ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT
CONDUCTED BY THE WOMEN'S DIVISION OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
MAY 3, 1940

Two months ago I was told that there would be a meeting of women interested in or affiliated with the Democratic Party, with the objective of studying and discussing the processes of our form of government. It was expected that there would be not more than one hundred of them who would come to Washington and I suggested that they come to my Executive Office in order that I might shake their hands individually and have a little informal chat with them.

Three weeks ago my wife told me that the enthusiasm was so great that five or six hundred might come and we shifted the party to the East Room in the White House.
By ten days ago the gathering had grown into a pilgrimage, with the result that if you tried, the three or four thousand of you could not all get into the White House at the same time, and if I were to start shaking hands with you now you would still be passing in line long after dark.

This amazing and splendid outpouring does my heart good because it proves, first of all, that there is tremendous enthusiasm for a continuation of liberal democratic government in the United States, and also because it shows an honest wish to gain further knowledge of government.

May I add to that the thought which I have expressed on several previous occasions -- that while in the past seven years your government has put into practical effect more constructive legislation for the average man, woman and child of the nation than in any similar time in our history, the greatest ultimate
long range gain of these years lies in the increased
knowledge of what government is all about, the increased
discussion of broad problems and the increased recognition
that the people of this country are entitled to a government
which constantly thinks in terms of the people's needs.

We are coming to differentiate between fact and
fiction. That in itself is a step in advance. We do not
fall as easily as in older days for glittering generalities,
for specious promises. We say in an election year to
candidates for President and Vice President, and to "would-be"
Senators and Representatives, "quit condemning each and
every act of this Administration and tell us just how you
would change the laws if you were in power".

"You say you would balance the budget -- you who
oppose present policies -- don't tell us that you would
appoint some new committee or board to make recommendations.
The budget is an open book. If it is to be balanced you can do it in one of two ways or by a combination of both. You can levy new taxes, or you can cut appropriations. If you choose the former, what kind of taxes do you propose to levy? If you propose to cut expenditures, which ones will you cut and by what amount? Will you in these critical days lop off a billion dollars from our national defense? Will you in these critical days lop off a billion dollars for the care of the needy unemployed? Will you curtail expenditures for old age pensions or unemployment insurance? Will you abolish the Securities and Exchange Commission and turn their functions over to the Stock Exchange? Will you end the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration? Will you destroy, by withdrawing appropriations, the Soil Conservation and tree planting program of the Government?"

I recognize the horrid dilemma that questions of this kind are going to put certain types of candidates into in the coming six months.
Whoever the nominees of the two major parties are,
I firmly believe that the real question, the honest question, the fundamental question on election day is going to be this: "Do you wish to employ for your bus line chauffeurs who wrecked the previous bus line by driving the old buses into the ditch or by going to sleep at the wheel -- or are you going to continue the present policy of employing active, wide-awake chauffeurs who are inspired with the thought that their duty is to be \textit{punctual} to the passengers and see to it that they reach their destination in comfort and complete safety?

I am confident that your common sense, your enthusiasm and your deep understanding of the problems of the day will go far to keep the American people on the right road in this Year of Grace 1940.
ADDRESSES OF THE PRESIDENT
Delivered from the South Portico of the White House,
To the Delegates Attending the National Institute of Government,
Conducted by the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee,
May 3, 1940, 5:00 P. M.

I think I can say to you, "MY FELLOW WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD
OF KNOWLEDGE:"

I think it was about two months ago that I was told (that)
there would be a meeting of women interested in or affiliated with
the Democratic Party, with the objective of studying and discussing
the processes and practices of our form of government. At that time
it was expected that there would be not more than (one) a hundred of
them (laughter) who would come to Washington and I suggested that
they come to my Executive Office yonder in order that I might shake
their hands individually and have a little informal chat (with them).

Well, about three weeks ago my wife told me that the enthu-
siasm was so great that five or six hundred (laughter) might come and
so we shifted the party to the East Room (in the White House).

(By) But ten days ago -- less than that, about a week ago,
when I got back from Warm Springs -- this little (the) gathering had
grown into a pilgrimage, (laughter) with the result that if you tried,
the three or four thousand (of you) who have attended this conference
could not all get into the White House at the same time, and if I were
to start shaking hands with you (now) you would still be passing in
line long after dark.

