

December 28, 1943

["Dr. Win This War"]

FDR Speech File

and there were certain specific remedies that the old doctor gave the patient. [and I jotted down a few of those remedies.] The people who are peddling all this talk about "New Deal" today, ^{paying my money} they are not ^{about} ~~telling~~ ^{why} about why the patient had to have ^{all these} remedies. I am inclined to think that ^{some people in} the country ought to have it brought back to their memories, ^{like that} and I think ^{the} country ought to be asked, too, as to whether all these rather inexpensive ^{new} critics should ~~not~~ be asked directly just which of the remedies should be taken away from the patient. ^{especially if he} ~~is you~~ should come down with a similar illness in the future. ^{if the patient is} ~~It's~~ all right now -- ^{he's} ~~it's~~ all right internally now ^{will} if they just leave him alone. ^{after he has become pretty well,}

But ^{this time it was} [since then], two years ago, ^{he} he had a very bad accident. ~~it was~~ not an internal trouble. Two years ago, on the seventh of December, he ^{got into a} ~~had a~~ pretty bad smashup -- broke his hip, broke his leg in two or three places, broke a wrist and an arm. ^{and some-} ~~and they~~ didn't think he would live, for a while. And then he began to "come to," ^{and he has been in charge of a partner of} ~~and~~ he has been in charge of a partner of the old doctor. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Old Doctor New Deal didn't know "nothing" about ^{broken} legs and arms. He knew a great deal about internal medicine, but nothing about ^{this new kind of trouble} ~~surgery~~. So he got his partner, who was an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Win-The-War, to take care of this fellow who had been in this bad accident. And the result is that the patient is back on his feet. He has given up his crutches. ^{He has} ~~He~~ isn't wholly well yet, and he won't be until he wins the war. ^{begin to strike back -- on the offensive.}

And I think that is almost as simple ^{that} that little allegory ^{as} as learning again how to spell "eat."

^{The things --} The remedies that the old Doctor New Deal used were ~~low~~ ^{not} internal troubles. He saved the banks of the United

States and set up a sound banking system. [We don't need to change the law now, although obviously] ^{from ahead} there are some people who don't like saving the banks and who would like to change the whole system so that banks would have the great privilege, under American freedom, of going "bust" any time they wanted to again.

Well, at the same time, one of the old remedies was ^{the} Federal Deposit Insurance ^{Corporation} to guarantee bank deposits, and yet I suppose there must be some people, because they ^{have} make so much smoke, who would like to go back to the old system and let any bank, at will go and lose all their depositors' money ^{without} with no redress.

In those days, ^{two other remedies presented were} another remedy ~~was~~ saving homes from foreclosure, through the H.O.L.C. (Home Owners' Loan Corporation); ^{and} saving farms from foreclosure by Farm Credit Administration. I suppose some people today would like to repeal all that and go back to the conditions of 1932, when the people out West mobbed a ^{who} Federal judge because he was trying to carry out the ~~existing~~ law of the land and foreclosing a farm, ^{if there were such remedies as} rescuing agriculture from disaster -- which it was pretty close to -- by the Triple A and ^{the} Soil Conservation; ^{Act} ~~extending~~ ^{pending} truth in the sale of securities and protecting ^{security} stock investors through the S.E.C. And yet I happen to know -- I think I mentioned this several weeks ago -- that there ^{is} ~~was~~ an under-cover drive going on in this country today to repeal ^{— urging that people be allowed to sell any kind of} the S.E.C. and ~~let the sell blue sky~~ securities to the widows and orphans and everybody else in this country. A lot of people would like to do that, ^{to} take off all the ^{protection} rules and let old Mr. Skin skin the public again.

Another remedy was
 Well, ~~we have got~~ ^{we've} slum clearance -- decent housing, ~~and~~
 there hasn't been enough done ^{yet} on slum clearance. I don't think that ^{most}
 people who ~~go~~ ^{have been seen} into slum developments would advocate stopping that,
 or curtailing the program, although of course, ^{there may be} a few -- a small
 percentage -- of ~~the~~ real estate men ^{who} would like to ~~have~~ ^{stop all government interest} ~~slums back~~,
 because ~~they pay money~~ ^{in housing}.

Reduction of ~~the~~ farm tenancy ^{was another specific}.

~~Well, your old doctor,~~ ^{P. Quinn} in the old days, ~~old~~ doctor New
 Deal, ~~he~~ put in Old Age Insurance; he put in Unemployment Insurance.
 I don't think the country would want to give up Old Age Insurance
 or Unemployment Insurance, although there are a lot of people in
 the country who would like to keep us from having it.

We ~~have~~ ^{are} -- we are taking ^{both} care of a great many crippled
 and blind people, ^{giving} a great deal of maternity help, through
 the Federal aid system. Well, some people want to abolish ~~it~~ ^{all that}.

