

August 30, 1941

[Labor Day Statement]

FDR Speech File

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AUGUST 4, 1941

The following statement of the President is for release in papers appearing on the streets not earlier than 8:00 P.M., E.S.T., Saturday, August 30, 1941.

The same limitation applies to its use by radio broadcasters or radio commentators.

PLEASE SAFEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

A LABOR DAY STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

We are called upon to observe Labor Day of 1941 in a more thoughtful and serious spirit than in all of the fifty-four year history of the holiday established in recognition of the Nation's wage earners and their work in helping to build our country into a great democracy. The labor and sacrifice of generations of Americans have been freely given that we might keep alight the altar of democracy for all who cherish liberty and happiness and believe in freedom of worship, freedom of speech and freedom of ~~the~~ the fields.

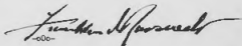
Today we in America are faced with the great task of preserving that democracy and we, too, will offer our utmost in labor and sacrifice just as our fathers and our fathers' fathers did. Every one of us will unselfishly and unstintingly dedicate himself and herself to that cause in full measure of devotion. It is particularly fitting that we take such an occasion as Labor Day to rededicate ourselves to the task that lies ahead.

In its successful completion -- and you and I know it will be successfully completed in keeping with our American heritage -- we all have a part to play. Labor and management have shown and will continue to show their willingness and eagerness to serve our Nation fully in the demands made upon them for the protection of the Americas and the needs of those nations whose way of life is our way of life.

They realize now and I am sure will continue to realize that there must be full and uninterrupted production of the weapons and materials needed for our protection and needed also by the nations engaged in opposing those who would do away with the liberty and happiness of free peoples all over the world.

This Labor Day of 1941 should serve to make crystal clear to all Americans and to all the world the blessings of a democracy and to emphasize its freedoms. Only in a democracy could there be such a day set aside to do honor to millions of workers -- free men and free women in a free country. Only in a democracy could workers and their fellow countrymen spend the day in free worship, enjoying the right to speak their minds, to read uncensored news and to hear uncensored radio programs.

Let us here in America thank God today for these blessings and freedoms and for the great economic and social gains we have made in the last eight years. And let us on this Labor Day of 1941 make anew the high resolve that not as workers alone, not as employers alone, not as farmers alone but as a united and determined people we shall defend our democracy to the utmost with no labor and no sacrifice too great so that liberty and the heritages we hold dear shall thrive and spread for the good of the peoples of the earth.


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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

August 1, 1941. •

Memo. to Mr. Hassett

From: J. V. Fitzgerald

Re: Suggested Labor Day message.

Attached hereto is a suggested Labor Day
message as requested.

Encl.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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AUGUST 4, 1961

The following statement of the President is for release in papers appearing on the streets not earlier than 6:00 P.M., 2:05 P., Saturday, August 5, 1961.

The same limitation applies to its use by radio broadcast or radio communication.

PLEASE RETURN TO ADJUTANT GENERAL, WASHINGTON.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

LABOR DAY STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

"We are called upon to observe Labor Day of 1961 in a more thoughtful and serious spirit than in all of the fifty-four year history of the holiday - and indeed in recognition of the Nation's wage earners and their work in helping to build our country into a great democracy. The labor and creation of freedoms of Americans have been freely given that we might keep alive the altar of democracy for all who cherish liberty and happiness and believe in freedom of worship, freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Today we, in America are faced with the great task of preserving that democracy and we, too, will offer our utmost in labor and sacrifice just as our fathers and our fathers' fathers did. Every one of us will unflinchingly and unthinkingly do whatever his or her duty is to that end in full measure of devotion. It is particularly fitting that we take such an occasion as Labor Day to re-dedicate ourselves to the task that lies ahead.

In its uncompleted completion - and you and I know it will be successfully completed in keeping with our American heritage - we all have a part to play. Labor and management have shown and will continue to show their willingness and eagerness to serve our Nation fully in the demands made upon them for the protection of the Americas and the needs of those nations whose way of life is our way of life.

They realize now and I am sure will continue to realize that there must be full and unintermittent production of the weapons and materials needed for our protection and needed also by the nations engaged in opposing those who would do away with the liberty and happiness of free people all over the world.

This Labor Day of 1961 should serve to make crystal clear to all Americans and to all the world the blessings of a democracy and to emphasize its freedoms. Only in a democracy could there be such a day set aside to do honor to millions of workers - free men and free women in a free country. Only in a democracy could workers and their fellow countrymen spend the day in free worship, enjoying the right to speak their minds, to read uncensored news and to hear uncensored radio programs.

Let us here in America thank God today for these blessings and freedoms and for the great economic and social gains we have made in the last eight years. And let us on this Labor Day of 1961 make known the high resolve that not as workers alone, not as employers alone, not as farmers alone but as a united and determined people we shall defend our democracy to the utmost with no labor and no sacrifice too great so that liberty and the heritage we hold dear shall thrive and spread for the good of the people of the earth.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT