

October 24, 1944

[Young Voters For Roosevelt]

FDR Speech File

Ladies and gentlemen, the President has asked me to say x101
to you how much he regrets that he cannot be with you tonight.
In his absence he ^{has} ~~has~~ sent me to bring to you his best wishes
and this message from him.

"I am glad to see the young men and women of America
participate actively in political affairs. To them belongs the
future of this Nation; and it is their right and their duty to
play a part in determining what kind of a future that is to be.

"The present generation of young people in America has x10235
proved its character and its worth. Many of them suffered --
physically and spiritually -- during the dark days of the
depression. When this Administration took office, millions of
young people were jobless and in need. ~~Above all~~ ^{They} could
look forward only to ^a future without opportunity or hope.

"Old-fashioned, confident talk of the old to the young
seemed strange, indeed, in a land and at a time when too many
American young people were living in a dark heritage of city
slum and rural poverty. We were able directly to face the
problems of those desperate days inherited from the collapsible
optimism of the 1920's. The Government of the United States was
able to help the young people of the nation to secure for
themselves a creative share in the life of their Nation.

"I was never disturbed by those who said that national aid to the young people of America would make a soft and spoiled generation. ¶ So when the greatest trial in the history of our country came, I was not surprised to find this generation of young people ready in the factories and on the farms and on the fields of battle -- ready to give to their country a measure of devotion and effectiveness which has never been surpassed. But I must confess a very special satisfaction over the manner in which American youth has justified by their valor and energy in these years of war, every effort their government made to help them.

xPP36677

"We need not look backward to find the men and women who possess the qualities of strength and courage which we rejoice to call American. The children of the days of the great depression, -- yes, the boys and girls of the NYA projects and the CCC camps --
x444-N 1268
march now in the procession of American pride.

"I do have one word of caution for you tonight. It is this: The young are always apt to grow older. Some, indeed, grow old with amazing rapidity. I ask you, as the young people of America today, to hold always the faith in the young who follow you. America has now a magnificent demonstration of the soundness of that faith. ¶ It is the faith which has sustained us in war. It is the faith which must give meaning to the peace."

xPP3869

1724/40
Betty Bonsteel:

This is a message from the President
which Jonathan Daniels will deliver ^{x5230}
tonight. The attached clipping gives
all the information I have.

Kitty



x144-A
x4166-24
xPP78442

10/24
The Campaign on Radio

The following political broadcasts are scheduled for today:

Democratic

~~Senator Robert F. Wagner, candidate for re-election—WJZ, 7:15 P. M.~~

~~Augustus W. Bennet, candidate for Representative from the Twenty-ninth District—WJZ, 7:15-7:30 P. M.~~

~~Jonathan Daniel, reading message from President Roosevelt to rally of Young Voters for Roosevelt at Carnegie Hall—WOR, 10:15-10:30 P. M. (record).~~

Ladies and gentlemen, the President has asked me to say to you how much he regrets that he cannot be with you tonight. In his absence he has sent me to bring to you his best wishes and this message from him.

"I am glad to see the young men and women of America participate actively in political affairs. To them belongs the future of this Nation; and it is their right and their duty to play a part in determining ~~that~~ *their own* future. *find a future that is better.*

✓
They could look forward only to futures without opportunity, ~~and~~ or hope.
P Old-fashioned, confident talk of the old to the young seemed strange, *and at a time when* indeed, in a land *in which we discovered* too many American young people *and* living in a dark heritage of city slum and rural poverty. *I am glad that* ~~we~~ *these desperate days* were able directly to face the problems of *that inheritance* from the collapsible optimism of the 1920's, *the Government of the United States was able* and to help the young secure for themselves a creative share in the life of their Nation. *people of the nation*

"I was never disturbed by those who said that national aid to the young people of America would make a soft and spoiled generation. *So* ~~And~~ *I* was not surprised when the greatest trial in the history of our country *came* to find this generation of young people ready in the factories and on the farms and on the fields of battle — ready to give to their country a measure of devotion and effectiveness which has never been surpassed. But I must confess a very special satisfaction over the manner in which American youth has justified ~~every~~

effort their government made to help them by their valor and energy in these years of war, ~~every~~ ^{not} ↓.

"We ~~no longer~~ need ^{not} look backward ^{to find the} for men and women ^{who} possessing the qualities of strength and courage which we rejoice to call American. The children of the ^{days of the great} depression, - yes, the boys and girls of the NYA projects and the CCC camps - march now in the procession of American pride.

