

Launching the New Deal: FDR and Congress Respond to the Great Depression

Handout 1: Excerpts from Franklin D. Roosevelt's Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933 (NAID 197333)

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."

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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

2.

(U. S. Weather Bureau Forecast.)
Occasional rain tonight and tomorrow; warmer tonight, colder tomorrow; afternoon and night; increasing southerly winds. Temperature—highest, 58, at 12 noon today; lowest, 38, at 3 a.m. today. Full report on page 9.

New York Stock Market Closed Today

32,458. Entered as second class matter post office, Washington, D. C.

The Evening Star.

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1933—TWENTY-SIX PAGES.

*** (P) Means Associated Press. TWO CENTS.

"From Press to Home
Within an Hour"
The Star's Carrier system covers every city block and the regular edition is delivered to city and suburban homes as fast as the papers are printed.

Saturday's Circulation, 122,916.
Sunday's Circulation, 136,225.

ROOSEVELT URGES BEER FOR TAX AT ONCE

SPECIAL MESSAGE SENT TO CONGRESS PROPOSING ACTION TO BOOST REVENUE

Legalization of Beverages of "Such Alcoholic Content as Is Permissible Under Constitution" Is Sought.

RAINEY AND GARNER GIVE COMMITTEES PROPOSAL

Prospect Is for Approval Within Few Days of Legislation to Add \$150,000,000 to Income of Government—Note Is Termed Briefest in History.

In a surprise message of two sentences, President Roosevelt asked Congress today to enact

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

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

By the Associated Press.
The act of the Maryland Legislature exempting the property of the Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Electric Railroad from State, county and city taxes for the two years ending January 1, 1933, was sustained today by the Supreme Court.

The Maryland act was passed when a receiver was appointed in 1931 and discontinuance of the service of the railroad was imminent. It exempted the property used for railroad purposes from charges in the nature of a tax, including contributions to construction of railroad crossings, as long as the property was used for railroad purposes, but not exceeding two years, beginning January 1, 1931.

FOES OF ECONOMY ARE HIT AS SENATE KEEPS IT ON FLOOR

Motion to Send Roosevelt Program to Committee Is Tabled.

ADVOCATES ARE CHEERED, SEEING EARLY PASSAGE

McNary Believes Most G. O. P. Will Support President in Drastic Cuts.

By the Associated Press.
The Senate today tabled a motion by Senator McNary, Democrat, of Nevada, to refer the Roosevelt economy program to the Judiciary Committee. Failure of the attempt to send the bill to committee represented a severe setback for foes of the legislation. Its advocates immediately expressed more confidence that the drastic authority requested by President Roosevelt over veterans and Federal pay roll costs



MONEY FLOWING BACK TO BANKS AS MANY IN U. S. CENTERS OPEN

More Resume Tomorrow, With Those in Smaller Places Following Suit Wednesday.

ROOSEVELT ISSUES APPEAL FOR CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE

Dollar Quotations Renewed in Foreign Markets—No Gold Is Available for Hoarders—New Currency Delivered.

By the Associated Press.
Many of the Nation's banks reopened without restrictions today and everywhere officials reported that business was being done "at the right window."
(Bankers say "the right window" is the receiving teller's window. It is here that deposits are made.)
Leading the list of those resuming operations under the plan outlined by President Roosevelt were members of the Federal Reserve System.

(U. S. Weather Bureau Forecast.)
Light rain or snow this afternoon, followed by fair tonight and tomorrow; slightly colder tonight, lowest about 23 degrees. Temperature—highest, 51, at 4:20 p.m. yesterday; lowest, 35, at 2:00 a.m. today. Full report on page 9.

Closing N. Y. Markets, Pages 13, 14 & 15

The Evening Star.

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1933—FORTY PAGES.

The only evening paper in Washington with the Associated Press news service.

Yesterday's Circulation, 123,089

*** (P) Means Associated Press. TWO CENTS.

HITLER'S PROMISE TO DESTROY FOES IS WILDLY CHEERED BY NAZI DEPUTIES

Annihilation of Communism and "Barbaric Severity" Against traitors Given as Major Aims.

RETURN OF MONARCHY PLACED IN BACKGROUND

German Chancellor Tells Reichstag Members Will Be Recalled Only When Their Assent Is Needed. Galleries Packed—All Entering Hall Searched for Weapons.

