Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945
Series 3: “The Four Freedoms” and FDR in World War II

File No. 1411

1942 January 30

Birthday Anniversary
RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
JANUARY 30, 1942

To all of you who are making tonight's celebrations such a success, I want to say -- very simply -- thank you.

In the midst of world tragedy -- in the midst of sorrow, suffering, destruction and death -- it is natural for most of us to say even on a birthday or a feast day: "Isn't the word 'happy' a bit out of place just now"?

That was perhaps my own predominant thought this morning. Yet the day itself and the evening have brought with them a great reassurance which comes from the deep knowledge that this world is still ruled by the spirit of Faith, and Hope, and Charity.

Even in time of war those nations, which still hold to the old ideals of Christianity and democracy, are carrying on services to humanity which have little or no relationship to torpedoes or guns or bombs. That means very definitely that we have an abiding faith in the future -- a definite expectancy that we are going to win through to a peace which will bring with it continuing progress and substantial success in our efforts for the security and not for the destruction of humanity.
Our enemies must at this moment be wondering -- if they are permitted to know what goes on -- how we are finding the time during the grim business of war to work for the cause of little children. For, under the enemies' kind of government, there is no time for or interest in such things -- no time for ideals; no time for decency; no interest in the weak and the afflicted to whom we in this country have dedicated this day.

It would not be strictly true to say that our enemies pay no attention to health or the relief of need. But the difference is this: with them it all comes from the top. It is done only on order from the Ruler. It is carried out by uniformed servants of the Ruler. It is based, in great part, on direction, compulsion and fear. And the Rulers are concerned not with human beings as human beings but as mere slaves of the state or as cannon fodder.

The United Nations of the world continue, however, to put these things on a very different basis. We support our tasks of humanity in time of war, as in time of peace, through the same old
system of telling the public of the great need, and asking for the voluntary help of men, women and children to fill it.

The fight against the disease of infantile paralysis has proven beyond doubt that the way democracy works -- the voluntary way -- is efficient and successful. (It is only ten years ago that this country undertook, through wholly private contributions, to organize every locality to carry on this great effort, not for a year or two, but for all the future years -- so long as the fight can help humanity)

Today, as in these many years past, we continue this great crusade -- made possible not by a few large gifts but by the dimes and the dollars of the people themselves.

This year there is only one difference proposed for the use of these gifts. The Trustees of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis have told me that I can make the special announcement that the authorized County Chapters throughout the Union may use such portion of their funds as is necessary to give
special assistance to the children of any of our soldiers and
sailors who fall victim to infantile paralysis. That will be good
news and a well-deserved boon to the fathers who are serving their
Flag on land and on sea in many parts of the world, and to the
mothers who have been left at home to do their brave part -- to
carry on.

I am made additionally happy by the fact that in many
of our Sister Republics of the Americas, parties and celebrations
are being held today to provide needed help to the children in those
lands.

For all these reasons I am very sure that this day has
not been wasted -- that it has been a useful day. For all that you
have done, I am very grateful.

For we have all been helpful in lifting some of the clouds
of unhappiness and anxiety which have settled down on many of our
citizens. In that realization I am sure we shall have added strength
to face the days of trial which lie ahead until peace with victory
is assured.
The lives of all of us are now dedicated to working and fighting, and, if need be, dying for the cause of a better future -- the future that belongs to our little children of our cloud land.

[Signature]

[Handwritten note: 'This reading copy']
RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 60TH
BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY
January 30, 1942
Approx. 11:20 P.M.

To all of you who are making tonight's celebrations such a success, I want to say -- very simply -- thank you.

In the midst of world tragedy -- in the midst of sorrow, suffering, and destruction and death -- it is natural for most of us to say even on a birthday or a feast day: "Isn't the word 'happy' a bit out of place just now"?

That was perhaps my own predominant thought this morning. Yet the day itself and the evening have brought with them a great reassurance (which) that comes from the deep knowledge that most of this world is still ruled by the spirit of Faith, and Hope, and Charity.

Even in time of war those nations, which still hold to the old ideals of Christianity and democracy, are carrying on services to humanity which have little or no relationship to torpedoes or guns or bombs. That means very definitely that we have an abiding faith in the future -- a definite expectancy that we are going to win through to a peace (which) that will bring with it continuing progress and substantial success in our efforts for the security and not for the destruction of humanity.

