

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM



Teachable Moments in Your Classroom

The Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum's Education Department is proud to present this fourteen part curriculum guide titled, *Teachable Moments: The Great Depression*. This guide has been developed for teachers as a multi-purpose teaching tool. It contains material appropriate for students in all grade levels from 4th-12th grade, and beyond.

The guide is centered on fourteen short film segments which are the core of the “teachable moments.” These were created by the Pare Lorentz Center from archival film footage and still photographs culled from the holdings of the Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum; part of the National Archives and Records Administration. With more than 17 million pages of documents, it is the world's premier research center for the study of the Roosevelt era.

The segments are suitable for classroom viewing and are designed to provide a short, concise presentation of an historic topic or event. Each is supported with a transcript of the segment's script and is accompanied by a set of short answer questions. Copies of historic primary source documents, each with its own set of in-depth questions, are provided to give students experience gathering and interpreting information from a variety of primary sources.

When viewed in sequence the teachable moments' segments tell the story of the nation's most severe economic crisis. When viewed selectively, they can be used as points of departure to highlight the current connections between the issues and concerns we face in our own times and those that were faced in the times of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

For example:

Tab 3: What Caused the Great Depression? offers a useful parallel between the Great Depression of the 1930's and the “Great Recession” resulting from the economic downturn of 2008-2009.

Tab 9: Social Security explores how the creation of major programs and policies regarding the degree to which government is responsible for the care of individual citizens was an issue in the 1930's and was mirrored in the creation of the Affordable Care Act popularly known as Obamacare.

Tab 14: The Dust Bowl offers an insightful historic case study about the importance of protecting natural resources against over use and over production, an issue that is still very much alive today.

We are sure you will find other ways to use this material to highlight important historic and contemporary events for your classes. Any questions you may have regarding this guide can be addressed by the Library's education specialist at Jeffrey.urbin@nara.gov or (845) 486-7761.

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Teachable Moments: The Great Depression Combining Documents and Documentaries for Use in the Classroom

This curriculum package is aimed at meeting two goals. The first is to help students realize that, at the most basic level, understanding an event in history uses the same skills as understanding any story. There are protagonists, antagonists, settings, plots, and themes that all combine to complete a narrative. Pare Lorentz, FDR's ground-breaking film maker, was one of the first to recognize the power of a compelling story - as told through film- to educate and inform mass audiences of important social issues and concerns.

The second goal is to familiarize students with the use of primary sources, especially vintage film clips, and to train them in using documents, and documentary film based historical research techniques. Interpreting historical documentary film and documents helps students gain a better understanding of history as the rich tapestry that it is, rather than a series of loosely connected facts, dates, and events. It also helps them to develop and refine their critical thinking skills.

This guide contains a series of fourteen sections relating to events surrounding the Great Depression. Each section is comprised of:

- a short documentary film segment compiled from the audio visual archives of the Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
- a transcript of the segment's script
- relevant vocabulary words
- short answer questions relating to the film segments
- one to five primary source documents from the archival collection of the Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
- document based questions
- document analysis worksheets for film diagramming, written documents, photographs, and political cartoons.

This guide is made possible through a grant from the New York Community Trust.

PARE LORENTZ: FDR'S FILM MAKER



Documents and Documentaries for Use in Today's Classroom

Who was Pare Lorentz?

Pare Lorentz was born on December 11, 1905 in Clarksburg, West Virginia and graduated from Buckhannon High School in 1921. He attended West Virginia Wesleyan University for a year and in 1923 transferred to West Virginia University where he became the editor of the University's humor magazine, *Moonshine*. Within a year he was hired by the popular humor magazine, *Judge*, and soon after became the magazine's motion picture critic.

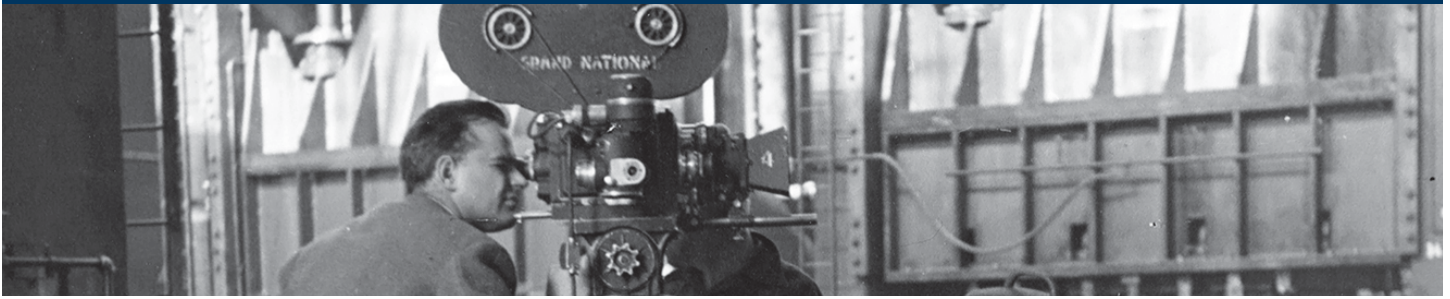
Before long he was writing film critiques for the *New York Evening Journal*, *Vanity Fair*, *Town and Country*, and later *McCalls*. Pare Lorentz was not afraid to hold an unpopular position and his film reviews were known for their directness and honesty. He strongly believed that movies held enormous potential for advancing social justice and education, two qualities he felt were being stifled in Hollywood by corporate and commercial interests.

Fascinated by the Roosevelt presidency, Pare Lorentz tried unsuccessfully to raise funds to produce a film titled *The Roosevelt Year*. He described the film's concept as a "Newsreel of the tragic events that were going on in our country...including foreclosures on homes, dispossession of farms, and the failure of [the] banks." Unable to raise the necessary funds, he converted the concept to a book which was published in 1934 under the same title. A year later he was introduced to Rex Tugwell, Roosevelt's chief of the Resettlement Administration. Together they planned to make eighteen "films of merit" which were to be produced by the federal government and of sufficient quality to be shown on commercial screens. The two most famous films to come from this project were: *The Plow That Broke the Plains* and *The River*.

