

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

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Box 13; Folder = Speech Drafts:

Message to Congress on Stimulating Recovery, April 14, 1938

Tully Archive: FDR Papers

Speech Drafts: Message to Congress on Stimulating
Recovery, April 14, 1938

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"Use of power by any group, however situated, to force its interest or to use its strategic position in order to receive more from the Common fund than its contribution to the common fund justifies, is an attack against and not an aid to our national life.

"Self-restraint implies restraint by articulate public opinion, trained to distinguish fact from falsehood, trained to believe that bitterness is never a useful instrument in public affairs. There can be no dictatorship by an individual or by a group in this Nation, save through division fostered by hate. Such division there must never be."

, "Amid the voices which now seek to divide group from group, occupation from occupation, section from section, thinking Americans must insist on common effort in a common endeavor and a common faith in each other."

Finally I should like to say a personal word to those of you who are listening.

I never forget that I live in a house owned by all the American people and that I have been given their trust.

I try always to remember that their deepest problems are human like my own. I constantly talk with those who

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come to tell me their own points of view -- with those who manage the great industries and financial institutions of the country -- with those who represent the farmer and the worker -- and often with average citizens without high position who come to this house. And constantly I seek to look beyond the doors of the White House, beyond the official door of the National Capital, into the hopes and fears of men and women in their homes. I have travelled the country over many times. My family, my friends, my enemies, my daily mail bring to me reports of what you are thinking and hoping. I want to be sure that neither battles nor burdens of office shall ever blind me to an intimate knowledge of the way the American people want to live and the simple purposes for which they put me here.

In these great problems of government I try not to forget that what really counts at the bottom of it all, is that the men and women willing to work can have a decent job to take care of themselves and their homes and their children ~~adequately~~ adequately; that the farmer, the factory worker, the storekeeper, the gas station man, the manufacturer, the merchant -- big and small -- the banker who takes pride in the help he gives to the

building of his community -- that all these can be sure of a
reason a port, we must sail - sail, not tie at anchor,
reasonable profit and safety for the savings they earn --
sail, not drift.
not today nor tomorrow alone, but as far ahead as they can
see.

I can hear your unspoken wonder as to where we
are headed in this troubled world. I cannot expect all of
the people to understand all of the people's problems;
but it is my job more than that of any other man to try to
understand those problems.

I always try to remember that reconciling
differences cannot satisfy everyone completely. Because I do
not expect too much, I am not disappointed. But I know that I
must never give up simply because of disagreement and misunder-
standing -- that I must never let the greater interest of all the
people down, merely because that might be for the moment the
easiest personal way out.

I believe we have been right in the course we have
charted. To abandon our purpose of building a greater, a more
stable and a more tolerant American, would be to miss the tide
and perhaps to miss the port. I propose to sail ahead. I
feel sure that your hopes and your help are with me. For to

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reach a port, we must sail - sail, not tie at anchor,
sail, not drift.