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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 3: “The Four Freedoms” and FDR in World War II**

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**File No. 1433**

**1942 October 5**

**Address re Mobilization for Human Needs**

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
1942 COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS  
OCTOBER 5, 1942

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My friends and fellow-Americans:

Tonight a mighty Community Mobilization begins, a voluntary mobilization of the forces of human kindness and decency. In more than 600 American cities, gifts for foreign war relief and for community services will be gathered by the experienced hands of community chests and war chests. The two great labor organizations of the country will give full cooperation to this work. Hundreds of thousands of citizens will give freely of their time and talents for the success of these campaigns.

You have been accustomed for many years to showing your concern for the welfare of your own neighbors through contributions to your community chest; and also we must stretch a handclasp of hope and courage across the seas.

We must transform some of our new buying power into giving power as we face redoubled needs on every hand at home and abroad; and prepare to pull our belts tighter for the hard fight ahead.

For most of us this year, giving will not be easy. War needs exact a heavy toll, not only on the fighting front but in the personal lives and fortunes of every one of us. But your giving will provide not alone strength for our nation at war; but proof, in a world of violence and greed, that the American people keep faith with democracy, that we hold inviolate our belief in the infinite worth of the individual human being.

Your gift may give new heart to courageous families bombed out of their homes in many places; it may add to the precious store of medicines in a distant hospital or speed a shipload of food to a little nation, whose people are dropping in the streets from starvation. It may strengthen the hands of brave allies fighting our common foe.

It may help a busy mother, working in war industry in your own town, to take proper care of her family. It may speed on her rounds a visiting nurse who is carrying a double load because so many of her profession are now with the armed forces. It will help your community to give hospitality to soldiers, sailors and marines on a precious few-days leave, or on their way to some distant battle line.

Your gift must take account, also, of the continuing needs of the sick, the crippled child, the boys and girls whose homes are not adequate to their needs, the dependent and unfortunate in your own neighborhoods whose troubles have not lessened with the new worries and needs which war has brought.

Upon each one of you who listens tonight -- upon you as an individual -- in your own cities and towns throughout this vast country, rests the success or failure of these campaigns.

In generous giving, we will affirm before the world our nation's faith in the inalienable right of every man to a life of freedom, justice and decent security. Every successful community chest and war chest campaign will be another step toward the eventual victory of humanity and civilization.

Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Original reading copy

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
1942 COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION FOR HUMAN NEEDS  
BROADCAST OVER A NATIONWIDE ROOKUP  
OCTOBER 5, 1942,  
AT 10:50 P.M., E.W.T.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-AMERICANS:

Tonight a mighty Community Mobilization begins, a voluntary mobilization of the forces of human kindness and decency. In more than 600 American cities, gifts for foreign war relief and for community services at home will be gathered by the experienced hands of community chests and war chests. The two great labor organizations of the (country) nation will give full cooperation to this work. And hundreds of thousands of citizens will give freely of their time and talents for the success of these campaigns.

You have been accustomed for many years to showing your concern for the welfare of your own neighbors through contributions to your community chest; and also we must stretch a handclasp of hope and courage across the seas.

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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.

Your gift may give new heart to courageous families bombed out of their homes in many places; it may add to the precious store of medicines in a distant hospital or speed a shipload of food to a little nation, whose people are dropping in the streets from starvation. It may strengthen the hands of brave allies fighting our common foes. It may help a busy mother, working in war industry in your own town, to take proper care of her family. It may speed on her rounds a visiting nurse who is carrying a double load because so many of her profession are now with the armed forces. And it will help your community to give hospitality to soldiers, sailors and marines on a precious few-days leave, or on their way to some distant battle line.

Your gift must take account, also, of the continuing needs of the sick, the crippled child, the boys and girls whose homes are not adequate to their needs; the dependent, (and) the unfortunate in your own neighborhoods, whose troubles have not lessened with the new worries and needs which war has brought.

Upon each one of you who listens tonight -- upon you as an individual -- in your own cities and towns and farms throughout this vast country, rests the success or the failure of these campaigns.

