

October 31, 1940

[Dedication - Cancer Institute]

1332

FDR Speech File

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH  
SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
DEDICATION OF THE CANCER INSTITUTE  
OCTOBER 31, 1940

Nowhere in the world except in the Americas is it possible for any nation to devote a great sector of its effort to life conservation rather than to life destruction.

All of us are grateful that we in the United States can still turn our thoughts and our attention to those institutions of our country which symbolize peace -- institutions whose purpose it is to save life and not to destroy it. It is for the dedication of these noble buildings to the service of man that we are assembled here today.

The National Institute of Health speaks the universal language of humanitarianism. It has been devoted throughout its long and distinguished history to furthering the health of all mankind, in which service it has recognized no limitations imposed by international boundaries; has recognized no distinctions of race, of creed, or of color.

The total defense which this nation seeks involves a great deal more than building airplanes, ships, guns and bombs.

We cannot be a strong Nation unless we are a healthy Nation. And so we must recruit not only men and materials but also knowledge and science in the service of national strength. This we are doing.

We have recognized the strategic importance of health by the creation of a Health and Medical Committee in the Council of National Defense whose job it is to coordinate the health and medical aspects of national preparedness. This Committee is assisting the Government in the mobilization of the medical and health resources of the country to serve the best interests both of the military and the civilian elements of the Nation.

To do this will require the best energies of the professional and technical leadership of our country.

To do this will require the fullest cooperation between the Government and the hospitals, the medical, dental, nursing and other professions. We seek the same partnership that we seek for industrial production in the Advisory Commission.

Neither the American people nor their Government intend to socialize medical practice any more than they plan to socialize industry. In American life the family doctor, the general practitioner performs a service which we rely upon and trust.

No one has a greater appreciation than I of the skill and self-sacrifice of the medical profession. And there can be no substitute for the personal relationship between doctor and patient which is a characteristic and a source of strength of medical practice in our land.

Although we have still much to do, the Nation today is better prepared to meet the public health problems of our emergency than at any previous time in the history of the country.

Since the passage of the Social Security Act with its health provisions in 1935 Federal, State and local health and medicine are cooperating more broadly than ever before.

Our people are better informed on health matters than ever before.

Scientific knowledge of the causes of disease and also the conditions for health has exceeded any previous limits.

Facilities for health and medical service are more numerous and better.

The Public Health Service is an old institution and has done magnificent work but it is only recently that the Federal Government has indicated that it can do infinitely more -- that disease disregards state lines as well as national -- that among the states there is inequality of opportunity for health -- and that in such cases the Public Health Service must help.

That partnership is making definite progress against many diseases.

Among the buildings of the National Institute of Health to be dedicated here today stands the National Cancer Institute, created through provisions of the Act, which I signed August 5, 1937.

The work of this new Institute is well under way. It is promoting and stimulating cancer research throughout the nation; it is bringing to the people of the Nation a message of hope because many forms of the disease are not only curable but even preventable. Beyond this, it is doing research here and in many universities to unravel the mysteries of cancer. We can all have faith in the ultimate results of these efforts.

These buildings, which we dedicate, represent new and improved housing for an institution which has a long and distinguished background of accomplishment in this task of research.

The original demonstration of the cause and method of prevention of pellagra has been followed by other important contributions. Great work has been done in the control of tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, typhus fever, yellow fever, malaria, and psittacosis.

Now that we are less than a day by plane from the jungle-type yellow fever of South America, less than two days from the sleeping sickness of equatorial Africa, less than three days from cholera and bubonic plague, the ramparts we watch must be civilian in addition to military.

For the spacious grounds on which these buildings stand we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Luke I. Wilson, who wrote me in 1935 asking if part of their estate at Bethesda, Maryland, could be used to the benefit of the people of this nation.

I would tell her now as she sits beside me that in their compassion for suffering, their hope for human action to alleviate it, she and her husband symbolize the aspirations of millions of Americans for a cause such as this.

Today the need for the conservation of health and physical fitness is greater than at any time in the Nation's history. In dedicating this Institute, I dedicate it to the underlying philosophy of public health; to the conservation of life, to the wise use of the vital resources of our Nation.

I voice for America, and for the stricken world, our hopes, our prayers, our faith in the power of man's humanity to man.

*Franklin Roosevelt*

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*Vig. reading copy*

THEODORE H. THOMAS, SECRETARY

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

Delivered on the Occasion of the Dedication of the  
National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland  
October 31, 1940, 4:15 P.M.