This amazing and splendid outpouring does my heart good
because it proves, first of all, that there is tremendous enthusiasm
for a continuation of liberal democratic government in the United
Mr. President, fellow citizens, 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.

[Handwritten text]
States, (applause) and also because it goes to show(s) an honest wish
to gain further knowledge of government.

May I add to that the thought (which) that I have expressed
on several previous occasions -- that while in the past seven years
your government has put into practical effect more constructive legis-
lation (for) in behalf of the average man, woman and child of the na-
tion than in any similar time in our history, the greatest ultimate
long-range gain of these seven years lies in the increased knowledge
of what government is all about, the increased discussion of broad
problems and the increased recognition that the people of (this) the
United States (country) are entitled to a government which constantly
thinks in terms of the people's needs. (Applause)

Yes, and in spite of some of the things that I read, I be-
lieve that we are coming, as a nation, to differentiate between fact
and fiction. (Laughter) That in itself is a step in advance. We do
not fall as easily as in older days for glittering generalities, for
specious promises. We say in an election year to candidates for Pres-
ident and Vice President, and to "would-be" Senators and Representa-
tives, we say, "Quit condemning each and every act of this Administra-
tion and tell us just how you would change the laws if you were in
power." (Applause)

And we say to them, "You say you would balance the budget --
you who oppose present policies -- don't tell us that you would ap-
point some new committee or board to study and to make recommendations
because the budget is an open book and every would-be candidate for
office ought to know that book without having to refer it to some
special committee or long-range narrow board. We say to them, "If you
would balance your budget, obviously; you can do it in one of two ways or by a combination of both ways. You can levy new taxes, or you can cut appropriations. And if you choose the former, what kind of taxes do you propose to levy? That is a fair question. If you propose to cut expenditures, which ones will you cut and by what amount? And that is an equally fair question. Will you, you candidates, in these critical days lop off a billion dollars from our national defense? Will you in these critical days lop off a billion dollars for the care of the needy unemployed? Will you curtail expenditures for old age pensions or unemployment insurance? Will you abolish the Securities and Exchange Commission and turn their functions over to the Stock Exchange? Will you end the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration? Will you destroy, by withdrawing appropriations, the Soil Conservation and tree planting program of (the) this Government?

I think all of us (I) recognize the horrid dilemma that questions of (this) that kind are going to put certain types of candidates into in the coming six months. (Applause)

Whoever the nominees of the two major parties are, I firmly believe that the real question, the honest question, the fundamental question on election day next November is going to be something like this: "Do you, the people, the voters of this country, do you wish to employ in the next four years for your bus line chauffeurs who wrecked the previous bus line by driving the old buses into the ditch or by going to sleep at the wheel (laughter - applause) -- or are you going to continue the present policy of the present type of bus line by employing active, wide-awake chauffeurs who are inspired with the
thought that their duty is to be (polite) considerate to the passengers -- not to run off the road, not to go to sleep at the wheel -- and see to it that (they) the passengers reach their destination in comfort and complete safety.

And so, knowing many of you personally and knowing much about the splendid work you have been doing, I am confident that your common sense, your enthusiasm and your deep understanding of the problems of the day (will) are going to go far to keep the American people on the right road in this Year of Grace 1940. (Applause)

Now, come in and visit.
Two months ago I was told that there would be a meeting
of women interested in or affiliated with the Democratic Party,
with the objective of studying and discussing the processes
of our form of government. It was expected that there would be not
more than one hundred of them who would come to Washington and I
suggested that they come to my Executive Office in order that I
might shake their hands individually and have a little informal
chat with them.

Three weeks ago my wife told me that the enthusiasm
was so great that five or six hundred might come and we shifted
the party to the East Room in the White House.

By ten days ago the gathering had grown into a pilgram-
age, with the result that if you tried, the three or four thousand
of you could not all get into the White House at the same time,
and if I were to start shaking hands with you now you would still
be passing in line long after dark.

This amazing and splendid outpouring does my heart good
because it proves, first of all, that there is tremendous enthusiasm
for a continuation of liberal democratic government in the United
States, and also because it shows an honest wish to gain further
knowledge of government.

