
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. 1299

1940 September 2

**Newfound Cap, TN –
Great Smoky Mountain National Park Dedication**

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN DEDICATION

LABOR DAY

1940

*Secretary Dickiss, Governor Avery, Governor Taylor
Governor Maybank — My friends of all the States
Here in the Great Smokies, we meet today to dedicate*

these mountains, streams, and forests to the service of the American people. We are living under governments which are proving their devotion to National Parks. The Governors of North Carolina and of Tennessee have greatly helped us, and the Secretary of the Interior has today ready for dedication two more Parks -- Kings Canyon in California and the Olympic National Park in the State of Washington -- and soon, I hope, will have a third, the Big Bend Park in Texas.

There are trees here that stood before our forefathers came to this continent; there are brooks that still run as clear as on the day the first pioneer cupped his hand and drank from them. In this Park, we shall conserve the pine, the red-bud, the dogwood, the azalea, the rhododendron, the trout and the thrush for the happiness of the American people.

The old frontier, that put the hard fibre in the American spirit and the long muscles on the American back, lives and will live in these untamed mountains to give future generations a sense of the land from which their forefathers hewed their homes.

The hewing was hard. The dangers were many. The rifle could never be far from the axe. The pioneers stood on their own feet, shot their own game and fought off their own enemies. In time of accident or misfortune, they helped each other. In time of Indian attack, they stood by each other.

Today we no longer face Indians and hard and lonely struggles with nature -- and, also, -- we have grown soft in many ways.

If we are to survive, we cannot be soft in a world in which there are dangers that threaten Americans -- dangers far more deadly than were those the frontiersmen had to face.

The earth has been so shrunk by the airplane and the radio that Europe is closer to America today than was one side of these mountains to the other when the pioneers toiled through the primeval forest. The arrow, the tomahawk, and the scalping knife have been replaced by the airplane, the bomb, the tank, and the machine gun. Their threat is as close to us today as was the threat to the frontiersmen when hostile Indians were lurking on the other side of the gap.

Therefore, to meet the threat --- to ward off these dangers --- the Congress and I are establishing by law the obligation inherent in our citizenship to serve our forces for defense through training in many capacities.

It is not in every case easy or pleasant to ask men of the Nation to leave their homes and women of the Nation to give their men to the service of the Nation. But the men and women of America have never held back even when it has meant personal sacrifice on their part, if it is sacrifice for the common good.

The greatest attack that has ever been launched against freedom of the individual is nearer the Americas than ever before. To meet that attack we must prepare beforehand --- for preparing later may and probably would be too late.

We must prepare in a thousand ways. Men are not enough. They must have arms. They must learn how to use those arms. They must have skilled leaders --- who must be trained. New bases must be established to enable our fleet~~s~~ to defend our shores. Men and women must be taught to create the supplies that we need. And we must counter the agents of the dictators within our country.

There is, moreover, another enemy at home. That enemy is the mean and petty spirit that mocks at ideals, sneers at sacrifice and pretends the American people can live by bread alone. If the spirit of God is not in us, and if we will not prepare to give all that we have and all that we are to preserve Christian civilization in our own land, we shall go to destruction.

It is good and right that we should conserve these mountain heights of the old frontier for the benefit of the American people. But in this hour we have to safeguard a greater thing: the right of the people of this country to live as free men. Our vital task of conservation is to preserve the freedom which our forefathers won in this land, and the liberties which were proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence and embodied in our Constitution.

In these centuries of American civilization, greatly blessed by the bounties of nature, we succeeded in attaining liberty in Government and liberty of the person. In the process, in the light of past history, we realize now that we committed excesses which we are today seeking to atone for.

We used up or destroyed much of our natural heritage just because that heritage was so bounteous. We slashed our forests, we used our soils, we encouraged floods, we over-concentrated our wealth, we disregarded our unemployed —

all of this so greatly that we were brought rather suddenly to face the fact that unless we gave thought to the lives of our children and grandchildren, they would no longer be able to live and to improve on our American way of life.

And so in these later years, we have tried sincerely and honestly to look ahead to the future years. We are at last definitely engaged in the task of conserving the bounties of nature, thinking in terms of the whole of nature. We are trying at least to attain employment for all who would work and can work, and to provide a greater assurance of security throughout life for the family.

From hard experience we know that the process is a long one, but most of us realize that if we can continue our efforts without serious setbacks, the ideals of the American way of life can and will be attained by working everlasting for the good of the whole and not for any one privileged group.

So, from within our own borders, liberty through democracy can, I believe, be preserved in future years -- if we want to preserve it.

But there is a second danger -- a danger from without. I hope, for example, that one hundred years from now the Great Smoky National Park will still belong in practice, as well as in theory, to the people of a free nation. I hope it will not belong to them in theory alone and that in practice the ownership of this Park will not be in the hands of some strange kind of Government puppet subject to an overseas overlord. I hope the use of it will not be confined to people coming hither on Government specified days and on Government directed tours. I hope the trees will not be slaughtered by the axe in order that a Government may conduct wars of aggression against other nations. I hope that roads and paths and trails will still be built in the cause of the liberty of recreation, and not confined to the ulterior purposes of a war machine controlled by an individual or an oligarchy.

That there is a danger from without is at last recognized by most of us Americans. That such a danger cannot longer be met with pitchforks and squirrel rifles or even with the training or the weapons of the war of 1917 and 1918 is equally clear to most of us Americans.

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It is not a change from the American way of life to advocate or legislate a greater and a speedier preparedness. It is a positive protection to the American way of life. We know that in the process of preparing against danger we shall not have to abandon and we will not abandon the great social improvements that have come to the American people in these later years. We need not swap the gain of better living for the gain of better defense. I propose to retain the one and *get* ~~gain~~ the other.