MR. COY, DR. THOMPSON AND THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, GOVERNOR O'CONOR,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Nowhere in the world except in the Americas is it possible  
for any nation to devote a great sector of its effort to life con-  
servation rather than (to) life destruction.

All of us are grateful that we in the United States can  
still turn our thoughts and our attention to those institutions of  
our country (which) that symbolize peace -- institutions whose pur-  
pose it is to save life and not to destroy it. It is for the dedi-  
cation of these noble buildings to the service of man that we are  
assembled here today.

The National Institute of Health speaks the universal  
language of humanitarianism. It has been devoted throughout its  
long and distinguished history to furthering the health of all man-  
kind, in which service it has recognized no limitations imposed by  
international boundaries; and has recognized no distinctions of race,  
(of) or creed, or (of) color.

The total defense that we have heard so much about of late,  
that total defense which this nation seeks involves a great deal more  
than building airplanes, and ships, and guns and bombs.

For we cannot be a strong nation unless we are a healthy  
nation. And so we must recruit not only men and materials but also  
knowledge and science in the service of national strength. (This)  
And that is what we are doing here.

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.

-no still at present all the voices having a stroke of salutation you are  
Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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-no still has to receive all of again the other needs to suffice

other and hold him

is now and when I have to sufficient demands and

all subsequent before now and it is indispensable to yourself

-now he to whom our attachment of your in beginning his first  
of recent months on coming over and I believe holds at said  
now to ascertain on hearing over and how ~~intensified~~ intensifies

office (to) to assure you (to)

and to make due as much as I do expect later and

the last forty or so days when I do my part later and

advised but now you will see you are concerned with and  
advised as you are asking when you are to get

also and intensified and now you have been placed on hand. when  
intensified and intensified and now you have been placed on hand

and when you are to intensify that but

We have recognized the strategic importance of health by the creation of a Health and Medical Committee in the Council of National Defense itself. (whose job it is to coordinate) That Committee has the job of coordinating the health and medical aspects of national preparedness. This Committee is assisting the Government in the mobilization of the medical and health resources of the country to serve the best interests both of the military and the civilian elements of the nation.

To do this will require the best energies of (the) professional and technical leadership (of our country) everywhere in the United States.

To do this will require the fullest cooperation between the Government and the hospitals, the medical, dental, nursing and other professions. We seek the same partnership that we seek for industrial production in the Advisory (Commission) Committee.

Neither the American people nor their Government intend to socialize medical practice any more than they plan to socialize industry. In American life the family doctor, the general practitioner, performs a service which we rely upon and which we trust as a nation.

No one has a greater appreciation than I of the skill and self-sacrifice of the medical profession. And there can be no substitute for the personal relationship between doctor and patient which is a characteristic and a source of strength of medical practice in our land.

Although we have(still much) a great deal to do, the nation today, I am very certain, is better prepared to meet the public health

problems of our emergency than at any previous time in the history of the country.

Since the passage of the famous Social Security Act with its health provisions in 1935, Federal and State and local health and medicine are cooperating more broadly than ever before.

Our people are better informed on health matters than ever before.

Scientific knowledge of the causes of disease and also the conditions for health has exceeded any previous limits.

Facilities for health and medical service are more numerous and they are better.

The Public Health Service of the United States is (an) a very old institution and it has done magnificent work but it is only recently, in the past few years, that the Federal Government has indicated that it can do infinitely more -- that disease disregards state lines as well as national lines -- and that among the states there is, as we know, an inequality of opportunity for health -- (and that) in such cases the Public Health Service (must help) is helping and must continue even more greatly to help.

That partnership -- and I emphasize that word in regard to health and medicine throughout the land -- that partnership is making definite progress (against) among many diseases.

Among the buildings of the National Institute of Health to be dedicated here today stands the National Cancer Institute, created through provisions of the Act which I signed on August 5, 1937.

The work of this new Institute is well under way. It is promoting and stimulating cancer research throughout the nation; it

is bringing to the people of the nation a message of hope because many forms of the disease are not only curable but even preventable. Beyond this, it is doing research here and in many universities to unravel the mysteries of cancer. I think we can all have faith in the ultimate results of these great efforts.

These buildings, (which) that we dedicate, represent(s) new and improved housing for an institution (which) that has a long and distinguished background of accomplishment in this task of research.

The original demonstration of the cause and method of (prevention of) preventing pellagra, for example, has been followed by other important contributions. Great work has been done in the control of tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, typhus fever, yellow fever, malaria, and psittacosis.