^{then there was}
 And the public works program, to provide work, to build
 thousands of permanent improvements -- incidentally giving work to
 the unemployed, both ^{through} the P.W.A. and the W.P.A.. ^{Then were provided}

Federal funds, through F.E.R.A., ^{for} starving people ^{who had}
^{reached the end of their resources;}

~~The principle of a~~ minimum wage; and maximum hours; ~~the~~

~~Civilian Conservation Corps and~~

~~Reforestation;~~

The N.Y.A., for thousands of literally under-privileged
 young people.

Abolishing child labor, ^{was another Kennedy.} It was not thought to be constitutional in the old days, but it turned out to be.

^{p There was also} Reciprocal trade agreements, which of course do have a tremendous effect on internal diseases;

Stimulation of private home building through the F.H.A.; and the protection of consumers from extortionate rates by utilities;

The breaking up of utility monopolies, though Sam Rayburn's law.

The resettlement of farmers from marginal lands that ~~cannot~~ ^{ought not to be cultivated, probably;}

Regional physical developments, such as T.V.A.; getting electricity out to the farmers through the R.E.A.; flood control; and water conservation; drought control -- Lord, remember the years we went through that! -- and drought relief; crop insurance and the ever normal ^{primary} ~~presence~~; ^{to} the assistance of the farm cooperatives;

~~Well,~~ conservation of natural resources.

Well, my list just totaled up to ^{about} thirty, and I probably left out half of them. ^{now} But at the present time, ~~obviously, the~~ -- the principal emphasis, the overwhelming ~~most~~ emphasis should be on winning the war. In other words, we are suffering from that bad accident, not from an internal ~~accident~~. ^{refused} And when victory comes, the program of the past, of course, has got to be carried on, ^{in the light of} my ~~judgment~~ judgment, with what is going on in other countries, ~~the~~ post-war program -- because ^{it} it will not pay ~~if we don't want to~~ go into an economic isolationism any more than it would pay to go into a military ~~isolationism~~ isolationism. This is not just a question of dollars and cents, although some people think it is. It is a

question of [the -- of the] ^{long range} ^{policy,} which ties in human beings with dollars, to the benefit of ~~the dollars~~ ^{capital} and the benefit of the human beings, ~~as a part of~~ ^{P.T.} this post-war program, [which] of course, hasn't been settled on at all, except in generalities.

But, ^A As I said about the meeting in Teheran and the meeting in Cairo, we are still in the generality stage, not in the detail stage, because we are ^{still} ^{only} talking about principles. Later on we will come down to the detail stage, and we can take up anything at all and discuss it then. We don't want to confuse ^{people} ^{by} talking about ^{details} it now. ^P But it seems pretty clear that we must ^{plan} for and help to bring about, an expanded economy which will result in more security, in more employment, in more recreation, in more education, in more health, in better housing for all of our citizens -- so that the conditions of 1932 and the beginning of 1933 won't come back again.

Now, have those words been sufficiently simple and understood for you to write a story about?

Q. Does that all add up to a fourth term declaration?

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh now -- we are not talking about things like that now. You are getting picayune. That's a grand word to use -- another word beginning with a P -- picayune. I know you won't mind my saying that, but I have to say something like that.

X X X X X X X X

X



Now, in time there will have to be a new program,
whoever runs the government. We are not talking in
terms of 1933's program. We have had nearly all of
that, but that doesn't avoid or make impossible or
needful another program, when the time comes -- when
the time comes.

12/28
Was not included
in transcript
excerpts.

Rueger

December 28, 1943

Excerpts from transcript of the President's
press and radio conference, December 20, 1943.
For guidance, not for direct quotation.

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Q. Mr. President, after our last meeting with you, it appears that someone stayed behind and received word that you no longer liked the term "New Deal." Would you care to express any opinion to the rest of us?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I supposed somebody would ask that. I shall have to be terribly careful in the future how I talk to people after these press conferences. However, what he reported was accurate reporting. I hesitated for a bit as to whether I would say anything further about it. It all comes down, really, to a rather puerile and political view of things.

Some people have to be told how to spell "cat", even people with a normally good education. A lot of people have forgotten entirely.

How did the New Deal come into existence? It was because in 1932 there was an awfully sick patient called the United States of America. He was suffering from a grave internal disorder -- he was awfully sick -- he had all kinds of internal troubles. And they sent for the doctor. And it was a long, long process; it took several years before those ills, that illness of ten years ago, were remedied.

But after a while they were remedied. In 1933 many things had to be done to cure the patient internally. And they were done -- though they took a number of years.

There were certain specific remedies that the old doctor gave the patient. The people who are peddling all this talk about "New Deal" today, are not saying anything about why the patient had to have all those remedies. I am inclined to think that some people in the country ought to have it brought back to their memories. I think also that those critics should be asked directly just which of the remedies should now be taken away from the patient, especially if he should come down with a similar illness in the future.

The patient is all right now -- he's all right internally now -- if they will just leave him alone.