By the Associated Press.
BERLIN, March 23.—Chancellor Adolf Hitler, shouting above the cheers of his Nazi deputies, de-

Western Maryland Covered by Snow in Winter's Last Stand

By the Associated Press.
CUMBERLAND, Md., March 23.—Snow fell in Western Maryland today as winter made a brave stand against the on-rush of spring.
At Oakland, the county seat of Garrett County, there was an inch of snow on the ground. The temperature was 30 degrees.

VANDENBERG ASKS LIBERAL BANK RULE

Michigan Senator Hits 'Ruthless Deflation' That Keeps Institutions Closed.

By the Associated Press.
Senator Vandenberg, Republican, of Michigan, asserted in the Senate today that a "rule of ruthless deflation" had been followed in closing banks to reopen and some liberalization in administration of the emergency banking act was needed if many closed banks were to be saved.

BILLION BOND ISSUE PLANNED FOR FARM LOAN REFINANCING

Issuance Up to Two Billion May Be Made Possible, Rainey Declares.

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CONFER AT WHITE HOUSE

Farm Bill Goes to Agriculture Committee of Senate—Treasury Probes Mortgage Relief.

By the Associated Press.
From a conference of congressional leaders at the White House today issued word that the impending farm mortgage plan will call for refinancing present debts with new Government bonds, probably totaling a billion dollars.
Speaker Rainey told newspaper men this was the plan, explaining it was hoped this sum would be sufficient to provide the needed relief, but adding that issuance up to two billions would probably be made possible.
At the same time, Senator Smith,



HOUSE DEFEATS BAN FOR BEER AT CAPITOL IN SPEEDING D. C. BILL

Beer in States Preparations Made to Sell Beverage After April 6. All Federal Areas Would Have Been Included.

GAG RULE PASSED FOR QUICK ACTION

Wine and Fruit Juices Turned Down by Viva Voice Vote.

By a vote of 121 to 72 the House today refused to accept an amendment to the District beer bill which would have prohibited the sale of beer or the granting of a license by the District Commissioners in any Government building.

DORAN ISSUES BEER LICENSES AS DRYS PREPARE FOR TEST

By the Associated Press.
MILLWAUKEE, Wis., March 23.—The pre-prohibition brewing center bubbling over with activity with the signing of the 12 per cent beer and wine bill yesterday by President Roosevelt.
Police were called to maintain order among thousands who clamored for jobs at doors of eight large breweries. Business and dinner in the city's boiler rooms shortly after noon leaped on whole cords to announce to the community that the President had made law of the beer bill. The Fire Department contributed with sirens and bells. Motorists pressed horn buttons and the

(U. S. Weather Bureau Forecast.)
Partly cloudy tonight; tomorrow, showers tomorrow night; little change in temperature. Temperature—highest, 52, at 5 p.m. yesterday; lowest, 35, at 5:40 a.m. today. Full report on page 9.

Closing N. Y. Markets, Pages 14 and 15

The Evening Star.

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1933—THIRTY PAGES. ***

"From Press to Home
Within an Hour"
The Star's Carrier system covers every city block and the regular edition is delivered to city and suburban homes as fast as the papers are printed.

Saturday's Circulation, 118,752.
Sunday's Circulation, 120,591.

*** (P) Means Associated Press. TWO CENTS.

U. S. TO DISCUSS ENTIRE RELATIONS WITH JAPANESE

Tokio Officials Understand Manchukuo Question Will Be Taken Up Here.

HERRIOT HOPES TO TALK DEBTS WITH ROOSEVELT

Head of French Mission to Leave April 19—MacDonald to Set No Limit on Subjects.

By the Associated Press.
TOKIO, April 10.—The Japanese government has been informed that the entire field of American-Japanese relations is to be discussed by the delegates Japan sends to President Roosevelt's world conference series.
Tokio officials understood this meant the Japanese military policy against China and its sponsorship of the Manchukuo government in Manchuria will be brought up in talks. Ambassador Debutch informed officials of the

McLean, Destitute In Montreal, Asks \$1,333,784 of Estate

Charges Sum Was Wrongly Deducted From Income Due to Him.

Declaring he is destitute and wishes to make a cash offer for the Washington Post, Edward B. McLean, former publisher of the paper, today asked the District Supreme Court to compel the American Security & Trust Co. to show cause why it should not pay him income allegedly due from his father's estate.
McLean and the trust company are co-trustees of the estate of the former's father, John B. McLean. The trust company, however, has instituted legal proceedings seeking to oust McLean from his co-trusteeship.
At the request of George B. Fraser, counsel for McLean, who is now in Montreal, Quebec, Justice James M. Proctor set April 24 as the date for hearings on the rule nisi cause.

