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Box 13; Folder = Speech Drafts:

Radio Address for the Mobilization of Human Needs, October 13, 1940

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this year is more

In this year, the Mobilization for Human Needs ~~is of especial~~
~~importance~~ *than ever* as an expression of our national community spirit. It is,

as it always has been, a good cause, ~~a benevolent cause~~, participated
in by good Americans who represent all sections of our country, all
walks of life, all shades of political opinion, all races and creeds.

But ~~in this year~~, in this ^{*critical*} tremendous moment of our history, we must

be more than ever conscious of the true meaning of ~~that thing which~~

^{*the*} ~~we call~~ "community spirit." ^{*which it expresses.*} It is a spirit ^{*which comes from*} created by our community

of interests, our community of faith in the democratic ideal, our
community of devotion to God.

Wherever men and women of good will gather together to serve

their community, there is America. It was ^{*true*} ~~so~~ in the first little town

meetings in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, when the good folk assembled
to decide measures of defense against the Indians, and how to build

their first school, and how to care for their aged and sick. It is ^{*still true*} ~~so~~

in this great national drive, across our continent, for the Community
Chest Funds.

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Community service now as always must supplement the work of government in caring for those unable to care for themselves.

We sometimes forget that ^{early} even in the days when our society centered in the village community, and when dwellers in cities knew all their neighbors, the care of the poor was ^{in some} still in large measure a public undertaking. In colonial America the church vestry was part of our system of government, and money raised through taxation was distributed by the vestrymen among the poor. Later the county government and the city council took over these duties, operating under state law. Then the state itself saw its direct duty, ^{in our own day,} and finally the national government was obliged to assume ^{a definite} responsibility ^{in this field}.

~~This development has come about because of the growing complexity of our social system, and the rise of industrialism.~~

At one stage in our national history, the baskets of bread and meat carried by New England housewives to the houses down below the railroad tracks were adequate to temper the suffering of the victims of industrial depression. In those days a group of ~~small~~ town business men,

gathered on the sidewalk at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets,
could attend to the distribution of available jobs, or create them, so
that Joe Smith and Tom Jones would be able to buy shoes for their children.

When the World War caused the great plains to be plowed up for
wheat, and the wheat fields turned into dust storms that drove 200,000
members of the Joad family to California, there was a problem of unem-

^{and suffering} ployment that could not be handled by baskets of bread and meat. When, however,

American industry went onto a mass production basis, and ~~decreed that men~~

increasingly difficult for men to find employment
~~over forty or fifty lacked the physical stamina and the swift muscular~~

or
~~movement needed for~~ the assembly line, it created a problem in the unem-

ployment of elderly men too great to be solved by the goodwill of individual
~~and middle~~

business men on a street corner. ~~It also created a problem in old age~~

~~security~~ too great to be solved by the individual or the family, or by

friends or private charity.

These were problems which could be handled only by the joint and
common endeavors of the government of the United States, the governments of

our states and counties and towns, *They always have required, however,* plus the cooperation of men and women

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P All through the industrial era there were created problems of old age, of middle age, of mass unemployment, ~~of industrial~~ of occupational diseases, of child labor and sweatshops,

of industrial accidents

banded together in organizations such as those you represent, ^{to} which bring the kindly touch of human sympathy to the tragedies of dislocated, broken families.

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I ~~feel more concern lest~~, in the increasing emphasis ^{now} ~~necessarily~~ placed upon ^{all} ~~the~~ agencies of government, ^{it is necessary to remember} ~~we tend to forget~~ the very intimate and human side of ^{these} ~~our~~ problems ^{For example,} of caring for the unfortunate. In the enforcement of general laws ~~for example,~~ in dealing with immigration and citizenship -- we find many instances in which ^{the general} regulations that are necessary to the country's protection ^{might} work injustice in individual cases.]

It is necessary that the administrative agency have ^{some} latitude in applying the law, to prevent the breaking up of families, ^{or other particular injustice,} or ~~to save some refugee from being sent back to a concentration camp or having his head cut off because he prefers democracy to tyranny.~~

But ^{however can flexibility of} only in a limited measure ~~can~~ administration temper the impersonal quality of general rules of law. ~~It must remain the function of~~ ^{is essential to} private charity, ^{to} personalize and humanize the task of relieving suffering.

The government cannot, and should not, ^{for example} employ the vast number of workers that would be necessary to pass on case histories, and distinguish

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These problems, ^{in this field of government} are ^{essentially} different in that respect from the problems in all fields of government.

the individual families that are entitled to exemption from the limitations of general rules. That task cannot even be performed, to the full extent needed, by the employees of city and county relief organizations. In all public undertakings involving the expenditure of large sums of money, there must be adherence to general rules; otherwise the way is open to widespread irregularities.] ^{For} ^{the wide range of ever-varying} But general rules cannot cover human needs, because human needs are affected by a thousand matters which do not fit into pigeon-holes.

As long as there is illness in the world, as long as there is poverty, as long as families are stricken with personal misfortune, it will be necessary for the good-hearted men and women of America to mobilize for human needs.

This year as never before there is need for an intensification of our efforts. Events abroad have warned us not only of the need of planes and tanks, and ships and guns; they have also warned us of the need of grit and sacrifice, of daring and devotion, and all those intangible things which go to make up a nation's morale. ~~Force may break it but force cannot create or sustain it.~~

When we join together in serving our local community, we add strength to our national community, we help to fortify the structure of our whole Union. ~~And~~ ^T that form of fortification -- that spiritual fortification -- is not to be dismissed lightly by those in other lands who believe that nations can live by force alone. Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fibre of a free people. *A people do not have to be cruel in order to be tough.* The vigorous expression of our American community spirit is no less important than the mobilization of our vast military power.

The ancient injunction to love thy neighbor as thyself is still the force that animates our faith -- a faith that we are determined shall live and conquer in a world ravaged by war, poisoned by hatred *and* ✓

My friends -- I ask for your enlistment in the Mobilization for Human Needs, for your whole-hearted devotion to the American community spirit.