But, two years ago, after he had become pretty well, he had a very bad accident. This time it was not an internal trouble. Two years ago, on the seventh of December, he got into a pretty bad smashup -- broke his hip, broke his leg in two or three places, broke a wrist and an arm. Some people didn't even think he would live, for a while. And then he began to "come to" again. Since then he has been in charge of a partner of the old doctor. Old Doctor New Deal didn't know "nothing" about broken legs and arms. He knew a great deal about internal medicine, but nothing about this new kind of trouble. So he got his partner, who was an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Win-The-War, to take care of this fellow who had been in this bad accident. And the result is that the patient is back on his feet. He has given up his crutches. He has begun to strike back -- on the offensive. He isn't wholly well yet, and he won't be until he wins the war.

And I think that is almost as simple -- that little allegory -- as learning again how to spell "cat."

The remedies that the old Doctor New Deal used were for internal troubles.

He saved the banks of the United States and set up a sound banking system. I am afraid there are some people who would like to change the whole system so that banks would have the great privilege, under American freedom, of going "bust" any time they wanted to again.

Well, at the same time, one of the old remedies was the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation -- to guarantee bank deposits. I suppose there must be some people, because they raise so much smoke, who would like to go back to the old system and let any bank, at will, go and lose all their depositors' money without redress.

In those days, two other remedies prescribed were saving homes from foreclosure, through the H.C.L.C. (Home Owners' Loan Corporation); and saving farms from foreclosure by Farm Credit Administration. I suppose some people today would like to repeal all that and go back to the conditions of 1932, when the people out West mobbed a judge who was trying to carry out the law of the land and foreclose a farm.

Then there were such remedies as rescuing agriculture from disaster by the Triple A and the Soil Conservation Act; providing truth in the sale of securities and protecting security investors through the S.E.C. I happen to know -- I think I mentioned this several weeks ago -- that there is an under-cover drive going on in this country today to repeal the S.E.C. -- urging that people be allowed to sell any kind of securities to the widows and orphans and everybody else in this country. A lot of people would like to do that, to take off all the protection, and let old Mr. Skin skin the public again.

Well, another remedy was slum clearance -- decent housing. There hasn't been enough done yet on slum clearance. I don't think that most people who have ever seen slum developments would advocate stopping that, or curtailing the program, although of course there may be a few -- a small percentage -- of real estate men who would like to stop all government interest in housing.

Reduction of farm tenancy was another specific.

Again, in the old days, Doctor New Deal put in Old Age Insurance; he put in Unemployment Insurance. I don't think the country would want to give up Old Age Insurance or Unemployment Insurance, although there are a lot of people in the country who would like to keep us from having it.

We took care of a great many crippled and blind people through the Federal aid system. Well, some people want to abolish all that.

And then there was the public works program, to provide work, to build thousands of permanent improvements -- incidentally giving work to the unemployed -- both through the F.W.A. and the W.P.A. There were provided federal funds, through F.E.R.A., for starving people who had reached the end of their resources; minimum wages and maximum hours; the Civilian Conservation Corps and Reforestation; the N.Y.A., for thousands of literally under-privileged young people.

Abolishing child labor was another remedy. It was not thought to be constitutional in the old days, but it turned out to be.

There were also reciprocal trade agreements, which of course do have a tremendous effect on internal diseases; stimulation of private home building through the F.H.A.; and the protection of consumers from extortionate rates by utilities; the breaking up of utility monopolies, through Sam Rayburn's law.

The resettlement of farmers from marginal lands that cannot be cultivated profitably; regional physical developments, such as T.V.A.; getting electricity out to the farmers through the R.E.A.; flood control; and water conservation; drought control -- Lord, remember the years we went through that! -- and drought relief; crop insurance and the over normal granary; assistance to farm cooperatives; conservation of natural resources.

Well, my list just totaled up to about thirty, and I probably left out half of them.

But at the present time, the principal emphasis, the overwhelming emphasis should be on winning the war. In other words, we are now suffering from that bad accident, not from an internal illness.

And when victory comes, the program of the past, of course, has got to be carried on, in the light of what is going on in other countries. It will not pay to go into an economic isolationism any more than it would pay to go into a military isolationism. This is not just a question of dollars and cents, although some people think it is. It is a question of a long range policy, which ties in human beings with dollars, to the benefit of capital and the benefit of the human beings.

This post-war program, of course, hasn't been settled on at all -- except in generalities. As I said about the meeting in Teheran and the meeting in Cairo, we are still in the generality stage, not in the detail stage, because we are still talking only about principles. Later on we will come down to the detail stage, and we can take up anything at all and discuss it then. We don't want to confuse objectives by talking about details now.

But it seems pretty clear that we must now plan for, and help to bring about, an expanded economy which will result in more security, in more employment, in more recreation, in more education, in more health, in better housing for all of our citizens -- so that the conditions of 1932 and the beginning of 1933 won't come back again.

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ADDRESSES

OF

THE PRESIDENT

1944

J. Romagna
OFFICIAL REPORTER