But to conserve our liberties will not be easy. The task will require the united efforts of us all. It will require sacrifices from us all.

The pioneers survived by fighting their own fight and by standing together as one man in the face of danger. If we, their descendants, are to meet the dangers that threaten us, we too must be ready to fight our own fight and stand together as one man. In hours of peril the frontiersmen, whatever their personal likes and dislikes, whatever their personal differences of opinion, gathered together in absolute unity for defense. We, in this hour, must have absolute national unity for total defense.

What shall we be defending? The good earth of this land, our homes, our families -- and far more. We shall be defending a way of life which has given more freedom to the soul and body of man than ever has been realized in the world before, a way of life that has let men scale whatever heights they could scale without hurting their fellows, a way of life that has let men hold up their heads and admit no master but God.

That way of life is menaced. We can meet the threat.

We can meet it ~~in~~ ^{with} the old frontier ~~spirit~~ ^{spirit}. We can forge our weapons, train ourselves to shoot, meet fire with fire, and with the courage and the unity of the frontiersmen.

It is our pride that in our country men are free to differ with each other and with their government, and to follow their own thoughts and express them. We believe that the only whole man is a free man. And we believe that in the face of danger, the old spirit of the frontiersmen which is in our blood, will give us the courage and unity that we must have.

We need that spirit in this hour. We need a conviction, felt deep in us all, that there are no divisions among us. We are all members of the same body. We are all Americans.

The winds that blow through the wide sky in these mountains -- the winds that sweep from Canada to Mexico, from the Pacific to the Atlantic -- have always blown on free men. We are free today. If we join together now -- men, women and children -- and face the common menace as a united people, we shall be free tomorrow.

To the free people of America, I dedicate this Park.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Vig. reading copy

Grand Sierras, 3 million
feet and over

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
Delivered at Newfound Gap in connection with the
Dedication of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Monday, September 2, 1940, 4:00 P.M., C.S.T.

SECRETARY ICKES, GOVERNOR HOEY, GOVERNOR COOPER AND OUR NEIGHBOR,
GOVERNOR MAYBANK OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND MY FRIENDS FROM ALL THE
STATES:

I have listened with attention and great interest to the
thousands of varieties of plants and trees and fishes and animals
that Governor Cooper told us about, but he failed to mention the
hundreds of thousands of species of human animals that come to this
Park.

Here in the Great Smokies, we (meet today) have come to-
gather to dedicate these mountains, and streams, and forests, the
thousands of them, to the service of the millions of American people.
We are living under governments (which) that are proving their devo-
tion to National Parks. The Governors of North Carolina and of
Tennessee have greatly helped us, and the Secretary of the Interior
is so active that he has today ready for dedication (two more) a
number of other National Parks -- like Kings Canyon in California
and the Olympic National Park in the State of Washington, the Isle
Royale up in Michigan and, over here, the Great Cavern of Tennessee --
and soon, I hope, he will have another one for us to dedicate (a
third), the Big Bend Park away down in Texas, close to the Mexican
line.

Yes, there are trees, trees here that stood before our
forefathers ever came to this continent; there are brooks that still
run as clear as on the day the first pioneer cupped his hand and

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.

drank from them. In this Park, we shall conserve these trees, the pine, the red-bud, the dogwood, the azalea, and the rhododendron, we shall conserve the trout and the thrush for the happiness of the American people.

The old frontier, that put the hard fibre in the American spirit and the long muscles on the American back, that old frontier lives and will live in these untamed mountains to give to the future generations a sense of the land from which their forefathers hewed their homes.

(The) That hewing was hard. The dangers were many. The rifle could never be far from the axe. The pioneers stood on their own feet, they shot their own game and they fought off their own enemies. In time of accident or misfortune, they helped each other, and in time of Indian attack, they stood by each other.

Today we no longer face Indians and hard and lonely struggles with nature -- (and) but also -- today we have grown soft in many ways.

It seems to me that if we are to survive, we cannot be soft in a world in which there are dangers that threaten Americans -- dangers far more deadly than were those that the frontiersmen had to face.

The earth, the earth has been so shrunk, so diminished by the airplane and the radio that Europe is closer to America today than was one side of these mountains to the other side when the pioneers toiled through the primeval forest. The arrow, the tomahawk, and the scalping knife have been replaced by the airplane, the bomb, the tank, and the machine gun. Their threat is as close to us today

as was the threat to the frontiersmen when hostile Indians were lurking on the other side of the gap.

Therefore, to meet the threat -- to ward off these dangers -- the Congress of the United States and the Chief Executive of the United States (and I) are establishing by law the obligation inherent in our citizenship to serve our forces for defense through training in many capacities. (Applause)

It is not in every case easy or pleasant to ask men of the Nation to leave their homes and women of the Nation to give their men to the service of the Nation. But the men and women of America have never held back even when it has meant personal sacrifice on their part if (it is) that sacrifice is for the common good.

We have come to realize the greatest attack that has ever been launched against freedom of the individual is nearer the Americas than ever before. To meet that attack we must prepare beforehand -- for the simple reason that preparing later may and probably would be too late.

We must prepare in a thousand ways. Men are not enough. They must have arms. They must learn how to use those arms. They must have skilled leaders -- who, in turn, must be trained. New bases must be established and I think will be established to enable our fleet to defend our shores. Men and women must be taught to create the supplies that we need. And we must counter, as Governor Hoey has so well said, the agents of (the) dictators within our (country) Nation. (Applause)

There is, moreover, another enemy at home. That enemy is the mean and petty spirit that mocks at ideals, sneers at sacrifice

and pretends that the American people can live by bread alone. If the spirit of God is not in us, and if we will not prepare to give all that we have and all that we are to preserve Christian civilization in our (own) land, we shall go to destruction. (Applause)

It is good and right that in all of these, that we should conserve these mountain heights, these mountain heights of the old frontier for the benefit of the American people. But in this hour we have to safeguard a greater thing: the right of the people of this country to live as free men. Our vital task of conservation is to preserve the freedom (which) that our forefathers won in this land, and the liberties (which) that were proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence and embodied in (our) the Constitution of the United States.

