
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. 1219

1939 April 25

Address to the American Red Cross Convention

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
AMERICAN RED CROSS CONVENTION

APRIL 25, 1939

CHAIRMAN DAVIS, SENIOR AND JUNIOR DELEGATES TO THE RED
CROSS CONVENTION:

It gives me great pleasure to greet here at the
White House this National Red Cross assemblage and to give
assurance that no enterprise is nearer to my heart than the
work carried on in behalf of all humanity by this superb
organization.

As you know, I have had the honor of being the
President of the Red Cross since 1933 -- but my interest in
the work dates back to my active participation in the Red
Cross in the trying days of the World War.

Although ours is a semi-governmental agency, it
draws support from the people as a whole. Designated by
Congress as the official, volunteer humanitarian organization
of the nation, with specific powers and responsibilities,
the Red Cross operates with independence and impartiality.

Original removed for EXHIBIT 11-5-08 3 Clav

It is universal in its appeal to our citizens because everyone is welcome in its membership; and it is impartial in conferring its benefits.

When there is disaster every agency of the United States Government is directed to cooperate with the Red Cross. Government resources and man power play an important part in aiding and restoring physical damage in communities struck by calamities. But they can never replace the humanitarian handling of the problems of the individual which is the work of the Red Cross.

I am especially proud of the improvement that has come during the past few years under our late Chairman Admiral Grayson and our new Chairman Mr. Norman Davis. I refer particularly to the coordination and cooperation which has been worked out in times of disaster between the many agencies of the United States Government and the American Red Cross, today.

In floods, in fires and in hurricanes, the system of pooling our resources has been brought to a very high state of efficiency.

In times of local or regional disaster, all human agencies -- those of the Federal Government, of state governments and of county and municipal governments know exactly what to do. They are organized for instantaneous action. And, as you know, that action proceeds smoothly and without duplication of effort under the general direction of the American Red Cross itself.

Furthermore, after the emergency of human suffering is cared for other government agencies step in with the systems of the Red Cross to carry on the work of rehabilitation -- physical work and financial aid.

I hope the people of the Nation realize the splendid efficiency of these joint efforts. There is no lost motion, there is no waste of emergency or relief funds -- and I believe

that no country in the world has reached the standards which the United States has achieved in this respect in the past few years.

The strength of our splendid organization is in its appeal to the tenderest sympathies of all our people. It embraces in its membership all races and creeds and knows no politics. There is nothing narrow or sectional about it. All of our people find unity in one great objective: the relief of human suffering.

Happily, too, the Red Cross appeals both to adults and to our young people. Through the Junior Red Cross, nine million boys and girls are being brought up in the tradition of service to others. The foundation being laid for these boys and girls in the Junior Red Cross, which has for its motto "I serve" may well be an important factor in the future welfare of our nation.

In its fifty eight years existence the American Red Cross has also been exceptionally generous and active in extending a helping hand to our distressed neighbors. Within the past twelve months not only have our resources of money and our resources of volunteer help been strained to the utmost in meeting disaster relief needs, such as in the New England hurricane where great loss of life and property was suffered -- but in generous contributions to distressed civilians in China, in Spain, in aiding the refugees in France, and in Chile where earthquakes took an appalling toll of life and left thousands of injured to be cared for.

The spirit of the Red Cross does not wane. In a world disturbed by war and fear of war the unselfish devotion of the Red Cross to the welfare of others stands out in striking contrast to inhumane acts which have shocked our conscience.

Original removed for Exhibit 11-5-08

B. C. Dawson

The task before us is enormous. Our work, by reason of its very nature, never is done. Our work never can be done while human misery exists.

The work must go bravely on.

We shall not fail because we know all America is with us.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

*Orig. reading copy White House
Lenth Partia —*

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

To the Delegates to the American Red Cross Convention
Delivered from the South Portico of the White House
April 25, 1939, 5.00 P. M., E. S. T.

(The President was presented to the delegates by Chairman Davis of the American Red Cross)

CHAIRMAN DAVIS, SENIOR AND JUNIOR DELEGATES TO THE RED CROSS
CONVENTION:

It gives me the greatest of pleasure to greet you here today, here at the White House, this splendid National Red Cross assemblage and to give assurance that no enterprise is nearer to my heart than the work carried on in behalf of all humanity by this superb organization.

