

Opnul 14, 1942

[Governing Board - Pan American Union]

FDR Speech File

1416

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION  
AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF THE PRESIDENT  
APRIL 14, 1942 -- AT 12:45 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, don't be formal -- get around here. We are not having any formalities today, because whenever I make a speech it takes me one week to prepare it, and I have no spare weeks at the present time.

But I do think that today -- I think it is a fine thing that we are celebrating Pan American Day, and I hope that we are celebrating it in every Republic, because it does -- I think it has more significance than any previous time in the history of the Hemisphere. And I think probably -- I know that some of you have got -- one or two of you have got certain problems back home. And I do think that the idea is being realized more than ever before what would happen if any part of any of the Hemisphere were dominated by a successful Germany. We wouldn't live the same kind of lives, that is the easiest way of putting it. Because that now -- not the old German civilization -- the new German civilization is so totally different from what all of us have been accustomed to since we were five years old -- since we were born. I shudder -- I hate to think of what would happen to any part of the Hemisphere that came under that kind of domination.

And so I am looking for a word, as I said to the newspapermen a little while ago, I want a name for the war. I haven't had any very good suggestions. Most of them are too long. My own thought is that perhaps there is one word that we could use for this war, the word "survival." The Survival War. That is what it comes pretty close to being -- the survival of our civilization, the survival of Democracy, the survival of a new Hemi-

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.

and we have to change or read a new and different speech without any of our  
old training and no new ways to make a hit, at home or abroad  
so full your wife and I make it about this point as a test  
to determine who can best play it here you know has provided the  
opportunity now for you & White I -- each of us to make , either you or  
I, a good speech, not a good one, you will  
try and try to get one up -- we'll do our best and --  
but the public will make up their minds of you and me and you will succeed  
-- just as I did in my "Inauguration" so perfectly well, when  
you take charge, according to our feelings and of course you will be held  
higher than any other in the country and we shall be more successful  
with your speech at home and abroad as the date nears, naturally  
the public of course I -- millions of people who come -- like myself  
you'll have many more and opportunities to do many good things  
and --  
a speechless life or how long does it last? I don't know but I think  
they give you longer when you come to make it, but after all we  
are going to be forced into it sooner and you don't have to wait -- so the public  
will "Inaugurate" you and you will not be given as much time as would  
otherwise be -- and all we do before would be taken up again, and therefore  
that you're to Inaugurate and you come to Inaugurate and you will have the

sphere -- the newest Hemisphere of all of them, which has worked out for itself in ways which on the surface may be a bit different, but down at the bottom it is the same kind of civilization that has come from a love of liberty and the willingness to pioneer. So I think that survival is what we are -- what our problem is, survival of what we have all lived for for a great many generations, because now I think in all of the Republics we have, relatively speaking, quite an ancient civilization, since we have had independence, and even for a good many years before that. And that is why I hope that the continental -- the Hemispheric solidarity and unanimity is going to continue. I think that at the last Pan American Conference of the Hemisphere down at Rio, while some people felt -- well, it had not perhaps gone so far as it would like to go, we did manage to retain the objective of unanimity.

There may be other problems after the war that we will have to work out among ourselves, sitting around the table, but at the present time we have got substantial unanimity. And that is a great thorn in the flesh of Herr Hitler. He felt that the success of the Rio Conference was a very serious blow to the efforts of the Axis to dominate the world.

And so I hope that we will go on as we have in the past. One of the things that I often think about -- a few of you were here at the time -- in the summer of 1933, after I had been in here for a few months, we had a bit of trouble in the Republic of Cuba. And I asked all of the Ambassadors and Ministers of the Hemisphere to come in and sit around the table, just in an informal way. And I told them that I didn't want the United States to do anything without everybody knowing all about it, and that my thought was that it was a problem for Cuba to decide for herself. Cuba did. And all the old-fashioned newspapers in this country -- 85% of them having

always opposed me -- they said it was a terrible thing to let Cuba handle the affairs of Cuba.

Well, from that we have got a situation -- we have got today on this -- we talk things over face to face. And I think really it is a -- well, it is a distinct advance in the relationships of nations, especially nations that are so similar -- which are in their many economic and social problems akin to all of us. I think it is a distinct advance again in our type of civilization.