In these centuries of American civilization, greatly blessed by the bounties of nature, we succeeded in attaining liberty in Government and liberty of the person. In the process, in the light of past history, we realize now that we committed excesses which we are today seeking to atone for.

We used up, (or) we destroyed much of our natural heritage just because that heritage was so (bounteous) bountiful. We slashed our forests, we used our soils, we encouraged floods, we over-concentrated our wealth, we disregarded our unemployed -- all of this so greatly that we were brought rather suddenly to face the fact that unless we gave thought to the lives of our children and grandchildren, they would no longer be able to live and to improve (on) upon our American way of life. (Applause)

And so in these later years, we have tried sincerely and

honestly to look ahead to the future years. We are at last definitely engaged in the task of conserving the bounties of nature, thinking in the terms of the whole of nature. We are trying at least to attain employment for all who would work and can work, and to provide a greater assurance of security throughout the life of (for) the family.

From hard experience we know that (the) that process is a long one, but most of us realize that if we can continue our efforts without serious setbacks, the ideals of the American way of life can and will be attained by working everlastinglly for the good of the whole and not for the good of any one privileged group.

And so, from within our own borders, liberty through democracy can, I believe, be preserved in future years -- if -- a great big "if" -- if we want to preserve it. (Applause)

But there is a second danger -- a danger from without. I hope, for example, that one hundred years from now the Great Smoky National Park will still belong in practice, as well as in theory, to the people of a free nation. (Applause) I hope it will not belong to them in theory alone and that in practice the ownership of this Park will not be in the hands of some strange kind of Government puppet subject to (an) some strange kind of an overseas overlord. I hope the use of it will not be confined to people who (coming) come hither on Government specified days and on Government directed tours. (Applause) I hope the trees will not be slaughtered by the axe in order that a Government may conduct wars of aggression against other nations. I hope that roads and paths and trails will still be built in the cause of the liberty of recreation, and not confined to the

ulterior purposes of a war machine controlled by an individual or by an oligarchy. (Applause)

That there is a danger from without is at last recognized by most of us Americans. That such a danger cannot longer be met with pitchforks and squirrel rifles (applause) or even (interrupted by applause) or even from the point of view of some of us who did something in the World War, with the training or the weapons of the war of 1917 and 1918, that is equally clear to most of us Americans.

It is not a change from the American way of life to advocate or legislate a greater and a speedier preparedness. It is a positive protection to the American way of life. (We) You and I know that in the process of preparing against danger we shall not have to abandon and we will not abandon the great social improvements that have come to the American people in these later years. (Applause) We need not swap the gain of better living for the gain of better defense. I propose (to) that we retain the one and (gain) get the other. (Applause)

But to conserve our liberties will not be easy. The task will require the united efforts of us all. And it will require sacrifices from us all.

The pioneers survived by fighting their own fight and by standing together as one man in the face of danger. If we, their descendants, are to meet the dangers that threaten us, we too must be ready to fight our own fight and stand together as one man. In hours of peril the frontiersmen, whatever their personal likes (and) or dislikes, whatever their personal differences of opinion, gathered together in absolute unity for defense. We, in this hour, must have

and will have absolute national unity for total defense.

What shall we be defending? The good earth of this land, our homes, our families -- yes, and far more. We shall be defending a way of life which has given more freedom to the soul and body of man than ever has been realized in the world before, a way of life that has let men scale whatever heights they could scale without hurting their fellows, a way of life that has let men hold up their heads and admit no master but God. (Applause)

That way of life is menaced. We can meet the threat. We can meet it (in) with the old frontier (way) spirit. We can forge our weapons, train ourselves to shoot, meet fire with fire, and with the courage and the unity of the frontiersmen.

It is our pride that in our country men are free to differ with each other and with their government, and to follow their own thoughts and express them. We believe that the only whole man is a free man. And we believe that in the face of danger, the old spirit of the frontiersmen (which) that is in our blood, will give us the courage and unity that we must have.

We need that spirit in this hour. We need a conviction, felt deep in us all, that there are no divisions among us. We are all members of the same body. We are all Americans. (Applause)

The winds that blow through the wide sky in these mountains -- the winds that sweep from Canada to Mexico, the winds that sweep from the Pacific to the Atlantic -- have always blown on free men. We are free today. If we join together now -- men and women and children -- (and) to face the common menace as a united people, we shall be free tomorrow. (Applause)

And so, to the free people of America, I dedicate this Park. (Applause)

The following address of the President to be delivered at Memphis G.P. in connection with the dedication of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is for release in papers appearing on the streets not earlier than 4:30 P.M., G.D.T., Monday, September 2, 1940.

The same limitation applies to the use of this speech by radio broadcasters or radio news commentators.
Please refrain against premature release.

SIRFRED KENNEDY
Secretary to the President

Here in the Great Smokies, we meet today to dedicate these mountains, streams, and forests to the service of the American people. We are living under governments which are proving their devotion to National Parks. The governors of North Carolina and of Tennessee have greatly helped us, and the secretary of the interior has today ready for dedication two more Parks — Kings Canyon in California and the Olympic National Park in the state of Washington — and soon, I hope, will have a third, the Big Bend Park in Texas.