Now that we are less than a day by plane from the jungle-type yellow fever of South America, less than two days from the sleeping sickness of equatorial Africa, less than three days from cholera and bubonic plague, the ramparts we watch must be civilian in addition to being military. (Applause)

For the very beautiful and very spacious grounds on which these buildings stand we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Luke (I.) Wilson, (applause) who wrote to me in 1935 asking if/part of their estate at Bethesda, <sup>a</sup> in Maryland, could be used to the benefit of the people of this nation.

I would tell her now that, as she sits beside me (that) in (their) the compassion of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson for suffering, in their hope for human action to alleviate it, she and her husband symbolize the aspirations of millions of Americans for a cause such

as this, and we are very grateful. (Applause)

Today the need for the conservation of health and physical fitness is greater than at any time in the nation's history. In dedicating this Institute, I dedicate it to the underlying philosophy of public health; to the conservation of life, to the wise use of the vital resources of (our) the nation.

I voice for America, and for the stricken world, our hopes, our prayers, our faith in the power of man's humanity to man.

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

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OCTOBER 31, 1940

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be delivered in connection with the dedication of the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 4:15 P.M., E.S.T., October 31, 1940. The same release of the text of the address also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PRELATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

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Nowhere in the world except in the Americas is it possible for any nation to devote a great sector of its effort to life conservation rather than to life destruction.

All of us are grateful that we in the United States can still turn our thoughts and our attention to those institutions of our country which symbolize peace — institutions whose purpose it is to save life and not to destroy it. It is for the dedication of these noble buildings to the service of man that we are assembled here today.

The National Institute of Health speaks the universal language of humanitarianism. It has been devoted throughout its long and distinguished history to furthering the health of all mankind, in which service it has recognized no limitations imposed by international boundaries; has recognized no distinctions of race, of creed, or of color.

The total defense which this nation seeks involves a great deal more than building airplanes, ships, guns and bombs.

We cannot be a strong Nation unless we are a healthy Nation. And so we must recruit not only men and materials but also knowledge and science in the service of national strength. This we are doing.

We have recognized the strategic importance of health by the creation of a Health and Medical Committee in the Council of National Defense whose job it is to coordinate the health and medical aspects of national preparedness. This Committee is assisting the Government in the mobilization of the medical and health resources of the country to serve the best interests both of the military and the civilian elements of the Nation.

To do this will require the best energies of the professional and technical leadership of our country.

To do this will require the fullest cooperation between the Government and the hospitals, the medical, dental, nursing and other professions. We seek the same partnership that we seek for industrial production in the Advisor Commission.

Neither the American people nor their Government intend to socialize medical practice any more than they plan to socialize industry. In American life the family doctor, the general practitioner performs a service which we rely upon and trust.

No one has a greater appreciation than I of the skill and self-sacrifice of the medical profession. And there can be no substitute for the personal relationship between doctor and patient which is a characteristic and a source of strength of medical practice in our land.

Although we have still much to do, the Nation today is better prepared to meet the public health problems of our emergency than at any previous time in the history of the country.

Since the passage of the Social Security Act with its health provisions in 1935 Federal, State and local health and medicine are cooperating more broadly than ever before.

Our people are better informed on health matters than ever before.

Scientific knowledge of the causes of disease and also the conditions for health has exceeded any previous limits.

Facilities for health and medical service are more numerous and better.

The Public Health Service is an old institution and has done magnificent work but it is only recently that the Federal Government has indicated that it can do infinitely more -- that disease disregards state lines as well as national -- that among the states there is inequality of opportunity for health -- and that in such cases the Public Health Service must help.

That partnership is making definite progress against many diseases.

Among the buildings of the National Institute of Health to be dedicated here today stands the National Cancer Institute, created through provisions of the Act, which I signed August 5, 1937.

The work of this new Institute is well under way. It is promoting and stimulating cancer research throughout the nation; it is bringing to the people of the Nation a message of hope because many forms of the disease are not only curable but even preventable. Beyond this, it is doing research here and in many universities to unravel the mysteries of cancer. We can all have faith in the ultimate results of these efforts.

Those buildings, which we dedicate, represents new and improved housing for an institution which has a long and distinguished background of accomplishment in this task of research.

The original demonstration of the cause and method of prevention of pellagra has been followed by other important contributions. Great work has been done in the control of tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, typhus fever, yellow fever, malaria, and psittacosis.

Now that we are less than a day by plane from the jungle-type yellow fever of South America, less than two days from the sleeping sickness of equatorial Africa, less than three days from cholera and bubonic plague, the ramparts we watch must be civilian in addition to military.