SILVER AND WHEAT ON PARI FV ACENNA

JAPANESE TROOPS REPORTED MOVING INTO CHINA PROPER

Sent to Reinforce Manchukuan Army Thrown Back From Chingwangtao.

GARRISON OF NATIVE MANCHURIANS MUTINIES

Chinese Claim Shimenchai Recaptured and Shanhaikwan Threatened.
By the Associated Press.
Close upon foreign reports from Tientsin, China, that a Manchukuan army advancing into North China proper had been thrown back from Chingwangtao, came Japanese claims that it was advancing again on that city today.
A general drive to end Chinese counter-offensives on Japanese positions along the Great Wall of China was announced as the Japanese military headquarters in Manchuria.



WILEY CRITICIZES COURSE OF AKRON WHEN STORM HIT

Tells Naval Inquiry Board He Would Have Sent Ship Westward.

MISTAKE IN DIRECTION CHANGE ORDER RELATED

Aide to Captain of Lost Dirigible Exonerates Superior of Error in Testimony.

By the Associated Press.
LAKESHURST, N. J., April 10.—Lieut. Comdr. Herbert V. Wiley, sole surviving officer of the ship Akron, testified today that he would not have taken the course pursued by Comdr. Frank C. McCord, captain of the ship, but added that this did not mean McCord was wrong.
Describing the last flight of the Akron, which crashed a week ago with a loss of 73 men, Wiley told the naval board of inquiry investigating the disaster that after they sighted lightning

TENNESSEE VALLEY PROPOSAL IS LAID BEFORE CONGRESS

Roosevelt Asks Legislation to Carry Out Development of Basin and Shoals.

STRESS PLACED ON NEED TO PLAN HUGE PROJECTS

Message Proposes Federal Corporation Having Initiative of Private Enterprise.

By G. GOULD LINCOLN.
President Roosevelt today urged Congress to make provision for the further development of the great Tennessee River basin and Muscle Shoals.
In a special message, which was read in both the Senate and House today, the President proposed the creation of the "Tennessee Valley Authority"—a corporation clothed with power of government, but possessed of the flexibility and initiative of a private enterprise.
The President laid particular stress

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Worksheet 2: The New Deal Arrives – A News Reader’s View of Six Weeks of History

	Summarize News Item in 5 Words	E=Neutral Event I=Emerging Issue R=Response
1.		
2.		
3.		
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Handout 3: A New Role for Government?

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

Agricultural Adjustment Administration.	National Labor Relations Board.
Advisory Council on Economic Security.	National Planning Board.
Business Advisory and Planning Council.	National Recovery Administration.
Consumers' Advisory Board.	National Resources Board.
Central Bank for Cooperatives.	National Steel Labor Relations Board.
Consumers' Counsel.	Petroleum Administration.
Civilian Conservation Corps.	Petroleum Administrative Board.
Commodity Credit Corporation.	Public Works Administration.
Economic Security Committee.	Public Works of Art Project.
Economic Security Committee.	Public Works Emergency Housing Corporation.
Central Statistical Board.	Reconstruction Finance Corporation.
Civil Works Administration.	Science Advisory Board.
Executive Council.	Special Adviser to the President on Foreign Trade.
Executive Committee on Commercial Policy.	Special Board for Public Works.
Emergency Conservation Work.	Second Export-Import Bank of Washington, D. C.
Electric Home and Farm Authority, Inc.	Soil Erosion Service.
Export-Import Bank of Washington.	Special Industrial Recovery Board.
Economic Security Committee.	Steel Labor Relations Board.
Federal Advisory Council.	Textile Labor Relations Board.
Federal Alcohol Control Administration.	Tennessee Valley Authority.
Farm Credit Administration.	Tennessee Valley Associated Cooperatives, Inc.
Federal Coordinator of Transportation.	Information Service.
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 Bo	
National Emergency Council.	
National Industrial Recovery Board.	
National Labor Board.	
National Longshoremen's Labor Board.	

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

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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.

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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

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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.

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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?