You can learn more about the life and work of Pare Lorentz by visiting us online at:

www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu
www.parelorentzcenter.org
www.youtube.com/fdrlibrary
www.facebook.com/PareLorentzCenterattheFDRPresidentialLibrary

or by contacting the Library's Education Specialist at 845-486-7761.



Using Documentary Film to Improve Document Analysis

History as a Narrative; a Story

Pare Lorentz understood the importance and power of a well told story. If we consider that history exists as a narrative; that is a story; it would stand to reason that any person who can understand a story can understand an historic narrative.

A story has a beginning: where we are introduced to the setting, the main characters - protagonists (generally considered the “good guys”) and antagonists (generally considered the “bad guys”) - supporting characters, the theme, tone, and mood.

A story has a middle: where the protagonist and the antagonist come into some sort of conflict with each other and then struggle to resolve it.

A story has an end: where the conflict between the protagonist and the antagonist has been resolved and from which lessons (perhaps a moral) can be identified. The significance of the lessons and moral, and the methods used by the protagonist and antagonist to resolve their conflict can then be examined and debated.

Stories Teach Us Lessons

An historic narrative exists with elements that we are all familiar with from a young age. These elements when placed in an historic context and carefully examined (as a detective would examine clues while trying to solve a crime) can teach us many lessons about our past and perhaps our future. As children we are read and told stories as a form of entertainment, yet from these stories we were taught many lessons. For example, the wise pig builds his home from bricks, not twigs or grass.

A key difference is that unlike a story, an historic narrative is not read by a narrator or played out through a script; it unfolds through the deeds (actions) of many players and is told by primary source documents (the records of those actions). The records, like pieces of a puzzle, must be carefully examined, compared, and brought together as a whole in order for a clearer and more meaningful understanding of an historic event to emerge.

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Index of Segments and Documents

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- Film Diagramming Worksheet
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- Photograph Analysis Worksheet
- Cartoon Analysis Worksheet

Tab 2: The Great Depression

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- Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt from Mrs. F. Biringer, December 7, 1938.
- Letter from Eleanor Roosevelt’s secretary to Mrs. F. Biringer, December 10, 1938.
- Photograph of a breadline on Sixth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY, where free food was distributed with private funds to large numbers of unemployed citizens, February 1932.

Tab 3: What Caused the Great Depression?

- Photograph of factories that either closed or reduced production during the late 1920’s.
- Chart of Stock Price Indices, 1928-1929.
- Business leader, John H. Fahey’s 1931 speech in which he criticized U.S. tariff policy.
- Letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt from Frances Furnice, April 27, 1938.

Tab 4: The Promise of Change

- Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidential nomination acceptance speech given at the Democratic National Convention, July 2, 1932.
- Political cartoon, “A Message of Hope,” New York City Mirror, July 4, 1932.
- Political cartoon, “It IS A New Deal,” Pittsburgh Press (P.A.), March 11, 1933.

Tab 5: Worsening Crisis

- Political cartoon, “An Unfortunate Wait,” Plainfield N.J. News, January 24, 1933.
- Political cartoon, “Sweeping Changes Are Expected After March 4th,” Hoboken N.J. Observer, February 21, 1933.
- Summary of Restrictions on Deposit Withdrawals through March 3, 1933.

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Tab 6: Emergency Legislation: The Bank Holiday

- Banking Proclamation made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, March 6, 1933.
- Photograph, “Depression: Runs on Banks,” shows people milling about outside of a bank, 1933.
- Reading copy of FDR’s first fireside chat on banking, March 12, 1933.

Tab 7: The First 100 Days

- Political cartoon, “Off at Last,” undated.
- Press Release for President Roosevelt’s repeal of the Volstead Act, which legalized the production and sale of alcoholic beverages, March 13, 1933.
- Letter to President Roosevelt from Lawton L. Brown, October 16, 1937.

Tab 8: Reaching the People

- Political cartoon, “Another Report to His Board of Directors,” undated.
- Political cartoon, “Fan Mail,” Brooklyn Eagle, July 26, 1933.
- Letter to President Roosevelt, April 14, 1938.

Tab 9: Social Security

- President Roosevelt’s statement upon signing the Social Security Act, August 14, 1935.
- Photograph of Depression Era breadline outside of St. Peter’s Mission in New York City, 1932.
- Political cartoon, “A Subject of Great Interest to Young Voters,” Chicago Tribune, October 17, 1938.

Tab 10: Jobs and Relief

- U.S. Department of Labor interview of National Emergency Conservation workers, April 17, 1933.
- Letter to Mr. Van Meter from President Roosevelt’s secretary, Missy A. LeHand, July 15, 1939.

Tab 11: Labor Reforms

- Letter to President Roosevelt from Lucy Overson, October 14, 1937.
- Photograph, “From The Depression Years, by Horan, pg 168,” Minneapolis police battle striking truck drivers, 1934.
- Press Release of the Nation Labor Relations Act (also known as the Wagner Act), July 6, 1935.

Tab 12: Financial Reforms

- Letter to President Roosevelt from Mrs. Madeline Arnold, January 20, 1945.
- Political cartoon, “Good News,” Rochester (N.Y.) Times Union, April 6, 1933.

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Tab 13: Rural Reforms

- Remarks of David E. Lilienthal, director of TVA electricity program, “Progress in the Electrification of the American Home and Farm,” September 20, 1934.
- Photograph, “New Haven, C.T. Tenant in old home,” U.S. Housing Authority, 1940.
- Draft of FDR’s message to Congress regarding the Tennessee Valley Authority, April 10, 1933.

Tab 14: The Dust Bowl

- Letter to Mr. Hopkins from Lorena A. Hickok, October 30, 1933.
- FDR’s Fireside Chat, September 6, 1936.
- Photograph of the dust storm in Rolla, Kansas, taken from a water tower one hundred feet high, April 14, 1935.

Tab 15: New Deal Setbacks

- Letter to President Roosevelt from E. E. Robert, March 5, 1937.
- Letter to the President from the National Recovery Administration, June 26, 1934.
- NRA Blue Eagle poster displayed by businesses to show support for the government program, National Recovery Administration, 1934.

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Analysis Worksheets for Use in the Classroom

We have prepared four worksheets for you to download, copy, and use with your students. These sheets were prepared by National Archives staff in Washington and modified by the Education Department of the Roosevelt Presidential Library to be used as guides for students as they examine and extract information from primary source material.