For the spacious grounds on which these buildings stand we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Luke I. Wilson, who wrote me in 1935 asking if part of their estate at Bethesda, Maryland, could be used to the benefit of the people of this nation.

I would tell her now as she sits beside me that in their compassion for suffering, their hope for human action to alleviate it, she and her husband symbolize the aspirations of millions of Americans for a cause such as this.

Today the need for the conservation of health and physical fitness is greater than at any time in the Nation's history. In dedicating this Institute, I dedicate it to the underlying philosophy of public health; to the conservation of life, to the wise use of the vital resources of our Nation.

I voice for America, and for the stricken world, our hopes, our prayers, our faith in the power of man's humanity to man.

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SECOND DRAFT

Nowhere in the world except the Americas is it possible for any nation to devote a great sector of its effort to life conservation rather than to life destruction.

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and materials but also knowledge and science in the service of national strength. This we are doing.

We have recognized the strategic importance of health by the creation of a Health and Medical Committee in the Council of National Defense whose job is to coordinate the health and medical aspects of national preparedness. It is the purpose of this Committee <sup>to</sup> assist the Government in the mobilization of the medical and health resources of the country and to advise on ways and means of using these resources to serve the best interests both of the military and the civilian elements of the nation.

To do this will require the best energies of the professional and technical leadership of our country, a clear recognition of unity of purpose, and an awareness by every thinking citizen of the peaceful power of science.

To do this will require the fullest cooperation between the Government and the hospitals, the medical, dental, nursing and other professions. We seek ~~the same~~ ~~cooperation of~~ the same partnership that we seek for industrial production in the Advisory Commission.

Neither

~~nor~~ the American people nor their Government

intend to socialize medical practice any more than they plan to socialize industry. In American life the family doctor, the general practitioner performs a service which we rely upon and trust.

No one has a greater appreciation than I of the skill and self-sacrifice of the medical profession. And there can be no substitute for the personal relationship between doctor and patient which is a characteristic and a source of strength of medical practice in our land.

I hold it is essential that the free choice of physician by the patient be guarded and preserved. But a patient who cannot afford to pay any doctor at all can hardly be said to have a free choice. Indeed, he has no choice whatever.

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There are hundreds of thousands of families whose incomes do not permit them to engage the services of a doctor. The medical profession has always given of its services with a generous hand, but we must not demand too much of them. Some provision must be made for these families and for the doctors who are called upon to take care of them. It is not alone for reasons of humanity that this must be done. It must be done as an essential part of our national defense program. Our defense can be no greater than the strength of our people.

SECOND DRAFT

Although we have still much to do, the nation today is better prepared to meet the public health problems of our emergency than at any previous time in the history of the country.

Since the passage of the Social Security Act with its health provisions in 1935 Federal, State and local health and medicine are cooperating more broadly than ever before.

Our people are better informed on health matters than ever before.

Scientific knowledge of the causes of disease and also the conditions for health has exceeded any previous limits.

Facilities for health and medical service are more numerous and better.

[Last and perhaps most important, the nation for the first time in its history has a national health policy.]

The Public Health Service is an old institution and has done magnificent work but it is only recently that the Federal Government has indicated that it can do infinitely more -- that disease disregards state lines as well as

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SECOND DRAFT

national — that among the states there is inequality of opportunity for health -- and that in such cases the Public Health Service must help.

[In other words, a health partnership has been set up between the Public Health Service of the Federal Government, the State Health Departments and local health authorities.]

That partnership is making definite progress against many diseases, [and it is giving especial attention to industrial hygiene, a fact that promotes industrial efficiency and, most important, saves lives among the workers of America.]

Among the buildings of the National Institute of Health to be dedicated here today stands the National Cancer Institute, created through provisions of the Act, which I signed August 5, 1937.

The work of this new Institute is well under way. It is promoting and stimulating cancer research throughout the nation; it is bringing to the people of the nation

## SECOND DRAFT

a message of hope because many forms of the disease are not only curable but even preventable. Beyond this, it is doing research here and in many universities to unravel the mysteries of cancer. We can all have faith in the ultimate results of these efforts.

These buildings, which we dedicate, represent only ~~the~~ new and improved housing for an institution which has a long and distinguished background of accomplishment in this task of research.

The original demonstration of the cause and method of prevention of pellagra has been followed by other important contributions. Great work has been done in the control of tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, typhus fever, yellow fever, malaria, and psittacosis.

