1. “This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life, a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days...”

2. “Yet our distress comes from no failure of substance. We are stricken by no plague of locusts. Compared with the perils which our forefathers conquered because they believed and were not afraid, we have still much to be thankful for. Nature still offers her bounty and human efforts have multiplied it. Plenty is at our doorstep, but a generous use of it languishes in the very sight of the supply. Primarily this is because the rulers of the exchange of mankind’s goods have failed through their own stubbornness and their own incompetence, have admitted their failure and have abdicated. Practices of the unscrupulous money changers stand indicted in the court of public opinion rejected by the hearts and minds of men... The money changers have fled from their high seats in the temple of our civilization. We may now restore that temple to the ancient truths. The measure of the restoration lies in the extent to which we apply social values more noble than mere monetary profit.”

3. “I am prepared under my constitutional duty to recommend the measures that a stricken Nation in the midst of a stricken world may require. These measures, or such other measures as the Congress may build out of its experience and wisdom, I shall seek, within my constitutional authority, to bring to speedy adoption. But in the event that the Congress shall fail to take one of these two courses, and in the event that the national emergency is still critical, I shall not evade the clear course of duty that will then confront me. I shall ask the Congress for the one remaining instrument to meet the crisis – broad Executive power to wage a war against the emergency, as great as the power that would be given to me if we were in fact invaded by a foreign foe.”
Worksheet 1: Excerpts from Franklin D. Roosevelt's Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933 (NAID 197333)

Instructions: Read one excerpt from Handout 1 and answer the appropriate questions below.

1. What words would you choose to describe President Roosevelt’s tone in the assigned excerpt?

2. Excerpt 1: Excerpt one features two variations of the term frank: frankly and frankness. Contrast how President Roosevelt used these words with the concept of fear that was used in the same excerpt.

3. Excerpt 2: In the second excerpt, President Roosevelt contrasted nature’s bounty with the goods of mankind. What does each phrase mean, and which of the two does he link most directly related to the peril the nation faces?

4. Excerpt 3: What two courses of action does the President propose in the third excerpt? What role does he assert for Congress and the President in choosing one of the courses of action?

5. As an American hearing this speech, live or on radio, how would it make you feel about the launch of the FDR administration?
The New Deal Arrives: A News Reader's View of Six Weeks of History

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1932.

New President Sworn In

ROOSEVELT ASKS CONTROL OF BANKS

Text of Banking Message

First Task Is to Rescue Financial Institutions, Presi-
dent Says, and to Give Federal Reserve Act New
Power to Meet Demands for Currency.

INDUCED INTO OFFICE WHILE 100,000 WATCH COLORFUL CEREMONY

Yast Concurrence of Witnesses at Capitol Hills of Pope
of "The New Deal."

ADMINISTRATION'S CONFIDENCE IN BANKS TELL ELEVENTH HOUR
New Chief Executive Attends Prayer Service at St. John's Just
Before Ceremony.

The Evening Star

WASAGIN, D. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1932.

Text of Banking Message

First Task Is to Rescue Financial Institutions, Presi-
dent Says, and to Give Federal Reserve Act New
Power to Meet Demands for Currency.

ROOSEVELT ASKS CONTROL OF BANKS

Text of Banking Message

First Task Is to Rescue Financial Institutions, Presi-
dent Says, and to Give Federal Reserve Act New
Power to Meet Demands for Currency.

The Sunday Star

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 14, 1932.

FINANCIAL AND CLASSIFIED

Part 6-8 Pages

BANKING CRISIS UNITES NATION FOR RECOVERY

Confidence in the President's Leadership Has Resulted in Better Feeling
Among Business Men.

U.S. IS IN POSITION TO INCREASE DEBT AND RETAIN CREDIT

National Quotas Outstanding Load as Basis of All Future Obligations.

NATIONAL RESOURCES OUTWEIGH LOSES IN 1930

Wilson's New Farm Bill Other Sources Have Gained in Exporting Progress.

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FINANCIAL LONDON

WATCHING threats to GOLD STANDARD

Price of Metal Jumps to $37.90 a Pound by Dutch Firms.

AMERICAN STOCKS GAIN ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Steady Foreign Share集市, the Appreciation Issue at stake.

FINANCIAL AND CLASSIFIED

The Evening Star

Text of Banking Message

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Steady Foreign Share集市, the Appreciation Issue at stake.

FINANCIAL AND CLASSIFIED
The New Deal Arrives: A News Reader's View of Six Weeks of History

ROOSEVELT URGES BEER FOR TAX AT ONCE

Special Message Sent to Congress Proposing Action to Boost Revenue

Legalization of Beverages of "Such Mindedness as to Permanently Under Constitution" is Sought.

PAYMENT AND GAINS Give Committee Proposal

Proposn Is for Accepted Words of Tax in Tax as a Means to Hold Income Tax-er EDITED to assist in less exonerate.--Now in Full Draft is for Revenue.

To a minute amount of time, this proposal is to be presented to the House.

Tribunal Upholds Tax Exemptions for W. B. & A. Railroad

State, County and Local Levies Invalid for Two Years Ending January 1

Motion to Send Resolution Program to Committee Is Tabled.

Advocates Are Cheered, Seeing Early Passage

Bill Sent in a P. H. W. Report Pledged President to Move

Worse flows of tax on stock exchange.

Billion Bond Issue Planned for Farm Loan Refinancing

Western Market Covered by Farm in Woman's Loan Assemblies

ANDENBERG ASKS LIBERAL BANK RULE

Then the Country Hills with This Defeat That Hans Zabia Committee.

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS COURT WHITE HOUSE

Speaker from Bill Due to Agriculture Committee of Senate--Changes

House Plan Bill, Special Rules to All Members After Vote

Bill Fingered for Bank, All Federal Areas Would Have Been Included.

DOOMED ISSUES BEER LICENSES AS DRY PREPARES FOR TEST

DOOMED ISSUES BEER LICENSES AS DRY PREPARES FOR TEST

U.S. TO DISCUSS ENTIRE RELATIONS WITH JAPANESE

Wiley Criticizes Course of Akron When Storm Hits

Silver and Wheat on Far East Agenda

The Evening Star.

Washington, D.C., Monday, April 18--Thirty Pages

20 Two Cents.
## Worksheet 2: The New Deal Arrives – A News Reader’s View of Six Weeks of History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summarize News Item in 5 Words</th>
<th>E=Neutral Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>I=Emerging Issue</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>R=Response</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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<td>19.</td>
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<td>20.</td>
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Center for Legislative Archives
National Archives and Records Administration
www.archives.gov/legislative
Launching the New Deal:
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

Handout 3: A New Role for Government?

LIST OF EMERGENCY RECOVERY AGENCIES
ESTABLISHED PRIOR TO
DEC. 31, 1934

Agricultural Adjustment Administration.
Business Advisory and Planning Council.
Consumers’ Advisory Board.
Central Bank for Cooperatives.
Consumers’ Counsel.
Civilian Conservation Corps.
Commodity Credit Corporation.
Economic Security Committee.
Economic Security Committee.
Central Statistical Board.
Civil Works Administration.
Executive Council.
Executive Committee on Commercial Policy.
Emergency Conservation Work.
Electric Home and Farm Authority, Inc.
Export-Import Bank of Washington.
Economic Security Committee.
Federal Advisory Council.
Federal Alcohol Control Administration.
Farm Credit Administration.
Federal Coordinator of Transportation.
Federal Civil Works Administration.
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works.
Federal Emergency Relief Administration.
Federal Employment Stabilization Board.
Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation.
Federal Housing Administration.
Federal Home Loan Bank Board.
Federal Subsistence Homesteads Corporation.
Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.
Federal Surplus Relief Corporation.
Historic American Buildings Survey.
Home Owners’ Loan Corporation.
Industrial Advisory Board.
Industrial Emergency Committee.
Indian Emergency Conservation Work.
National Construction Planning and Adjustment Board.
National Emergency Council.
National Industrial Recovery Board.
National Labor Board.
National Longshoremen’s Labor Board.

National Labor Relations Board.
National Planning Board.
National Recovery Administration.
National Resources Board.
National Steel Labor Relations Board.
Petroleum Administration.
Petroleum Administrative Board.
Public Works Administration.
Public Works of Art Project.
Public Works Emergency Housing Corporation.
Reconstruction Finance Corporation.
Science Advisory Board.
Special Adviser to the President on Foreign Trade.
Special Board for Public Works.
Second Export-Import Bank of Washington, D. C.
Soil Erosion Service.
Special Industrial Recovery Board.
Steel Labor Relations Board.
Textile Labor Relations Board.
Tennessee Valley Authority.
Tennessee Valley Associated Cooperatives, Inc.
Information Service.

Source: Catalog of the Public Documents of the 73rd Congress, Number 22 Hein Online, Document 9875 v (1933-34) Document Catalog, no. 72, 73rd Congress
Worksheet 3: A New Role for Government?

1. Identify Agencies having to do with the following topics:
   a. Labor
   b. banking and the economy
   c. natural resources
   d. public works
   e. agriculture
   f. industry
   g. housing and home ownership

2. How does the creation of these agencies show a changing role for the Federal government?

3. Write a sentence that summarizes the new areas of responsibility Congress and the President gave to the Federal government when they created these agencies.
Launching the New Deal:  
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

Handout 4: Was the New Deal a Plan for Long-term Change or a Series of Short-term Responses?

Source: Political Cartoon by Clifford K. Berryman, *The Evening Star*, 10/12/1934, NAID 6012151
Launching the New Deal: 
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

Excerpts from President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Second Fireside Chat, 5/7/1934, NAID 197303

On a Sunday night a week after my Inauguration I used the radio to tell you about the banking crisis and the measures we were taking to meet it. I think that in that way I made clear to the country various facts that might otherwise have been misunderstood and in general provided a means of understanding which did much to restore confidence.

Tonight, eight weeks later, I come for the second time to give you my report -- in the same spirit and by the same means to tell you about what we have been doing and what we are planning to do...

The legislation which has been passed or is in the process of enactment can properly be considered as part of a well-grounded plan.

1. First, we are giving opportunity of employment to one-quarter of a million of the unemployed, especially the young men who have dependents, to go into the forestry and flood prevention work...

2. Second, I have requested the Congress and have secured action upon a proposal to put the great properties owned by our Government at Muscle Shoals to work after long years of wasteful inaction, and with this a broad plan for the improvement of a vast area in the Tennessee Valley....

3. Next, the Congress is about to pass legislation that will greatly ease the mortgage distress among the farmers and the home owners of the nation, by providing for the easing of the burden of debt now bearing so heavily upon millions of our people...

4. Our next step in seeking immediate relief is a grant of half a billion dollars to help the states, counties and municipalities in their duty to care for those who need direct and immediate relief.

5. The Congress also passed legislation authorizing the sale of beer in such states as desired. This has already resulted in considerable reemployment and, incidentally, has provided much needed tax revenue.

6. We are planning to ask the Congress for legislation to enable the Government to undertake public works, thus stimulating directly and indirectly the employment of many others in well-considered projects.

7. The Farm Relief Bill seeks by the use of several methods, alone or together, to bring about an increased return to farmers for their major farm products, seeking at the same time to prevent in the days to come disastrous over-production which so often in the past has kept farm commodity prices far below a reasonable return...

8. Well-considered and conservative measures will likewise be proposed which will attempt to give to the industrial workers of the country a more fair wage return, prevent cut-throat competition and unduly long hours for labor, and at the same time to encourage each industry to prevent over-production.
Worksheet 4: Was the New Deal a Plan for Long-term Change or a Series of Short-term Responses?

1. Who is seated in the chair and who is pictured on the wall in this cartoon?

2. Why might the holiday celebrated on October 12 prompt the statement made by the man seated in the chair?

3. Is Berryman’s political cartoon suggesting that the New Deal is a long-term plan or a series of short-term responses?

4. For how long had President Roosevelt been in office when he gave this fireside chat?

5. How many of the 8 actions mentioned in the May 7, 1933 Fireside Address provide jobs for unemployed people?

6. How many were intended to have a direct impact on the lives of ordinary Americans?

7. How many of the 8 actions changed how government affects the lives of Americans?

8. Which of the 8 actions seems to be a long-term change in the role of government, and which seems to be a short-term action to address a one-time crisis?
Worksheet 5: Urban Problems and New Deal Responses

Instructions: Identify the cost and benefit of government action to address the issue shown in each of the following items. Information on New Deal agencies represented is given below.