Our enemies must at this moment be wondering -- if they are permitted to know what goes on -- how we are finding the time during the grim business of war to work for the cause of little children. For, under the enemies' kind of government, there is no time (for or) -- there is no interest in such things -- no time for ideals; no time for decency; no interest in the weak and the afflicted to whom we in this country have
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.
dedicated this day.

(It would not be strictly true to say that our enemies pay no attention to health or the relief of need. But the difference is this: with them it all comes from the top. It is done only on order from the Ruler. It is carried out by uniformed servants of the Ruler. It is based, in great part, on direction, compulsion and fear. And the Rulers are concerned not with human beings as human beings but as mere slaves of the state — or as cannon fodder.)

The United Nations of the world, of whom we are part, continue (however) to put these things on a very different basis. We support our tasks of humanity in time of war, as in time of peace, through the same old system of telling the public of the great need, and asking for the voluntary help of men, women and children to fill it.

The fight against the disease of infantile paralysis has proven beyond doubt that the way democracy works — the voluntary way — is efficient and is successful. (It is only ten years ago that this country undertook, through wholly private contributions, to organize every locality to carry on this great effort, not for a year or two, but for all the future years -- so long as the fight can help humanity.)

Today, as in these many years past, we continue this great crusade -- made possible not by a few large gifts but by the dimes and the dollars of the people themselves.

This year there is only one difference proposed for the use of these gifts, a difference that I think you will all approve of. The Trustees of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis have told me that I can make the special announcement that the authorized County Chapters throughout the Union may use such portion of their share of this year's funds
as is necessary to give special assistance to the children of any of our soldiers and sailors and marines -- their children who may fall victim to infantile paralysis. That, I hope, will be good news and a well-deserved boon to the fathers who are serving their Flag on land and on sea in many parts of the world, and good news to the mothers who have been left at home to do their brave part -- to carry on.

And I am made additionally happy by the fact that in many of our Sister Republics of the Americas, in many parts of the great continent of which we are a part, parties and celebrations are being held today to provide needed help to the children in those lands.

For all these reasons I am very sure that this day has not been wasted -- that it has been a useful day. For all that you have done, I am very grateful.

For we have all been helpful in lifting some of the clouds of unhappiness and anxiety (which have) that had settled down on many of our (citizens) people. In that realization I am sure we shall have added strength to face the days of trial (which) that lie ahead until peace with victory is assured.

The lives of all of us are now dedicated to working and fighting, and, if need be, dying for the cause of a better future -- (the) that future that will belong(s) to (our) the little children of our beloved land.
To all of you who are making tonight’s celebrations such a success, I want to say — very simply — thank you.

In the midst of world tragedy — in the midst of sorrow, suffering, destruction and death — it is natural for most of us to say even on a birthday or a feast day: “Isn’t the word ‘happy’ a bit out of place just now?”

That was perhaps my own predominant thought this morning. Yet the day itself and the evening have brought with them a great reassurance which comes from the deep knowledge that most of this world is still ruled by the spirit of Faith, and Hope, and Charity.

Even in time of war those nations, which still hold to the old ideals of Christianity and democracy, are carrying on services to humanity which have little or no relationship to torpedoes or guns or bombs. That means very definitely that we have an abiding faith in the future — a definite expectancy that we are going to win through to a peace which will bring with it continuing progress and substantial success in our efforts for the security and not for the destruction of humanity.

Our enemies must at this moment be wondering — if they are permitted to know what goes on — how we are finding the time during the grim business of war to work for the cause of little children. For, under the enemies’ kind of government, there is no time for or interest in such things — no time for ideals; no time for decency; no interest in the weak and the afflicted to whom we in this country have dedicated this day.

It would not be strictly true to say that our enemies pay no attention to health or the relief of need. But the difference is this: with them it all comes from the top. It is done only on order from the Ruler. It is carried out by uniformed servants of the Ruler. It is based, in great part, on direction, compulsion and fear. And the Rulers are concerned not with human beings as human beings but as mere slaves of the state — or as cannon fodder.

The United Nations of the world continue, however, to put these things on a very different basis. We support our tasks of humanity in time of war, as in time of peace, through the same old system of telling the public of the great need, and asking for the voluntary help of men, women and children to fill it.

The fight against the disease of infantile paralysis has proven beyond doubt that the way democracy works — the voluntary way — is efficient and successful. It is only ten years ago that this country undertook, through wholly
private contributions, to organize every locality to carry
on this great effort, not for a year or two, but for all the
future years — so long as the fight can help humanity.

