as if the scope of voluntary action and of
~~mutual~~ ^{and} ~~aid~~ ~~is~~ ~~limited~~, ~~or~~ ~~financed~~.

Private community effort is not contradictory in principle to
government effort, whether local, state or national. ~~All~~ ^{Both} of these are
needed to make up the partnership upon which our Nation is founded. The
scope of voluntary action ~~and~~ ~~of mutual aid~~ ^{and} ~~cannot~~ ~~be~~ ~~severely~~ ~~limited~~,
because the desire to help ~~the~~ ^{the} less fortunate ~~knows~~ ^{That} is a basic
and spontaneous human urge ~~which~~ ^{which} knows no boundary lines. ~~The~~ ^{That}
~~urge~~ ~~is shown~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~great~~ ~~heart~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~American~~ ~~people~~. It is an

urge that advances civilization. I like to think it is a national characteristic.

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It is true that our Government has assumed increased responsibilities for social welfare. We are giving work to more than three million men and women, unemployed through no fault of their own, on our WPA program. Through our Social Security program we are aiding the states in caring for the aged, for widows and children and for the blind. We are providing new opportunities for more than a half million boys and girls through our CCC and NYA programs; and in many other ways the Federal Government, in co-

operation with the state and local governments, is aiding our underprivileged citizens.

No community in this country remains passive in acceptance or
conditions which can be improved; if it does, the time may be improve-

able. But you may well ask if the need for community action is as great ~~as before~~, now that your government has provided a national program of social security.

B 13 I would say that the need is exactly as great as the need for partnership
among all agencies within the nation, public as well as private, which
work for the betterment of human welfare. The community, whether nationally,
state or local, can function efficiently since it is based upon harmony of
interests. And we need the effort of the pioneer agencies, the local voluntary
agencies, because it is expended upon concrete, definite problems which
must be met if our whole program is to go forward with the coordination
that is its basic aim.

It is true that some agencies have had to orient their ac-
tivity; but when led by men and women of vision that was not difficult.
But too often these community leaders say, "If only we had more money and
more money, these services we could render." ^{Community} These leaders have not the
challenge of changing conditions. They are not looking backward with
resentment against the Government. They have welcomed the acts of their
Government as a liberation of their efforts, as an opportunity to move
forward on the front of social progress.

It is these men and women whom I salute. They are the shock troops of the social conscience. I call upon the American people to fall in behind such leadership and to widen the social horizon. I am thoroughly convinced that no matter how much the Government does, the private agencies of America still have much to do before any of us can rest on our oars or on our laurels. I am thoroughly convinced that the American people ~~are~~ ^{will} ~~possess~~ ^{possess} the ~~unmeasurable~~ ^{infinite} urge to participate on a voluntary and individual basis in the endeavor to make this country the best possible place in which to live. I feel confident that this year's Community Chest drive will be successful, as it has been successful in the past and as it will continue to be successful for long years to come.

COMMUNITY

MOBILIZATION FOR

155 EAST 44TH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.



HUMAN NEEDS

31st FLOOR COMMERCE BUILDING

NATIONAL CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

Chairman Charles P. Taft Cincinnati

Vice-Chairman A. H. Giannini, M.D. Los Angeles

Louis E. Kirstein Boston

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt Washington

Mrs. Harper Sibley Rochester

Gerard Swales New York

Executive Director Allen T. Burns

COMMUNITY CHESTS & COUNCILS, INC. Administrative Agency

Honorary President Newton D. Baker Cleveland

President Stillman F. Westbrook Hartford

Vice-Presidents John Stewart Bryan Richmond

Geoffrey S. Smith Philadelphia

George E. Vincent Greenwich, Conn.

Treasurer Hendon Chubb West Orange, N. J.

Secretary Percival Dodge Detroit

MURRAY HILL 8-2923
603 Dixie Terminal
Cincinnati, Ohio
October 7, 1938

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

Arrangements have now been completed for the broadcast on the night of October 14th, from 10:00 to 10:30. While the exact timing of the program will be furnished to Mr. McIntyre, I might say it will begin with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra playing from Cincinnati the Prelude to the Third Act from Lohengrin; then I introduce you, and your time is five to seven minutes as before; I reply briefly and the program closes with Finlandia by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

I hardly need to make any suggestion to you as to the subjects you might cover. I would like to remind you of the special emergency pressing upon all of the private agencies in the Chests in New England, as a result of the hurricane.

So far as I am concerned, I am expecting to point out that the private agencies are in the position of making grants-in-aid by way of special service, hospital, health, etc., to those with low wages and working on part time; while the Government helps those who are without basic necessities. The part which each plays is therefore essential.

I expect also to point out that people want the service from the private agencies, hospitals, for instance, in many cases, not because the public agencies have low standards but because many local communities have been unwilling to finance them adequately. My third point is that the private agencies united with the Federal Government in building up the proper standards of service for the local public agencies.

Sincerely yours,

Charles P. Taft
Chairman

CPT/J

COOPERATING NATIONAL AGENCIES • COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS

- American Country Life Association
American Hospital Association
The American Public Health Association
American Red Cross Association
The American Society Hygiene Association
Boys' Clubs of America, Inc.
Boy Scouts of America
Campfire Girls, Inc.
Catholic Hospital Association
Child Welfare League of America, Inc.
County and City Commissioners and Welfare Fund
Family Welfare Association of America
The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ
in America
- Girl Scouts, Inc.
Jewish Welfare Board
National Association of Legal Aid Organizations
National Association for Travelers Aid and
Transient Service
National Board, Young Women's Christian
Association
National Catholic Welfare Council
National Child Labor Committee
The National Committee for Mental Hygiene
National Conference of Catholic Charities
The National Council, Young Men's Christian
Association
The National Federation of Day Nurseries, Inc.
- National Federation of Settlements, Inc.
National Health Council
National Institute for Public Health
Nursing, Inc.
National Prohibition Association
National Tuberculosis Association
National Social Work Council
National Society for the Prevention of Blindness
National Society of Maimonides
National Urban League
The Salvation Army
Social Welfare Agency Council
Woman's Department of the Association of
Junior Leagues of America, Inc.