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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:

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



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

Families Given Relief			
CITY	May	Number of Families	Number of Persons
Buffalo, N.Y.	1929	2,514	10,810
	1930	3,388	14,568
	1931	8,230	35,389
Canton, Ohio	1929	253	1,088
	1930	446	1,918
	1931	1,291	5,551
Chicago, Ill.	1929	4,254	18,292
	1930	6,050	26,015
	1931	30,549	131,361
Cleveland, Ohio	1929	1,565	6,730
	1930	2,976	12,797
	1931	8,923	38,369
Dayton, Ohio	1929	623	2,679
	1930	1,157	4,975
	1931	2,303	9,903

Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government required to respond:

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

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

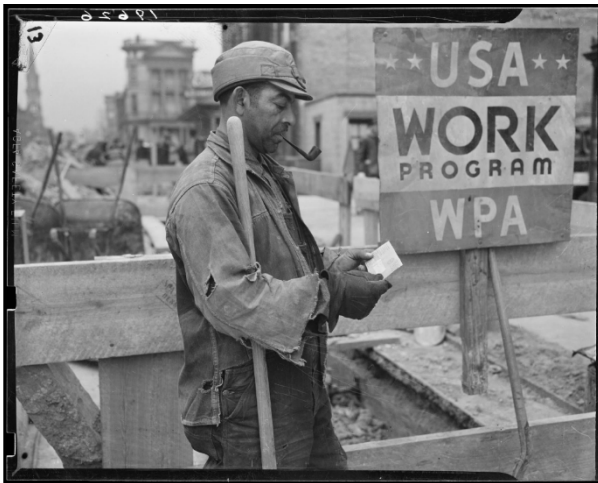


Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government reflected in the image:

2. Works Progress Administration Worker Receiving a Paycheck NAID 594956



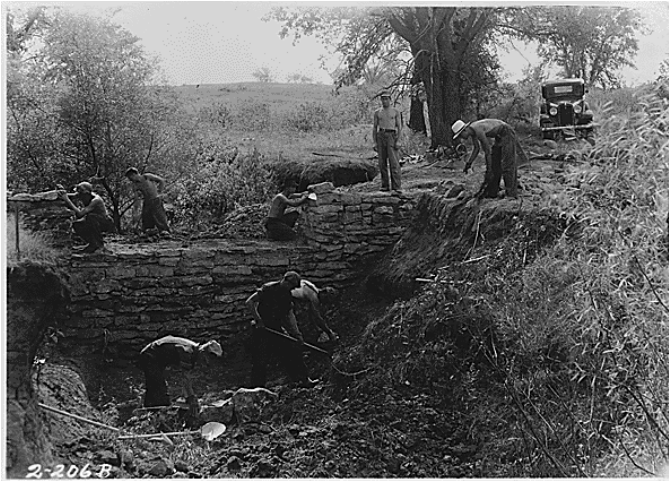
Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government reflected in the image:

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3. Civilian Conservation Corp Workers NAID 286172



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



Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government reflected in the image:

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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>

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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



Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of
government required to
respond:

2. Migrants on Roadside, NAID 195532



Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of
government required to
respond:

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

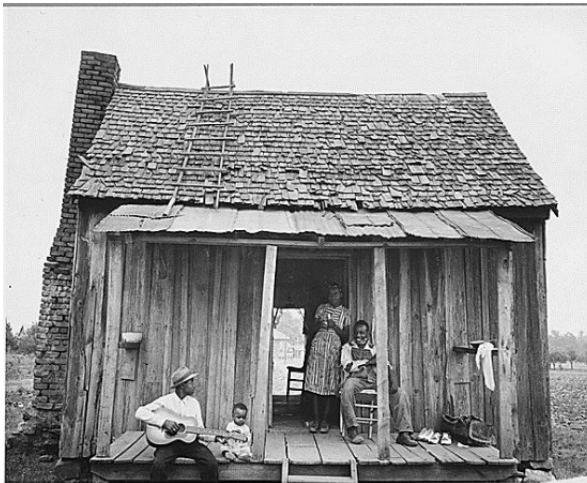


Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government
required to respond:

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



Issue:

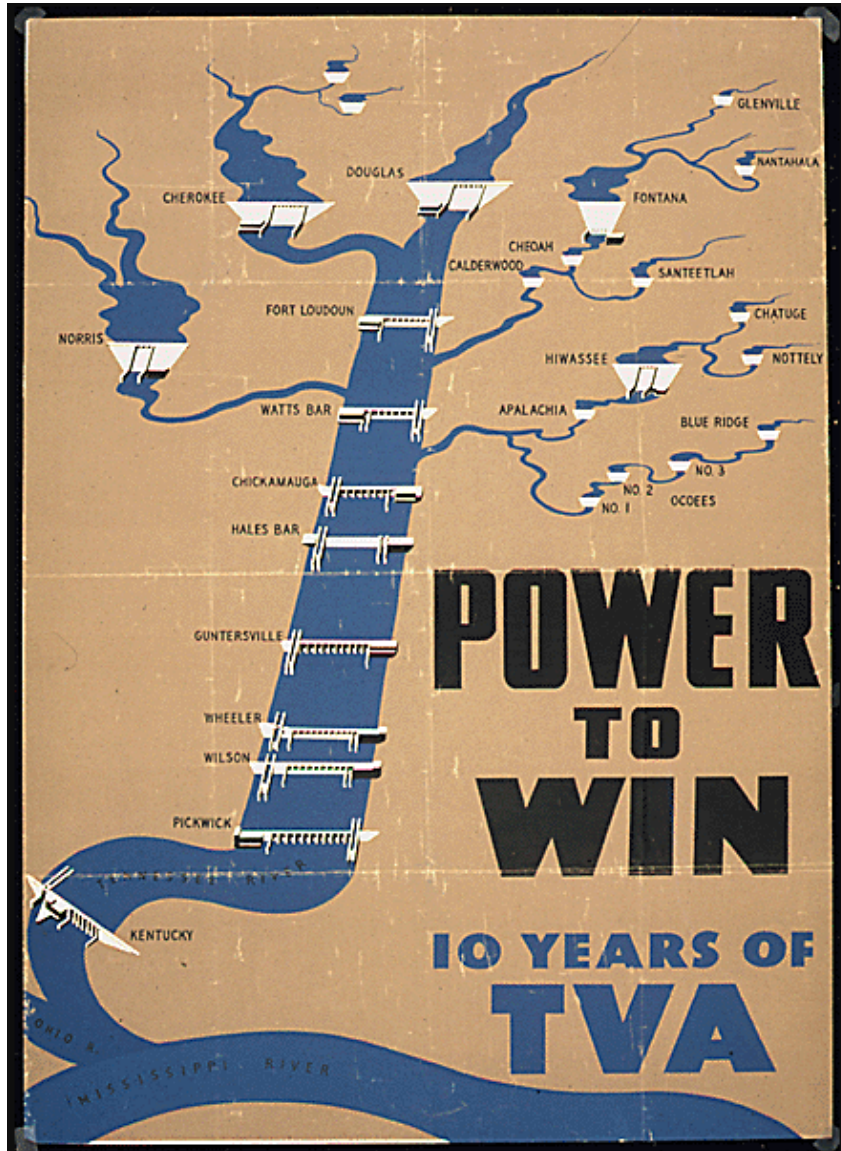
Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government
required to respond:

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B. New Deal Programs for Rural Issues

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



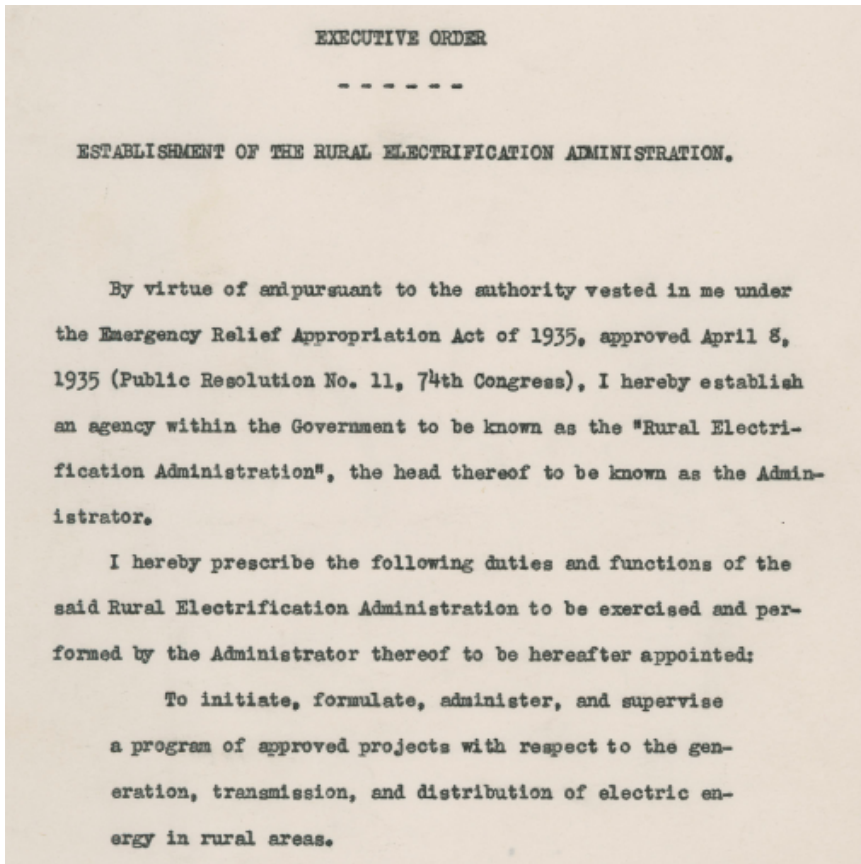
Issue:

Benefit of government
action:

Change in the role of
government reflected in the
image:

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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:

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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. Tenorion, AAA representative in office NAID 521975



Issue:

Benefit of government action:

Change in the role of government reflected in the image:

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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.

Source: <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/what-rural-electrification-act-1936-what-did-466311>

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>

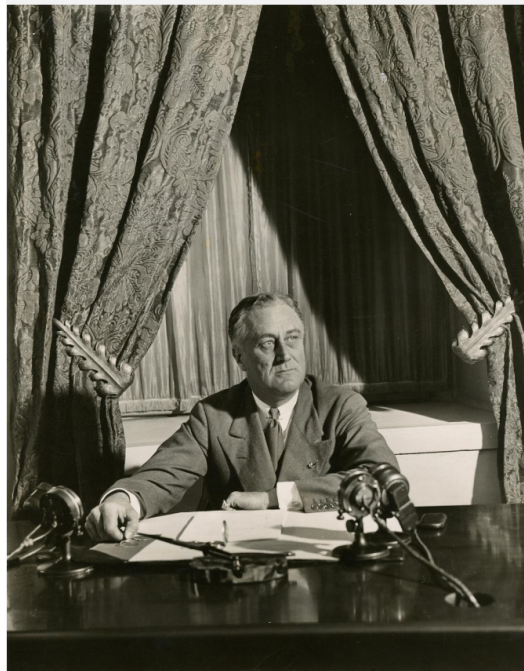
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Worksheet 7: The Crisis in Banking

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



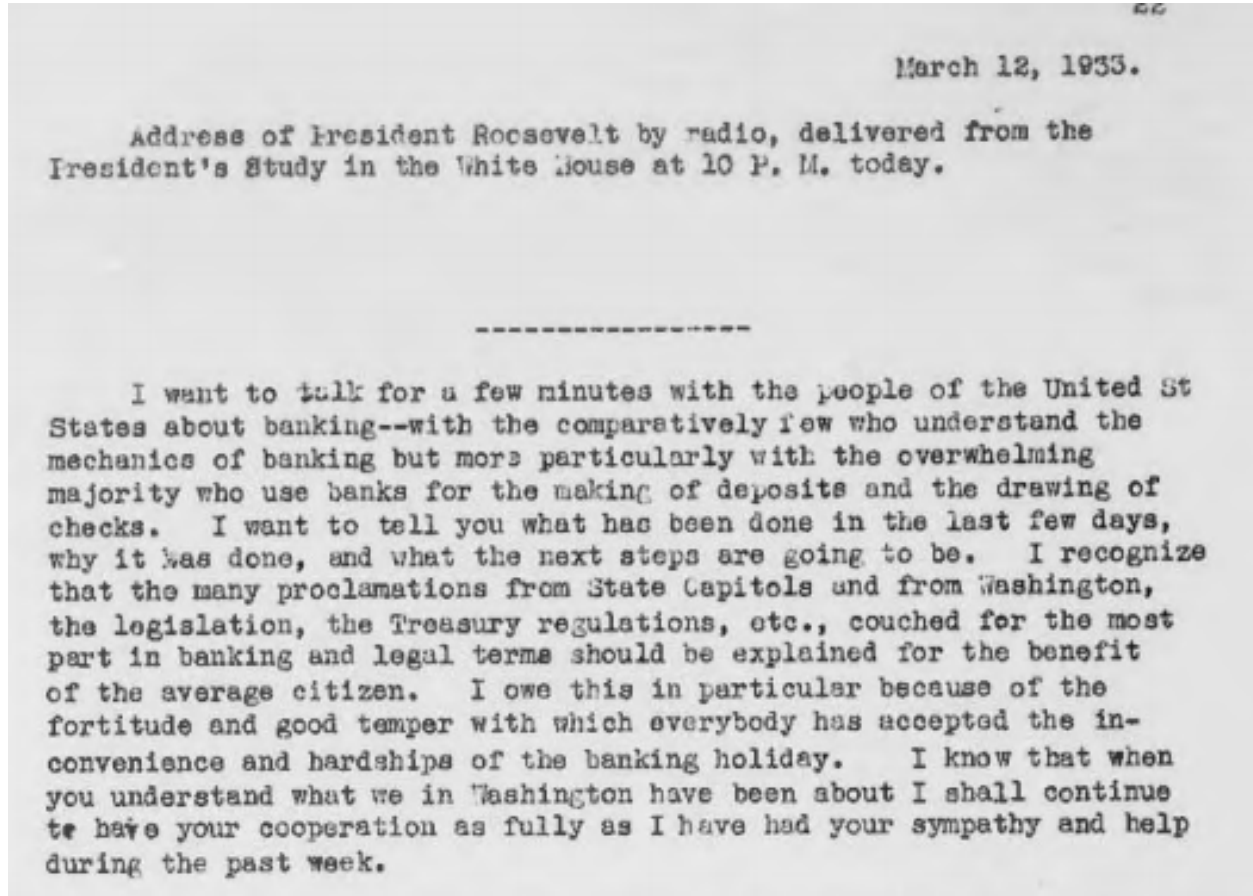
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3. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, fireside Chat on the Banking Crisis 3/12/1934 (Excerpts)

Source: FDR Library "Fireside chat on the Banking Crisis Curriculum Hub"

<https://fdrlibrary.org/documents/356632/390886/First+Fireside+Chat+Speech+Text.pdf/2015e23d-d0dd-49f4-b038-7fdf45cfaf9c>

Excerpt A.



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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 whole 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.

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4. Telegram from Russellville Chamber of Commerce Supporting Federal Bank Deposit Insurance NAID 5049713

PATrons ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWSPAPER CARLTON, PRESIDENT
A. C. WILKES, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1933 MAR 7 PM 4 44

Received at 708 14th St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

WS158 44 DL XC=RUSSELLVILLE ARK 7 303P

SENATOR JOE T ROBINSON=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT
FULL-RATE DAY LETTER

THE GUARANTEEING OF BANK DEPOSITS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
WILL COMPLETELY RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN BANKS AND CAUSE
AN UNPRECEDENTED REVIVAL OF BUSINESS STOP ANYTHING LESS
THAN HUNDRED PERCENT GUARANTEE WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE
PUBLIC AS ONLY TEMPORARY AND WILL NOT MEET THE SITUATION=
RUSSELLVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

WESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF NOTES AND PACKAGES.

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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?

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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. “Restrain” 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?

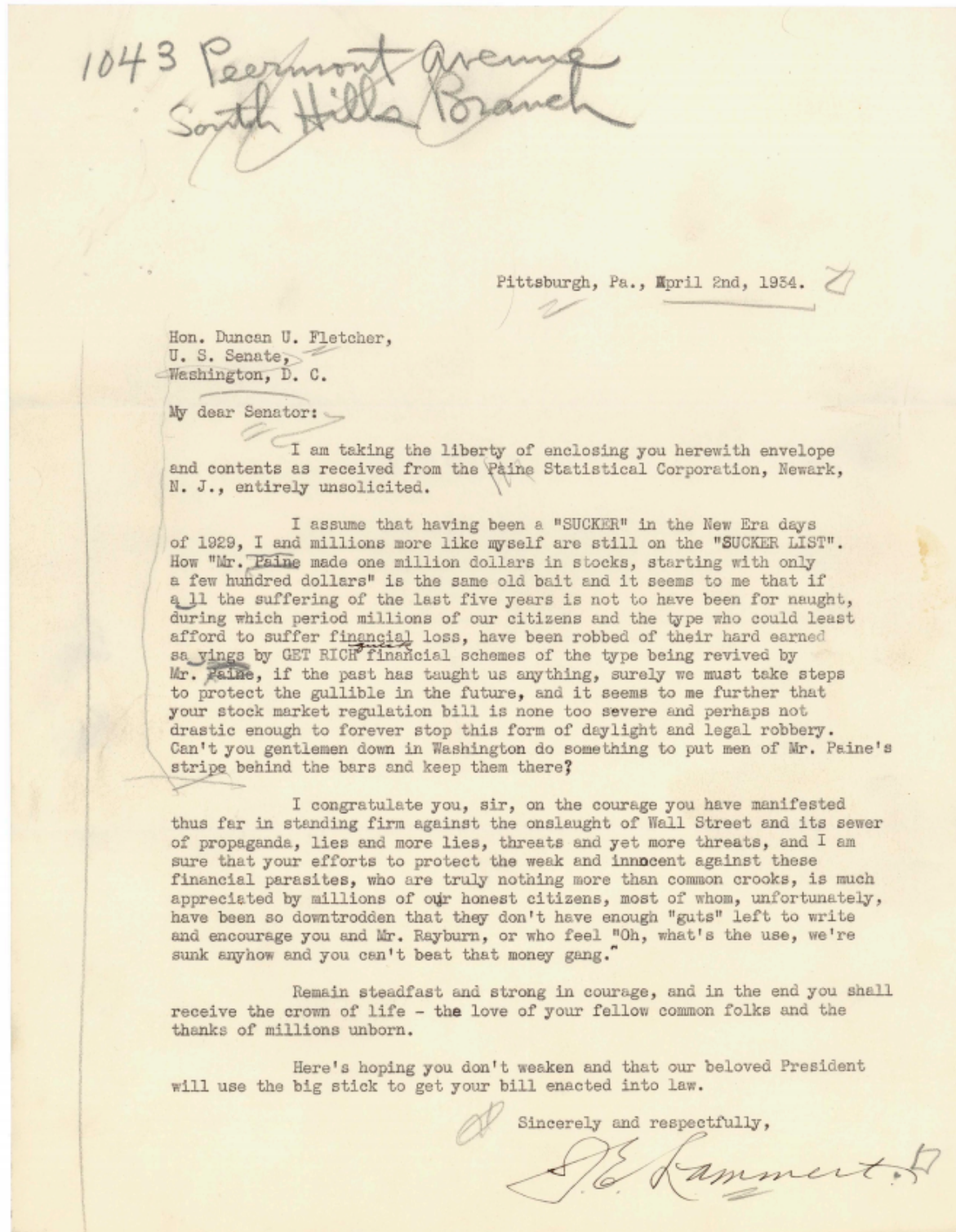