"I do have one word of caution for you tonight. It is this: The young are always apt to grow older. Some, indeed, grow old with amazing rapidity. As the young people of America today, I ask you to hold always the faith in the young who follow you. America has now a magnificent demonstration of the soundness of that faith. It is the faith which has sustained us in war. It is the faith which must give meaning to the peace."

A

STATEMENT
FOR YOUTH RALLY

Whoever presumes to address American youth, in these days, had better have something to say. He had better remember not to talk down, but to talk up to these listeners.

Camouflage is camouflage, whether it masks an enemy destroyer or a dishonest politician, and American youth can see through it. He who wishes youth to listen will, if he is wise, stick to the truth. The young American has a good ear. He can pick up the unsynchronized hum of the Nazi bomber approaching over the horizon. And just as surely the sinister sound of the lie alerts him.

You have been hearing a lot, very suddenly, from certain astonishing quarters, about the need for youth in your government. These same quarters profess also a great willingness to supply the precious commodity at wholesale. I am sure that you, though young, have minds far more mature than those which coined the infantile fantasy that the Republican Party is "the party of youth."

Being young, you may not remember, as I do, a time when youth was a drug on the market in this nation. That was twelve years ago. The men then in high office, many of them the same ones who now pose as the guardian angels of youth, let youth go criminally to waste in this youth-needing land. For young hands, there was nothing to do. For young minds, there was nothing to learn, or if something was learned, no use for that learning.

We have had great floods in our history, when the waters which we should have held back to nourish our crops and our forests, to make lights shine in our lonely farmhouses or machines whirl in our factories, rushed terribly to sea, leaving incalculable ruin in their wake. Yet all our floods heaped up together could not match in sheer, awful destruction the waste of youth in

the Great Depression. When a river rises, we mobilize. Men by the thousands pile sandbags on the levees while the watchmen's lanterns burn all night. But this flood of wasted youth swept over America and nothing was done to contain it. The watchmen on duty -- the same men who now claim to be "the party of youth" -- gave no alarm.

When we took office on March 4, 1933, the flood of wasted youth was at its crest. On March 31, 1933, the bill establishing the Civilian Conservation Corps was passed, the first of our measures to check the catastrophe. We began taking our boys off the roads, the blinds, the highways, the drug store corners. We took them out of the hobo jungles and the flop houses, out of the breeding places of crime and despair. For nine years we kept on draining the cesspools where stagnant youth accumulated, while the self-styled "party of youth" condemned our work of redemption as "extravagance."

Extravagant, they called it, to take 3,000,000 idle boys from the slums and shacks and put them to work in the fragrant woods and open fields. Extravagant to house them in healthful camps and to give them nourishing, adequate food. Extravagant to build up their young bodies, to fortify their spirits with the knowledge that they counted for something in America, to teach them trades and awaken their minds to the meaning of books. Some of the by-products of this "extravagance" were three billion young trees planted -- more than 20 for each member of the population -- the great forests of tomorrow; 40,000,000 acres of farm land rendered more productive through erosion control; 500 state parks developed for the recreation of the whole people; a great forest-fire control system established through the construction of 125,000 miles of truck trails and 89,000 miles of telephone lines; 80 airfields, 116 radio stations, 532 landing docks and piers built to strengthen the nation for war.

We no longer need to answer the charge of "extravagance". It has been answered for all time on the beaches of the Solomons, and Normandy, in the mountains of Tunisia and Italy, on the waters off Formosa and in the air over Berlin.

It is being answered today on the Siegfried Line. In these places the CCC boys, no longer boys but fighting men, have paid and are still paying the greatest return ever made upon a government investment.

No part of our program for the protection of American youth drew such concentrated and unrelenting fire from the "party of youth" as the NYA. When the NYA was established in 1935, 3,000,000 people between 16 and 25 years of age were on relief, an average of one young person in every seven. Of those on relief in cities, less than 40 per cent had gone beyond the 8th Grade and less than three per cent had entered college. An untold number of young people were still on the road, roaming from end to end of the land in the desperate search for jobs. On a single day in May, 1935, the transient service of the WPA counted 54,000 young people in its camps and shelters.