There are trews here that stand before our founders came to this continent, trees are brooks that still run as clear as on the day the first pioneer cutups its hair and wrung from them. In this Park, we shall encounter the pine, the redwood, the Douglas, the sequoia, the rhododendron, two trout, and the thrush for the happiness of the aborigine peoples.

The old frontier, that pit the steel fibre in the mountain split, and the iron muscle on the saddle back, lives and will live in those untraced mountains to give future generations a sense of the land from which their forefathers hewed their homes.

The Indians were many. The rifle never bore far from the side. The Indians stood on their own feet, shot their own game and fought off their own enemies. In time of accident or disturbance, they helped each other. In time of Indian attack, they stood by each other.

Today we no longer face Indians who have and lonely struggle with nature — we also — we have grown soft in many ways.

If we are to survive, we cannot be soft in — worlds in which there are dangers that threaten Americans — dangers far more deadly than war, those the frontierman had to face.

The earth has been so sprunk by the airplanes and the radio that Europe is closer to America, too, than was ever known of those mountains to the other when the pioneer tolled through the primeval forest. The arrow, the tomahawk, and the scalping knife have been replaced by the airplane, the bomb, the tank, and the machine gun. Their threat is as close to us today as was the threat to the frontiersman when hostile Indians were lurking on the other side of the gap.

Therefore, to meet the threat — to ward off these dangers — the Congress and I are establishing by law the obligation inherent in our citizenship to harness our forces for defense through training in many capacities.

It is not in every case easy or pleasant to ask men of the Nation to leave their homes and women of the Nation to give their men to the service of the Nation. But the men and women of America have never held back even when it has meant personal sacrifice on their part if it is sacrifice for the common good.

The greatest attack that has ever been launched against freedom of the individual is nearer the Americas than ever before. To meet that attack we must prepare beforehand -- for preparing later may well probably be too late.

We must prepare in a thousand ways. Men are not enough. They must have arms. They must learn how to use those arms. They must have skilled leaders -- who must be trained. New bases must be established to enable our fleet to defend our shores. Men and women must be taught to create the supplies that we need. And we must counter the agents of the dictators within our country.

There is, moreover, another enemy at home. That enemy is the mean and petty spirit that mocks at insults, sneers at sacrifice and pretends the American people can live by bread alone. If the spirit of God is not in us, and if we will not prepare to give all that we have and all that we are to preserve Christian civilization in our own land, we shall go to destruction.

It is good and right that we should conserve these mountain heights of the old frontier for the benefit of the American people. But in this hour we have to safeguard a greater thing: the right of the people of this country to live as free men. Our vital task of conservation is to preserve the freedom which our forefathers won in this land, and the liberties which were proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence and embodied in our Constitution.

In these centuries of American civilization, greatly blessed by the bounties of nature, we succeeded in attaining liberty in Government and liberty of the person. In the process, in the light of past history, we realize now that we committed excesses which we are today seeking to atone for.

We used up or destroyed much of our natural heritage just because that heritage was so bounteous, we cleared our forests, we used our soils, we encouraged floods, we over-concentrated our wealth, we disregarded our unemployed -- all of this so greatly that we were brought rather suddenly to face the fact that unless we gave thought to the lives of our children and grandchildren, they would no longer be able to live and to improve on our American way of life.

And so in these later years, we have tried sincerely and honestly to look ahead to the future years. We are at last definitely engaged in the task of conserving the bounties of nature, thinking in terms of the whole of nature. We are trying at least to attain employment for all who could work and can work, and to provide a greater assurance of security throughout life for the family.

From hard experience we know that the process is a long one, but most of us realize that if we can continue our effort without serious setbacks, the ideals of the American way of life can and will be attained by working everlasting for the good of the whole and not for any one privileged group.

So, from within our own borders, liberty through democracy can, I believe, be preserved in future years -- if we want to preserve it.

But there is a second danger -- a danger from without. I hope, for example, that one hundred years from now the Great Smoky National Park will still belong in practice, as well as in theory, to the people of a free nation. I hope it will not belong to them in theory alone and that in practice the ownership of this Park will not be in the hands of some strange kind of Government puppet subject to an overseas overlord. I hope the use of it will not be confined to people coming hither on Government specified days and on Government directed tours. I hope the trees will not be slaughtered by the axe in order that a Government may conduct wars of aggression against other nations. I hope that roads and paths and trails will still be built in the cause of the liberty of

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But to conserve our liberties will not be easy. The task will require the united efforts of us all. It will require sacrifices from us all.

The pioneers survived by fighting their own fight and by standing together as one man in the face of danger. If we, their descendants, are to meet the dangers that threaten us, we too must be ready to fight our own fight and stand together as one man. In hours of peril the frontiersmen, whatever their personal likes and dislikes, whatever their personal differences of opinion, gathered together in absolute unity for defense. We, in this hour, must have absolute national unity for total defense.

What shall we be defending? The good earth of this land, our homes, our families -- and far more. We shall be defending a way of life which has given more freedom to the soul and body of man than ever has been realized in the world before, a way of life that has let men scale whatever heights they could scale without hurting their fellows, a way of life that has let men hold up their heads and admit no master but God.

That way of life is menaced. We can meet the threat. We can meet it in the old frontier way. We can forge our weapons, train ourselves to shoot, meet fire with fire, and with the courage and the unity of the frontiersman.

It is our pride that in our country men are free to differ with each other and with their government, and to follow their own thoughts and express them. We believe that the only whale man is a free man. And we believe that in the face of danger, the old spirit of the frontiersmen which is in our blood, will give us the courage and unity that we must have.

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The winds that blow through the wide sky in these mountains -- the winds that sweep from Canada to Mexico, from the Pacific to the Atlantic -- have always blown on free men. We are free today. If we join together now -- men, women and children -- and face the common menace as a united people, we shall be free tomorrow.

