
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. 1203

1939 February 18

**Key West, FL –
Radio Address to San Francisco Exposition**

Material for the President's consideration in the preparation of his speech to be delivered over the radio at Key West Saturday afternoon, February 18, 1939 in connection with the opening of the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco.
 (From material furnished by George Creel)

Enclosed is my brief, President letter, for you to use if you like.

Although I have commissioned Mr. Roper to act and speak for me in the ceremonies that mark the opening of the Golden Gate International Exposition, I cannot forego this further and more personal expression of my deep interest. From what I saw with my own eyes ~~in~~ July, I can well imagine the beauty of the completed undertaking, and look forward with real eagerness to the ~~San Francisco~~ visit this summer^{coming} that I have promised myself.

Were the West and things Western less close to my heart, I would still be constrained to wish the Exposition a success even beyond the hopes of its builders, for the federal government has a stake in the enterprise that comes close to actual partnership. ^{is in close partnership} ~~The~~ AFC loaned the millions that built your Bay Bridge, one of the engineering marvels of the century; from WPA came the funds that gave your shining bay a brand new island; the brilliant abilities of our Army Engineers raised that island from the ocean bed, and the PWA aided heavily in the construction of the hangars and other buildings that will remain when the Exposition ends, and the site reverts to its intended purpose — a great airport immeasurably helpful to the commerce of the Pacific Coast, and a vital and integral part of our national defense. ^{It is} Treasure Island, with an area of more than four hundred acres, is America's newest insular possession, ^{and} very significantly, an outstanding example of territorial extension without aggression.

~~The highly sophisticated, I know, have come to know of ex-~~
positions, but I am quite open and unashamed in my liking for ~~them~~. They ^{offer} perform a distinct service in acquainting people with our progress in the ~~arts, the sciences and industry, forcing a more general recognition of~~ American achievement. More than that, they stimulate the travel that

results inevitably in a larger degree of national unity by making Americans know their America and their fellow Americans. In a country as huge as this, there are bound to be many divergences of interest, and the one sure method of harmonization is through the understanding that flows from more intimate relations between the several states and their peoples.

I have never thought it ~~in ^{the} future~~ that New York and San Francisco picked the same year for their World Fairs. Instead of one incentive for touring, people have two, and it is my sincere hope that 1939 will witness ~~the American Government~~ — a swing around the whole American circle — that will give some realization of our resources and our blessings, and more important, emphasize the essential unity of American interests. Getting acquainted with the United States is about as good a habit as I know. *H.B.*

The eleven western states who are partners in this Exposition constitute ~~a great area which is~~ ^a ~~supersorcial~~ assembly of incalculable importance to the prosperity of the United States. The vigor and boldness of these states — a direct inheritance from pathfinding forbears — is equally helpful in the social pioneering that has been commanded by today's necessities.

Many times, in the elaboration of what I call the Good Neighbor policy, I have stressed the point that the maintenance of peace in the Western hemisphere must be the first concern of all Americans — North Americans, South Americans and Central Americans — for nothing is more true than that we here in the New World carry the hopes of millions of human beings in other less fortunate lands. By setting an example of international solidarity, cooperation, mutual trust ~~and~~ mutual helpfulness, we may keep faith alive in the heart of anxious and troubled humanity, and at the same time, lift democracy high above the ugly truculence of autocracy.

And so, when I wish the Golden Gate International Exposition all possible success, it is as an instrument of international good will as well as an expression of the material and cultural progress of the Western Empire and ^{of} our Pacific ocean neighbors.

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
OPENING THE GOLDEN GATE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
IN SAN FRANCISCO DELIVERED AT KEY WEST,
FLORIDA, FEBRUARY 18, 1939

Commissioner Creel, President Cutler, friends of the
Golden Gate International Exposition:

Although I have commissioned Mr. Roper to act and speak
for me in the ceremonies that mark the opening of the Golden
Gate International Exposition, I cannot forego this further
and more personal expression of my deep interest. From
what I saw with my own eyes last July, I can well imagine
the beauty of the completed undertaking, and I look forward with
real eagerness to the visit this coming summer that I have
promised myself.

Were the West and things "western" less close to my heart,
I would still be constrained to wish the Exposition a success
even beyond the hopes of its builders, for the federal government
is in close partnership with this national enterprise.

One government agency has helped financially to build the
Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge -- both of them engineering

marvels of the century; another agency has helped with men and funds to raise this new island from the ocean bed; and still another has assisted in the construction of the hangars and other buildings that will remain when the Exposition ends, and the site reverts to its intended purpose -- a great airport immeasurably helpful to the commerce of the Pacific Coast, and a vital and integral part of our national defense.

Treasure Island, with an area of more than four hundred acres, is America's newest insular possession. It is an outstanding example of territorial expansion without aggression.

I am quite open and unashamed in my liking for expositions. They perform a distinct service in acquainting people with our progress in many directions and with what other people are doing. They stimulate the travel that results inevitably in a larger degree of national unity by making Americans know their America and their fellow Americans.

I have never thought it unfortunate that New York and San Francisco picked the same year for their World Fairs. Instead of one incentive, people have two, and it is my sincere hope that 1939 will witness a swing around the whole American circle -- that will give some realization of our resources and our blessings, and more important, emphasize the essential unity of American interests. Getting acquainted with the United States is about as good a habit as I know.