- **Cartoon Analysis Worksheet** – for use with political cartoons
- **Photograph Analysis Worksheet** – for use with photographs
- **Film Diagramming Worksheet** – for use with films and videos
- **Written Document Analysis Worksheet** – for use with documents such as letters, reports, newspapers, magazines, certificates and so forth

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Cartoon Analysis Worksheet

- 1) Carefully study the cartoon for two minutes. Form an overall impression of the cartoon and examine individual elements contained therein. List the people, objects and symbols found in the cartoon.

- 2) What (if any) words appear in the cartoon? Which of these words appear to be most significant? Why?

- 3) What is the date of the cartoon? _____

- 4) To what issue is the artist seeking to bring attention? _____

5) What statement or point-of-view does the artist seem to be making or taking? What is his/her message?

6) Explain why you agree or disagree with the artist's statement or point-of-view? _____

7) Compare the issue or concern portrayed in the cartoon to one we face today. _____

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Photograph Analysis Worksheet

- 1) Carefully study the photograph for two minutes. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine individual items. Next, divide the photo into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible. List the people, objects, and activities found in this photograph. _____

- 2) Based on what you have observed above, list 3 things you might infer from this photograph. _____

- 3) What questions does this photograph raise in your mind? _____

4) Write two or three sentences that describe what you think happened in the moments immediately preceding the creation of the photograph. _____

5) Write two or three sentences that describe what you think happened in the moments immediately following the creation of the photograph. _____

6) Write a caption for the photograph. _____

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Film Diagramming Worksheet

Subject, Topic, or Event Title: _____

The Beginning

1) What is the Setting? Date: _____ Place: _____

2) What is the mood or tone? _____

3) Who is/are the Protagonist(s)? _____

4) Who is/are the Antagonist(s)? _____

The Middle

1) Source/nature of the conflict: _____

2) What is the pace/tempo of events? _____

The End

1) How was the conflict resolved? _____

2) What consequences resulted from the way the conflict was resolved? _____

3) Describe an alternative way the conflict might have been resolved. _____

4) How might the conflict have been avoided in the first place? _____

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Written Document Analysis Worksheet

1) Type of Document (Check one):

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Map | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Telegram | <input type="checkbox"/> Congressional Record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patent | <input type="checkbox"/> Press Release | <input type="checkbox"/> Census Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum | <input type="checkbox"/> Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

2) Unique Physical Qualities of the Document (Check one or more):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting Letterhead | <input type="checkbox"/> Notations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handwritten | <input type="checkbox"/> "Received" Stamp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Typed | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Types of Stamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seals | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

3) Date(s) of Document: _____

4) Position of Author (or Creator) of the Document: _____

5) For what Audience was the Document intended? _____

6) Document Information

A. List three things you think are important about the document:

B. Why do you think this document was created? What evidence supports this?

C. List two things the document tells you about the life and times of its author/creator.

D. Write a question to the author that you think is left unanswered by the document.

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The Great Depression

Main Idea/Enduring Understanding

The Great Depression was a global economic crisis. It resulted in the worst and most enduring economic downturn in American history lasting from 1929 to 1945 and resulting in nearly 25 percent unemployment.

Film Script

Quote 1:

“[W]hen widespread economic conditions render large numbers of men and women incapable of supporting either themselves or their families . . . aid must be extended by Government, not as a matter of charity, but as a matter of social duty.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

In the Roaring 20s, steady economic growth had ushered in an era of unprecedented prosperity. Business boomed. Profits soared. New consumer goods poured out of the nation’s factories.

Then on October 29, 1929 “Black Tuesday”: stock prices on Wall Street plummeted, erasing in a day more than \$14 billion dollars in assets.

The Great Depression was descending upon the land, bringing hard times and suffocating hope.

A record number of businesses failed. Bank closings spread like wildfire. Across the country more than one in four workers was unemployed. Shack cities - nicknamed “Hoovervilles” - and “breadlines” - long lines of hungry people waiting outside charity institutions for bread or a bowl of soup sprang up in communities across the nation. Farm foreclosures were running at nearly 20,000 a month, and everywhere people took to the road looking for work.

Republican President Herbert Hoover tried to combat the Depression, but he believed in limited government and economic relief through private charity and was reluctant to fund massive public works projects and other stimulative measures.

How different from four years before. The optimism of the 20s had given way to despair as more and more people lost their jobs, their savings, and their homes.

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Quote 2:

“These unhappy times call for the building of plans that . . . build from the bottom up and not from the top down, that put their faith once more in the forgotten man at the bottom of the economic pyramid. . . . we are in the midst of an emergency at least equal to that of war. Let us mobilize to meet it.”- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Notes:

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Short Answer Questions

1. What were conditions like for Americans in the 1920s? _____

2. What happened on “Black Tuesday?” _____

3. What was a “Hooverville?” _____

4. What was a “breadline?” _____

5. Who was President when the Depression hit? _____

Vocabulary

Black Tuesday – October 29, 1929 the date of the Stock Market crash that caused the Great depression.

Great Depression – period in 1930s following the Stock Market crash that brought business failures, unemployment and farm foreclosures

Hooverville – areas named for President Hoover in cities where wood shacks and rubble shelters were built by homeless people in the 1930s

Breadline – areas where homeless, poor people went to receive food supplies each day

Foreclosure – legal process that seizes property when a debt is in default (not paid)

Prosperity – time of increased wealth and economic well being

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. Pretend you are a newspaper reporter who has been tasked to write a story to go along with this photo. How would you answer the questions; who, what, when, where, and why? _____

2. How would you describe the conditions there? _____

3. What emotions does this picture make you feel? _____

Document 2:

1. How would you describe the tone of this letter? _____

2. What advice would you give to Mrs. Biringer if you were asked to respond to this letter? _____

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3. If Mrs. Biringer's husband is making just \$60 a month, how likely is it that the family can afford to pay \$20 a month plus interest on the \$400.00 loan? _____

4. Do you think the response from Mrs. Roosevelt's secretary was appropriate? Why or why not? _____

Document 3:

1. Pretend you are a newspaper reporter who has been tasked to write a story to go along with this photo. How would you answer the questions; who, what, when, where, and why? _____

2. What emotions does this picture make you feel? _____

3. Do think the people who found themselves in a breadline felt happy that they were getting something to eat, or sad and embarrassed because they were unable to provide for themselves? How do you think you would feel? _____

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DOCUMENT 1 - Photograph of a squatter camp in California, 1936. Shanty housing facilities like the ones pictured were also known as “Hoovervilles,” and sprung up across America during the Great Depression.