And so in generous giving, we will affirm before the world our nation's faith in the inalienable right of every man to a life of freedom, and justice and decent security. Every successful community chest, (and) every war chest campaign will be another step toward the eventual victory of humanity and civilization.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Radios Address  
of the  
President /  
In Connection With The  
1942 Community Mobilization for  
Human Needs /  
Broadcast Over A Nationwide Network  
October 5, 1942 /  
at  
10.50 PM EWT

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STATEMENTS FILE

# STATEMENTS FILE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

NOTE: The following address of the President, to be broadcast over a nation wide hook-up in connection with the 1942 Community Mobilization for Human Needs, is for release in editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 10:50 P.M., E.W.T., today, October 5, 1942. The same release applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CAUTION: PLEASE SAFEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

My friends and fellow-Americans:

Tonight a mighty Community Mobilization begins, a voluntary mobilization of the forces of human kindness and decency. In more than 600 American cities, gifts for foreign war relief and for community services will be gathered by the experienced hands of community chests and war chests. The two great labor organizations, of the ~~country~~, will give full cooperation to this work. ~~and~~ Hundreds of thousands of citizens will give freely of their time and talents for the success of these campaigns.

You have been accustomed for many years to showing your concern for the welfare of your own neighbors through contributions to your community chest; and also we must stretch a handclasp of hope and courage across the seas.

We must transform some of our new buying power into giving power as we face redoubled needs on every hand at home and abroad; and prepare to pull our belts tighter for the hard fight ahead.

For most of us this year, giving will not be easy. War needs exact a heavy toll, not only on the fighting front but in the personal lives and fortunes of every one of us. But your giving will provide not alone strength for our nation at war; but proof, in a world of violence and greed, that the American people keep faith with democracy, that we hold inviolate our belief in the infinite worth of the individual human being.

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Your gift must take account, also, of the continuing needs of the sick, the crippled child, the boys and girls whose homes are not adequate to their needs; the dependent, and unfortunate in your own neighborhoods, whose troubles have not lessened with the new worries and needs which war has brought.

(the)

*and farms*

Upon each one of you who listens tonight — upon  
you as an individual — in your own cities and towns throughout  
this vast country, rests the success or failure of these  
campaigns.

*Plains* In generous giving, we will affirm before the world  
our nation's faith in the inalienable right of every man to a  
life of freedom, <sup>and</sup> justice and decent security. Every successful  
community chest, <sup>and</sup> war chest campaign will be another step  
toward the eventual victory of humanity and civilization.

*enemy*

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 5, 1942

*File*

MEMORANDUM FOR

*File*  
THE PRESIDENT

This is a draft of speech for  
the Mobilization for Human Needs for  
Monday, October 5, 1942. It is based  
on a draft received from Mr. Charles P.  
Taft, of USO.

SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN

DRAFT OF SPEECH FOR PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT  
For Community Mobilization  
October 5, 1942                    10:30-11 PM EST  
NBC, Blue Network, CBS, NBC

My friends and fellow-Americans:

Tonight a mighty Community Mobilization begins, a voluntary mobilization of the forces of human kindness and decency. In more than 600 American cities, gifts for foreign war relief and for community services will be gathered by the experienced hands of community chests and war chests. The two great labor organizations of the country will give full cooperation to this work. Hundreds of thousands of citizens will give freely of their time and talents for the success of these campaigns.

You have been accustomed for many years to showing your concern for the welfare of your neighbors through contributions to your community chest. This year we know that all the world is our neighbor; and we must stretch a handclasp of hope and courage across the seas.

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Your gift may give new heart to courageous families bombed out of their homes somewhere in England; it may add to the precious store of medicines in a Russian hospital or speed a shipload of food to heroic Greece, whose people are dropping in the streets from starvation. It may strengthen the hands of brave Chinese allies fighting our common foe. It may help a busy mother, working in war industry in your own town, to take proper care of her family. It may speed on her rounds a visiting nurse who is carrying a double load because so many of her profession are now with the armed forces. It will help your community to give hospitality to soldiers, sailors and marines on a precious few-days leave, or on their way to some distant battle-line.