As you know, I have had the honor of being the President of the Red Cross since 1933 -- but my interest in the work dates back to my active participation in the Red Cross in the trying days of the World War.

Chairman Davis has spoken of the relationship that the President of the United States bears to this organization. You may have guessed that in my relationship to a great many other organizations of the Government I am inclined to judge the efficiency of each of those organizations by the amount of trouble that they give to me and, the more I hear of them and from them, the more I know that there is trouble. So, for the last six years I can say that my absence from the Red Cross meetings, my seeming inattention to Red Cross affairs, proves be-

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

If I give us the greatest of pleasure to give
you have today, here at the White House, this splendid
National Red Cross assembly and to give assurance that
no enterprise is dearer to my heart than the work carried
on in behalf of all humanity by this superb organization.
As you know, I have had the honor of being the
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ganizations by the amount of trouble that they give to me
and the more I hear of them and the more I know
how that there is trouble. So, for the last six years I
can say that my absence from the Red Cross meetings, my
constant inclination to Red Cross affairs, grows be-

yond doubt the constant efficiency of the Red Cross. (Ap-
plause)

Although ours is a semi-governmental agency, it does draw(s) support from the people as a whole. Designated by Congress as the official, volunteer humanitarian organization of the nation, with specific powers and responsibilities, the Red Cross operates with independence and impartiality. It is universal in its appeal to our citizens because everyone is welcome in its membership; and it is impartial in conferring its benefits.

When there is disaster every agency of the United States Government is directed to cooperate with the Red Cross. Government resources and man power play an important part in aiding and restoring physical damage in communities struck by calamities. But they can never replace the humanitarian handling of the problem(s) itself, the problem of the individual which is the work of the Red Cross itself.

I am especially proud of the improvement that has come during the past few years under our late Chairman Admiral Grayson and our new Chairman, my old friend, Mr. Norman Davis. I refer particularly to the coordination and cooperation (which) that has been worked out recently in times of disaster between the many agencies of the (United States) Government and the American Red Cross (today.)

In floods, in fires (and) in hurricanes, the system of pooling our resources has been brought to a very

high state of efficiency.

In time of local or regional disaster, all (human) agencies -- those of the Federal Government, of state governments and of county and municipal governments know exactly what to do and when to do it. They are organized for instantaneous action. And, as you know, that action proceeds smoothly and without duplication of effort under the (general) direction of the American Red Cross itself. And I remember, when we first tried this out in the great Ohio flood, soon after I came to Washington, I took a rather keen pleasure in putting the Chief of Staff of the Army and the Chief of Operations of the Navy under the Red Cross.

Furthermore, after the emergency of human suffering is cared for other government agencies step in with the systems (of the) that the Red Cross worked out in order to carry on the work of rehabilitation -- physical work and financial aid.

I hope the people of the (Nation) country realize the splendid efficiency of these joint efforts. There is no lost motion, there is no waste of emergency or relief funds -- and I (believe) think that no country in all the world has reached the standards which the United States has achieved in this respect in the past few years.

The strength of our (splendid) organization is in its appeal to the tenderest sympathies of (all) our people. It embraces in its membership all races and creeds

and it knows no politics. There is nothing narrow or sectional about it. All of our people find unity in one great objective, the relief of human suffering.

Happily, too, the Red Cross appeals both to (adults) the older people and to our young people. Through the Junior Red Cross, nine million boys and girls are being brought up in the tradition of service to others. The foundation being laid for these boys and girls (in the Junior Red Cross), which has for its motto "I serve" may well be an important factor in the future welfare of our nation.

In its fifty-eight years of existence the American Red Cross has also been exceptionally generous and active in extending a helping hand to our distressed neighbors. Within the past twelve months, for instance, not only have our resources of money and our resources of volunteer help been strained to the utmost in meeting disaster relief needs, such as (in) the New England hurricane where great loss of life and property was suffered -- but also in generous contributions to distressed civilians in China, in Spain, in aiding the refugees in France, and in Chile where earthquakes took an appalling toll of life and left thousands of injured to be cared for.

