

January 30, 1940

[President's Birthday Broadcast]

FDR Speech File

1270

THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY BROADCAST

JANUARY 30, 1940

My hearty greetings to all the nation.

I wish that everybody within sound of my voice could capture something of the joy I feel on this birthday. It is a joy whose keenness is enhanced because in the larger sense these far flung celebrations are wholly impersonal. At least, that is the way I like to view them.

A recent writer has put it ^{thus} ~~this way~~ ^{thus} ~~as~~ ^{thus} ~~wrote~~,

"It is an expression of our greatest political asset -- the enormous fund of tolerance, good will, good humor and simple human kindness which underlies our public life.

"Here is no trace of partisanship, no taint of social disunity, of economic controversy. There is not any, has never been, the slightest attempt to play politics with the various efforts -- The March of Dimes, the Birthday Balls --

to raise money for a worthy national purpose..... So the effect of this great celebration is to keep political discussion and partisan passion within the bounds of that neighborly good temper, which is still the chief quality that distinguishes the American electorate from the political masses of the Old World.

"In sending a dimeand in dancing that others
may walk, we, the People are striking a powerful blow in
defense of American freedom and human decency. For the
answer to class hatred, race hatred, religious hatred is
not repression, criticism or opposition. The answer is the
free expression of the love of our fellow men, which is
the real thing we celebrate on January 30, 1940."

And this morning a very old friend of mine sent me
a note of congratulation which embodied a new and, I think,
a very useful thought for us all.
for us all

He said "The compassionate purpose to which our national tradition now dedicates this day has a profound symbolism. For in a way we are all crippled children. And we are the more poignant in our disabilities than the immediate beneficiaries because we think we are grown-up and big and strong, and yet are so often unhumorously immature and unequal to the tasks our times impose on us."

That is a nice thought because if, as we grow older we realize our inability to meet perfection, the happier we can and should be in everything that we do to make life a little better -- to use the vehicles of science and cooperation to improve the lot of those who need it most.

Today I think the nation as a whole is aware of, and awake to the scourge of Infantile Paralysis. To minimize its effects, to drive it out entirely in the long run, is, as you know, our primary purpose.

But as the years go on I hope that these annual
celebrations will extend that task to the care of all
crippled children, no matter what the cause of their
crippling.

What a magnificent task this is! More than twenty-
five thousand parties being held today and tonight --
hundreds of thousands of devoted volunteer workers in
state and county and city and hamlet. To all of them,
of all ages and representing all callings, I tender my
heartfelt thanks for what they have done.

To all who have helped through The March of Dimes
and otherwise with generous donations, I am likewise
grateful. Nor can I overlook the thousands of affectionate
birthday cards and birthday messages which have so
gladdened my heart.

I think I am safe in saying that no nation in the
world has ever put a larger volunteer army into the field
on any given date than the army of Americans which tonight
is taking part in the defense of American childhood.

During the World War we had nearly five million men under arms. It is safe to estimate that at least four or five times as many Americans, men and women and children, are enrolled in this new army which has joined the march to save life and not to take it.

It is in that magnificent spirit and with the definite knowledge that we are making sure and steady progress that I say to each and every one of you - "Thank you, and God ^{tonight!} bless you."

Linton W. Rosecrans

Orig. reading copy

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
On the occasion of his 58th Birthday Anniversary
At the White House, January 30, 1940

My hearty greetings to all the nation.

I wish that everybody within sound of my voice could capture something of the joy, the joy that I feel on this birthday. It is a joy whose keenness is enhanced because in the larger sense these far flung celebrations are wholly impersonal. At least, that is the way I like to view them.

A recent writer has put it (this way) very well.
He wrote this:

"It is an expression of our greatest political asset -- the enormous fund of tolerance," of "good will, good humor and simple human kindness which underlies our public life.

"Here is no trace of partisanship, no taint of social disunity, of economic controversy. There is not any, (has) never" has "been, the slightest attempt to play politics with the various efforts -- The March of Dimes, the Birthday Balls -- to raise money for a worthy national purpose" and "so the effect of this great celebration is to keep political discussion and partisan passion within the bounds of that neighborly good temper, which is still the chief quality that distinguishes the American electorate from the political masses of the Old World.

"In sending a dime and in dancing that

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.

Let's I said and yet not to emphasize anything since

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library voi a si si grabbed him so

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others may walk, we, the People are striking a powerful blow in defense of American freedom and "American" human decency. For the answer to class hatred," and "race hatred," and "religious hatred is not repression," or "criticism or opposition. The answer is the free expression of the love of our fellow men, which is the real thing we celebrate on January 30, 1940."