A. Urban Problems

1. Unemployed destitute man leaning against an empty storefront, NAID 195825

   Issue:

   Benefit of government action:

   Change in the role of government required to respond:

2. Breadlines: long line of people waiting to be fed: New York City, NAID 195524

   Issue:

   Benefit of government action:

   Change in the role of government required to respond:
Launching the New Deal:  
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

3. Typical picture capturing the number of people who were unemployed and looking for a job NAID 195512

![Employment Agency](image)

**Issue:**

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government required to respond:

4. Proportion of Population Given Relief in May 1929, May 1930, and May 1931 in 13 Specified Cities (Excerpt from chart) NAID 26465650

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>May 1929</th>
<th>May 1930</th>
<th>May 1931</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Families</td>
<td>Number of Persons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo, N.Y.</td>
<td>2,514</td>
<td>10,810</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,288</td>
<td>14,568</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,920</td>
<td>35,389</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton, Ohio</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>446</td>
<td>1,916</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,591</td>
<td>5,551</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago, Ill.</td>
<td>4,954</td>
<td>18,258</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,050</td>
<td>26,015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30,546</td>
<td>131,381</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio</td>
<td>1,585</td>
<td>6,750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,976</td>
<td>12,797</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,923</td>
<td>38,529</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dayton, Ohio</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>2,679</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,157</td>
<td>4,975</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,508</td>
<td>9,905</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Issue:**

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government required to respond:
Launching the New Deal:
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

B. New Deal Programs for Urban Issues (See agency descriptions listed below.)

1. Public Works Administration (PWA) Construction Site NAID 196781

   Issue:

   Benefit of government action:

   Change in the role of government reflected in the image:

2. Works Progress Administration Worker Receiving a Paycheck NAID 594956

   Issue:

   Benefit of government action:

   Change in the role of government reflected in the image:
Launching the New Deal:  
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

3. Civilian Conservation Corp Workers NAID 286172

![Image of Civilian Conservation Corp Workers]

Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government reflected in the image:

4. Woman hangs a poster displaying the NRA Blue Eagle Emblem in a restaurant window NAID 196519

![Image of Woman hanging NRA poster]

Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government reflected in the image:
Launching the New Deal:  
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

Background Information on Agencies

Public Works Administration (PWA), in U.S. history, New Deal government agency (1933–39) designed to reduce unemployment and increase purchasing power through the construction of highways and public buildings. Authorized by the National Industrial Recovery Act (June 1933), the agency was set up by President Franklin D. Roosevelt under the administration of his secretary of the interior, Harold L. Ickes. During its existence, the PWA spent about $4 billion in the construction of more than 70 percent of the nations’ new educational buildings; 65 percent of its new courthouses, city halls, and sewage-disposal plants; 35 percent of its new public-health facilities; and 10 percent of all new roads, bridges, and subways. As the nation moved into a war economy, beginning in 1939, the PWA was gradually liquidated.

Source: https://www.britannica.com/topic/Public-Works-Administration

Works Progress Administration (WPA), also called (1939–43) Work Projects Administration, work program for the unemployed that was created in 1935 under U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal... Wages under the program ranged from $15 to $90 per month. During its eight-year existence, the WPA put some 8.5 million people to work (over 11 million were unemployed in 1934) at a cost to the federal government of approximately $11 billion. The agency’s construction projects produced more than 650,000 miles (1,046,000 km) of roads; 125,000 public buildings; 75,000 bridges; 8,000 parks; and 800 airports.

Source: https://www.britannica.com/topic/Works-Progress-Administration

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), (1933–42), one of the earliest New Deal programs, established to relieve unemployment during the Great Depression by providing national conservation work primarily for young unmarried men. Projects included planting trees, building flood barriers, fighting forest fires, and maintaining forest roads and trails.

