

October 30, 1942

[Get Out the Vote]

FDR Speech File

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I hope very much that the press and the radio will tell all citizens of the United States that the President hopes they will go to the polls next Tuesday and vote.

We are engaged in an all out war to keep democracy alive. Democracy survives through the courage and fortitude and wisdom of many generations of fighting Americans. And that includes using not only bullets but also ballots.

I ask that employers — all over the country — will so arrange the work day, that they and all their employees can go to the polls and that there will be no deductions in pay for reasonable time necessarily taken to vote.

I have directed that those responsible for the operation of the Government's workshops — ship yards, navy yards, arsenals, ordnance depots, as well as the executive departments and agencies — should give all the employees an opportunity to vote without any loss of wages for the time away from work.

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In this connection, I have directed that all those responsible for the operations of the Government workshops, ship yards, Navy yards, ordnance depots, national defense plants, and the like, as well as the executive departments and agencies, see to it that the employees have an opportunity to vote -- that if some employees must be late for work in order to vote, ^{that} their salaries will not be affected.

I do not anticipate that any appreciable reduction in work, either in volume of war or civilian output, will result from the loss of work-time ^{by those who} ~~on the part of~~ voters. And I do ^{have them} believe it to be worth the while of every man and woman who ^{or her} ~~qualified~~ ^{cast} ~~vote~~ ^{on} ~~to exercise his right of suffrage~~ ^{every vote} ~~on~~ Tuesday next.

Hand draft

I hope very much that the press and the radio will remind *all citizens*
[every man and woman in ^{the} United States] and its territorial posses-
ions, who is qualified, that it is their ^{civic} ~~social~~ duty to go to the
polls next Tuesday and vote.

P ^{free and secret} ~~I wish the press and the radio will make it clear that~~
the ballot box is the symbol of democracy, ^{and foundation} ~~one of the foundations~~
of this Government of ~~civic~~ ^{free} ~~an inheritance~~ ^{four to - day} made possible through the ~~courage~~
and fortitude ^{and} wisdom of ~~our~~ ^{many generations of fighting Americans.} ~~forefathers~~ — a liberty we must preserve.

[I hope also that the press and the radio will point out,
in a way the people of the United States cannot misunderstand, that]

The ballots ^{cast} ~~they make out~~ next Tuesday will be watched by ~~citizens~~ ^{people}
of many countries — ^{all over the world} by our enemies and by our friends. ~~They~~

[These ballots will be analyzed and studied by friends and
enemies alike and will be accepted by many] as a means of measuring ^{and our determination} ~~the extent~~
our effort and our will to win the war. ~~and~~ ^{to} ~~preserve~~ ^{for our children}
this heritage of the right to vote.

^{I ask the press and the radio to carry a message from me}
to employers and workers alike, urging them to vote and, wherever it
~~may be necessary, to~~ ^{and} ~~so~~ ^{they and all their employers} arrange the work day, that ~~all~~ can go to the
polls ~~and none will be the poorer for doing so~~ that there will be
no deductions in pay for reasonable time necessarily taken out in
order that every one can have an opportunity to vote while the polls
are open next Tuesday.]

P I hope that employers - all over the country - will

[In this connection,] I have directed that [all] those responsible for the operations of the Government's workshops -- ship yards, Navy yards, ^{aircraft,} ordnance depots, [national defense plants] [and the like,] as well as the executive departments and agencies -- ^{we all} [see to it that] the employees [have] an opportunity to vote -- that if some employees must be late for work in order to vote that their salaries will not be affected. ^{nothing any loss of wages for the time away from work.} [If] do not anticipate that any appreciable reduction in production ^{for} work, either in [volume of] war or civilian output, will result from the loss of work-time by those who vote. [And I do believe it to be more than worth the while of every man and woman who can vote to exercise his or her right of suffrage on Tuesday next.] ~~Every one~~

~~is that~~ The cause for which we fight is so bound up with the right of an untrammelled, free ballot that ~~we are going to make~~ in every State -- must spare no effort to make our voices count in selecting those who will ^{help} shape our course of action ~~through~~ the ~~future~~ ^{crucial} years to come.

~~final draft~~
FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 30, 1942

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I hope very much that the press and the radio will ^{TEH}
all citizens of the United States that ~~the President hopes they will~~
to the polls next Tuesday and vote.

~~We are engaged in an all out war to keep~~
~~The free and secret ballot box is the symbol and foundation~~
~~of our democracy made possible for us today through the courage and~~

fortitude and wisdom of many generations of fighting Americans. ^{and that}
includes ~~using not only bullet's but also grenades,~~
The ballots cast next Tuesday will be watched by people
of many countries all over the world -- by our enemies and by our
friends. They will be analyzed and studied as a means of measuring
the extent of our effort and of our determination and of our will
to win the war and to preserve for our children this heritage of the
right to vote.

^{ask}
I ~~hope~~ that employers -- all over the country -- will so
arrange the work day, that they and all their employees can go to
the polls and that there will be no deductions in pay for reasonable
time necessarily taken to vote.

I have directed that those responsible for the operation
of the Government's workshops -- ship yards, navy yards, arsenals,
ordnance depots, as well as the executive departments and agencies --
should give all the employees an opportunity to vote without any
loss of wages for the time away from work.

~~No appreciable reduction in production, with the exception of~~
~~civilian output, will result from the lack of work time of those~~

#

who vote. The cause for which we fight is so bound up with the right of an untrammelled, free ballot that all of us -- in every state -- must spare no effort to make our voices count in selecting those who will help shape our course of action through the crucial years to come.

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