To the free people of America, I dedicate this Park.

LABOR DAY SPEECH -- GREAT SMOKIES

Here in the Great Smokies, we meet today to dedicate these mountains, streams, and forests to the service of the American people.

There are trees here that stood before our forefathers came to this continent; there are brooks that still run as clear as the day the first pioneer cupped his hand and drank from them. In this Park, we shall conserve the pine, the red-bud, the dogwood, the azalea, the rhododendron, the trout and the thrush for the happiness of the American people.

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The hewing was hard. The dangers were many. The rifle could never be far from the axe. The pioneers stood on their own feet, shot their own game and fought off their own enemies. In time of accident or misfortune, they helped each other. In time of Indian attack, they stood by each other.

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In this day we no longer face Indians and hard and lonely struggles with nature.— And we have grown soft in many ways. ~~If~~ if we are to survive, we can not be soft in a world in which there are dangers to Americans ~~far more~~ deadly than were those the frontiersmen had to face.

The earth has been so shrunk by the airplane and the radio that Europe is closer to America today than was one side of these mountains to the other when the pioneers toiled through the primeval forest. The arrow, the tomahawk, and the scalping knife have been replaced by the airplane, the tank, and the machine gun. Their threat is as close to us today as was the threat to the frontiersmen when hostile Indians were on the other side of the gap.

I have asked the Congress to establish the obligation to serve ~~in~~ our ~~armed~~ forces. ^{for defense in many} ~~Why?~~ ^{capacities}
It is not easy or pleasant to ask the men of this country to leave their homes and the women of this nation. It is not easy or pleasant, but it is necessary. The greatest attack that has ever been launched against freedom is ~~now~~ ^{mean while} ~~is moving toward us.~~ ^{more} ~~now~~ ^{before}

To meet that attack we must prepare without one hour's
~~hesitation~~. ^{beforehand - for preparing} We may and probably would be too late.

We must prepare in a thousand ways. Men are not enough. They must have arms. They must learn how to use those arms. They must have skilled leaders-- who must be trained. ^{New} Bases must be established to enable our fleet to defend our shores. Men and women must be taught to ~~sense~~ ^{Create} the ~~strengths~~ ^{symbolism} that we need. And we must counter the agents of the dictators within our country.

There is, moreover, another enemy at home. That enemy is the mean and petty spirit that mocks at ideals, sneers at sacrifice and pretends the American people can live by bread alone. If the word of God is not in us, and if we will not prepare to give all that we have and all that we are to preserve Christian civilization in our own land, we shall go to destruction.

It is good and right that we should conserve these mountain heights of the old frontier for the benefit of the American people. But in this hour we have to safeguard a greater thing: the right of the people of this country to live as free men. Our vital task of conservation is to preserve the freedom which our forefathers won in this land, and the liberties

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to fight our own fight and stand together as one
man. In hours of peril the frontiersmen, whatever
their personal likes and dislikes, whatever their
personal differences of opinion, gathered together in
absolute unity for defense. We, in this hour, must
have absolute national unity for total defense.

What shall we be defending? The good earth of
this land, our homes, our families -- and far more.
We shall be defending a way of life which has given
more freedom to the soul and body of man than ever
~~existed~~ existed in the world before, a way of life that has
let men scale whatever heights they had it in them*
ⁱⁿ ~~other~~ ^{God} ~~no~~ ^{no} ~~other~~ ^{no} ~~no~~
scale a way of life that has let men hold up
their heads and admit no master but God.

That

That way of life is menaced. We can meet the threat. We can meet it in the old frontier way. We can forge our weapons, train ourselves to shoot, meet fire with fire, and with the courage and the unity of the frontiersmen.

It is our pride that in our country men are free to differ with each other and with their government, and to follow their own thoughts and express them. We believe that the only whole man is a free man. And we believe that in the face of danger, the old spirit of the frontiersmen which is in our blood, will give us the courage and unity that we must have.

We need that spirit in this hour. We need a conviction, felt deep in us all, that there are no divisions among us. We are all members of the same body. We are all Americans.

The winds that blow through the wide sky in these mountains, -- the winds that sweep from Canada to Mexico, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, -- have always blown on free men. We are free today. If we join together now -- men, women and children, -- and face the common menace as a united people, we shall be free tomorrow.

To the free people of America, I dedicate this Park.

Jewell DRAFT

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN DEDICATION
LABOR DAY

1 9 4 0

Here in the Great Smokies, we meet today to dedicate these mountains, streams, and forests to the service of the American people.

There are trees here that stood before our forefathers came to this continent; there are brooks that still run as clear as on the day the first pioneer cupped his hand and drank from them. In this Park, we shall conserve the pine, the red-bud, the dogwood, the azalea, the rhododendron, the trout and the thrush for the happiness of the American people.

The old frontier, that put the hard fibre in the American spirit and the long muscles on the American back, lives and will live in these untamed mountains to give future generations a sense of the land from which their forefathers hewed their homes.

The hewing was hard. The dangers were many. The rifle could never be far from the axe. The pioneers stood on their own feet, shot their own game and fought off their own enemies. In time of accident or misfortune, they helped each other. In time of Indian attack, they stood by each other.

To ~~the~~ day we no longer face Indians and hard and lonely struggles with nature -- and we have grown soft in many ways.

If we are to survive, we can not be soft in a world ~~that threatened~~ in which there are dangers ~~to~~ Americans far more deadly than ~~the~~ ~~frontiersmen~~ were those the frontiersmen had to face.