So the spirit of the Red Cross does not wane. In a world disturbed by war and fear of war the unselfish devotion of the Red Cross to the welfare of others stands

out in striking contrast to inhumane acts (which) that
have shocked our conscience in so many instances.

Yes, the task before us is enormous. Our work,
by reason of its very nature, (never) is never done.
Our work never can be done while human misery exists.

(The) That work must go bravely on. You are
carrying out and you are improving on a great tradition.

We shall not fail because we know that all of
America has been with us, is with us, and is going to be
with us in the days to come.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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April 25, 1939

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be delivered from the South Portico of the White House to the Delegates to the American Red Cross Convention, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER than 5:00 P.M., E.S.T., April 25, 1939.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

CHAIRMAN DAVIS, SENIOR AND JUNIOR DELEGATES TO THE RED CROSS CONVENTION:

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As you know, I have had the honor of being the President of the Red Cross since 1933 -- but my interest in the work dates back to my active participation in the Red Cross in the trying days of the World War.

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I hope the people of the Nation realize the splendid efficiency of these joint efforts. There is no lost motion, there is no waste of emergency or relief funds -- and I believe that no country in the world has reached the standards which the United States has achieved in this respect in the past few years.

The strength of our splendid organization is in its appeal to the tenderest sympathies of all our people. It embraces in its membership all races and creeds and knows no politics. There is nothing narrow or sectional about it. All of our people find unity in one great objective: the relief of human suffering.

Happily, too, the Red Cross appeals both to adults and to our young people. Through the Junior Red Cross, nine million boys and girls are being brought up in the tradition of service to others. The foundation being laid for these boys and girls in the Junior Red Cross, which has for its motto "I serve" they will be an important factor in the future welfare of our nation.

In its fifty eight years existence the American Red Cross has also been exceptionally generous and active in extending a helping hand to our distressed neighbors. Within the past twelve months not only have our resources of money and our resources of volunteer help been strained to the utmost in meeting disaster relief needs, such as in the New England hurricane where great loss of life and property was suffered -- but in generous contributions to distressed civilians in China, in Spain, in aiding the refugees in France, and in Chile where earthquakes took an appalling toll of life and left thousands of injured to be cared for.

The spirit of the Red Cross does not wane. In a world disturbed by war and fear of war the unselfish devotion of the Red Cross to the welfare of others stands out in striking contrast to inhuman acts which have shocked our conscience.

The task before us is enormous. Our work, by reason of its very nature, never is done. Our work never can be done while human misery exists.

The work must go bravely on.

We shall not fail because we know all America is with us.

Suggestions for the President in preparation of his greeting to the American Red Cross delegates from the South Portico of the White House Tuesday, April 25 at 5:00 P.M., E.S.T.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS, SENIOR AND JUNIOR DELEGATES TO THE RED CROSS CONVENTION:

It gives me great pleasure to greet here at the White House this National Red Cross assemblage and to give assurance that no enterprise is nearer to my heart than the work carried on in behalf of all humanity by this superb organization.

A

It is gratifying to feel, as I greet you today, that we have continued to march ever forward, that we have been in the forefront to offer relief and succor wherever disaster or distress has been a visitant.

Although ours is a semi-governmental agency, it draws support from the people as a whole. Designated by Congress as the official, volunteer humanitarian organization of the nation, with specific powers and responsibilities, the Red Cross operates with independence and impartiality. It is universal in its appeal to our citizens because everyone is welcome in its membership, and it is impartial in conferring its benefits.

When there is disaster every agency of the United States Government is directed to cooperate with the Red Cross. Government resources and man power play an important part in aiding and restoring physical damage in communities struck by calamities. But they can never replace the humanitarian handling of the problems of the individual which is the work of the Red Cross.

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Happily, too, the Red Cross appeals both to adults and to our young people. Through the Junior Red Cross, nine million boys and girls are being brought up in the tradition of service to others. The foundation

being laid for these boys and girls in the Junior Red Cross, which has for its motto "I serve" may well be an important factor in the future welfare of our nation.

I am impressed with the strength and the power of the volunteer effort of men and women, boys and girls, that is mobilized at the call of the Red Cross. It is a magnificent demonstration in hours of service given, and in financial support of the generosity of our American people.