May I add too that the thought which I have expressed
on several previous occasions — that while in the past seven
years your government has put into practical effect more constructive
legislation for the average man, woman and child of the nation
than in any similar time in our history, the greatest ultimate
long range gain of these years lies in the increased knowledge of
what government is all about, the increased discussion of broad
problems and the increased recognition that the people of this
country are entitled to a government which constantly thinks in
terms of the people's needs.

We are coming to differentiate between fact and fiction.
That in itself is a step in advance. We do not fall as easily as
in older days for glittering generalities, for specious promises.
We may in an election year to candidates for President and Vice-
President, and to “would-be” Senators and Representatives, “quit
consuming each and every act of this Administration and tell us
just how you would change the laws if you were in power.”

“You say you would balance the budget — you who oppose
present policies — don’t tell us that you would appoint some new
committe or board to make recommendations. The budget is an open
book. If it is to be balanced you can do it in one of two ways or
by a combination of both. You can raise new taxes, or you can cut
appropriations. If you choose the former, what kind of taxes do
you propose to levy? If you propose to cut expenditures, which ones
will you cut and by what amount? Will you in these critical days
lop off a billion dollars from our national defense? Will you in
these critical days lop off a billion dollars for the care of the
needy unemployed? Will you curtail expenditures for old age pen-
sions or unemployment insurance? Will you abolish the Securities
and Exchange Commission and turn their functions over to the Stock
Exchange? Will you end the Civilian Conservation Corps and the
National Youth Administration? Will you destroy, by withdrawing
appropriations, the Soil Conservation and tree planting program
of the Government?"

I recognize the horrid dilemma that questions of this
kind are going to put certain types of candidates into in the
coming six months.

Whoever the nominees of the two major parties are, I
firmly believe that the real question, the honest question, the
fundamental question on election day is going to be this: "Do
you wish to employ for your bus line chauffeurs who wrecked the
previous bus line by driving the old buses into the ditch or by
going to sleep at the wheel -- or are you going to continue the
present policy of employing active, wide-awake chauffeurs who are
inspired with the thought that their duty is to be polite to
the passengers and see to it that they reach their destination in
comfort and complete safety.

I am confident that your common sense, your enthusiasm
and your deep understanding of the problems of the day will go far
to keep the American people on the right road in this Year of
Grace 1940.
ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT
CONDUCTED BY THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE MAY 3, 1940
DIVISION OF THE DEMOCRATIC

Two months ago I was told that there would be a meeting of women interested in or affiliated with the Democratic Party, with the objective of studying and discussing the processes of our form of government. It was expected that there would be not more than one hundred of them who would come to Washington and I suggested that they come to my Executive Office in order that I might shake their hands individually and have a little informal chat with them.

Three weeks ago my wife told me that the enthusiasm was so great that five or six hundred might come and we shifted the party to the East Room in the White House.

By ten days ago the gathering had grown into a pilgrimage, with the result that if you tried, the three or four thousand of you could not all get into the White House at the same time, and if I were to start shaking hands with you now you would still be passing in line long after dark.
This amazing and splendid outpouring does my heart good because it proves, first of all, that there is tremendous enthusiasm for a continuation of liberal democratic government in the United States, and also because it shows an honest wish to gain further knowledge of government.

May I add to that the thought which I have expressed on several previous occasions — that while in the past seven years your government has put into practical effect more constructive practical legislation for the average man, woman and child of the nation than any in any similar time in our history, the greatest ultimate long range gain of these years lies in the increased knowledge of what government is all about, the increased discussion of broad problems and the increased recognition that the people of this country are entitled to a government which constantly thinks in terms of the people’s needs.

We are coming to differentiate between fact and fiction. That in itself is a step in advance. We do not fall as easily as in older days for glittering generalities, for specious promises. We say in an election year to candidates for President and Vice President, and to "would-be" Senators and Representatives, "quit condemning each and every act
of this Administration and tell us just how you would change the laws if you were in power."

"You say you would balance the budget -- you who oppose present policies -- don't tell us that you would appoint some new committee or board to make recommendations. The budget is an open book. If it is to be balanced you can do it in one of two ways or by a combination of both. You can levy new taxes, or you can cut appropriations. If you choose the former, what kind of taxes do you propose to levy? If you propose to cut expenditures, which ones will you cut and by what amount? Will you in these critical days lop off a billion dollars from our national defense? Will you in these critical days lop off a billion dollars for the care of the needy unemployed? Will you curtail expenditures for old age pensions or unemployment insurance? Will you abolish the Securities and Exchange Commission and turn their functions over to the Stock Exchange? Will you end the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration? Will you destroy, by withdrawing appropri-

ations, the Soil Conservation and tree planting program of the Government?"
I recognize the horrid dilemma that questions of this kind are going to put certain types of candidates into in the coming six months.