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In generous giving we will affirm before the world our nation's faith in the inalienable right of every man to a life of freedom, justice and decent security. Every successful community chest and war chest campaign will be another step toward the eventual victory of humanity and civilization,  
in the People's War

DRAFT OF SPEECH FOR PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT  
For Community Mobilization  
October 6, 1942 10:30-11 PM EDT  
NBC, Blue Network, CBS, MBS

My friends and fellow-Americans:

Tonight a mighty Community Mobilization begins, a voluntary mobilization of the forces of human kindness and decency. In more than 600 American cities, gifts for foreign war relief and for community services will be gathered by the experienced hands of community chests and war chests. The two great labor organizations of the country will give full co-operation to this work. Hundreds of thousands of citizens will give freely of their time and talents for the success of these campaigns.

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Upon each one of you who listens tonight — upon you as an individual — in your own cities and towns throughout this vast country, rests the success or failure of these campaigns.

In generous giving we will affirm before the world our nation's faith in the inalienable right of every man to a life of freedom, justice and decent security. Every successful community chest and war chest campaign will be another step toward the eventual victory of humanity and civilization in the People's War.

From Charles P. Taft  
U.S.C.

DRAFT OF SPEECH FOR PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT  
For Community Mobilization  
October 5, 1942

10:30-11 PM ENT

791

NBC, Blue Network, CBS, MBS

My friends and fellow-Americans:

(A) from ✓ a year

The year 1942 will be remembered not alone for the world-shaking attack at Pearl Harbor. It will live in [our] history as the birthyear of a new national spirit; a spirit of selflessness and dedication to [our share in] the greatest struggle for human rights and decency which the civilized world has ever seen.

[Our hearts are moved by the sufferings and courage of the enslaved peoples of Europe and our fighting Allies all over the world. At the same time needs in our own communities are great, and many new services must be carried forward to maintain our health, morale and welfare. Many of these vital services must rely upon your gifts; upon more generous gifts than ever before.]

You have been accustomed to showing your concern for the welfare of your neighbors through contributions to your community chest. This year we know that all the world is our neighbor, and we must stretch a handclasp of hope across the seas. [Americans in cities all over the land will respond to far greater needs than ever before, giving through war chests and community chests to unified campaigns for the needs of war-sufferers abroad and for essential social and health services at home.]

We must transform buying power into giving power as we face redoubled needs on every hand and prepare to pull our belts tighter for the hard fight ahead.

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A

Tonight a mighty Community Mobilization begins, a voluntary mobilization of the forces of human kindness and decency. In more than 600 American cities, gifts for foreign war relief and for community services will be gathered by the experienced hands of community chests and war chests. The two great labor organizations of the country will give full cooperation to this work. Hundreds of thousands of citizens will give freely of their time and talents for the success of these campaigns.

For most of us, giving this year will not be easy. War needs ~~will~~ exact a heavy toll, not only on the fighting front but in the personal lives and fortunes of every one of us. But your giving will <sup>provide</sup> be doubly rewarded, not alone ~~for~~ strength for <sup>our</sup> nation at war; but ~~for~~ proof, in a world of violence and greed, that the American people keep faith with democracy, that we hold inviolate our belief in the infinite worth of the individual human being.

Your gift may give new heart to courageous families bombed out of their homes somewhere in England; it may add to the precious store of medicines in a Russian hospital or speed a shipload of food to heroic Greece, whose people are dropping in the streets from starvation. It may strengthen the hands of brave Chinese allies fighting our common foe. It may help a busy mother, working in war industry in your own town, to take proper care of her family. It may speed on her rounds a visiting nurse who is carrying a double load because so many of her profession are with the armed forces. It may keep open a comfortable game room or library in a settlement house for hard-working young people making bombers

on the night shift. It will help your community to give hospitality to soldiers, sailors and marines on a precious few-days leave, or ~~on~~ <sup>in their way</sup> route to some distant battle-line.