In the eight years from 1935 until 1943, when the "party of youth" at last succeeded in destroying the agency, the NYA helped nearly 5,000,000 boys and girls either to remain in high school and college or to acquire skills enabling them to hold better jobs. While we were helping them, they repaid us with useful work. They built or repaired two million articles of furniture and manufactured another million household articles. They turned out 357,000 tools and other pieces of mechanical equipment. They produced and canned 5,000 tons of food. They made millions of articles for hospital use. They laid out 1,500 miles of roads and streets, landscaped other thousands of miles. They built parks, carried out erosion control on thousands of acres, planted millions of trees, restocked field forest and stream with wild life. They helped build 6,000 public buildings and repaired three times that number. They worked on the construction of airport hangars and landing fields and nearly 2,000 bridges; on sewer, water, telephone and electric lines.

When war came, the NYA immediately converted its program to serve the nation's war needs. NYA shops trained boys and girls in aircraft sheet metal work, welding, forging, electricity, mechanics, pattern making, industrial sewing, mechanical

drafting and other vital skills. During 1943, the NYA contributed more than 400,000 workers to American war industry. While still in training, they had made 60 naval vessels seaworthy; had built seaplane bases, airfields and radio stations; had manufactured more than 5,000,000 items needed by the Army and Navy. The NYA requires no defense any longer as the ships, planes, tanks and guns shaped by hands first skilled by the NYA pour across the seas to all the fighting fronts of the world.

The CCC and the NYA were but two of the great measures we carried out to conserve our American youth-power. Slums were cleared, giving countless boys and girls new home environments where their personalities could develop harmoniously. Young people on farms were taken out of miserable tenant shacks and resettled in decent homes on land they could call their own. Migrant boys and girls were moved from the ditchbanks into sanitary camps where there were community centers, schools and clinics to serve them. The FWA and the WPA enormously expanded the nation's physical school plant. Under the Surplus Marketing Administration program, nearly 5,000,000 hot lunches were served to underprivileged school children in 1941 alone. Social Security, with its unemployment insurance benefits, its aid to dependent children, reached millions of young people. Let me close this brief review of the past with one comparison which alone could stand as an index of the progress made by youth during this period. In 1930, our high schools graduated 666,904 students. In 1940, the number of graduates was 1,228,246 --- a twofold increase though our population in the same decade increased only 7 per cent.

This generation of youth which we redeemed from idleness, ignorance and despair between 1933 and 1941 is now undergoing the sternest test which a nation can impose upon its youth. Suppose we had failed them then? Would they now be showing a loyalty and devotion to America which no previous generation in all our long history can match? For the first time since this nation was conceived, a whole generation of Americans is under arms. ___ per cent of the young men between 18 and 25 are now in our armed forces. Just as we were solicitous about their welfare in time of peace, so now we are doing everything in our power to give them the best possible

- care while they are in the fighting services. Our army and navy are the best fed, best clothed, best equipped forces of all time.

Our enemies called us "soft" because we were compassionate and humane toward our own flesh and blood. They are now learning that our system does not produce "softies" but men with a fighting spirit more indomitable than their own. It is because our young men so deeply love the nation which cherished them, which gave them the opportunity for education and useful work that they are outfighting the youth of Nazi Germany and imperialistic Japan -- youth raised with no end in view but to become cannon-fodder. (Give example of NYA youth who recently won Distinguished Service Cross.)

This generation of American youth is fighting, quite simply, for the age-old American ideals of Democracy and peace --- for themselves, for their children, for all the world's people. They are fighting their way through unimaginable hardships in the faith that they will return to an America where there will be work for all, opportunity for all, justice for all. They will expect to come into the full heritage of liberty and freedom, that American heritage to which they are reaffirming their right by the sacrifice of their blood.

To be young today, and to be an American also, is to bear a responsibility unparalleled in all the generations which have gone before. The old fable of Atlas, whose shoulders were bowed under the weight of the whole world, with you finds a truer application than ever before. Each day you give added proof, on the battlefield, at the factory bench or in the classroom that you are measuring up to the challenge of your time, that your shoulders are strong and broad enough to sustain the burden of Atlas.

Beyond the ordeal of today, in which you are acquitting yourselves so magnificently, lies tomorrow. And it is toward tomorrow that you look, being young. You see there, I am sure, the outlines of that reward which you so richly merit. But I would be less than honest if I pretended that it was safely yours. Floods have a habit of recurring when we do not take permanent and fundamental measures to prevent them. And the flood of wasted youth which desolated this

nation twelve years ago can again be visited upon us, at the close of the war, if we fail to get ready in time.