Whoever the nominees of the two major parties are, I firmly believe that the real question, the honest question, the fundamental question on election day is going to be this: "Do you wish to employ for your bus line chauffeurs who wrecked the previous bus line by driving the old buses into the ditch or by going to sleep at the wheel — or are you going to continue the present policy of employing active, wide-awake chauffeurs who are inspired with the thought that their duty is to be polite to the passengers and see to it that they reach their destination in comfort and complete safety.

I am confident that your common sense, your enthusiasm and your deep understanding of the problems of the day will go far to keep the American people on the right road in this Year of Grace 1940.
Address of
President Franklin D. Roosevelt
to the
National Institute of Government
May 3, 1940

(Not printed at Government expense)
ADDRESS
OF
PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Appendix of the RECORD an address delivered by the President of the United States to the National Institute of Government, conducted by the women's division of the Democratic National Committee. There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The President: Two months ago I was told there would be a meeting of women interested in or affiliated with the Democratic Party, with the objective of studying and discussing the processes of our form of government. It was expected that there would be not more than 100 of them who would come to Washington, and I suggested that they come to my executive office in order that I might shake their hands individually and have a little informal chat with them.

Three weeks ago my wife told me that the enthusiasm was so great that five or six hundred might come and we shifted the party to the East Room in the White House.

By 10 days ago the gathering had grown into a pilgrimage, with the result that if you tried, the three or four thousand of you could not all get into the White House at the same time, and if I were to start shaking hands with you now you would still be passing in line long after dark.

This amazing and splendid outpouring does my heart good, because it proves, first of all, that there is tremendous enthusiasm for a continuation of liberal democratic government in the United States, and also because it shows an honest wish to gain further knowledge of government.

May I add to that the thought I have expressed on several previous occasions—that while in the past 7 years your Government has put into practical effect more constructive legislation for the average man, woman, and child of the Nation than in any similar time in our history, the greatest ultimate long-range gain of these years lies in the increased knowledge of what government is all about, the increased discussion of broad problems and the increased recognition that the people of this country are entitled to a government which constantly thinks in terms of the people's needs.
We are coming to differentiate between fact and fiction. That in itself is a step in advance. We do not fall as easily as in older days for glittering generalities, for specious promises. We say in an election year to candidates for President and Vice President and to "would-be" Senators and Representatives "quit condemning each and every act of this administration and tell us just how you would change the laws if you were in power."

"You say you would balance the Budget—you who oppose present policies—don't tell us that you would appoint some new committee or board to make recommendations. The Budget is an open book. If it is to be balanced, you can do it in one of two ways or by a combination of both. You can levy new taxes, or you can cut appropriations. If you choose the former, what kind of taxes do you propose to levy? If you propose to cut expenditures, which ones will you cut and by what amount? Will you in these critical days lop off a billion dollars from our national defense? Will you in these critical days lop off a billion dollars for the care of the needy unemployed? Will you curtail expenditures for old-age pensions or unemployment insurance? Will you abolish the Securities and Exchange Commission and turn their functions over to the stock exchange? Will you end the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration? Will you destroy, by withdrawing appropriations, the soil-conservation and tree-planting program of the Government?"

I recognize the horrid dilemma that questions of this kind are going to put certain types of candidates into in the coming 6 months.

Whoever the nominees of the two major parties are, I firmly believe that the real question, the honest question, the fundamental question of election day is going to be this: "Do you wish to employ for your bus line chauffeurs who wrecked the previous bus line by driving the old buses into the ditch or by going to sleep at the wheel—or are you going to continue the present policy of employing active, wide-awake chauffeurs who are inspired with the thought that their duty is to be polite to the passengers and see to it that they reach their destination in comfort and complete safety?"

I am confident that your common sense, your enthusiasm, and your deep understanding of the problems of the day will go far to keep the American people on the right road in this year of grace 1940.