Mr. Kahn. The duty to keep the public posted is primarily upon the corporations whose stock is being traded in. To the extent that the stock exchange can see to it that information is fully given without any concealment of any kind whatsoever, and to the extent that they can say to the corporations, "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

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Document 2 - Letter from Mr. Lammert to Senator Duncan Fletcher Regarding Senate Bill 3420
Regulating Stock Exchange NAID 5557790



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Document 3 - Petition from Baltimore City to Senator Millard Tydings (D, MD) Opposing Stock Exchange Regulation NAID 5557817

Baltimore, Maryland,
March 29, 1934.

RECEIVED
MAR 30 1934
SEN. TYDINGS

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

Dear Sir:-

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

We believe this to be vicious legislation - another prohibition law - destructive to elemental human liberties - even the liberty to lose one's money in one's own way - and paternalistic to the 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 its 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 of the rut of financial mediocrity. 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-Rayburn bill.

Very truly yours,

William G. Heber, Woodlawn, Md
V.K. Yagorayev - 3321 Alto Road
Wm. Gray Jr. - 341 Guilford Terrace
Frank M. Burr 3027 Arundel Ave.
James A. Kirk - 2503 Calverton Hgts. Ave.
J. N. Galle 5006 Catalpha Road
S. W. Keat - 3343 Guilford Terrace.
E. J. Cudum 601 Cathedral St.
P. Gray 3804 Egerton Rd.
George L. Hauser 2429 Mascher St.
St. Boyd Downey - 3312 Ellerslie Ave.
Karl E. Ahlstrom 530 N. Charles Str.
R. Irving Payton 3305 Piedmont Ave
Herbert Stahl 3920 Ridgewood Ave.
K. H. Johnson 3703 Chesholm Rd -
Philip J. Rugg 2722 Hugo Ave.

Del. T. with petition

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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?