Today, as in those many years past, we continue
this great crusade — made possible not by a few large
gifts but by the dimes and the dollars of the people them-
selves.

This year there is only one difference proposed
for the use of these gifts. The Trustees of the National
Foundation for Infantile Paralysis have told me that I can
make the special announcement that the authorized County
Chapters throughout the Union may use such portion of their
share of this year's funds as is necessary to give special
assistance to the children of any of our soldiers and
sailors and marines who fall victim to infantile paralysis.
That will be good news and a well-deserved boon to the
fathers who are serving their Flag on land and on sea in
many parts of the world, and to the mothers who have been
left at home to do their brave part — to carry on.

I am made additionally happy by the fact that in
many of our Sister Republics of the Americas, parties and
celebrations are being held today to provide needed help to
the children in those lands.

For all these reasons I am very sure that this
day has not been wasted — that it has been a useful day.
For all that you have done, I am very grateful.

For we have all been helpful in lifting some of
the clouds of unhappiness and anxiety which have settled
down on many of our citizens. In that realization I am
sure we shall have added strength to face the days of trial
which lie ahead until peace with victory is assured.

The lives of all of us are now dedicated to work-
ing and fighting, and, if need be, dying for the cause of a
better future — the future that belongs to our little
children.
RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
JANUARY 30, 1942

To all of you who are making tonight's celebrations a real success, I want to say -- very simply -- thank you.

I have been wondering in the course of this Birthday of mine whether millions of other people in the country -- and indeed in many other lands -- are getting out of it all the same mental boost as I am. For in the midst of all the terrible things that are happening all over the world -- sorrow, suffering, destruction and death -- it is a natural tendency on the part of most of us to say on a birthday or a feast day "Isn't the word 'happy' a bit out of place just now"?

And yet, while that was perhaps my predominant thought this morning, the day itself and the evening have brought with them a sort of surge of compensation in the deeper knowledge of what this means in the long run.

The very fact that in time of war those nations, which still hold to the old ideals of Christianity and democracy, are carrying on services to humanity which have little or no relationship to torpedoes or guns or bombs, means very definitely that we have an abiding
faith in the future -- a definite expectancy that we are
going to win through to a peace which will bring with it
continuing progress in our efforts for the security and
not the destruction of humanity.

Our enemies must at this moment be wondering, if
they are permitted to know what goes on -- wondering how
we are finding the time to work for the cause of little
children. For, under their system, there is no time for
such things -- no time for ideals; no time for decency;
no time for the weak and the afflicted to whom we have
dedicated this day.

It would not be strictly true to say that they
pay no attention to health or the relief of need. But
the difference is this: with them it all comes from the
top. It is an order from the Ruler. It is carried out
by uniformed servants of the Ruler. It is contributed to
by direction, by compulsion and by fear.

Outside of that minority of the world's population,
the United Nations of the world continue to put things
in a very different case. We support our tasks of humanity
in time of war, as in time of peace, through the old
system of telling the need and asking the voluntary
help of men, women and children to fill it.

That system -- that incident of the working of a democracy -- does not spell the inefficiency with which democracy is so often charged, and the fight against Infantile Paralysis proves the point. It is only ten years since this country undertook, through private means, to organize itself in every locality to carry on a great effort, not for a year or two, but for all the future years just so long as the fight could do real good.

Today, as in many years past, we are carrying on this great crusade, made possible not by a few large gifts but by the dimes and the dollars of the people themselves.

This year there is only one difference proposed for the use of these gifts. The Trustees of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis have told me I could make the special announcement that the authorized County Chapters throughout the Union may use such portion of their funds as is advisable to give special assistance to the children of any of our soldiers and sailors who fall victim to Infantile Paralysis. That, we rightly believe, will be good news to the Fathers who are serving
their Flag on land and sea in many parts of the world, and to the Mothers who have been left at home to do their brave part — to carry on.

And I am made happy, too, by the fact that in many of our Sister Republics of the Americas parties and celebrations are being held today for the giving of help to the children in those lands who need it.

For all these reasons I am very sure that this day has not been wasted — that it has been a useful day. For these reasons I am very grateful. For these reasons the cloud on happiness for you and for me has been greatly lifted.
their Flag on land and sea in many parts of the world, and
to the Mothers who have been left at home to do their brave
part — to carry on.

And I am made happy, too, by the fact that in many
of our Sister Republics of the Americas parties and cele-
brations are being held today for the giving of help to
the children in those lands who need it.