The earth has been so shrunk by the airplane and the radio that Europe is closer to America today than was one side of these mountains to the other when the pioneers toiled through the primeval forest. The arrow, the tomahawk, and the scalping knife have been replaced by the airplane, ~~the bomb,~~ the tank, and the machine gun. Their threat is as close to us today as was the threat to the frontiersmen when ~~hostile Indians were~~ ^{looking} on the other side of the gap.

to ward off three dangers -

The ^{to meet the threat -} ~~and I am~~ ^{and I am} ~~in by law~~
therefore I have asked the Congress ~~to establish the obligation~~ ^{to establish} ~~in our citizenship through training~~
~~inherent in our citizenship through training~~ ^{inherent} ~~to serve our forces for defense in many capacities.~~

It is not easy or pleasant to ask the men of this

Invert country to leave their homes and the women of this country
to give their men to the service of the nation.

always the best way.
It is not easy and pleasant, but it is the necessary way.

A The greatest attack that has ever been launched against
~~of the individual~~
freedom is nearer the Americas than ever before. To meet

that attack we must prepare beforehand — for preparing
later may and probably would be too late.

We must prepare in a thousand ways. Men are not
enough. They must have arms. They must learn how to use
those arms. They must have skilled leaders -- who must be
trained. New bases must be established to enable our fleet
to defend our shores. Men and women must be taught to
create the supplies that we need. And we must counter the
agents of the dictators within our country.

There is, moreover, another enemy at home. That enemy is the mean and petty spirit that mocks at ideals, sneers at sacrifice and pretends the American people can live by bread alone. If the ~~saint~~ ^{Spirit} of God is not in us, and if we will not prepare to give all that we have and all that we are to preserve Christian civilization in our own land, we shall go to destruction.

It is good and right that we should conserve these mountain heights of the old frontier for the benefit of the American people. But in this hour we have to safeguard a greater thing: the right of the people of this country to live as free men. Our vital task of conservation is to preserve the freedom which our forefathers won in this land, and the liberties which were proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence and embodied in our Constitution.

In these centuries of American civilization, greatly blessed by the bounties of nature, we succeeded in attaining liberty in Government and liberty of the person. In the process, in the light of past history, we realize now that we committed excesses which we are today seeking to ~~cause~~ *atone for*.

We used up or destroyed much of our natural heritage just because that heritage was so bounteous. We slashed our forests, we used our soils, we encouraged floods, we over-concentrated our wealth, we disregarded our unemployed -- all of this so greatly that we were brought rather suddenly to face the fact that unless we gave thought to the lives of our children and grandchildren, they would no longer be able to live -- *and to improve on our* ~~we had begun to regret the~~ American way of life".

And so in these later years, we have tried sincerely and honestly to look ahead to the future years. We are at last definitely engaged in the task of conserving the bounties of nature, thinking in terms of the whole of nature. We are trying at least to attain employment for all who would work and can work, and to provide a greater

I hope the use of it will not be confined to people coming hither on Government specified days and on Government directed tours. I hope the trees will not be slaughtered by the axe in order that a Government may conduct wars of aggression against other nations. I hope that roads and paths and trails will still be built in the cause of the liberty of recreation, and not confined to the ulterior purposes of a war machine controlled by an individual or an oligarchy.

That there is a danger from without is at least recognized by most of us Americans. That such a danger cannot longer be met with pitchforks and squirrel rifles or even with the training or the weapons of the war of 1917 and 1918 is equally clear to most of us Americans.

It is not a change from the American way of life to advocate or legislate a greater and a speedier preparedness. We know that in the process of preparing against danger we shall not have to abandon the great social improvements that have come to the American people

in these later years. ~~We cannot afford~~ and ~~we~~ need not
~~assume to~~ swap the gain of better living for the gain of
better defense. I propose to retain the one and gain the
other.

But to conserve our liberties will not be easy.
The task will require the united efforts of us all. It
will require sacrifices from us all.

The pioneers survived by fighting their own fight
^{by} and standing together as one man in the face of danger.
^A If we, their descendants, are to meet the dangers that
threaten us, we too must be ready to fight our own fight
and stand together as one man. In hours of peril the
frontiersmen, whatever their personal likes and dislikes,
whatever their personal differences of opinion, gathered
together in absolute unity for defense. We, in this hour,
must have absolute national unity for total defense.

What shall we be defending? The good earth of this land, our homes, our families -- and far more. We shall be defending a way of life which has given more freedom to the soul and body of man than ever realized in the world before, ^{has been} a way of life that has let men scale whatever heights they could scale without hurting their fellows, a way of life that has let men hold up their heads and admit no master but God.

That way of life is menaced. We can meet the threat. We can meet it in the old frontier way. We can forge our weapons, train ourselves to shoot, meet fire with fire, and with the courage and the unity of the frontiersmen.

It is our pride that in our country men are free to differ with each other and with their government, and to follow their own thoughts and express them. We believe that the only whole man is a free man. And we believe that in the face of danger, the old spirit of the frontiersmen which is in our blood, will give us the courage and unity that we must have.

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The winds that blow through the wide sky in these mountains -- the winds that sweep from Canada to Mexico, from the Pacific to the Atlantic --- have always blown on free men. We are free today. If we join together now --- men, women and children --- and face the common menace as a united people, we shall be free tomorrow.

To the free people of America, I dedicate this Park.

August 1940

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECHES, LETTERS AND PRESS RELEASES CONCERNING
THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK WHICH MAY BE USED IN
FASHIONING A DEDICATION ADDRESS.

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From an article by
Director Gammerer,
written for the
Asheville-Times Citizen
Rhododendron Special,
5/21/38.

At long last -- after more than a dozen years of
struggle and discouragement, almost of despair, the
completion of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
looms near.