It has ~~The American Red Cross~~ In its fifty eight years existence has ^{*the Am. Red Cross*} been exceptionally generous and active in ~~meeting the emergencies in our own country, and~~ in extending a helping hand to our distressed neighbors. Within the past twelve months not only have our resources of money and our resources of volunteer help been strained to the utmost in meeting disaster relief needs, such as in the New England hurricanes where great loss of life and property was suffered -- but in generous contributions to distressed civilians in China, in Spain, in aiding the refugees in France, and in Chile where earthquakes took an appalling toll of life and left thousands of injured to be cared for.

Human compassion -- the spirit that animates the Red Cross -- can have a continuing effect in diminishing the cruelties of warfare. Human kindness, I believe, still is the most powerful force in the world for the accomplishment of a good.

~~In the face of inhuman acts which have been so shocking to our mortal consciousness it is reassuring that~~ the spirit of the Red Cross does not wane. In a world disturbed by war and fear of war the unselfish devotion of the Red Cross to the welfare of others stands out in striking contrast *to inhuman acts which have shocked your conscience.*

The task before us is enormous. Our work, by reason of its very nature, never is done. Our work never can be done while human misery exists. But the very need, the magnitude of the task, the vastness of the opportunity for service -- in our own land, in our own community, or in far-away lands -- carry their own inspiration.

~~The work must go bravely on, until all tears have been wiped away, until the last cry of anguish has been assuaged, the last wound has been bound up and there shall be no more suffering, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.~~

~~and~~ ~~we~~ shall not fail because we know all America is with us.

Material for President Roosevelt
To Red Cross Delegates
5:00 P.M. Tuesday, April 25

Chairman Davis and Senior and Junior Delegates to the Red Cross Convention:

It gives me great pleasure to meet here at the White House with the National and Chapter officers and the delegates of the American Red Cross.

I have had the honor of being the president of your organization since 1932. My interest in your work dates back many years; my first active participation with you in the Red Cross was in the trying days of the World War.

So, it has been with real interest that I have read reports submitted to me by your Chairman, from time to time, telling of the broad, all-embracing human activities carried on by you in the field of disaster relief, of public health, of first aid and life saving, of safety measures for our highways, industries and homes, and of the service to veterans and to men in our armed forces.

I have noted, too, that each year increasing numbers of our citizens have joined the Red Cross as members, until now almost six million men and women participate in the vital work this great organization performs in compliance with its charter.

While yours is a semi-governmental agency, yet it draws support from the people as a whole. Designated by Congress as the official, volunteer, humanitarian organization of the nation, with specific powers and responsibilities, the Red Cross operates with independence and impartiality. It is universal in its appeal to our citizens because everyone is welcome in its membership; and it is impartial in conferring its benefits.

When there is disaster, every agency of the United States Government is directed to cooperate with the Red Cross. Government resources and manpower play an important part in aiding and restoring physical damage in communities struck by calamities, but they can never replace the humanitarian handling of the problems of the individual which is the work of the Red Cross.

Through the Junior Red Cross, nine million school boys and girls, are being brought up in the tradition of service to others. As these boys and girls of today will succeed to our tasks tomorrow, the foundation laid for them in the Junior Red Cross, which has for its motto "I Serve" may well be an important factor in the future welfare of our nation.

I am impressed with the strength and the power of the volunteer effort of men and women, boys and girls, that is mobilized at the call of the Red Cross. It is a magnificent demonstration in hours of service given, and in financial support, of the generosity of our citizens.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Red Cross ideal of service to humanity. The Treaty of Geneva, which created the Red Cross, was written in 1864, and twelve nations of the old world were its first signers that year. Today 61 nations are bound by that Treaty to furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war; to furnish national and international relief in time of peace; and to mitigate the sufferings caused by great national calamities.

The American Red Cross in its fifty-eight years existence has been exceptionally generous and active in meeting emergencies in our own country, and in extending a helping hand to our distressed neighbors. Within the past twelve months, not only have your resources of money and your resources of volunteer help been strained to the utmost in meeting disaster relief needs,

such as in the New England hurricane where great loss of life and property was suffered -- but in generous contributions to the distressed civilians in China, in Spain, in aiding the refugees in France, and in Chile, where earthquakes took an appalling toll of life, and left thousands of injured.