America cannot afford another such flood. ^{has occurred in 1932.} When the war is won we must again turn our full energy to the task of making this nation the best place in the world to be born in, to grow up in, to live in. Of course we can do it. You can do it. It is no more difficult than the present job which engages youth-- the destruction of mankind's mortal enemies. The construction of a new world, founded on universal peace and justice, ^{in America} with useful work for every willing pair of hands, with a chance for every eager brain to absorb all the learning it can hold, with no door of opportunity closed against anyone because of his race, his religion or the color of his skin -- that is the challenge of tomorrow.

[But across the threshold of tomorrow falls a shadow. Shall we turn back on November 7th from our confident march, shall we choose instead to retreat into yesterday?]

Though I cannot be with you, I can see the determination in your faces and feel the intensity of your faith. I do not doubt that you will dispel the shadow across the threshold of tomorrow. ^{from that} And together we shall build a better nation, a better world than we have ever known.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 25, 1944

MR. INGOLING:

Mr. Hassett informs me that the greeting from the President was OK'd by the President "as a message to be embodied in a speech to be delivered at the rally of Young Voters for Roosevelt, New York City, October 24, by Abe Fortas." The President did not sign it. As I understand it, Abe Fortas had a copy and was given the President's approval by Mr. Hassett by telephone, from Hyde Park.

(Perhaps, Mr. Hassett says, Jonathan Daniels used it in his address; either Daniels or Fortas, one or the other used it.)

Alice Winegar

Mr Winegar

Can you tell us what
the Score is on this.

There are originals and
Carbons galore. Did it
go and if so how?
(all for the reason and
not to satisfy my
Curiosity)

O.K.

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

October 22, 1944.

Teletype message for William H. Hassett, at
Hyde Park:

Following is a proposed message for Abe
Fortas to read at Young Voters for Roosevelt
Rally, Carnegie Hall, New York City, October 24.
Will appreciate clearance with President today.

JONATHAN DANIELS

(Message attached)

STANDARD FORM NO. 14A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 16, 1925

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

FROM

The White House
Washington

GPO

OCTOBER 22, 1944.

MR. LATTA,

FOLLOWING SENT UP FOR THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE
AT THE REQUEST OF MR. JONATHAN DANIELS.

File

WALTER L. BURTON, JR.

TELEGRAPH DEPT.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

My dear Abe:

Please convey my greetings to the Rally of the Young Voters for Roosevelt. I am glad to see the young men and women of America, regardless of party affiliation, participate actively in political affairs. To them belongs the future of this Nation, and it is their right and their duty to play a part in determining that future.

The present generation of young people in America has proved its character and its worth. Many of them suffered, physically and spiritually, during the dark days of the depression. When this Administration took office, millions of young people were jobless and in need. I am glad that we were able to help them secure for themselves a full share in the life of their Nation.

When the greatest trial in the history of our country came, this generation of young people was ready in the factories and on the farms and on the fields of battle—ready to give to its country a measure of devotion and effectiveness which has never been surpassed.

To the young people of this Nation I give my heartfelt thanks and those of a grateful people.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Abe Fortas,

Under Secretary of the Interior.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Fortas
(cleared with Justice)
Rained by telephone:
10/22/44).

My dear Abe:

Please convey my greetings to the Rally of the Young Voters for Roosevelt. I am glad to see the young men and women of America, regardless of party affiliation, participate actively in political affairs. To them belongs the future of this Nation, and it is their right and their duty to play a part in determining that future.

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To the young people of this Nation I give my heartfelt thanks and those of a grateful people.

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Hon. Abe Fortas,

Under Secretary of the Interior.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

My dear Abe:

Please convey my greetings to the Rally of the Young Voters for Roosevelt. I am glad to see the young men and women of America, regardless of party affiliation, participate actively in political affairs. To them belongs the future of this Nation, and it is their right and their duty to play a part in determining that future.

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To the young people of this Nation I give my heartfelt thanks and those of a grateful people.

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Hon. Abe Fortas,

Under Secretary of the Interior.

210/24/44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

My dear Abe:

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To the young people of this Nation I give my heartfelt thanks and those of a grateful people.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Abe Fortas, ^{x6}
Under secretary of the Interior

The above was approved by the President as a message to be embodied in a speech to be delivered at the Rally by Abe Fortas
H. F. Oct 23, 1944,

Charlie West

Mr. Hassett:

Following is a proposed message for
Ave Fortas to read at Young Voters for Roosevelt
Rally, Carnegie Hall, New York City, October 24.
Will appreciate clearance with President today.

Jonathan Daniels

Oct. 22, 1944