Recruits lived in work camps under a semi-military regime; monthly cash allowances of $30 were supplemented by provision of food, medical care, and other necessities. The CCC, which at its largest employed 500,000 men, provided work for a total of 3,000,000 during its existence.

Source: https://www.britannica.com/topic/Civilian-Conservation-Corps

National Recovery Administration (NRA), U.S. government agency established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to stimulate business recovery through fair-practice codes during the Great Depression. The NRA was an essential element in the National Industrial Recovery Act (June 1933), which authorized the president to institute industry-wide codes intended to eliminate unfair trade practices, reduce unemployment, establish minimum wages and maximum hours, and guarantee the right of labor to bargain collectively. The agency ultimately established 557 basic codes and 208 supplementary codes that affected about 22 million workers. Companies that subscribed to the NRA codes were allowed to display a Blue Eagle emblem, symbolic of cooperation with the NRA.

Source: https://www.britannica.com/topic/National-Recovery-Administration

5
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Worksheet 6 Rural Problems and New Deal Responses

**Instructions**: Identify the cost and benefit of government action to address the issue shown in each of the following items. Information on New Deal agencies represented is given below.

A. **Rural Problems**

1. Dust Storm in Rolla, KS, NAID 195691

   ![Dust Storm in Rolla, KS](image1)

   **Issue:**

   **Benefit of government action:**

   **Change in the role of government required to respond:**

2. Migrants on Roadside, NAID 195532

   ![Migrants on Roadside](image2)

   **Issue:**

   **Benefit of government action:**

   **Change in the role of government required to respond:**
Launching the New Deal:  
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

3.  Erosion in Chilton County, Alabama. Cotton was grown on this field twenty-five years ago, NAID 195856

   Issue:

   Benefit of government action:

   Change in the role of government required to respond:

4.  A Sample of Where Negro Tenants Live, NAID 521273

   Issue:

   Benefit of government action:

   Change in the role of government required to respond:
B. New Deal Programs for Rural Issues

1. Ten Years of the TVA, Poster, NAID 515880

Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government reflected in the image:
Launching the New Deal: 
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

2. Executive Order 7037 Establishing the Rural Electrification Administration, NAID 300002

Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government reflected in the image:
Launching the New Deal: FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

3. National Youth Administration Negro Training School Tupelo, MS, NAID 195368

Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government reflected in the image:

4. Taos County, New Mexico. Mr. Tenoriom, AAA representative in office NAID 521975

Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government reflected in the image:
Launching the New Deal:
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

Background Information on Agencies

**Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)**, U.S. government agency established in 1933 to control floods, improve navigation, improve the living standards of farmers, and produce electrical power along the Tennessee River and its tributaries... In 1933 the U.S. Congress passed a bill establishing the TVA, thus consolidating all the activities of the various government agencies in the area and placing them under the control of a single one. A massive program of building dams, hydroelectric generating stations, and flood-control projects ensued...The TVA is a public corporation governed by a board of three directors appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Source: https://www.britannica.com/topic/Tennessee-Valley-Authority

**Rural Electrification Act: (REA)** In 1936, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt enacted one of the most important pieces of legislation during the Depression years. The “Rural Electrification Act” (REA) was a part of his “New Deal” program, designed to promote “Relief, Recovery, and Reform” in the United States. The REA made it possible for the federal government to deliver low-cost loans to farmers who had banded together to form nonprofit collectives. The REA brought electricity to rural America.


**The National Youth Administration (NYA)** was a New Deal agency implemented during the first term of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It operated from 1935 to 1943 as part of the Works Progress Administration. The NYA provided work training based on U.S. citizenship and financial need for youth between ages 16 and 25. In addition to offering courses in writing, reading, and arithmetic, the NYA operated two programs: the Works Project Program to train unemployed, out-of-school youth, and the Student Aid Program to provide work-study training for high school, college, and graduate students... Overall, the NYA helped over 4.5 million young people find work, get vocational training, or afford a better education before the office was closed down in 1943.

Source: http://rooseveltinstitute.org/national-youth-administration/

**Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA)**, in American history, major New Deal program to restore agricultural prosperity by curtailing farm production, reducing export surpluses, and raising prices. The Agricultural Adjustment Act (May 1933) was an omnibus farm-relief bill embodying the schemes of the major national farm organizations. It established the Agricultural Adjustment Administration under Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace to effect a “domestic allotment” plan that would subsidize producers of basic commodities for cutting their output... The Supreme Court declared the act unconstitutional in 1936, and Congress passed new agricultural legislation two years later based on the soil conservation concept.

https://www.britannica.com/topic/Agricultural-Adjustment-Administration
Launching the New Deal:
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

Worksheet 7: The Crisis in Banking

1. Photograph of Depositors in Front of the Closed American Union Bank in New York City
   NAID 12573155

2. President Franklin D. Roosevelt Broadcasting his First Fireside Chat Regarding the Banking Crisis, from the White House, Washington, DC NAID 6728517
3. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, fireside Chat on the Banking Crisis 3/12/1934 (Excerpts)
Source: FDR Library “Fireside chat on the Banking Crisis Curriculum Hub”
https://fdrlibrary.org/documents/356632/390886/First+Fireside+Chat+Speech+Text.pdf

Excerpt A.

March 12, 1933.

Address of President Roosevelt by radio, delivered from the President's Study in the White House at 10 P. M. today.

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I want to talk for a few minutes with the people of the United States about banking—with the comparatively few who understand the mechanics of banking but more particularly with the overwhelming majority who use banks for the making of deposits and the drawing of checks. I want to tell you what has been done in the last few days, why it was done, and what the next steps are going to be. I recognize that the many proclamations from State Capitals and from Washington, the legislation, the Treasury regulations, etc., couched for the most part in banking and legal terms should be explained for the benefit of the average citizen. I owe this in particular because of the fortitude and good temper with which everybody has accepted the inconvenience and hardships of the banking holiday. I know that when you understand what we in Washington have been about I shall continue to have your cooperation as fully as I have had your sympathy and help during the past week.
Excerpt B.

What then, happened during the last few days of February and the first few days of March? Because of undermined confidence on the part of the public, there was a general rush by a large portion of our population to turn bank deposits into currency or gold. -- A rush so great that the soundest banks could not get enough currency to meet the demand. The reason for this was that on the spur of the moment it was, of course, impossible to sell perfectly sound assets of a bank and convert them into cash except at panic prices far below their real value.

By the afternoon of March 3 scarcely a bank in the country was open to do business. Proclamations temporarily closing them in whose or in part had been issued by the Governors in almost all the states.

Excerpt C.

It was then that I issued the proclamation providing for the nation-wide bank holiday, and this was the first step in the Government's reconstruction of our financial and economic fabric.

The second step was the legislation promptly and patriotically passed by the Congress confirming my proclamation and broadening my powers so that it became possible in view of the requirement of time to extend the holiday and lift the ban of that holiday gradually. This law also gave authority to develop a program of rehabilitation of our banking facilities. I want to tell our citizens in every part of the Nation that the national Congress--Republicans and Democrats alike--showed by this action a devotion to public welfare and a realization of the emergency and the necessity for speed that it is difficult to match in our history.

Excerpt D.

We had a bad banking situation. Some of our bankers had shown themselves either incompetent or dishonest in their handling of the people's funds. They had used the money entrusted to them in speculations and unwise loans. This was of course not true in the vast majority of our banks but it was true in enough of them to shock the people for a time into a sense of insecurity and to put them into a frame of mind where they did not differentiate, but seemed to assume that the acts of a comparative few had tainted them all. It was the Government's job to straighten out this situation and do it as quickly as possible -- and the job is being performed.
4. Telegram from Russellville Chamber of Commerce Supporting Federal Bank Deposit Insurance NAID 5049713
Launching the New Deal:
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

Instructions: Read the introductory passages and answer the questions that follow it as directed.

Introduction to questions a, b, & c: Image 1 on this worksheet shows people standing by bank anxious about the bank’s ability to return their deposits. This scene was repeated at hundreds of banks all over the U.S. in late February and early March, 1933.

a. Why would this public anxiety over bank deposits, shown in Image 1, be a cause of concern for the government?

b. How might the public anxiety, among the depositors in Image 1 affect the economy?

c. How might the public anxiety shown in Image 1 affect the nation’s recovery from the emerging Great Depression?

Introduction to question d: Image 2 shows President Franklin d. Roosevelt (FDR) at his desk about to speak with the public by radio. National radio networks were new, and FDR was the first president to use them to speak informally with the American people rather than speaking formally in a speech.

d. In what ways might an informal address, as shown in Image 2, help the government reach people such as the anxious depositors who were shown in Image 1?

Introduction to questions e – h: Image 3 consists of four excerpts (labeled Excerpt A – D) from FDR’s Fireside Chat on the Banking Crisis delivered by radio on March 12, 1933.

e. How does FDR identify his audience in Excerpt A, and what does he suggest that he wants his audience to do?

f. In Excerpt B, how does FDR describe the problem that struck the nation in late February and early March?

g. What steps does FDR say, in Excerpt C, the government undertook in response to the banking crisis?

h. In Excerpt D, what does FDR say about the role of bankers in causing the crisis and the role of the government in responding to it?

Introduction to question i: This question is about Image 4, the telegram from the Chamber of Commerce of Russellville, AK

i. What new Federal responsibility does the telegram from the Russellville Chamber of Commerce suggest that the public supports?

Overall Summary Question

j. In what ways do the documents on this worksheet reflect change in the Federal government’s role in response to the Great Depression?
Worksheet 8: Should the Government Regulate the Stock Exchange?

Instructions: Analyze one or more of the following documents using the questions found below.

Document 1 - The Testimony of Otto H. Kahn, of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Questioned by Ferdinand Pecora, Chief Counsel of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee June 30, 1933

Excerpt 1

Mr. Pecora. Now, do you recognize that the activities or operations of pools in the stock market gave that artificial stimulation to the market?

Mr. Kahn. Frequently; yes.

Mr. Pecora. And such artificial stimulation is misleading and deceptive to the average investor, isn't it?

Mr. Kahn. Yes.

Mr. Pecora. And to that extent such pool activities should be restrained or curbed, some way found for eliminating them, on account of their baneful influences?

Mr. Kahn. Yes. I would like—no; I think you are absolutely right. "Restraint" I think is the right word. Precisely in what way, I am not prepared to say.

Mr. Pecora. You are anticipating my next question now.

Mr. Kahn. But I agree with you that these things which in my opinion are antisocial activities and which deal with what I think is one of the most solemn obligations, to indicate to people how they ought to invest their savings. What is the right and the desirable and the responsible way so to indicate I think is a very great responsibility; and if you see that that responsibility is not properly fulfilled, it ought to be guided by some agency in some way. I agree with you. But I also say that I have not found the way yet; and whether regulation is the way I do not know yet.

Excerpt 2

Mr. Kahn. Can there be more than a fair and free market, with every possible precaution taken that no advantage is taken of the forum which is given to the public to buy and to sell?

Mr. Pecora. Should they not be alert to see to it that that forum is not used in a manner that deceives or misleads the investing public?

Mr. Kahn. Decidedly.

Mr. Pecora. That you regard as their moral duty, do you not?

Mr. Kahn. I do, yes; their moral and their social duty, and their self interest; but above all, their moral duty.
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Excerpt 3

Mr. Pecora. Do you think that in the fulfillment of that duty they might make some attempt, based upon an evaluation of the listed securities, so as to see to it that the investing public is kept currently posted as to real values as distinguished from those values that result from artificial stimulation of the market through pool activities?

Mr. Kahn. The duty to keep the public posted is primarily upon the corporations whose stock is being traded in. To the extent that the stock exchange can see to it that information is fully given without any concealment of any kind whatsoever, and to the extent that they can say to the corporations, “If we catch you in the act of deceiving the public, out you go,” I think they ought to do it by all means; but I do not see what more they can do than to insist upon those who have the privilege of supporting the exchange getting the fullest and fairest information; and if they recognize that, plus the action of the securities bill, I should hope that your purpose, with which I am in the fullest sympathy, will be accomplished. If it is not, then I think it is up to you to apply severer measures.