So I hope we will continue to have the unanimity of the past. And when it comes to cleaning up the mess at the end of this war, after the Axis is defeated, we will have again an Hemispheric council around here to see what we are going to do all over the world, because we will have a very great voice in it, to prevent in the future an attack on our American civilization.

I haven't prepared any speech, so it is just some thoughts that I think about every day -- day and night -- that we are, as I say -- we are going places. We will get somewhere. And we are going to have a couple of years, perhaps three years, before we can make sure that our type of civilization is going to survive. I am perfectly confident of it myself. We have all got to sacrifice. We have got to do the best we can. We are going to come out the winner in the long run.

It is grand to see you all, and I hope that next year we will be in an even better state than we are in 1942. It is good to see you. Good luck to you.

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 14, 1942

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO MEMBERS OF THE  
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

Do not let us be formal. We are not having any formalities today, because whenever I make a speech it takes me one week to prepare it, and I have no spare weeks at the present time.

I think it is a fine thing that again we are celebrating Pan American Day, I hope that we are celebrating it in every Republic, because I think it has more significance this year than at any previous time in the history of the Hemisphere. I know that some of you have -- one or two of you have -- certain problems back home. And, I do think that the idea is being understood more than ever before what would happen if any part of any of the Hemisphere were dominated by a successful Germany. We wouldn't live the same kind of lives -- that is the easiest way of putting it. Because that new -- not the old German civilization -- that new German civilization is so totally different from what all of us have been accustomed to since we were born. I shudder to think of what would happen to any part of the Hemisphere that came under German domination.

So I am looking for a word -- as I said to the newspaper men a little while ago -- I want a name for the war. I haven't had any very good suggestions. Most of them are too long. My own thought is that perhaps there is one word that we could use for this war, the word "survival." The Survival War. That is what it comes pretty close to being -- the survival of our civilization, the survival of Democracy, the survival of a Hemisphere -- the newest Hemisphere of all of them -- which has developed in its own ways. On the surface these ways may be a bit different, but down at the bottom there is the same kind of civilization that has come from a love of liberty and the willingness to pioneer. So I think that survival is what our problem is, survival of what we have all lived for for a great many generations. I think in all of the republics we have, relatively speaking, quite an ancient civilization -- reckoned since we have had independence, and even for a good many years before that. That is why I hope that continental Hemispheric solidarity and unanimity are going to continue. At the last Pan American Conference of the Hemisphere down at Rio -- while some people felt it had not gone so far as it would like to go -- we did manage to retain the objective of unanimity.

There may be other problems after the war that we will have to work out among ourselves, sitting around the table, but at the present time we have substantial unanimity. That is a great thorn in the flesh of Herr Hitler. He felt that the success of the Rio Conference was a very serious blow to the Axis' efforts to dominate the world.

And so I hope that we will go on as we have in the past. A few of you were here at the time -- in the summer of 1933, after I had been in here for a few months -- we had a bit of trouble in the Republic of Cuba. I asked all of the Ambassadors and Ministers of the Hemisphere to come in and sit around the table in an informal way. And I told them that I didn't want the United States to do anything without everybody knowing all about it, and that my thought was that it was a problem for Cuba to decide for herself. Cuba did, and many old-fashioned commentators in this country said it was a terrible thing to let Cuba handle the affairs of Cuba.

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.

So I hope we will continue to have the unanimity of the past. And when it comes to cleaning up the mess at the end of this war, after the Axis is defeated, we will have again an hemispheric council around here to see what we are going to do all over the world, because we will have a very great voice in preventing, in the future, an attack on our American civilization.

I haven't prepared any speech. These are just some thoughts that come to me every day -- day and night.

We are going places. We will get somewhere. And we are going to have a couple of years, perhaps three years, before we can make sure that our type of civilization is going to survive. I am perfectly confident of it myself. We have all got to sacrifice. But we are going to come out the winner in the long run.

It is good to see you all, and I hope that next year we will be in an even better state than we are in 1942. Good luck to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

O

P.P.E.