For all these reasons I am very sure that this day
has not been wasted — that it has been a useful day. For
these reasons I am very grateful. For these reasons the
cloud on happiness for you and for me has been greatly
lifted.

********************
a great reassurance which comes from the deep knowledge that this world is still ruled by the spirit of faith, and hope, and charity.
And the Rulers are concerned not with human beings as human beings but as cannon fodder

made slave of the state ever
The fight against the disease of infantile paralysis has proven beyond doubt that the way democracy works on these matters is efficient and successful.

- the voluntary way -
faith in the future — a definite expectancy that we are
going to win through to a peace which will bring with it
and sustained progress in our efforts for the security and
not the destruction of humanity.

Our enemies must at this moment be wondering if
they are permitted to know what goes on — wondering how
we are finding the time to work for the cause of little
children. For, under their system, there is no time for
such things — no time for ideals; no time for decency;
no time for the weak and the afflicted to whom we have
dedicated this day.

It would not be strictly true to say that they
pay no attention to health or the relief of need. But
the difference is this: with them it all comes from the
top. It is an order from the Ruler. It is carried out
by uniformed servants of the Ruler. It is contributed to
by direction, by compulsion and by fear.

Outside of that minority of the world's population
The United Nations of the world continue to put things
on a very different basis. We support our tasks of humanity
in time of war, as in time of peace, through the old
system of telling the need and asking the voluntary
help of men, women and children to fill it.

That system -- that incident of the working of a democracy -- does not spell the inefficiency with which democracy is so often charged, and the fight against Infantile Paralysis proves the point. It is only ten years since this country undertook, through private means, to organize itself in every locality to carry on this great effort, not for a year or two, but for all the future years. Just so long as the fight could do real good, help humanity.

Today, as in many years past, we are carrying on this great crusade, made possible not by a few large gifts but by the dimes and the dollars of the people themselves.

This year there is only one difference proposed for the use of these gifts. The Trustees of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis have told me I could make the special announcement that the authorized County Chapters throughout the Union may use such portion of their funds as is advisable to give special assistance to the children of any of our soldiers and sailors who fall victim to Infantile Paralysis. That we rightly believe will be good news to the fathers who are serving
their flag on land and sea in many parts of the world, and to the mothers who have been left at home to do their brave part — to carry on.

And I am made happy by the fact that in many of our Sister Republics of the Americas parties and celebrations are being held today for the giving of help to the children in those lands who need it.

For all these reasons I am very sure that this day has not been wasted — that it has been a useful day. For all these reasons I am very grateful. For these reasons the cloud on happiness for you and for me has been greatly lifted.
For we have all been helpless in lifting some of the clouds of unhappiness which have settled down on many of our citizens. In that realization I am sure we have added strength to face the days of trial which lie ahead until peace with victory is assured.
The lives of all of us are now dedicated to working and fighting and if need be dying for the chance of a better future — the future that belongs to our little children.
My fellow countrymen. I am very happy tonight and in the name of America's children, thank all of you, I wish to tell you all how much this particular birthday celebration means to me.

And from the bottom of my heart, my own thanks for this -- the most deeply satisfying birthday of all my life.

I am proud of America tonight -- proud to share with you the rare and priceless privilege of partnership in this great land that is the world's sanctuary of charity and humanity and freedom.

It must give our enemies pause as they watch America tonight -- as they see this nation of 130 millions of people tonight ... with our war production going ahead at the greatest speed in the history of the world ... but still not at the sacrifice of charity and humanity.

Our enemies must wonder. They must wonder how we find time. Because under their system, there is no time ... no time for ideals, no time for decency, no time for the weak and the afflicted to whom we have dedicated this day.

They have no time for such things -- they have had to rule out charity and decency and freedom and offer their peoples nothing
but treachery and human slavery.

Of course, as they so often do, they may explain our charity to themselves as evidence of sentimentality -- or softness. They may try to tell themselves that we are not hard enough or cruel enough or ruthless enough for the bitter struggle that lies ahead. The truth is that under our system we can build more guns and more tanks and more ships and more planes than they can under theirs.

We can do all these things -- we can win this war without sacrificing one ideal because our ideals are what unites us all. That is the lesson which the enemies of freedom might well take from America tonight. They have said that we can have no real unity because we are too many kinds of people, because we have no common heritage.