In writing about the Smokies, one is tempted to dwell at length upon the beauty of the mountains that extend ridge upon ridge, as far as the eye can see; upon the azalea that flames in the spring, and the rhododendron that blooms upon the ridges and cascades down mountain slopes. Or interest centers upon the mountain people, who wrested a home out of the wilderness, and then, cut off from the comforts and conveniences of the machine-age developing upon the other side of the mountains, continued a life of courage and inventiveness until recent years, making a living from the soil almost with their bare hands.

Today, however, much as I love the sights and sounds of the Smokies, my thoughts are irresistibly drawn from the area itself to the human factor involved in the creation of the park; to those who first focused attention upon this garden spot, then labored to make possible the great national park whose progress toward full sisterhood with the other Federal parks we watch today with almost bated breath.

I would like to call, one by one, the honor-roll of all those who led the battalions of conservation in their fight to preserve the Smokies; but the list is too long.

First there were those devotees of the region who, by word and picture, made the beauty of the mountains, the richness of their plant life, the romance of the mountaineers, known to thousands to whom otherwise the Great Smokies would long have remained but a name.

Then there were Federal officials, who, searching the southern highlands for an area of national park caliber, were conquered by the magnificence of the Smoky Range. Following them came those who really bore the brunt of the battle — those faced with the task of raising \$10,000,000, that the necessary lands might be purchased and donated to the United States. Officials and private citizens alike in North Carolina and Tennessee put their shoulders to the wheel, and by almost super-human efforts, in the face of repeated set-backs, raised \$5,000,000, which John D. Rockefeller, Jr., through the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation, pledged to meet dollar for dollar, in memory of his mother.

But still the task was not completed, for other difficulties appeared — loss of funds in the unfulfilled pledges and bank failures, increases in land prices beyond all nearly appraisals — one thing after another. But to the everlasting credit of the founders and backers of the park movement they refused to admit defeat. One obstacle after another has been overcome, until today we are in sight of the final milestone.

Behind the leaders in the park movement has stood a strong, devoted army of unsung backers of the project, giving of their funds and their time according to their means, and oftentimes all out of proportion to their means. But surely their reward will be great, in the knowledge that the mountain paradise they have helped to save and preserve may be enjoyed by untold millions who otherwise might never learn to know and love the mountains.

To them all users of the park owe a debt of deep gratitude — as they do also to the mountain folk who have cooperated in the land acquisition through relinquishing their homes which meant far more to them than do homes to the average city or country dweller.

So, on what seems to be the eve of our triumph, I send heartfelt greetings to each and every one who has contributed his bit, big or little, toward the consummation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. May each of you be as happy in the

realization of our joint dream as I am. Certainly you have given your children and your states a heritage of which to be exceedingly proud.

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Memorandum of landscape
and engineer staff on
Laura Spelman Rockefeller
Memorial.

A bronze plaque in honor of the memory of Laura Spelman Rockefeller, mother of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is to be placed at the East end of Newfound Gap, the crest of the present road across the Smokies on the highway between Knoxville, Tennessee and Asheville, North Carolina. This plaque will bear an inscription substantially as follows, and we quote from the original resolution adopted in 1928 by the Tennessee Great Smoky Mountains Park Commission: "This park was given one-half by the peoples and States of North Carolina and Tennessee and one-half in memory of Laura Spelman Rockefeller".

It will be noted that the contour and mass of the terrace walls fit the surrounding slopes and ledges admirably and that the plaque has been given a prominent place on the face of the high wall. The Tennessee - North Carolina boundary line passes through the exact center of the bronze. Visitors to the spot are, by the very form of the structure, invited to pause on the lower terrace and read the inscription before going on up the stone steps at the right to the upper terrace, from which they have an unobstructed view of the distant mountains. A source of pure, cool, mountain drinking water will be available in the form of a simple and unobtrusive bronze fountain set in the wall at the foot of the stone steps. A narrow, winding stone stairway nestled in the ledges leads from the upper terrace up to the crest of the ridge from which point the old Appalachian trail can be seen as it disappears along the ridge to the East.

We have a picture of that which is to commemorate the founding of this great national park, dignified and simple, as Mr. Rockefeller and the peoples of North Carolina and Tennessee wanted it to be. It is right that the thought which prompted men to found this glorious park shall be perpetuated in stone and bronze.

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Items from the files:

On Thursday, February 6, 1930, in the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, the Governors of North Carolina and Tennessee presented deeds to 158,799 acres of the Great Smokies Park, the first concrete step toward actual consummation of the project.

Additional land given on November 2, 1931.

Without the help of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., the Great Smoky Mountains National Park "would have been but an idle dream."

Great Smoky Area is one of our most important depositories of native culture, expressing itself in songs, dances, games and other folk arts.

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Radio talk by Director
Cammerer, for an
independent radio station,
Atlanta:

Astride the State line which separates North Carolina and Tennessee, occupying the highest altitudes of the Great Divide of the East, is located Great Smoky

Mountains National Park. It is the most centrally situated wilderness area in the eastern United States and is within easy access of a score of the cities of the Gulf, the Mississippi Valley, and the South Atlantic sections. Excellent roads, winding through the lovely romantic Southland, lead the motorist into its fragrant fastnesses of mountain grandeur and forests truly primeval.

Although Congress, as far back as May 22, 1926, approved the Act which set aside this last remaining great wilderness of the Appalachians, it ruled also that no general development could begin, beyond the protection of the area, until the minimum acreage required by law had been acquired. Much of the land was held by lumber companies. It was estimated that \$10,000,000 would be needed for the purchase of the requisite acreage. Approximately one-half of this sum was pledged by the States of North Carolina and Tennessee. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., contributed \$5,000,000 through the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, which is a memorial to

his beloved mother.

Many outstanding excellences made the Great Smokies eligible to admission into the exclusive family of national parks. Geologists inform us that their rugged peaks and precipitous crags are incalculably ancient.