/F

File

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 14, 1942

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO MEMBERS OF THE  
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

- - - - -

(2)

~~INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT~~

~~TO THE~~  
~~MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION~~  
~~AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF THE PRESIDENT~~  
~~APRIL 14, 1942 -- AT 12.45 P.M., E.W.T.~~

*Do not let us*

THE PRESIDENT: ~~Our~~ ~~don't~~ be formal, ~~get around~~. We are not having any formalities today, because whenever I make a speech it takes me one week to prepare it, and I have no spare weeks at the present time. ~~But I do think that today~~ <sup>again</sup> ~~I~~ I think it is a fine thing that we are celebrating Pan American Day, ~~and~~ I hope that we are celebrating it in every Republic, because ~~in~~ <sup>this year</sup> ~~at~~ ~~in~~ I think it has more significance than ~~any~~ previous time in the history of the Hemisphere. ~~And I think probably~~ -- I know that some of you have ~~one or two of you have~~ certain problems back home. And, I do think that the idea is being ~~understood~~ more than ever before what would happen if any part of any of the Hemisphere were dominated by a successful Germany. We wouldn't live the same kind of lives, that is the easiest way of putting it. Because that new -- not the old German civilization -- the new German civilization is so totally different from what all of us have been accustomed to since we were ~~sixty years old~~ -- since we ~~were~~ born. I shudder ~~to~~ to think of what would happen to any part of the Hemisphere that came under ~~German~~ domination.

~~and~~ So I am looking for a word, as I said to the newspaper men a little while ago, I want a name for the war. I haven't had any very good suggestions. Most of them are too long. My own thought is that perhaps there is one word that we could use for this war, the word "survival." The Survival War. That is what it comes pretty close to being -- the survival of our civilization, the

3

survival of Democracy, the survival of a ~~new~~ Hemisphere -- the newest Hemisphere of all of them, which has ~~worked out for itself in ways~~ developed <sup>its own</sup> ~~ways~~. On the surface <sup>that we have</sup> may be a bit different, but down at the bottom there is the same kind of civilization that has come from a love of liberty and the willingness to pioneer. So I think that survival is what ~~is~~ our problem is, survival of what we have all lived for for a great many generations <sup>because</sup> I think in all of the Republics we have, relatively speaking, quite an ancient civilization <sup>reached</sup> since we have had independence, and even for a good many years before that. And that is why I hope that ~~the~~ continental <sup>are</sup> ~~way~~ Hemispheric solidarity and unanimity <sup>is</sup> going to continue. ~~at~~ at the last Pan American Conference of the Hemisphere down at Rio while some people felt ~~it~~ it had not ~~perhaps~~ gone so far as it would like to go <sup>and</sup> we did manage to retain the objective of unanimity.

There may be other problems after the war that we will have to work out among ourselves, sitting around the table, but at the present time we have ~~a~~ substantial unanimity. ~~That~~ That is a great thorn in the flesh of Herr Hitler. He felt that the success of the Rio Conference was a very serious blow to the efforts <sup>and is</sup> ~~the~~ to dominate the world.

And so I hope that we will go on as we have in the past. ~~One~~ ~~of the things that I often think about~~ A few of you were here at the time -- in the summer of 1933, after I had been in here for a few months, we had a bit of trouble in the Republic of Cuba. ~~And~~ I asked all of the Ambassadors and Ministers of the Hemisphere to come in and sit around the table ~~and~~ in an informal way. And I told them that I didn't want the United States to do anything

without everybody knowing all about it, and that my thought was that it was a problem for Cuba to decide for herself. Cuba did, ~~and many  
all the oldfashioned  
newspapers in this country  
had always opposed  
said it was a terrible thing to let Cuba~~  
~~Commentators  
ever having~~  
handle the affairs of Cuba.

~~Well, from that, we have got a situation -- we have got today, on this -- we took things over face to face. And I think really it is well, it is a distinct advance in the relationships of nations, especially nations that are so similar in their many economic and social problems, akin to all of us. I think it is a distinct advance in our type of civilization.~~

So I hope we will continue to have the unanimity of the past. And when it comes to cleaning up the mess at the end of this war, after the Axis is defeated, we will have again an Hemispheric council around here to see what we are going to do all over the world, because we will have a very great voice in ~~in preventing~~ in the future, an attack on our American civilization.