Your Charter also urges you to devise means of preventing suffering. This means preparedness, also. The Treaty of Geneva imposed on you the duty to heal the wounds of war, and in this benevolent capacity you are a very real part of the assets of the National Defense of this nation.

Inasmuch as we have considered it prudent to modernize and increase our implements of defense in the interest of national safety, it might be well for your leaders to consider the part you may be destined to play, and to prepare yourselves accordingly.

The human compassion -- the spirit that animates the Red Cross -- can have a continuing effect in diminishing the cruelties of warfare. Human kindness, I believe, is still the most powerful force in the world for the accomplishment of good.

Your Chairman advanced a powerful appeal for humane consideration of civilians in war zones -- defenseless aged, ^{and} women and children -- victims of enemy bombers, -- when he obtained unanimous adoption of a resolution by the last International Red Cross Conference in London, urging all nations to abolish bombing of open cities or at least to create safety or immunity zones for concentrating civilians in time of war.

In the face of inhumane acts which have been so shocking to the moral consciousness of the world, it is enheartening that the spirit of the Red Cross does not wane. In a world disturbed by fears of war, your unselfish devotion to the welfare of others, stands out in striking contrast to the selfish

aggressions which are today threatening the peace of nations across the sea.

It is my sincere hope that your national Roll Call to be held next autumn, and which you are planning now in your deliberations, may add substantially to your present six million members, and that your convention now being held may be an outstanding success. You and those whom you represent are engineers in the great realm of the humanities. In big and little things all of America is with you always.



AMERICAN RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Franklin B. Roosevelt, President
Charles Evans Hughes, Vice President
Herbert Hoover, Vice President
Robert H. Jackson, Counselor
Wayne C. Taylor, Treasurer
Mabel T. Boardman, Secretary

April 20, 1939

Mr. William Hassett
The White House

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Norman H. Davis, Chairman
James L. Foster, Vice Chairman
James E. McClintock, Vice Chairman
Emmet J. South, Vice Chairman

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Nathan H. Davis, Chairman
Mr. August Belmont
Mabel T. Boardman
Mr. Harry P. Dutton
James B. Ferguson
William Fortune
George L. Harrison
Robert H. Jackson
Samuel Knight
Earl Admiral Run T. McInnes
R. Walton Moore
Gustave D. Pease
Mr. Henry E. Roe
Maj. Gen. Charles E. Reynolds
Henry Upton San
Wayne C. Taylor
Eleanor Washburn
Udell B. Wilson

My dear Mr. Hassett:

Mr. Norman H. Davis arranged through General Watson for the President to address delegates to the Red Cross convention from the south portico of the White House at 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 25.

Material for a brief address was requested and is attached hereto.

TRUSTEES ENDOWMENT FUND

Henry Magrath, Jr., Chairman
Henry P. Dutton
Howard W. Fenner
William D. Hooper
William A. John
Henry G. Johnson
James H. Perkins
Wayne C. Taylor
Constance Thom

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Katherine Lewis
Assistant Director
Public Information Service

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
AMERICAN RED CROSS CONVENTION

APRIL 25, 1939

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I hope the people of the Nation realize the splendid efficiency of these joint efforts. There is no lost motion, there is no waste of emergency or relief funds -- and I believe

that no country in the world has reached the standards which the United States has achieved in this respect in the past few years.

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In its fifty eight years existence the American Red Cross has also been exceptionally generous and active in extending a helping hand to our distressed neighbors. Within the past twelve months not only have our resources of money and our resources of volunteer help been strained to the utmost in meeting disaster relief needs, such as in the New England hurricane where great loss of life and property was suffered -- but in generous contributions to distressed civilians in China, in Spain, in aiding the refugees in France, and in Chile where earthquakes took an appalling toll of life and left thousands of injured to be cared for.

The spirit of the Red Cross does not wane. In a world disturbed by war and fear of war the unselfish devotion of the Red Cross to the welfare of others stands out in striking contrast to inhumane acts which have shocked our conscience.

The task before us is enormous. Our work, by reason of its very nature, never is done. Our work never can be done while human misery exists.

The work must go bravely on.