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DOCUMENT 2 - Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt from Mrs. F. Biringer, December 7, 1938.

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December 7, 1938

91 Royal Ave.

Buffalo, N.Y.

ack
12/10/38

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I am writing to ask you
to help me out.

I have a little baby two
months old and my husband is
working but receiving only \$15.00
a week.

We have several debts
amounting to \$400.00, unless we
get the money to pay it up
we will lose all our furniture.
You know how bill collectors
are, they want their money or
else they will take the furniture.

I am asking you if you
will be so kind as to lend me
\$400 so, that I can pay my
furniture out. I will pay you back
\$20 a month plus the interest you
will want for borrowing the money.

DOCUMENT 2 - Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt from Mrs. F. Biringer, December 7, 1938.

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II

I am writing to you because I have confidence ^{you} and know that you will try to help me out.

I am only 22 years old and certainly couldn't stand the strain of losing my furniture; it would mean the breaking up of our cheerful little home -

My husband does all he can to find a job which pays more but it is so hard. If you will lend us the money then I know we will be happiest people to think that someone saved us our home.

Please let me know whether or not we can borrow the money - We will pay it back as quick as we can.

I'll be praying and hoping you will save us.

Yours Truly

Mrs F. Biringer

91 Royal Ave.

Buffalo, N.Y.

DOCUMENT 2 - Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt from Mrs. F. Biringer, December 7, 1938.

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December 10, 1938

My dear Mrs. Biringer:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to tell you she is very sorry to learn of your difficult situation. Unfortunately, the heavy demands on her resources make it impossible for her to respond to the many appeals from those who, like yourself, are in need of financial assistance. She regrets she cannot help you as you wish.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. F. Biringer
91 Royal Avenue
Buffalo
New York

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DOCUMENT 3 - Photograph of a breadline on Sixth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY, where free food was distributed with private funds to large numbers of unemployed citizens, February 1932.



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What Caused The Great Depression?

Main Idea/Enduring Understanding

The October 1929 Stock Market Crash is often blamed as the cause of the Great Depression, but in fact long term and short term factors had been leading us towards economic disaster well before then.

Quote 1:

“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.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

What caused the Great Depression? In the popular imagination Wall Street speculation and the 1929 Stock Market Crash were to blame. In fact the American economic boom of the 1920s was built on shaky foundations. The Stock Market Crash did not so much cause the Depression as help unleash a chain of events that exposed the long-standing vulnerabilities in the American economy.

The Great Depression was caused by a combination of long and short term factors:

1. The economy lacked diversity. Prosperity rested too heavily on a few basic industries, notably construction and automobiles.
2. Unequal wealth distribution undercut consumer demand. During the 1920s, workers' wages were too small to create an adequate market for the goods the economy was producing.
3. The banking system was unstable. During the 1920s, nearly half of Americans lived in rural areas. Many farmers were deeply in debt and could not pay off their loans.
4. International credit and trade was threatened. At the end of World War I, our allies owed large sums of money to American banks. This led the Allies to insist on large reparation payments from the defeated Germans and Austrians at the Versailles Peace Conference. But when those nations experienced economic troubles, they were unable to make their reparations payments. American banks then made large loans to Germany and Austria which they then used to pay their reparations and other debts. This created a dangerous cycle whereby the entire system of reparations and war debts payments—including war debts owed to the United States - was dependent on funds borrowed from American banks.

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All these underlying problems came to a head on October 29, 1929 a day that came to be called “Black Tuesday.” Within a week, stock values plummeted nearly 40%. They wouldn’t return to pre-Crash levels until 1954.

Notes:

WHAT CAUSED THE GREAT DEPRESSION THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Short Answer Questions

1. What were two successful & notable industries before the Depression? _____

2. What were wages like for workers in the decade leading up to the Great Depression? _____

3. About what percent of the population lived on farms during the 1920s? _____

4. In what ways did the farm crisis impact the banking system? _____

5. What role did World War I play in setting the stage for the Great Depression? _____

Vocabulary

Prosperity – economic well-being or success

Economic diversification – system of production based on many types of industry and business

Unequal distribution of wealth – affluence is concentrated in the control of a small group; the so called “haves” and “have nots”

Supply & demand – economic function in which the competition for goods and services fluctuates with the amount available

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. Examine this photo of a Depression Era factory. Describe three conditions that indicate that it has fallen on hard times. _____

2. Today some American cities are facing some of the same issues as cities during the Great Depression and have declared bankruptcy. Why do you think no cities declared bankruptcy during the Great Depression? ____

WHAT CAUSED THE GREAT DEPRESSION THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Document 2:

1. Study the Stock Price Indices chart. What happens in October to cause prices to drop? _____

2. In general, how did automobile stocks compare to the rest of the stocks trading in 1928 & 1929? How did they compare by mid November 1929? _____

3. Time magazine editions from the weeks following “Black Tuesday” greatly minimized the effects of the crash. Why do you think that a leading media source was not able to determine the great harm that would come as a result? _____

WHAT CAUSED THE GREAT DEPRESSION THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Document 3:

1. What does John H. Fahey warn against in his report? _____

2. On which side of the Atlantic does Mr. Fahey place the blame for the tariff problem? _____

3. How does he suggest we avoid the problems associated with tariff barriers? _____

4. Can you think of a more modern example of trade problems? _____

Document 4:

1. How does Francis Furnice describe the differences between the workers and the employers at her place of work? _____

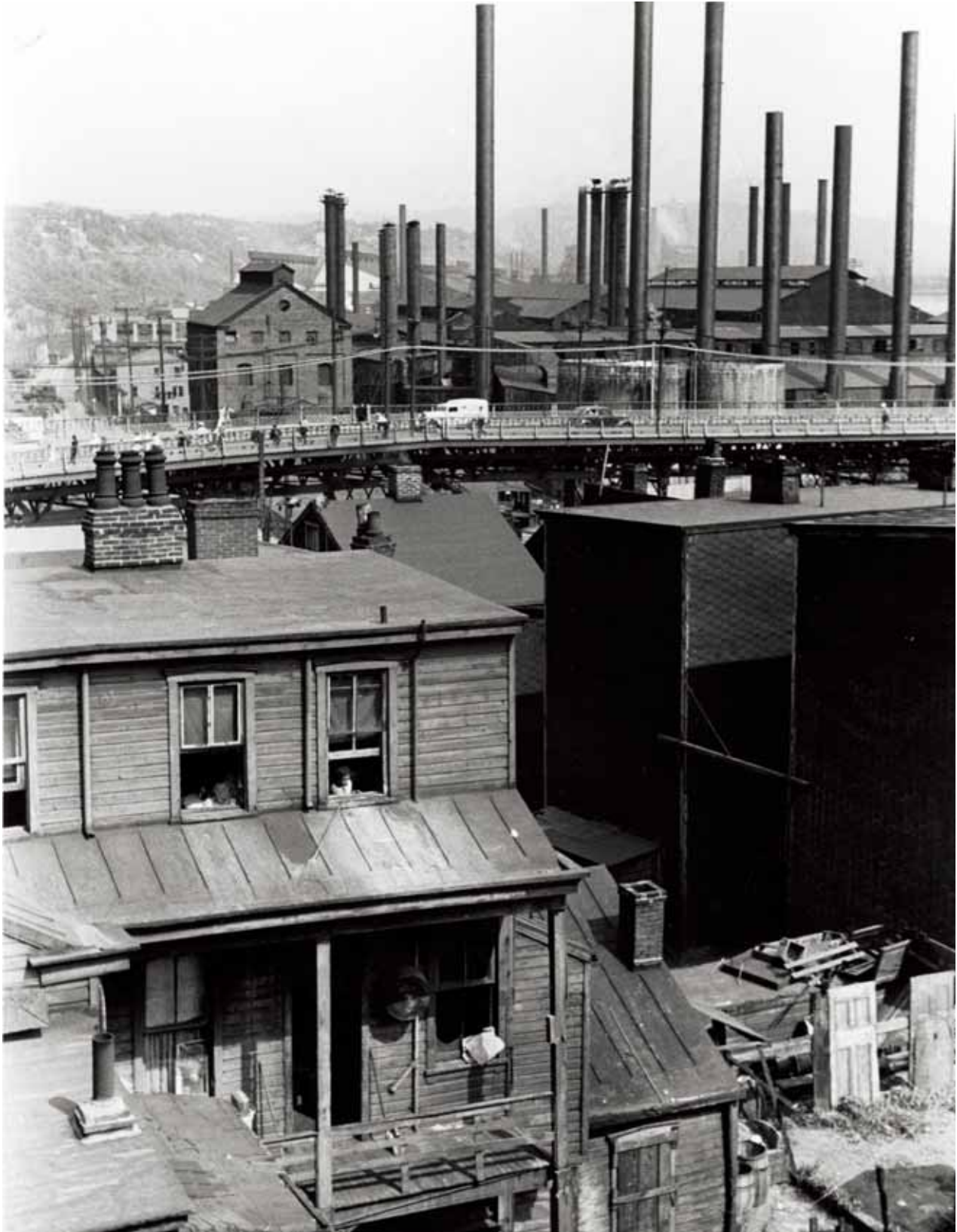
2. Select several companies and industries and determine what pay differences exist between the workers and management. Do the results surprise you? How do they compare to the work places of the 1930s? _____

3. Compare the issue of unequal distribution of wealth in 1938 to the issue today with the 1% protests. What are the similarities? What are the differences? _____

WHAT CAUSED THE GREAT DEPRESSION ?

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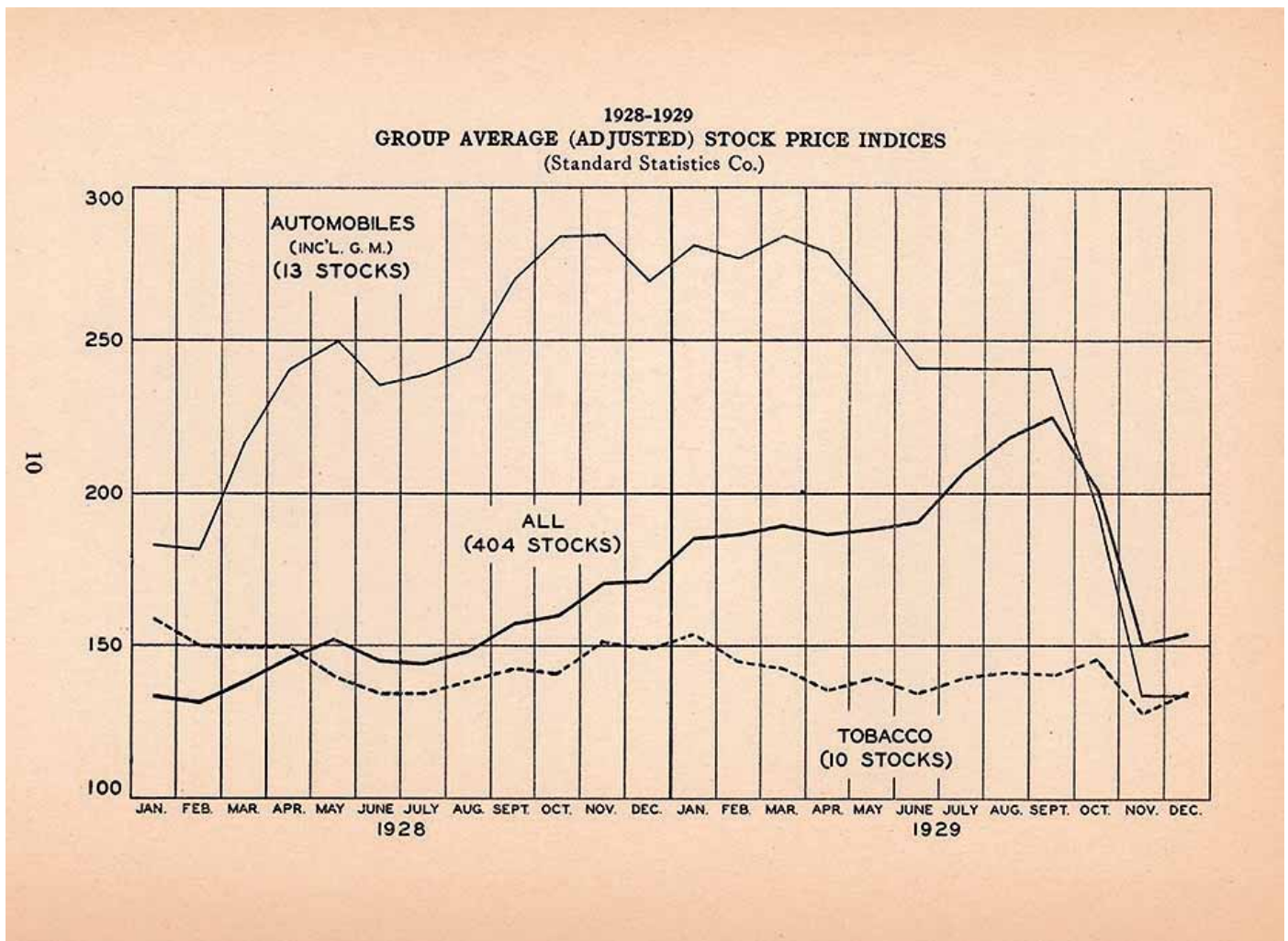
DOCUMENT 1 - Photograph of factories that either closed or reduced production during the late 1920's.



