

February 27, 1941

[Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences]

FDR Speech File

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
IN CONNECTION WITH THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER
OF THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS & SCIENCES
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

MR. WANGER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I am happy to greet the motion picture industry of America, whose representatives are gathered from far and near for the Annual Awards Dinner of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

In these days of anxiety and world peril our hearts and minds and all of our energies are directed toward one objective. That objective is the strengthening of our national defense. Every day we realize that more and more things in our life must be evaluated in just such proportion as they contribute to the national defense.

The American motion picture as a national and international force is a phenomenon of our own generation. Within living memory we have seen it born and grow up into full maturity. We have seen the American motion picture become foremost in the world. We have seen it reflect our civilization

throughout the rest of the world -- the aims and aspirations and ideals of a free people and of freedom.

That is the real reason that some governments do not want our American films exhibited in their countries. Dictators -- those who enforce the totalitarian form of government -- think it a dangerous thing for their unfortunate peoples to know that in our democracy officers of the government are the servants, never the masters of the people.

In all that I have said on that all important subject through many months past I have emphasized that in the assault on the democratic form of government which imperils world civilization today, our problem of national defense has become one of defending the entire Western Hemisphere -- all three of the Americas -- North, Central and South. We can no longer consider our own problem of defense as a separate interest. It involves the defense of all the democracies of all the Americas -- and therefore in fact, it involves the future of democracy wherever it is imperiled by force or terror.

An all important factor in hemispheric defense is the Lend-Lease Bill, whose early enactment by the Congress we confidently anticipate. It is a pleasure here and now to acknowledge the great service which the newsreels have performed in acquainting the public with all of the implications of this measure as it takes its way through the various legislative stages.

Acceptance of the task of cooperating with all the Americas in defending the entire Western Hemisphere, implicit in our plans for national defense, is a natural outgrowth of our good neighbor policy in our relations with the other American Republics. Happily for democracy, the Americas stand forth today as a notable example of international solidarity in a world in which freedom and human liberty are threatened with extinction.

We have been seeking to affirm our faith in the Western World through a wider exchange of culture, of education, of thought, and of free expression among the various nations of this hemisphere.

Your industry has utilized its vast resources of talent and facilities in a sincere effort to help the people of this hemisphere to come to know each other.

In carrying on this program of advancing the spirit of inter-American solidarity and continental defense our government has established machinery to coordinate our growing commercial and cultural relations with the American Republics. Our government has invited you to do your share of the job of interpreting the people of the Western Hemisphere to one another. And all of us in all the twenty-one American Republics are grateful that your response is so immediate and so wholehearted.

I do not minimize the importance of the motion picture industry as the most popular medium of mass entertainment. But tonight I want to place the chief emphasis on the service you can render in promoting solidarity among all the people of the Americas.

For all this and for your splendid cooperation with
all who are directing the expansion of our defense forces,
I am glad to thank you. In the weeks and months that lie
ahead we in Washington know we shall have your continued
aid and support.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Very reading copy

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
on the occasion of the Thirteenth Annual Awards Dinner
of the
Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences,
Hollywood, California,
Broadcast from the White House,
February 27, 1941, 11.50 P.M., E.S.T.

MR. WANGER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I am happy to greet the motion picture industry of America, whose representatives are gathered from far and near for the Annual Awards Dinner of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

In these days of anxiety and world peril our hearts and minds and all of our energies are directed toward one objective. That objective is the strengthening of our national defense. Every day that passes we realize that more and more things in our lives (life) must be evaluated in just such proportion as they contribute to the national defense.

The American motion picture as a national and international force is a phenomenon of our own generation. Within living memory we have seen it born and grow up, grow up into full maturity. We have seen the American motion picture become foremost in all the world. We have seen it reflect our civilization throughout the rest of the world -- the aims and the aspirations and the ideals of a free people and of freedom itself.

That is the real reason that some governments do not want our American films exhibited in their countries. Dictators -- those who enforce the totalitarian form of government -- think it a dangerous thing for their unfortunate peoples to know that in our democracy officers of the Government are the servants, and never the masters of the people.

In all that I have said on that all important subject through many months past I have emphasized that in the assault on the democratic

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.

THESE ARE THE POINTS WHICH I

believe to what might occur and what we I
address lemma and not least can not afford one moment's rest for
ourselves but after myself to you all and to remind
you again we are now three billion the greatest to ever occur in
all history and we know better than to let
anyone be around that you know. I believe that the to understand and
show that if defensive of your (still) self two or against whom has been said
that I believe that of assistance you are continuing
and I believe that has been a as myself nothing additional and
if does exist as you say and this is nothing but to understand a si
nothing else can even be. I think it is the the word, or word has stood
two earlier if need even so. Below this is no longer enough writing nothing
else but this and -- below this is to see and understand nothing
nothing but to have always seen a to itself and has
the time seen of understanding more said about last said si staff
actions and said -- instead of a the of said nothing
this not quite understood a si said -- themselves to not understand and
understand and to myself you see the si this work of nothing else
nothing but to understand and when this is done and the
nothing nothing said the said no time said I said this is
nothing said no time said si said best understood said I said when you

form of government (which) that imperils world civilization today, our problem of national defense has become one of helping to defend(ing) the entire Western Hemisphere -- all three of the Americas -- North, Central and South. We can no longer consider our own home problem of defense as a separate interest. It involves the defense of all the democracies of all of the Americas -- and therefore in fact, it involves the future of democracy wherever it is imperiled by force or terror.