And this morning a very old friend of mine, a distinguished Justice, sent me a note of congratulation which embodied a new and, I think, a very useful thought for us grown-ups.

He said "The compassionate purpose to which our national tradition now dedicates this day has a profound symbolism. For in a way we are all crippled children. And we are the more poignant in our disabilities than the immediate beneficiaries because we think we are grown-up and big and strong, and yet are so often unhumorously immature and unequal to the tasks our times impose on us."

That is a nice thought because if as we (grow) older people get older we realize our inability to meet perfection, the happier we can and should be in everything that we do to make life a little better -- to use the vehicles of science and cooperation to improve the lot of those who need it most.

Today I think the nation as a whole is aware of and awake to the scourge of Infantile Paralysis. To mini-

mize its effects, to drive it out entirely in the long run, is, as you know, our primary purpose today.

But as the years go on I hope that these annual celebrations will extend that task, extend the task to the care of all crippled children, no matter what the cause of their crippling.

And what a magnificent task this is! More than twenty-five thousand parties being held today and tonight -- hundreds of thousands of devoted volunteer workers in state and county and city and hamlet. To all of them, of all ages and representing all callings, I tender my heartfelt thanks for what they have done.

To all who have helped through The March of Dimes and otherwise with generous donations, I am likewise grateful. Nor can I overlook the thousands of affectionate birthday cards and birthday messages which have so greatly gladdened my heart today.

I think I am safe in saying that no nation in the whole world has ever in all history put a larger volunteer army into the field on any given date than the army of Americans which tonight is taking part in the defense of American childhood.

During the World War we had nearly five million American men under arms. It is safe to estimate that at least four or five times as many Americans, men, (and) women and children, are enrolled in this new army which

has joined the march, the march to save life and not to
take it.

It is in that magnificent spirit and with the
definite knowledge that we are making sure and steady pro-
gress that I say to each and every one of you tonight -
"Thank you, and God bless you."

HOLD FOR RELEASE
FOR THE PRESS

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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January 30, 1940

CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL RELEASED

CAUTION: This address of the President to be delivered on the occasion of his birthday anniversary is for release in editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER than 11:34 P.M., E.S.T.

Care must be exercised to prevent premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

My hearty greetings to all the nation.

I wish that everybody within sound of my voice could capture something of the joy I feel on this birthday. It is a joy whose keenness is enhanced because in the larger sense these far flung celebrations are wholly impersonal. At least, that is the way I like to view them.

A recent writer has put it this way:

"It is an expression of our greatest political asset — the enormous fund of tolerance, good will, good humor and simple human kindness which underlies our public life.

"There is no trace of partisanship, no taint of social disunity, of economic controversy. There is not any, has never been, the slightest attempt to play politics with the various efforts -- The March of Dimes, the Birthday Balls -- to raise money for a worthy national purpose..... So the effect of this great celebration is to keep political discussion and partisan passion within the bounds of that neighborly good temper, which is still the chief quality that distinguishes the American electorate from the political masses of the Old World.

"In sending a dimeand in dancing that others may walk, we, the People are striking a powerful blow in defense of American freedom and human decency. For the answer to class hatred, race hatred, religious hatred is not repression, criticism or opposition. The answer is the free expression of the love of our fellow man, which is the real thing we celebrate on January 30, 1940."

And this morning a very old friend of mine sent me a note of congratulation which embodied a new and, I think, a very useful thought.

He said "The compassionate purpose to which our national tradition now dedicates this day has a profound symbolism. For in a way we are all crippled children. And we are the more poignant in our disabilities than the immediate beneficiaries because we think we are grown-up and big and strong, and yet are so often unmercifully immature and unequal to the tasks our times impose on us."

That is a nice thought because if as we grow older we realize our inability to meet perfection, the happier we can and should be in everything that we do to make life a little better -- to use the vehicles of science and cooperation to improve the lot of those who need it most.

Today I think the nation as a whole is aware of and awake to the scourge of Infantile Paralysis. To minimize its effects, to drive it out entirely in the long run, is, as you know, our primary purpose.

But as the years go on I hope that these annual celebrations will extend that task to the care of all crippled children, no matter what the cause of their crippling.

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I think I am safe in saying that no nation in the world has ever put a larger volunteer army into the field on any given date than the army of Americans which tonight is taking part in the defense of American childhood.

During the World War we had nearly five million men under arms. It is safe to estimate that at least four or five times as many Americans, men and women and children, are enrolled in this new army which has joined the march to save life and not to take it.

It is in that magnificent spirit and with the definite knowledge that we are making sure and steady progress that I say to each and every one of you - "Thank you, and God bless you."

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R.P.R.
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STATEMENTS FILE
Shorthand by Kannee

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