WHAT CAUSED THE GREAT DEPRESSION ?

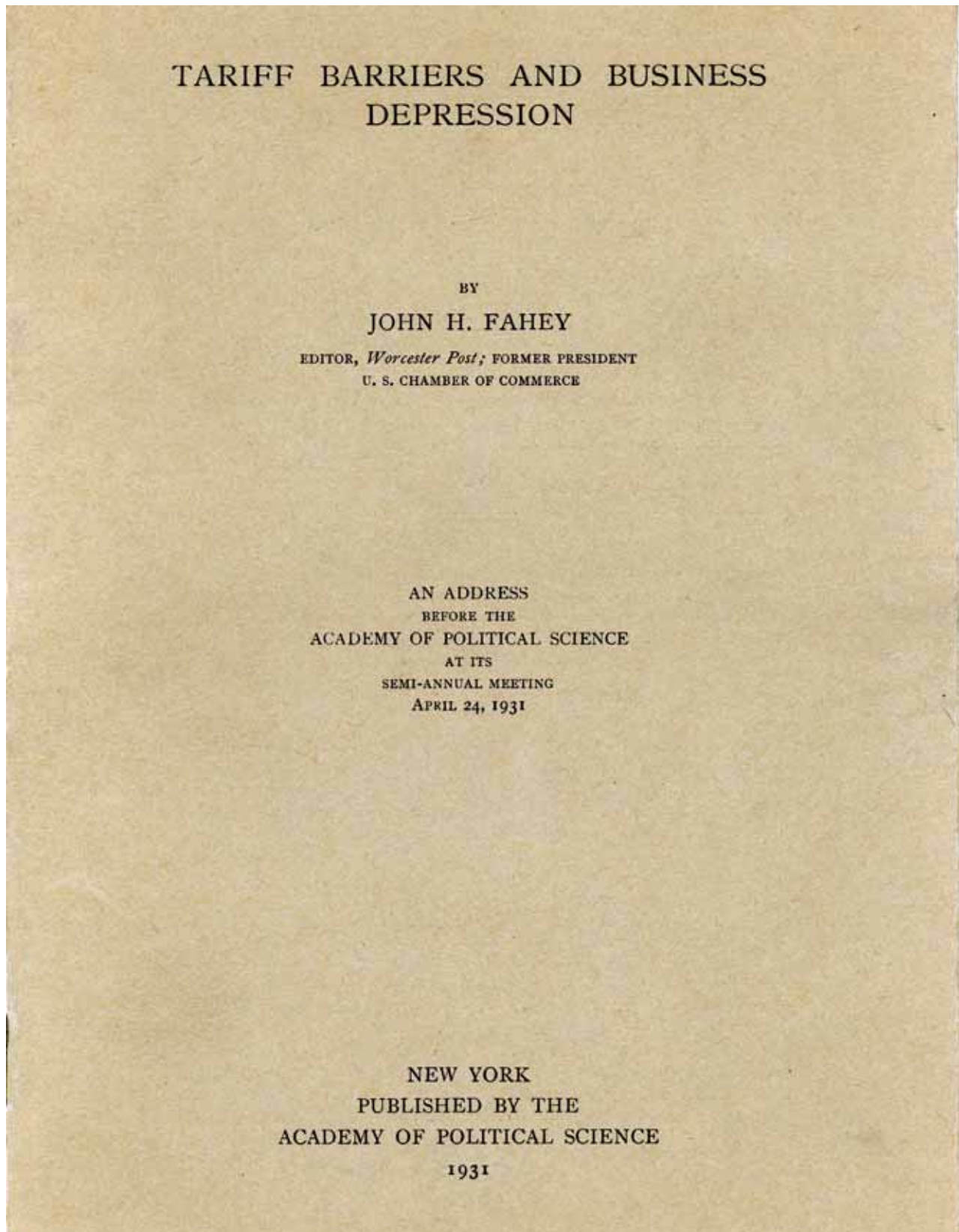
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DOCUMENT 2 - Chart of Stock Price Indices, 1928-1929.



DOCUMENT 3 - Business leader, John H. Fahey's 1931 speech in which he criticized U.S. tariff policy.

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DOCUMENT 3 - Business leader, John H. Fahey's 1931 speech in which he criticized U.S. tariff policy.
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No. 3] *TARIFF BARRIERS AND BUSINESS DEPRESSION*

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As the nation which under normal circumstances has the largest export business of any in the world, we bear a peculiar responsibility to contribute at least our share, and indeed a little more than our share, in the leadership of a general movement for a better international adjustment of this very annoying and disturbing tariff problem.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN LEFFINGWELL: We are all very grateful to Mr. Fahey for his clear exposition of the problem of world trade and its relation to the tariff. He has brought out rather briefly and clearly one of the most striking things about American economic history, and that is the two-sidedness of our conduct in relation to the tariff.