Tonight they can see an example of what unites us all -- here in this war against disease they can see our devotion to an ideal -- a devotion which in the broader war we are now waging translates itself into a love of freedom that is above a love of life. That is what unites us -- that is what serves notice on aggressors all over the world that in actual fact we are one kind of people -- the kind that believe in freedom and will die to preserve it.

For us tonight marks the passing of another great milestone in our Fight against Infantile Paralysis. This is the ninth birthday of mine in a row which you have made the occasion for raising funds to combat this enemy of our children.
Today, because of your efforts, this fight is now carried on every hour of the day and night, 365 days of the year. Research has been broadened and intensified by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis while the county chapters of the Foundation from coast to coast now make certain that no victim of Infantile Paralysis is knowingly with the best of care and treatment.

I am happy to make a special announcement for the trustees of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. In order to make a still greater contribution to national defense and national morale, the trustees have authorized county chapters to use part of their funds to assist the dependents of any of our soldiers and sailors who fall victim to Infantile Paralysis.

Thus, this great and humane crusade — made possible not by a few large gifts, but by the dimes and the dollars of the great mass of the people — this splendid crusade goes triumphantly on.

And so — on another birthday — I thank you all for the finest present I could receive ... this reaffirming of our humanity at a time when we all are now pledged to defend it with our lives.
Dear Steve

Thanks for the wine. Am hastening to get this off to you tonight.

Keep well. You are working under inhuman pressure but try to get some relaxation.

Yours ever

Keith
4 State Chairman
3000 County"
7000 Local"

The Motion Picture Theaters
" Legitimate Theaters
The Labor Unions
The Employees of factories, offices
Federal, State, County, City Employees
The Railroads
" Buses
" Taxis
The State World
all kinds of business parties
Dances, box socials, Rodeos, Barbecues, Sports events, quilting parties, spelling bees, Carnivals, in fact every kind of American activity.

State Chairman in most places report expected increase over last year which was all time high.

Total raised last year $104,460.53
Spirit of Country toward this celebration as follows:

1. Determination that the warfare on the home front against disease be not only carried on but intensified.

2. This Birthday gives everyone an opportunity to honor the President and show him we stand behind him 130,000,000 strong.

3. That the unanimous celebration of this Diamond Jubilee birthday anniversary will have profound effect on the people of the Countries abroad.
THANK YOU, KEITH MORGAN. AND THANKS, ALSO,

TO THE THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE LABORED WITH
YOU IN THIS CAMPAIGN TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE
NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES TONIGHT, MEN
AND WOMEN HAVE MET IN OBSERVANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S
BIRTHDAY -- A DAY WHICH HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF OUR
DETERMINATION TO WIN THE FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM ON MANY
FRONTS. FOR WE HAVE MANY FREEDOMS.

AND ONE OF THOSE -- NOT YET FULLY ATTAINED --
IS FREEDOM FROM DISEASE. THAT FREEDOM WILL BE FINALLY
WON IN OUR RESEARCH LABORATORIES, THE BATTLEFIELDS OF
SCIENCE THAT HAVE KNOWN MANY VICTORIES BUT NEVER AN
ARMISTICE. AND THERE WILL BE NO ARMISTICE IN THE WAR
AGAINST
AGAINST MAN'S ILLS AS LONG AS THERE ARE FREE MEN AND
WOMEN TO ENCOURAGE AND TAKE PRIDE IN THIS WORK.

ALL OF US ARE BUSY TODAY WITH THE BATTLE

CRYES OF WAR -- "KEEP THEM FLYING!" "KEEP THEM SAILING!"

"KEEP THEM ROLLING!"

BUT WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN OUR BATTLE CRIES

OF PEACE -- "KEEP THEM LIVING!" "KEEP THEM HEALTHY!"

"KEEP THEM WALKING!"

THE DINES AND THE DOLLARS CONTRIBUTED TO

THIS CAMPAIGN WHICH CLOSES TONIGHT WILL MAKE THE BIRTHDAYS

OF OUR CHILDREN HAPPIER -- AND SAFER.

PERHAPS IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY THESE FUNDS

WILL CARE FOR SOME VICTIM OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS. IT

MAY BE A NEIGHBOR. IT MAY BE A FRIEND. PERHAPS YOU

WON'T EVEN KNOW THE BOY OR GIRL WHO'S HELPED. BUT

YOUR GIFT WILL HAVE DONE ITS PART.