But, after all, this is a democracy. It is supposed to work by education, by enlightenment, by the decisive action of public opinion; and I hope and believe that there is no agency in this country which can evade that influence, and I hope that there is none which will seek to evade that influence.

Source: U.S. Senate, Stock Exchange Practices, Hearings Before the Committee on Banking and Currency, 73rd, Congress, 1st Session, Part 3, 1305 - 17
Pittsburgh, Pa., April 2nd, 1894.

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,
U. S. Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I am taking the liberty of enclosing you herewith envelope and contents as received from the Pfing Statistical Corporation, Newark, N. J., entirely unsolicited.

I assume that having been a "SUCKER" in the New Era days of 1899, I and millions more like myself are still on the "SUCKER LIST". How "Mr. Peine made one million dollars in stocks, starting with only a few hundred dollars" is the same old bait and it seems to me that if all the suffering of the last five years is not to have been for naught, during which period millions of our citizens and the type who could least afford to suffer financial loss, have been robbed of their hard earned savings by GET-RICH financial schemes of the type being revived by Mr. Peine, if the past has taught us anything, surely we must take steps to protect the gullible in the future, and it seems to me further that your stock market regulation bill is none too severe and perhaps not drastic enough to forever stop this form of daylight and legal robbery. Can't you gentlemen down in Washington do something to put men of Mr. Peine's stripe behind the bars and keep them there?

I congratulate you, sir, on the courage you have manifested thus far in standing firm against the onslaught of Wall Street and its sewer of propagandas, lies and more lies, threats and yet more threats, and I am sure that your efforts to protect the weak and innocent against these financial parasites, who are truly nothing more than common crooks, is much appreciated by millions of our honest citizens, most of whom, unfortunately, have been so comically that they don't have enough "guts" left to write and encourage you and Mr. Rayburn, or who feel "Oh, what's the use, we're sunk anyhow and you can't beat that money gang."

Remain steadfast and strong in courage, and in the end you shall receive the crown of life - the love of your fellow common folks and the thanks of millions unborn.

Here's hoping you don't weaken and that our beloved President will use the big stick to get your bill enacted into law.

Sincerely and respectfully,

[Signature]

Mr. Lammert
Baltimore, Maryland,
March 29, 1934.

Sen. Millard E. Tydings,
U.S. Senator,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

You have under consideration the Fletcher-Reynolds bill for regulation of the stock exchanges.

We believe this to be vicious legislation—another prohibition—destructive to elemental human liberties—enabling the liberty to lose one’s money in one’s own way—and paternalistic to a point where it threatens the spiritual and moral integrity of the individual.

This measure to curb speculation and market manipulation is sponsored by an administration which is committed to a policy of gigantic speculation—and has, for a year—been deliberately rigging the market for commodities and gold—using for such operations public funds—taxed alike from those who accept speculation, and those who would have none of it.

Such legislation would strike at the exercise of our traditional American right to fight out the rat race of financial insecurity. It will unfairly injure the market for our present investments and unjustly restrict or deny facilities for such commitments as we might wish to make in the future.

We respectfully ask that you direct your whole influence against the passage of the Fletcher-Reynolds bill.

Very truly yours,

[Signatures and addresses listed]
Launching the New Deal:
FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

Worksheet 8: Questions

Instructions: Answer the following question (s) that apply to the document (s) you were assigned to analyze.

1. In Excerpt 1 of Document 1, how does Mr. Kahn describe the activities of pools of stock traders?

2. In Excerpt 2 of Document 1, what does Mr. Kahn say is one of the most solemn obligations of a stockbroker?

3. In Excerpt 3 of Document 1, what does Mr. Kahn mean when he says, “I think it is up to you to apply severer measures?”

4. In Document 2, what deceptive practice is Mr. Lammert writing about?

5. In Document 2, for what achievement does Mr. Lammert congratulate Senator Fletcher?

6. In Document 3, why do the petitioners describe the Fletcher bill as “vicious”?

7. In Document 3, why do the petitioners label the Fletcher bill an attack on liberty?