The cardinal point in American economic life, is that by the Constitution of the United States some forty-eight independent, sovereign states have agreed with each other that their people shall have free trade with each other. That, I suppose, is the situation to which Mr. Fahey refers when he states that the United States is the greatest free-trade nation in the world. Yet we have led the world in the erection of economic barriers against world trade, and wonder why world trade is stagnant.

It takes no nice discrimination to accept Mr. Snyder's view which rejects, if I understand him correctly, the theory of overproduction in general as a cause of depression in general, and at the same time to recognize such simple facts as that there is overproduction in this or that industry. The greatest of all industries, still, in this mechanical age, is the industry of agriculture, and we are very fortunate to have with us today Dr. Lewis C. Gray, of the Division of Land Economics, in the Department of Agriculture of the United States. I have great honor in introducing him to you—Dr. Gray.

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TARIFF BARRIERS AND BUSINESS DEPRESSION

JOHN H. FAHEY

Editor, *Worcester Post*; Former President, U. S. Chamber of Commerce

IT seems to me that no fair-minded business man or student of public affairs can fail to realize that the tariff changes which have taken place in the United States and in most of the countries of Europe during the last two years have had a very considerable influence upon the development of the depression through which we have been passing; that they have served to prolong it and make it more difficult; that they will tend to make the revival less rapid than it should be. Finally, if we are to make, during the next decade, the progress which we have a right to expect, we must find some basis for international understanding with reference to the tariff problem.

As we all, I think, appreciate, the United States after all is the greatest free-trade country in the world. Here in fact we have forty-eight separate nations with no tariff boundaries between them. If conditions in this country were similar to those which exist in Europe, merchandise transported between Boston and Philadelphia—a distance of not over 350 miles—would have to pass through five separate customs houses at the boundaries of five different states. If such barriers existed throughout the country, mass production would be impossible. The development of such a great fundamental industry as the automotive industry on its present scale would have been absolutely impossible. The development of most of the large business corporations as we know them today would, in my judgment, have been impossible. Until a basis is found for changing the tariff situation on the other side of the Atlantic, Europe will fail to go forward at the speed which should prevail.

Of course, the tariff changes which we made in 1930 had their very serious reactions abroad. If in our own country each state had its tariff barrier as against its sister states, and for any reason the industrial states of the Northeast, including

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New York, New Jersey and New England, simultaneously raised their tariff rates substantially, other sections of the country would promptly react and raise their rates correspondingly against the group of states in the Northeast. In exactly the same fashion Europe has reacted to our action in raising our tariff levels.

We all know that in the period immediately after the war business men everywhere were greatly concerned over the new barriers to trade which were raised in every direction. One country after another adopted higher tariffs. There were interferences with transportation, and many other difficulties of similar character were encountered. In their international meetings business men were in general agreement as to the need for stopping these tendencies and for bringing about reforms, which would reduce the handicaps to the free exchange of merchandise. In one biennial meeting after another the business men and bankers represented in the International Chamber of Commerce went on record emphatically in opposition to these policies.

As you know, there was then called the International Economic Conference, which was held at Geneva, and there, through our official delegation, we joined with the others in the declaration that the time had come when further increases in tariff rates should stop, and that the movement should be in the other direction.

In the several leading commercial countries of Europe there followed rather vigorous efforts to bring about tariff changes and understandings. They encountered strong opposition, of course, in many directions, but nevertheless substantial progress was being made when the proposal developed in this country for an increase in our rates. Neither here nor in Europe, when that demand first arose, was any general tariff revision anticipated, in my opinion. Certainly American business men discussing the question with business men on the other side of the Atlantic, while the new American tariff was under discussion in Congress, had no hesitation in giving assurances that the general revision would not take place to any such extent as that which was anticipated in Europe; also a very large number of business leaders in the United States did not believe that the tariff bill which we finally adopted would ever

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become a law. Business leaders in many sections of the country, and representing many different trades, had no sympathy whatever with many of the upward changes which took place. I know, personally, that in various trades representatives appeared at Washington and under the pressure of demand from some of the marginal producers advocated upward tariff revisions with which they did not sympathize.

The effect of these changes on the other side is well known to all of us. There can be no question but that they have stimulated many measures of reprisal. The consequence is seen in the tremendous decline in our exports during the last year and a half. We must, of course, agree that there have been other causes for that drop in our export trade, but that the tariff has been an influence of no little importance cannot be denied. Not only has it interfered with the splendid foreign trade which we enjoyed, not only does it promise to be a cause of difficulty for some time to come, but I think we must recognize that probably to an unprecedented extent it is generating an ill will toward our country that is far from encouraging.

In one of his articles the other day former President Coolidge remarked that peace and friendship were the "foundations of human progress;" that "Trade is increased and common interests are developed on these foundations." "Friendship between people is the important thing," he continued. "If that is on a sound basis, economic relations will adjust themselves."

Every intelligent business man strives so to conduct his affairs as to create the least possible friction with those with whom he is doing business. No sane business man deliberately adopts a policy the effect of which is to affront his customers and arouse irritation. How can this nation, or any other nation, expect to continue on the road to progress if it adopts a policy different from that of the average successful business man in his relations with his customers?

Is ill will a real disadvantage, a real barrier to the development of business? It seems to me we need only to consider the fact that in the last twelve months alone as a result of the Indian boycott something like \$650,000,000 of trade has been destroyed. That misfortune has its effect not only on Great

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Britain but on the United States and on every other important commercial nation, for to the extent that Great Britain's buying power is impaired the thing reacts on us and on every other country.

Of course, respecting many of the changes and increases that have been made in other countries the explanation is offered that these steps are not taken as retaliatory measures; that they are taken merely to protect unemployment within the country itself. However, despite these excuses we all know perfectly well that a very large proportion of the changes are the result of resentment against action taken by other countries.