IN
IN RESEARCH LABORATORIES THROUGHOUT THE NATION,

MEN AND WOMEN OF SCIENCE WILL CARRY ON THEIR WORK WITH
NEW COURAGE -- FOR THEY WILL KNOW THAT THE NATION STANDS
BEHIND THEM AND THAT THE JOYS OF LIFE AND LIVING HAVE NOT
BEEN ABANDONED TO THE MISERIES OF DEATH AND DYING.

IN REMEMBERING OUR BATTLE CRIES OF PEACE IN

THOSE TIMES OF WAR WE TAKE A STEP FORWARD TOWARD A FINER
AND MORE LASTING VICTORY. FOR WE SHALL HAVE KEPT ALIVE
THE IDEALS AND THE IDEAS FOR WHICH WE ARE FIGHTING.

YOU WHO HAVE JOINED IN THIS CELEBRATION OF

THE PRESIDENT'S DIAMOND JUBILEE BIRTHDAY HAVE EXPRESSED,

WITH A SINGLE, NATIONAL VOICE, YOUR LOYALTY TO THOSE
FAITHS.

YOUR GIFTS HAVE SAID TO THE WORLD:

"WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE."

"WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT DAY

WHEN OUR CHILDREN WILL BE CARRYING ON IN

THE
THE AMERICAN TRADITION."

"WE ARE ACTING NOW SO THAT THEY WILL

BE STRONG AND ABLE."

A FEEBLE, UNCERTAIN OR FRIGHTENED NATION

COULD NOT DO THIS.

A NATION DEDICATED TO THE DARK PHILOSOPHIES

OF DESTRUCTION AND SLAVERY WOULD NOT DO THIS.

TONIGHT, IN MANY DARKENED CORNERS OF THE

GLOBE, THERE ARE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WHISPER A PRAYER OF

THANKFULNESS FOR THIS SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY OF DEMOCRACY'S

LEADER.

THERE ARE MEN ON DISTANT BATTLEFIELDS --

MEN ALOFT IN FIGHTING PLANES -- MEN RIDING THE EXPANSE

OF MANY SEAS -- WHO SAY IN THEIR HEARTS, "THANK GOD

THIS MAN LIVES AND FIGHTS WITH US."

BUT, PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THERE ARE

CHILDREN

- 4 -
CHILDREN YET UNBORN WHO WILL SAY, "DEMOCRACY GAVE ME A
CHANCE."

THROUGH THIS CELEBRATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S
BIRTHDAY, DEMOCRACY IS GIVING THE CHILDREN OF TODAY AND
TOMORROW A CHANCE TO LIVE -- AND RUN -- AND PLAY.

I AM PROUD TO PRESENT TO YOU NOW THE MAN
WHO HAS GIVEN HIS BIRTHDAY TO THE NATION, SO THAT
EVERY CHILD IN EVERY HOME TONIGHT MAY MARCH TO MANHOOD
AND WOMANHOOD WITHOUT A CRUTCH AND WITHOUT A LIMP.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
The President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of my speech to be delivered from the White House tomorrow night, so that you can have it before you in connection with whatever you are going to say.

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]
President.

Encl.
RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
JANUARY 30, 1942

To all of you who are making tonight's celebrations such a success, I want to say -- very simply -- thank you.

In the midst of world tragedy -- in the midst of sorrow, suffering, destruction and death -- it is natural for most of us to say even on a birthday or a feast day: "Isn't the word 'happy' a bit out of place just now?"

That was perhaps my own predominant thought this morning. Yet the day itself and the evening have brought with them a great reassurance which comes from the deep knowledge that this world is still ruled by the spirit of Faith, and Hope, and Charity.

Even in time of war those nations, which still hold to the old ideals of Christianity and democracy, are carrying on services to humanity which have little or no relationship to torpedoes or guns or bombs. That means very definitely that we have an abiding faith in the future -- a definite expectancy that we are going to win through to a peace which will bring with it continuing progress and substantial success in our efforts for the security and not for the destruction of humanity.
Our enemies must at this moment be wondering -- if they are permitted to know what goes on -- how we are finding the time during the grim business of war to work for the cause of little children. For, under the enemies' kind of government, there is no time for or interest in such things -- no time for ideals; no time for decency; no interest in the weak and the afflicted to whom we in this country have dedicated this day.

It would not be strictly true to say that our enemies pay no attention to health or the relief of need. But the difference is this: with them it all comes from the top; It is done only on order from the Ruler. It is carried out by uniformed servants of the Ruler. It is based, in great part, on direction, compulsion and fear. And the Rulers are concerned not with human beings as human beings but as mere slaves of the state or as cannon fodder.