Now that we are less than a day by plane from the jungle-type yellow fever of South America, less than two days from the sleeping sickness of equatorial Africa, less than three days from cholera and bubonic plague, the ramparts we watch must be civilian in addition to military.

For the spacious grounds on which these buildings stand we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Luke I. Wilson, who wrote me in 1935 asking if part of their estate at Bethesda, Maryland, could be used to the benefit of the people of this nation. After examining the needs of the various departments, I suggested that this land be given to the National Institute of Health because I knew its work was so intimately related to the ideals of service expressed in their letter.

[ Since Mr. Wilson's death in 1938, Mrs. Wilson

and her son have increased this gift of ground to more than 86 acres.] I would tell her now as she sits beside me that in their compassion for suffering, their hope for human action to alleviate it, she and her husband symbolize the aspirations of millions of Americans for *Claud* a ~~cause~~ such as this.

Today the need for the conservation of health and physical fitness is greater than at any time in the nation's history. In dedicating this Institute, I dedicate it to the underlying philosophy of public health; to the conservation of life, to the wise use of the vital resources of our nation.

I voice for America, and for the stricken world, our hopes, our prayers, our faith in the power of man's humanity to man.

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~~DEDICATION OF THE JEWELINE~~  
~~CANCER INSTITUTE~~

OCTOBER 31, 1940

Nowhere in the world except in the Americas is it possible for any nation to devote a great sector of its effort to life conservation rather than to life destruction.

All of us are grateful that we in the United States can still turn our thoughts and our attention to those institutions of our country which symbolize peace -- institutions whose purpose it is to save life and not to destroy it. It is for the dedication of these noble buildings to the service of man that we are assembled here today.

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The total defense which this nation seeks involves a great deal more than building airplanes, ships, guns and bombs.

We cannot be a strong Nation unless we are a healthy Nation. And so we must recruit not only men and materials but also knowledge and science in the service of national strength. This we are doing.

We have recognized the strategic importance of health by the creation of a Health and Medical Committee in the Council of National Defense whose job it is to coordinate the health and medical aspects of national preparedness. This Committee is assisting the Government in the mobilization of the medical and health resources of the country to serve the best interests both of the military and the civilian elements of the Nation.

To do this will require the best energies of the professional and technical leadership of our country.

To do this will require the fullest cooperation between the Government and the hospitals, the medical, dental, nursing and other professions. We seek the same partnership that we seek for industrial production in the Advisory Commission.

Neither the American people nor their Government intend to socialize medical practice any more than they plan to socialize industry. In American life the family doctor, the general practitioner performs a service which we rely upon and trust.

No one has a greater appreciation than I of the skill and self-sacrifice of the medical profession. And there can be no substitute for the personal relationship between doctor and patient which is a characteristic and a source of strength of medical practice in our land.

Although we have still much to do, the Nation today is better prepared to meet the public health problems of our emergency than at any previous time in the history of the country.

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STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

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SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
DEDICATION OF THE CANCER INSTITUTE

OCTOBER 31, 1940

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To do this will require the best energies of the professional and technical leadership of our country.

To do this will require the fullest cooperation between the Government and the hospitals, the medical, dental, nursing and other professions. We seek the same partnership that we seek for industrial production in the Advisory Commission.

Neither the American people nor their Government intend to socialize medical practice any more than they plan to socialize industry. In American life the family doctor, the general practitioner performs a service which we rely upon and trust.

No one has a greater appreciation than I of the skill and self-sacrifice of the medical profession. And there can be no substitute for the personal relationship between doctor and patient which is a characteristic and a source of strength of medical practice in our land.

Although we have still much to do, the Nation today is better prepared to meet the public health problems of our emergency than at any previous time in the history of the country.

Since the passage of the Social Security Act with its health provisions in 1935 Federal, State and local health and medicine are cooperating more broadly than ever before.

Our people are better informed on health matters than ever before.

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Facilities for health and medical service are more numerous and better.

The Public Health Service is an old institution and has done magnificent work but it is only recently that the Federal Government has indicated that it can do infinitely more -- that disease disregards state lines as well as national -- that among the states there is inequality of opportunity for health -- and that in such cases the Public Health Service must help.

That partnership is making definite progress against many diseases.

Among the buildings of the National Institute of Health to be dedicated here today stands the National Cancer Institute, created through provisions of the Act, which I signed August 24, 1937.