An all important factor in hemispheric defense, in defense of democracies today, is the Lend-Lease Bill, whose early enactment by the Congress we confidently anticipate. It is a pleasure here and now to acknowledge the great service which the newsreels have performed in acquainting the public of America with all of the implications of this measure as it takes its way through the various legislative stages.

Acceptance of the task of cooperating with all the Americas in defending the entire Western Hemisphere, implicit in our plans for national defense, is a natural outgrowth of our own good neighbor policy in our relations with the other American Republics. Happily for democracy, the Americas stand forth today as a notable example of international solidarity in a world in which freedom and human liberty are threatened with extinction.

We have been seeking to affirm our faith in the Western World through a wider exchange of culture, and of education, and of thought and (of) free expression among the various nations of this hemisphere. Your industry has utilized, and is utilizing, its vast resources of talent and facilities in a sincere effort to help the people of (this) the hemisphere to come to know each other better.

In carrying on (this) the program of advancing the spirit of inter-American solidarity and continental defense our Government has established

machinery to coordinate our growing commercial and cultural relations with the other American Republics. Our Government has invited you to do your share of the job of interpreting the people of the Western Hemisphere to one another. And all of us in all the twenty-one American Republics and in Canada are grateful that your response is so immediate and so wholehearted.

I do not minimize the importance of the motion picture industry as the most popular medium of mass entertainment. But tonight I want to place the chief emphasis on the service you can render in promoting solidarity among all the peoples of the Americas.

For all of this and for your splendid cooperation with all who are directing the expansion of our defense forces, I am glad to thank you. In the weeks and the months that lie ahead we in Washington know that we shall have your continued aid and support.

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770 words

The following

Greeting from the President in connection with the Thirteenth Annual Awards Dinner of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, to be broadcast from the White House over a nationwide hookup at 11:55 P.M., E.S.T., Thursday evening, Feb. 27, 1941.

Mr. Wagner, Tolson and Santman:

I am happy to

It is a privilege as well as a pleasure to greet the motion picture industry of America, whose representatives are gathered from far and near for the Annual Awards Dinner of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

In these days of anxiety and world peril our hearts and minds and all of our energies are directed toward one objective. That objective is the strengthening of our national defense. Every day we realize more ~~and more~~ ^{that} ~~in ever~~ ^{more} ~~things~~ ^{possibility} that odd things must be evaluated in just such proportion as they contribute to the national defense.

In disseminating the American motion picture as a national and international force ~~it is important to note that~~ ^{60% is now grown up} ~~it is a phenomenon of~~ ~~our own generation.~~ Within living memory we have seen it ~~from~~ ^{the} ~~beginning~~ ^{the real} ~~of~~ ^{the} ~~totalitarian~~ ^{the} ~~governments~~ ^{that} ~~do not want our American films exhibited in their countries.~~ Dictators — those who enforce the totalitarian form of government, think it a dangerous ~~unfortunate~~ ^{unfortunate, hopeless} thing for their ~~people~~ ^{to know that in our democracy} officers of the government are the servants, never the masters of the people. ~~Very enlightenment is a dangerous thing for people who are not free.~~ ~~because enlightenment is the very essence of democracy and freedom.~~

In all that I have said on that all important subject through many months past I have emphasized that in the assault on the democratic form of government which imperils world civilization today, our problem of national defense has become one of defending the entire Western Hemisphere -- all three of the Americas -- North, Central and South. We can no longer consider our own problem of defense as a separate interest. It involves the defense of all the democracies of all the Americas — ^{and the} ~~and the~~ ^{in fact, it involves the} ~~further~~ of democracy wherever it is imperiled by force or terror.

An all important factor in hemispheric defense is the Lend-Lease Bill, whose early enactment by the Congress we confidently anticipate. It is a pleasure here and now to acknowledge the great service which the newsreels have performed in acquainting the public with all of the implications of this measure as it takes its way through the various legislative stages.

Acceptance of the task of cooperating with all the Americas in defending the entire Western Hemisphere, implicit in our plans for national defense, is a natural outgrowth of our good neighbor policy in our relations with the other American Republics. Happily for democracy, the Americas stand forth today as a notable example of international solidarity in a world in which freedom and human liberty are threatened with extinction.

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In carrying on this program of advancing the spirit of inter-American solidarity and continental defense our government has established ~~the Office of~~ ^{in addition to the} ~~coordinating~~ ^{coordinating} commercial and cultural Relations ~~among~~ ^{with} the American Republics ~~as a means of its~~ ^{as a means of its} ~~Agreement~~ ^{Agreement} ~~has invited you to do your share of the~~ job of interpreting the people of the Western Hemisphere to one another. And all of us in all the twenty-one American Republics are grateful that your response ~~is~~ ^{is} so immediate and so wholehearted.

I do not minimize the importance of the motion picture industry as the most popular medium of mass entertainment. But tonight I want to place the chief emphasis on the service you can render in promoting solidarity among all the people of the Americas.

For all this and for your splendid cooperation with all who are directing the expansion of our ~~defence~~ forces, I am glad to ~~sincerely thank you~~ ^{sincerely thank you}, In the weeks and months that lie ahead we in Washington know we shall have your continued aid and support.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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FEBRUARY 27, 1941

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be delivered in connection with the Thirteenth Annual Awards Dinner of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Hollywood, California, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 11:50 P.M., E.S.T., February 27, 1941. 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

MR. DANGER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

STATEMENTS FILE

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other
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and in Canada

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For all ~~this~~ *that* and for your splendid cooperation with all who are directing the expansion of our defense forces, I am glad to thank you. In the weeks and months that lie ahead we in Washington know we shall have your continued aid and support.

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