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From a radio talk by Director Cammerer, for an independent radio station in Atlanta.

Time is merely relative, of course. In geological reckoning a short time is a paltry few thousand years.

"Old" and "new", therefore, have but ephemeral significance in our application of these adjectives to many of the masterpieces of nature. Even from the perspective of the geologists, however, the Great Smoky Mountains may be termed "old" without risk of science's challenge. Long before the Rockies and the Sierra arose from the sea the Appalachians were eons old. Students of planets in the making, point out evidences of earth changes which even the layman may trace in the great rock masses of this great uplift, where strata exposed to the surface today are older by uncounted millions of years than the younger layers on which they rest.

More than 20,000 acres of the park is primeval forest. Here are the largest and finest stands of hardwood trees in the United States. There are more than 150 varieties of these species alone. Here also is the largest virgin forest of red spruce. Nowhere else in the world is there such variegation of plant life. To date some 170 species of shrubs and vines have been listed. High rainfall, a mild climate, good drainage, and a long growing season have combined to make the Southern Appalachians one of the world's greatest vegetational centers. Mushrooms

attain a diversity in coloring and size that must be seen to be believed; white, yellow, red, brown, black, and growing to dimensions large enough to shelter a whole family of toads, some of them weighing from 15 to 25 pounds. At the outer end of the scale they are diminutive as a fairy's parasol. The wealth of fungi also presents exquisite forms and tints.

The average visitor, however, is thrilled more by the luxuriant and prodigal flowering shrubs and plants, colorful, fragrant, and everywhere present.

Rhododendrons, mountain laurel, wild azaleas, pink and white dogwoods, Judas tree or redbud, climbing honeysuckle, the jasmine's fragile golden bells, bay, with its waxen, heavily scented blossoms -- these are the everyday names for some of the floral features of the lavish display which the Great Smoky Mountains National Park presents every spring.

As for the wild flowers, the ground cover is such a kaleidoscopic mosaic throughout the blossoming season that one does not need to be a botanist to exclaim in delight over the sight. Many rare plants, long ago extirpated elsewhere, here raise their lovely heads.

Until very recent years all this region was a land of unexplored mystery. Even the Indians left untrodden hundreds of thousands of acres of the inaccessible up-lands. Thus, in the undisturbed condition which the forest knew before impious men intruded upon her solitude, down logs lay mouldering for generations -- sinking slowly, through that stage which men call decay, into the bosom of the earth mother; then when the rough bark and tough fibres had become moist, resilient sponge, the whole length of the massive tree trunks became alive with plants of such fragile texture and delicacy of scent and coloring as could be born only of such pristine conditions. And the long cycle began anew -- life out of seeming death.

To walk today through the dim, shadowy depths of these primeval forests is in many places altogether impossible. Too deep are the swampy morasses which are slow-

ly entombing the fallen monarchs of the forest; too dense and tangled are the sinuous vines, heavy with fragrant flowers.

No one who has looked upon the film of mist that hovers above the shaggy peaks and ridges, will wonder why they are named Great Smokies. At times the haze is so dense that it blots out the surrounding landscape, until the unknowing take it to be the smoke of a forest fire.

This entire region was once the homeland of the Cherokee. When, nearly 100 years ago, the rapacity of the whites who coveted their lands, doomed the tribe to eviction, the Indians were ruthlessly transported to the distant section then known as Indian Territory. A substantial number, however, succeeded in evading the cruel decree by escaping into the mountain fastnesses of the Great Smokies. Their descendants today may be seen in the Qualla Reservation. It is a land worth fighting for.

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From an article entitled
"The Great Smoky Mountains
National Park, a Wildlife
Sanctuary", written for
National Nature news.
6/8/38

Back to the haunts of their ancestors are coming
in increasing numbers, bears, deer and smaller furred
mammals and birds to the Great Smokies in Tennessee and
North Carolina. Now no longer is it possible for the
ruthless hunter to slaughter wildlife in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

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From the "Geology of the
Great Smoky Mountains".

The Great Smoky Mountains, parallel to the Blue
Ridge, some 40 or 50 miles to the southeast, are some
of the escarpment of the Appalachians and overlook the great valley of eastern
Tennessee. This highest and broadest portion of the Appalachian Mountains is one
of the oldest land areas of the earth. Most of this land of the sky is composed
of ancient resistant rocks.

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Radio talk by Director Cammerer, for an independent radio station, Atlanta.

Fishermen are in their glory in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Perhaps nowhere else in the Appalachian system is better fishing to be found than in its rushing mountain currents and glassy pools. Over

600 miles of ideal trout streams invite the disciples of Isaak Walton. Rainbow, speckled or mountain trout abound in the smaller brooks, and small mouths bass are found in the larger streams at lower elevations. The rivers teem with many kinds of fish indigenous to the East.

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Legislative History,
Great Smoky Mountains
National Park.

An Act of February 21, 1925 authorized the making of a study of the Appalachian Mountain region with a view to creating a national park. Congressman H. W. Temple of Pennsylvania headed the commission. Following a report of the commission to Congress, the Act of May 22, 1926 authorized the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with a minimum acreage of 150,000 acres.

On March 28, 1929, the Legislature of North Carolina passed an Act ceding exclusive jurisdiction over North Carolina land within the park to the Federal Government. The Tennessee Legislature passed its Act of cession on April 12, 1929.

A Federal Act of April 12, 1930 extended the boundaries of the park. An Act of February 4, 1932 authorized the acceptance of land within the boundaries to be tendered with no cost to the United States. The Act of June 15, 1934 increased the minimum acreage to 400,000 acres. An Act of February 12, 1938 authorized an appropriation of \$743,265.29 for purchase of the remaining necessary land within the boundaries.

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