We shall not fail because we know all America is with us.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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April 25, 1939

CAUTION: The following address of the President, *To be*
delivered from the South Portico of the White House
to the Delegates to the American Red Cross Convention,
MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing
on the streets NOT EARLIER than 5:00 P.M., E.S.T., April 25, 1939.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

CHAIRMAN DAVIS, SENIOR AND JUNIOR DELEGATES TO THE RED CROSS CONVENTION:

It gives me great pleasure to greet here at the White House this National Red Cross assemblage and to give assurance that no enterprise is nearer to my heart than the work carried on in behalf of all humanity by this superb organization.

As you know, I have had the honor of being the President of the Red Cross since 1933 -- but my interest in the work dates back to my active participation in the Red Cross in the trying days of the World War.

Although ours is a semi-governmental agency, it draws support from the people as a whole. Designated by Congress as the official, volunteer humanitarian organization of the nation, with specific powers and responsibilities, the Red Cross operates with independence and impartiality. It is universal in its appeal to our citizens because everyone is welcome in its membership; and it is impartial in conferring its benefits.

When there is disaster every agency of the United States Government is directed to cooperate with the Red Cross. Government resources and man power play an important part in aiding and restoring physical damage in communities struck by calamities. But they can never replace the humanitarian handling of the problems of the individual which is the work of the Red Cross.

I am especially proud of the improvement that has come during the past few years under our late Chairman Admiral Grayson and our new Chairman Mr. Norman Davis. I refer particularly to the coordination and cooperation which has been worked out in times of disaster between the many agencies of the United States Government and the American Red Cross, today.

Miss Letland has original — *J*

In floods, in fires and in hurricanes, the system of pooling our resources has been brought to a very high state of efficiency.

In time of local or regional disaster, all human agencies -- those of the Federal Government, of state governments and of county and municipal governments know exactly what to do. They are organized for instantaneous action. And, as you know, that action proceeds smoothly and without duplication of effort under the general direction of the American Red Cross itself.

Furthermore, after the emergency of human suffering is cared for other government agencies step in with the systems of the Red Cross to carry on the work of rehabilitation -- physical work and financial aid.

I hope the people of the Nation realize the splendid efficiency of these joint efforts. There is no lost motion, there is no waste of emergency or relief funds -- and I believe that no country in the world has reached the standards which the United States has achieved in this respect in the past few years.

The strength of our splendid organization is in its appeal to the tenderest sympathies of all our people. It embraces in its membership all races and creeds and knows no politics. There is nothing narrow or sectional about it. All of our people find unity in one great objective: the relief of human suffering.

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- 24 Address of the President
- 33 To the delegates to the American Red Cross Convention
- 57 Delivered from the South Portico of the White House
- 34 April 25, 1939, 5100^{EST}

(The President was presented to the delegates by Chairman Davis of the American Red Cross)

- A. Chairman Davis has spoken of the relationship that the President of the United States bears to this organization. You may have guessed that in my relationship to a great many other organizations of the Government I am inclined to ~~placate~~ judge the efficiency of each of those organizations by the amount of trouble that they give to me, and, the more I hear of them and from them, the more I know that there is trouble. So, for the last six years I can say that my absence from the Red Cross meetings, my seeming inattention to Red Cross affairs, proves that beyond doubt the constant efficiency of the Red Cross. (Applause)
- B. And I remember, when we first tried this out in the great Ohio flood, soon after I came to Washington, I took a rather keen pleasure in putting the chief of the staff of the Army and the chief of operations of the Navy under the RED Cross.
- C. You are carrying out and you are improving on a great tradition.
- D. and is going to be with us in the days to come.

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In floods, in fires (and) in hurricanes, the system of pooling our resources has been brought to a very high state of efficiency.

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STATEMENTS FILE

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^{So} The spirit of the Red Cross does not wane. In a world disturbed by war and fear of war the unselfish devotion of the Red Cross to the welfare of others stands out in striking contrast to inhumane acts ^{which} have shocked our conscience. ^{for the ordinary man}

^{Yes} The task before us is enormous. Our work, by reason of its very nature, ~~never~~ ^{is} ~~done~~ ^{done}. Our work never can be done while human misery exists.

^{It is} The work must go bravely on. ^{that is what we have to do with us}
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[Handwritten signature]