The work of this new Institute is well under way. It is promoting and stimulating cancer research throughout the nation; it is bringing to the people of the Nation a message of hope because many forms of the disease are not only curable but even preventable. Beyond this, it is doing research here and in many universities to unravel the mysteries of cancer. We can all have faith in the ultimate results of these efforts.

These buildings, which we dedicate, represent new and improved housing for an institution which has a long and distinguished background of accomplishment in this task of research.

The original demonstration of the cause and method of prevention of pellagra has been followed by other important contributions. Great work has been done in the control of tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, typhus fever, yellow fever, malaria, and psittacosis.

Now that we are less than a day by plane from the jungle-type yellow fever of South America, less than two days from the sleeping sickness of equatorial Africa, less than three days from cholera and bubonic plague, the ramparts we watch must be civilian in addition to military.

For the spacious grounds on which these buildings stand we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Luke I. Wilson, who wrote me in 1935 asking if part of their estate at Bethesda, Maryland, could be used to the benefit of the people of this nation.

I would tell her now as she sits beside me that in their compassion for suffering, their hope for human action to alleviate it, she and her husband symbolize the aspirations of millions of Americans for a cause such as this.

Today the need for the conservation of health and physical fitness is greater than at any time in the Nation's history. In dedicating this Institute, I dedicate it to the underlying philosophy of public health; to the conservation of life, to the wise use of the vital resources of our Nation.

I voice for America, and for the stricken world, our hopes, our prayers, our faith in the power of man's humanity to man.

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STATEMENTS FILE  
Short Hand By Kanner

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OCTOBER 31, 1940

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be delivered in connection with the dedication of the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 4:15 P.M., E.S.T., October 31, 1940. The same release of the text of the address also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

Nowhere in the world except in the Americas is it possible for any nation to devote a great sector of its effort to life conservation rather than to life destruction.

All of us are grateful that we in the United States can still turn our thoughts and our attention to those institutions of our country which symbolize peace — institutions whose purpose it is to save life and not to destroy it. It is for the dedication of those noble buildings to the service of man that we are assembled here today.

The National Institute of Health speaks the universal language of humanitarianism. It has been devoted throughout its long and distinguished history to furthering the health of all mankind, in which service it has recognized no limitations imposed by international boundaries; has recognized no distinctions of race, creed, or of color.

The total defense which this nation seeks involves a great deal more than building airplanes, ships, guns and bombs.

"We cannot be a strong Nation unless we are a healthy Nation. And so we must recruit not only men and materials but also knowledge and science in the service of national strength. This we are doing."

We have recognized the strategic importance of health by the creation of a Health and Medical Committee in the Council of National Defense whose job it is to coordinate the health and medical aspects of national preparedness. This Committee is assisting the Government in the mobilization of the medical and health resources of the country to serve the best interests both of the military and the civilian elements of the Nation.

To do this will require the best energies of the professional and technical leadership of our country.

To do this will require the fullest cooperation between the Government and the hospitals, the medical, dental, nursing and other professions. We seek the same partnership that we seek for industrial production in the Advisory Commission.

Neither the American people nor their Government intend to socialize medical practice any more than they plan to socialize industry. In American life the family doctor, the general practitioner performs a service which we rely upon and

No one has a greater appreciation than I of the skill and self-sacrifice of the medical profession. And there can be no substitute for the personal relationship between doctor and patient which is a characteristic and a source of strength of medical practice in our land.

Although we have ~~still much to do~~, the Nation today is better prepared to meet the public health problems of our emergency than at any previous time in the history of the country.

Since the passage of the Social Security Act with its health provisions in 1935, Federal, State and local health and medicine are cooperating more broadly than ever before.

Our people are better informed on health matters than ever before.

Scientific knowledge of the causes of disease and also the conditions for health has exceeded any previous limits.

Facilities for health and medical service are more numerous and better.

The Public Health Service is an old institution and has done magnificent work but it is only recently that the Federal Government has indicated that it can do infinitely more -- that disease disregards state lines as well as national -- that among the states there is inequality of opportunity for health -- ~~and then~~ in such cases the Public Health Service must help.

That partnership is making definite progress against many diseases.

Among the buildings of the National Institute of Health to be dedicated here today stands the National Cancer Institute, created through provisions of the Act, which I signed August 5, 1937.

The work of this new Institute is well under way. It is promoting and stimulating cancer research throughout the nation; it is bringing to the people of the Nation a message of hope because many forms of the disease are not only curable but even preventable. Beyond this, it is doing research here and in many universities to unravel the mysteries of cancer. We can all have faith in the ultimate results of these efforts.

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