The United Nations of the world continue, however, to put these things on a very different basis. We support our tasks of humanity in time of war, as in time of peace, through the same old
system of telling the public of the great need, and asking for the voluntary help of men, women and children to fill it.

The fight against the disease of infantile paralysis has proven beyond doubt that the way democracy works -- the voluntary way -- is efficient and successful. It is only ten years ago that this country undertook, through wholly private contributions, to organize every locality to carry on this great effort, not for a year or two, but for all the future years -- so long as the fight can help humanity.

Today, as in these many years past, we continue this great crusade -- made possible not by a few large gifts but by the dimes and the dollars of the people themselves.

This year there is only one difference proposed for the use of these gifts. The Trustees of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis have told me that I can make the special announcement that the authorized County Chapters throughout the Union may use such portion of their funds as is advisable to give
special assistance to the children of any of our soldiers and
sailors who fall victim to infantile paralysis. That will be good
news and a well-deserved boon to the fathers who are serving their
Flag on land and on sea in many parts of the world, and to the
mothers who have been left at home to do their brave part -- to
carry on.

I am made additionally happy by the fact that in many
of our Sister Republics of the Americas, parties and celebrations
are being held today to provide needed help to the children in those
lands.

For all these reasons I am very sure that this day has
not been wasted -- that it has been a useful day. For all that you
have done, I am very grateful.

For we have all been helpful in lifting some of the clouds
of unhappiness and anxiety which have settled down on many of our
citizens. In that realization I am sure we shall have added strength
to face the days of trial which are ahead until peace with victory
is assured.
The lives of all of us are now dedicated to working and fighting and, if need be, dying for the cause of a better future — the future that belongs to our little children.
Mr. Ronayn

STATEMENTS FILE
January 30, 1942

CAUTION: This Radio Address of the President to be delivered on the occasion of his 60th Birthday Anniversary MUST be held in confidence until released.

Release upon delivery.

NOTE: Care must be exercised to prevent premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

To all of you who are making tonight’s celebrations such a success, I want to say — very simply — thank you.

In the midst of world tragedy — in the midst of sorrow, suffering, destruction and death — it is natural for most of us to say even on a birthday or a feast day: “Isn’t the word ‘happy’ a bit out of place just now?”

That was perhaps my own predominant thought this morning. Yet the day itself and the evening have brought with them a great reassurance which comes from the deep knowledge that most of this world is still ruled by the spirit of Faith, and Hope, and Charity.

Even in time of war those nations, which still hold to the old ideals of Christianity and democracy, are carrying on services to humanity which have little or no relationship to torpedoes or guns or bombs. That means very definitely that we have an abiding faith in the future — a definite expectancy that we are going to win through to a peace which will bring with it continuing progress and substantial success in our efforts for the security and not for the destruction of humanity.

Our enemies must at this moment be wondering — if they are permitted to know what goes on — how we are finding the time during the grim business of war to work for the cause of little children. For, under the enemies’ kind of government, there is no time for interest in such things — no time for ideals; no time for decency; no interest in the weak and the afflicted to whom we in this country have dedicated this day.

It would not be strictly true to say that our enemies pay no attention to health or the relief of need. But the difference is this: with them it all comes from the top. It is done only on order from the Ruler. It is carried out by uniformed servants of the Ruler. It is based, in great part, on direction, compulsion and fear. And the Rulers are concerned not with human beings as human beings but as mere slaves of the state — or as cannon fodder.

The United Nations of the world continue to put these things on a very different basis. We support our tasks of humanity in time of war, as in time of peace, through the same old system of telling the public of the great need, and asking for the voluntary help of men, women and children to fill it.

The fight against the disease of infantile paralysis has proven beyond doubt that the way democracy works — the voluntary way — is efficient and successful. It is only ten years ago that this country undertaken, through wholly...
private contributions, to organize every locality to carry on this great effort, not for a year or two, but for all the future years — so long as the fight can help humanity.

Today, as in these many years past, we continue this great crusade — made possible not by a few large gifts but by the dimes and the dollars of the people themselves.

This year there is only one difference proposed for the use of these gifts. The Trustees of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis have told me that I can make the special announcement that the authorized County Chapters throughout the Union may use such portion of their share of this year's funds as is necessary to give special assistance to the children of any of our soldiers and sailors and marines who fall victim to Infantile paralysis. This will be good news and a well-deserved boon to the fathers who are serving their flag on land and on sea in many parts of the world, and to the mothers who have been left at home to do their brave part — to carry on.