Your gift must take account, ~~too~~, of the continuing needs of the sick, the crippled child, the boys and girls whose homes are not adequate to their needs, the dependent and unfortunate in <sup>and</sup> own neighborhoods ~~wives and~~ whose troubles have not lessened with the new needs which war has brought.

[These are no small responsibilities, and they bear upon important parts of our war effort. Wars are won by people -- by the way they live and work and fight; the way they use their leisure as well as their working hours. At these points our community and war chests and the services they support must do battle, with the ammunition which your dollars alone can supply. They must be adequate to the task; they must come not from our pocketbooks alone but from our hearts, that we may carry forward the great American tradition of generosity to suffering fellowmen wherever they may be.]

In ~~giving~~ giving we will affirm before the world our nation's faith in the inalienable right of every man to a life of freedom, justice and decent security. Every successful community chest and war chest campaign will be another step toward the eventual victory of humanity and civilization in the People's War.

Upon each one of you who listens tonight -- upon you as an individual -- in your own cities and towns throughout this vast country, rests the success or failure of these campaigns.

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STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 5, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE PRESIDENT

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the Mobilization for Human Needs for  
Monday, October 5, 1942. It is based  
on a draft received from Mr. Charles P.  
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You have been accustomed for many years to showing your concern for the welfare of your neighbors through contributions to your community chest. ~~This year we know that all the world is our neighbor, and we must~~ <sup>Our</sup> ~~A~~ <sup>and</sup> also stretch a handclasp of hope and courage across the seas.

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Your gift may give new heart to courageous families bombed out of their homes ~~somewhere in England~~; it may add to the precious store of medicines in a ~~hosp~~ hospital or speed a shipload of food to ~~Mexico~~ <sup>A Nation</sup> ~~Mexico~~, whose people are dropping in the streets from starvation. It may strengthen the hands of brave ~~Chinese~~ allies fighting our common foe. It may help a busy mother, working in war industry in your own town, to take proper care of her family. It may speed on her rounds a visiting nurse who is carrying a double load because so many of her profession are now with the armed forces. It will help your community to give hospitality to soldiers, sailors and marines on a precious few-days leave, or on their way to some distant battleline.

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Upon each one of you who listens tonight — upon you as an individual — in your own cities and towns throughout this vast country, rests the success or failure of these campaigns.

In generous giving, we will affirm before the world our nation's faith in the inalienable right of every man to a life of freedom, justice and decent security. Every successful community chest and war chest campaign will be another step toward the eventual victory of humanity and civilization, ~~in the~~ <sup>in the</sup> People's War.

Suggestions from Sherwood - Community Chest speech

In this year, the Mobilization for ~~maxx~~ Human Needs is of especial importance as an expression of our national community spirit. It is, as it always has been, a good cause, a benevolent cause, participated in by good Americans who represent all sections of our country, and all walks of life, all shades of political opinion, all races and creeds. But in this year, in this tremendous moment of our history, we must be more than ever conscious of the true meaning of that thing which we call "community spirit." It is a spirit created by our community of interests, our community of faith in the democratic ideal, our community of devotion to God.

Wherever men and women of good will gather together to serve their community, there is America. It was so in the first little town meeting~~s~~ in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, ~~maxx~~ when the good folk ~~gathered~~ assembled to decide measures of defense against the Indians, and how to build their first school, and how to care for their aged and sick. It is so in this great national drive, across our continent, for the Community Chest Funds.

When we join together in serving our local community, we add strength to our national community, we help to fortify the structure~~s~~ of our whole Union. And that form of fortification - that spiritual fortification - is not to be dismissed lightly by those in other lands who believe that nations can live by force alone. The vigorous expression of our American community spirit is no less important than the mobilization of our vast military power.

The ancient injunction to love thy neighbor as thyself is still the force that animates our faith - a faith that we are determined shall live and conquer in a world ravaged by war, poisoned by hatred.

Suggested for the finish:

My friends - I ask for your enlistment in the Mobilization for Human needs - to give your whole-souled devotion to the American community spirit.



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From the Papers of  
Harry L. Hopkins