I haven't prepared any speech ~~so it is just some thoughts that I think about every day -- day and night -- that we are, as I~~  
~~come to me~~  
~~We are going places. We will get somewhere. And we are going to have a couple of years, perhaps three years, before we can make sure that our type of civilization is going to survive. I am perfectly confident of it myself. We have all got to sacrifice. We have got to do the best we can. But~~  
~~we are going to come out the winner in the long run.~~

*good*  
It is ~~good~~ to see you all, and I hope that next year  
we will be in an even better state than we are in 1942. It is good  
to see you. Good luck to you.

END

STATEMENTS FILE

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE  
MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION  
AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF THE PRESIDENT  
APRIL 14, 1942 -- AT 12.45 P.M., E.W.T.

P THE PRESIDENT: Oh, don't be formal -- get around here. We are not having any formalities today, because whenever I make a speech it takes me one week to prepare it, and I have no spare weeks at the present time. P But I do think that today -- I think it is a fine thing that we are celebrating Pan American Day, and I hope that we are celebrating it in every Republic, because it does -- I think it has more significance than any previous time in the history of the Hemisphere. And I think probably -- I know that some of you have got -- one or two of you have got certain problems back home. And I do think that the idea is being realized more than ever before what would happen if any part of any of the Hemisphere were dominated by a successful Germany. We wouldn't live the same kind of lives, that is the easiest way of putting it. Because that new -- not the old German civilization -- the new German civilization is so totally different from what all of us have been accustomed to since we were five years old -- since we were born. I shudder -- I hate to think of what would happen to any part of the Hemisphere that came under that kind of domination.

And so I am looking for a word, as I said to the newspaper men a little while ago, I want a name for the war. I haven't had any very good suggestions. Most of them are too long. My own thought is that perhaps there is one word that we could use for this war, the word "survival." The Survival War. That is what it comes pretty close to being -- the survival of our civilization, the

survival of Democracy, the survival of a new Hemisphere -- the newest Hemisphere of all of them, which has worked out for itself in ways which on the surface may be a bit different, but down at the bottom it is the same kind of civilization that has come from a love of liberty and the willingness to pioneer. So I think that survival is what we are -- what our problem is, survival of what we have all lived for for a great many generations, because now I think in all of the Republics we have, relatively speaking, quite an ancient civilization, since we have had independence, and even for a good many years before that. And that is why I hope that the continental -- the Hemispheric solidarity and unanimity is going to continue. I think that at the last Pan American Conference of the Hemisphere down at Rio, while some people felt -- well, it had not perhaps gone so far as it would like to go, we did manage to retain the objective of unanimity.

There may be other problems after the war that we will have to work out among ourselves, sitting around the table, but at the present time we have got substantial unanimity. And that is a great thorn in the flesh of Herr Hitler. He felt that the success of the Rio Conference was a very serious blow to the efforts of the Axis to dominate the world.

*P. [unclear]* And so I hope that we will go on as we have in the past. One of the things that I often think about -- a few of you were here at the time -- in the summer of 1933, after I had been in here for a few months, we had a bit of trouble in the Republic of Cuba. And I asked all of the Ambassadors and Ministers of the Hemisphere to come in and sit around the table, just in an informal way. And I told them that I didn't want the United States to do anything

without everybody knowing all about it, and that my thought was that it was a problem for Cuba to decide for herself. Cuba did. And all the old-fashioned newspapers in this country -- 85% of them having always opposed me -- they said it was a terrible thing to let Cuba handle the affairs of Cuba.

Well, from that ~~time~~ we have got a situation -- we have got today on this -- we talk things over face to face. And I think really it is a -- well, it is a distinct advance in the relationships of nations, especially nations that are so similar -- which are in their many economic and social problems akin to all of us. I think it is a distinct advance again in our type of civilization.

So I hope we will continue to have the unanimity of the past. And when it comes to cleaning up the mess at the end of this war, after the Axis is defeated, we will have again an Hemispheric council around here to see what we are going to do all over the world, because we will have a very great voice in it, to prevent in the future an attack on our American civilization.

I haven't prepared any speech, so it is just some thoughts that I think about every day -- day and night -- that we are, as I say -- we are going places. We will get somewhere. And we are going to have a couple of years, perhaps three years, before we can make sure that our type of civilization is going to survive. I am perfectly confident of it myself. We have all got to sacrifice. We have got to do the best we can. We are going to come out the winner in the long run.

4

It is grand to see you all, and I hope that next year  
we will be in an even better state than we are in 1942. It is good  
to see you. Good luck to you.

END