And I am made additionally happy by the fact that in many of our Sister Republics of the Americas, parties and celebrations are being held today to provide needed help to the children in those lands.

For all these reasons I am very sure that this day has not been wasted — that it has been a useful day. For all that you have done, I am very grateful.

For we have all been helpful in lifting some of the clouds of unhappiness and anxiety which have settled down on many of our homes. In that realization I am sure we shall have added strength to face the days of trial which lie ahead until peace with victory is assured.

The lives of all of us are now dedicated to working and fighting and, if need be, dying for the cause of a better future — the future that belongs to our little children of our beloved land.
January 30, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL RELEASED

CAUTION: This address of the President to be delivered on the occasion of his birthday anniversary is for release in editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT earlier than 11:30 P.M., Feb. 6th.

Care must be exercised to prevent premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

MUST be held in confidence until released.

Release upon delivery
HOLD FOR RELEASE
FOR THE PRESS

January 30, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL RELEASE

CAUTION: This address of the President to be delivered on the occasion of his birthday anniversary is for release in editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER than 11:26 P. M., E.S.T.

Care must be exercised to prevent premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President
RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
JANUARY 30, 1942

To all of you who are making tonight's celebrations such
a success, I want to say -- very simply -- thank you.

In the midst of world tragedy -- in the midst of sorrow,
suffering, destruction and death -- it is natural for most of us to
say even on a birthday or a feast day: "Isn't the word 'happy' a
bit out of place just now?"

That was perhaps my own predominant thought this morning.
Yet the day itself and the evening have brought with them a great
reassurance which comes from the deep knowledge that this world is
still ruled by the spirit of Faith, and Hope, and Charity.

Even in time of war those nations, which still hold to
the old ideals of Christianity and democracy, are carrying on services
to humanity which have little or no relationship to torpedoes or guns
or bombs. That means very definitely that we have an abiding faith
in the future -- a definite expectancy that we are going to win
through to a peace which will bring with it continuing progress and
substantial success in our efforts for the security and not for the
destruction of humanity.
Our enemies must at this moment be wondering -- if they are permitted to know what goes on -- how we are finding the time during the grim business of war to work for the cause of little children. For, under the enemies' kind of government, there is no time for or interest in such things -- no time for ideals; no time for decency; no interest in the weak and the afflicted to whom we in this country have dedicated this day.

It would not be strictly true to say that our enemies pay no attention to health or the relief of need. But the difference is this: with them it all comes from the top; It is done only on order from the Ruler. It is carried out by uniformed servants of the Ruler. It is based, in great part, on direction, compulsion and fear. And the Rulers are concerned not with human beings as human beings but as mere slaves of the state or as cannon fodder.

The United Nations of the world continue, however, to put these things on a very different basis. We support our tasks of humanity in time of war, as in time of peace, through the same old
system of telling the public of the great need, and asking for the voluntary help of men, women and children to fill it.

The fight against the disease of infantile paralysis has proven beyond doubt that the way democracy works — the voluntary way — is efficient and successful. It is only ten years ago that this country undertook, through wholly private contributions, to organize every locality to carry on this great effort, not for a year or two, but for all the future years — so long as the fight would help humanity.

Today, as in these many years past, we continue this great crusade — made possible not by a few large gifts but by the dimes and the dollars of the people themselves.

This year there is only one difference proposed for the use of these gifts. The Trustees of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis have told me that I can make the special announcement that the authorized County Chapters throughout the Union may use such portion of their funds as is necessary to give...
Special assistance to the children of any of our soldiers and
marine
sailors who fall victim to infantile paralysis. That will be good
news and a well-deserved boon to the fathers who are serving their
Flag on land and on sea in many parts of the world, and to the
mothers who have been left at home to do their brave part -- to
carry on.

I am made additionally happy by the fact that in many
of our Sister Republics of the American, parties and celebrations
are being held today to provide needed help to the children in those
lands.

For all these reasons I am very sure that this day has
not been wasted -- that it has been a useful day. For all that you
have done, I am very grateful.

For we have all been helpful in lifting some of the clouds
of unhappiness and anxiety which have settled down on many of our
citizens. In that realization I am sure we shall have added strength
to face the days of trial which see ahead until peace with victory
is assured.
The lives of all of us are now dedicated to working and fighting, and if need be dying for the cause of a better future — the future that belongs to our little children.