January 30, 1943 [FDR Birthday Message - National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis] 1450

FDR Speech File

A

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
BROADCAST
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
OBSERVANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY
AND THE
NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS
JANUARY 30, 1943, AT 11.30 P.M., E.W.T.

READ BY MRS. ROOSEVELT

Following an address by the Honorable Basil O'Connor, President of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Mr. O'Connor said:

I now present to you Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who will give you a message she has just received from the President of the United States of America.

Mrs. Roosevelt.

MRS. ROOSEVELT: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I have just received the following message from the President, which he has asked that I read to you in his absence:

> "Please tell all of those who are helping so much in the great fight against infantile paralysis, that even though the visits I have been making in certain distant parts prevent my return to the Capital today, they are giving me once again a truly happy birthday.

"Tonight we are waging two wars, both in the service of humanity and both of them headed for victory."

(applause)

(the singing in chorus of "Happy Birthday, Mr. President, Happy Birthday To You" followed)

(this broadcast occurred during the airplane trip of the President to North Africa, January 9 through 31, 1943, for conferences with Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the French leaders Giraud and De Gaulle, and British and American military men)

A

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
BROADCAST
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
OBSERVANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY
AND THE
NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS
JANUARY 30, 1943, AT 11.30 P.M., E.W.T.

READ BY MRS. ROOSEVELT

Following an address by the Honorable Basil O'Connor, President of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Mr. O'Connor said:

I now present to you Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who will give you a message she has just received from the President of the United States of America.

Mrs. Roosevelt.

MRS. ROOSEVELT: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I have just received the following message from the President, which he has asked that I read to you in his absence:

> "Please tell all of those who are helping so much in the great fight against infantile paralysis, that even though the visits I have been making in certain distant parts prevent my return to the Capital today, they are giving me once again a truly happy birthday.

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.

"Tonight we are waging two wars, both in the service of humanity and both of them headed for victory."

(applause)

(the singing in chorus of "Happy Birthday, Mr. President, Happy Birthday To You" followed)

(this broadcast occurred during the airplane trip of the President to North Africa, January 9 through 31, 1943, for conferences with Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the French leaders Giraud and De Gaulle, and British and American military men)

STATEMENTS FILE

HOLD FOR RELEASE HOLD FOR RELEASE HOLD FOR RELEASE

January 30, 1943

The following address of Honorable Basil O'Connor, President, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, to be broadcast from the White House in connection with the observance of the President's birthday, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE UNTIL RELEASED.

Release for editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 11:30 P.M., E.W.T.

The same release also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

- -

Tonight, though we dance and play under many roofs in cities and towns covering the States of our Union, we are, I think, as close in spirit as if one room held us all. We, the people of America, meet again to pay tribute to a renowned humanitarian and a truly great President on his 61st birthday, the 10th of those birthdays dedicated by him to the conquest of infantile paralysis.

This is a momentous night in America's march to victory. On the blazing battlefields of the world, the fearless fighters of the United Nations are bringing closer the dawn of the four freedoms. And here on the home front, your generosity has scored another tremendous advance in the fight for freedom from disease.

We thank you for your splendid co-operation and warm-hearted response. In a crucial war year with the increasing demands and sacrifices entailed, America has not turned away from the suffering of its own. Your dollars and dimes have said in ringing tones: the health and well-being of our Nation is our common responsibility. We shall not rest until the halt and the lame walk and run once more -- until every home is freed forever from the dread of infantile paralysis.

As soon as the signal heralding the 1943 March of Dimes was sounded by the National Foundation, Americans from every corner of our land, from every section of our population, answered the call and enlisted in the combat. Workers and housewives, farmers and students, industry and labor unions, all gave freely and eagerly that young American may ever walk, ever play, ever dance.

The distinguished service rendered by the press, the radio, the men and women of stage and screen helped immeasurably to spread the Foundation's message throughout the land. Churches and synagogues, civic and fraternal groups gave their unstinting support that the campaign might be crowned with success.

We, in whom you have entrusted the direction of the drive against infantile paralysis, thank you for your gifts. We thank the fighting men of our armed forces and merchant marine, wherever they may be, for their measure of devotion is the greatest of all. And we extend a hearty welcome to those soldiers and sailors who are honored guests at these celebrations.

Tonight, your kindness has kindled new hope in the hearts of little children whom a ruthless crippler has snatched from the games of childhood. Their recovery seems nearer, now that they know they fight this battle -- not alone.

Tonight, in those dimmed-out but undefeated lands where men and women prepare to strike once more for freedom, your concern for the health and future of the young, your unity behind our Commander in Chief, has been as "A lamp unto their feet, a light unto their path."

Your deeds have told our enemies -- the future belongs to the children.

On this night, in our land and all lands, wherever the love of liberty burns with an unquenchable flame, a prayer is rising like a mighty hymn for the man who leads the American people in the war to preserve that liberty -- the man whose birthday has become a promise to every boy and girl in the Nation, that they shall walk the earth as God meant them to, head high, body stalwart and straight, feet firmly on the ground.

It has been my honor and privilege on this night, through previous years, to introduce this man to you, so that he might speak to you personally and express his thanks for all you have done and are doing to stop the ravages of infantile paralysis throughout this Nation.

Unfortunately for us tonight, it is impossible for the President to participate personally in this program. In these circumstances, I know of no one who can speak for the President better than his wife.

I now present to you Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt who will give you a message she has just received from the President of the United States.

Mrs. Roosevelt read the following message from the President:

"Please tell all of those who are helping so much in the great fight against infantile paralysis, that, even though the visits I have been making in certain distant parts prevent my return to the Capital today, they are giving me once again a truly happy birthday.

"Tonight we are waging two wars, both in the service of humanity and both of them headed for victory."

(End)