Furthermore, the San Francisco and New York Worlds Fairs do not in any way duplicate each other. Their themes and their exhibits cover different fields -- make different appeals. Most decidedly, if you have seen one, you have not, in effect, seen the other also.

The eleven western states who are partners in this Exposition constitute a great area which is of incalculable importance to the prosperity of the United States. The vigor and boldness of these states -- a direct inheritance from pathfinding forbears -- is equally helpful in the social pioneering that has been commanded by today's necessities.

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And so, when I wish the Golden Gate International Exposition all possible success, it is as an instrument of international good will as well as an expression of the material and cultural progress of our own West and of our Pacific ocean neighbors.

*Franklin Roosevelt
Signed, read from automobile
at Key West.*

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
Opening the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco
Delivered at Key West, Florida,
February 18, 1939, 3.32 P. M., E. S. T.

COMMISSIONER CREEEL, PRESIDENT CUTLER, FRIENDS OF THE
GOLDEN GATE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION:

It is a far cry from the comparatively little city
of Key West to the Golden Gate. In a few minutes I shall be
on board the U. S. S. Houston, on my way out to sea to take
part in the Fleet maneuvers.

Although I have commissioned Mr. Roper to act and speak for me in the ceremonies that mark the opening of the Golden Gate International Exposition, I cannot forego this further and more personal expression of my deep interest. From what I saw with my own eyes last July, I can well imagine the beauty of the completed undertaking, and I look forward with real eagerness to the visit this coming summer that I have promised myself.

Were the West and things Western less close to my heart, I would still be constrained to wish the Exposition a success even beyond the hopes of its builders, for the federal government is in close partnership with this national enterprise.

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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.

ocean bed; and still another has assisted in the construction of the hangars and other buildings that will remain when the Exposition ends, and the site reverts to its intended purpose -- a great permanent airport immeasurably helpful to the commerce of the Pacific Coast, and a vital and integral part of our national defense.

Treasure Island, with an area of more than four hundred acres, is America's newest insular possession. It is an outstanding example of territorial (extension) expansion without aggression.

I am quite open and unashamed in my liking for expositions. They perform a distinct service in acquainting people with our progress in many directions and with what other people are doing. They stimulate the travel that results inevitably in a larger degree of national unity by making Americans know their America and their fellow Americans.

I have never thought it unfortunate that New York and San Francisco picked the same year for their World Fairs. Instead of one incentive, people have two, and it is my sincere hope that 1939 will witness a swing around the whole American circle -- that will give some realization of our resources and our blessings, and more important, emphasize the essential unity of American interests. Getting acquainted with the United States is about as good a habit as I know.

Furthermore, the San Francisco and New York Worlds Fairs

do not in any way duplicate each other. Their themes and their exhibits cover different fields -- make different appeals. Most decidedly, if you have seen one, you have not, in effect, see the other also.

The eleven western states who are partners in this Exposition constitute a great area which is of incalculable importance to the prosperity of the United States. The vigor and boldness of these states -- a direct inheritance from pathfinding forbears -- is equally helpful in the social pioneering that has been commanded by today's necessities.

Many times, in the elaboration of what I call the Good Neighbor policy, I have stressed the point that the maintenance of peace in the Western hemisphere must be the first concern of all Americans -- North Americans, Central and South Americans (and Central Americans) -- for nothing is more true than that we here in the New World carry the hopes of millions of human beings in other less fortunate lands. By setting an example of international solidarity, cooperation, mutual trust and (mutual) joint helpfulness, we may keep faith alive in the heart of anxious and troubled humanity, and at the same time, lift democracy high above the ugly truculence of autocracy.

And so, when I wish the Golden Gate International Exposition all possible success, it is as an instrument of international good will as well as an expression of the material and cultural progress of our own West and of our Pacific ocean neighbors.

Speech #3

1st par. after salutation -

STATEMENTS FILE

(3)

Clorthand By Kanner
It is a far cry from the comparatively little city of Key
West to the Golden Gate. In a few minutes I shall be on board the
U. S. S. HOUSTON, on my way out to sea to take part in the Fleet
maneuvers.

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(initials) STATEMENTS FILE

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(3)

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
OPENING THE GOLDEN GATE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
IN SAN FRANCISCO DELIVERED AT KEY WEST,
FLORIDA, FEBRUARY 18, 1939, 3.30 P.M., E.S.T.

(all right) Commissioner Creel, President Cutler, friends of the

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with men and funds to raise this new island from the ocean bed; and still another has assisted in the construction of the hangars and other buildings that will remain when the Exposition ends, and the site reverts to its intended purpose -- *a permanent* a great airport immensurably helpful to the commerce of the Pacific Coast, and a vital and integral part of our national defense.

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Furthermore, the San Francisco and New York Worlds Fairs do not in any way duplicate each other. Their themes and their exhibits cover different fields -- make different appeals. Most decidedly, if you have seen one, you have not, in effect, seen the other also.

The eleven western states who are partners in this Exposition constitute a great area which is of incalculable importance to the prosperity of the United States. The vigor and boldness of these states -- a direct inheritance from pathfinding forbears -- is equally helpful in the social pioneering that has been commanded by today's necessities.

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

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February 17, 1939

The following address of the President, to be delivered by radio from Key West, Florida, on the occasion of the opening of the San Francisco Golden Gate Exposition is for release in editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 3:32 P.M., E.S.T., February 18, 1939.

NOTE: PLEASE SAFEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT.

Commissioner Creel, President Coolidge, friends of the Golden Gate International Exposition:

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