Let us consider the situation in Canada. The Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Bennett, was quite frank in explaining the Canadian attitude a few months ago, after the adoption of their new policy. He said: "Those who raise prohibitive barriers against our products entering their markets must expect that we will extend favors to our own good customers rather than to them. I speak in no spirit of retaliation. I would rather extend lower tariff favors to those who extend them to us than to impose prohibitive tariffs in return for like treatment. Other countries who may buy from and sell to us have it in their power by reciprocal action on their part to enable us to reduce duties to the level of the rates stated in our tariff."

Within a few short months after the new Canadian tariff was adopted, 130 American manufacturers established branch plants in Canada, and scores have followed their example since. Does anyone believe, irrespective of the changes which may now take place, that those American plants will ever move back across the border again? Is there any escape from the fact that every branch American plant unnecessarily established in Canada means just so many less workers employed on this side of the line? I do not for a moment intend to say that in numerous instances, in the natural course of events, American producers would not have to establish branch plants in foreign countries, but in every case where that is forced by tariff changes it is certainly a misfortune for us.

It is quite possible that, so far as our very important automobile export is concerned, in the course of time we would

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under any circumstances be forced to develop American plants abroad; but nevertheless some of those branch plants would not have been opened if it had not been for recent European tariff legislation against our automobile exports.

It is worth while realizing that the half-billion dollars of automobile exports which we have lost would represent the full-time output of all of the automobile plants in the United States running for one month. Think of that loss of wages. Not only that, but the reaction of that loss so far as the automobile industry is concerned on the hundreds of industries all over the country that are so closely related to it is a matter of very great importance.

It is unnecessary to go into any detail illustrative of the losses which we have incurred as a result of the tariff changes which have taken place. It is said in partial apology for the policy which we have followed that after all during this world-wide depression our losses have been no more proportionately than those of other countries. But can we find any great encouragement in that fact? Is it a real consolation to know that if we have lost, others have likewise lost in equal proportion?

What are we going to do about it all? Well, it is not so difficult to get tariffs up under some circumstances; but it is much more difficult to get them down, and if we agree that some world-wide policy of gradual tariff reductions is not only desirable but necessary, then certainly we must at the same time realize that it is far from being an easily achieved objective. Yet if business is soon to resume its healthy, upward development, we must attack this problem, and a real beginning must be made toward the gradual reduction of tariffs.

What business needs most is greater stability in development from year to year and escape from the violent upward swings which are always followed by dizzy and disastrous declines. Reasonable competition—that which is kept within the bounds of fair play—is one of the most valuable factors in maintaining economic balance.

Of course, the United States is not the only offender in the enactment of extreme and unwise tariff rates. There are some far worse than we are. There is, of course, no doubt that con-

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certed action on the part of the leading countries of the world to reduce tariffs would be of great advantage. It is to be feared, however, that the influence of various private interests which are the beneficiaries of special tariff favors in all countries will be able to prevent general action on any considerable scale.

The situation is so serious, that every attempt in this direction should be encouraged and we of the United States should join whole-heartedly in the effort.

Whether we can contribute largely to it in the United States without another general revision remains to be seen. We are between the devil and the deep sea when we consider that proposition. If we undertake another general revision, business will say that will prolong our disturbance; but on the other hand unless we do something really worth while about tariff we must speculate as to whether maintenance of present conditions may not have the same effect in prolonging the business depression.

We are trying to deal with the tariff problem anew through the medium of a Tariff Commission. As you all know, the business men of the United States agitated for the establishment of a Tariff Commission for a great many years and were very influential in bringing about the legislation which established the first Tariff Commission. Unfortunately, that experiment was not as successful as we hoped it would be. Possibly its failure was partly due to the fact that people conceived the Tariff Commission not as a body approaching the problem from a truly scientific standpoint, but as one committed to a particular kind of tariff.

Whether we shall be any more successful in setting out upon our new adventure with a Tariff Commission remains to be seen. In any event, there surely is the prospect that substantial changes as a result of recommendations of the Tariff Commission will take a very long time, and there is a good deal of reason to believe that public sentiment with reference to the tariff is now developing in such a way that within the next year and a half we may face a demand for a very general revision. Certainly, so far as Europe is concerned, the conditions prevailing at present are such as to create a situation which will demand a realistic reconsideration of the whole tariff question.

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WHAT CAUSED THE GREAT DEPRESSION ?

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 4 - Letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt from Frances Furnice, April 27, 1938

870 East 175th Street,
Bronx, New York,
April 27th, 1938.

Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

You were the Governor of New York, when a group of us from the Spring Valley New York Public Schools made a trip to Albany and there we shook your hand. I'd like to do that again, only this time I should shake your hand heartily.

I am wholeheartedly behind you in your spending program. I have come thru some mean depression years, and am still frantically worried about my future. My salary has been cut from \$25.00 per week to \$15.00 a week, one could almost guess that I work on Wall Street. Sir, must we sit by helplessly and scrimp along on what our employers choose to give us and watch them enjoy their Pinehurst trips, European trips, fine clothes, sables, automobiles? No, we must not. And you are our President, and we the people, or rather I for one of the people know that you will lead us out of this unholy chaos.

I back you. You are my sweepstake ticket to happiness, security and good health.

Put these reactionary Goliaths in their places, sir, we are the majority, we create their wealth...let us be reasonably recompensed.

Good health to you sir.

Sincerely yours,

Frances Furnice.
(Miss) Frances Furnice.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM



The Promise of Change

Main Idea/Enduring Understanding

After years of growing hardship, the nation had grown weary of President Hoover's unsuccessful attempts to combat the economic crisis. The country was ready for new leadership with a fresh approach.

Quote 1:

"The country needs, and unless I mistake its temper, the country demands, bold persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it: If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

The 1932 campaign was one of the most momentous in American history.

With Republican President Herbert Hoover presiding over a nation in economic collapse, it was clear a Democrat would win the presidency in 1932.

New York Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the popular leader of the country's most populous state emerged as the Democratic frontrunner.

At the Democratic Convention in Chicago, Roosevelt won on the fourth ballot. In those days, Presidential nominees did not appear at party conventions. FDR defied that tradition, flew to Chicago to accept his nomination, and electrified the delegates with his call for a "New Deal."

Roosevelt traveled to 41 states, making major addresses and hundreds of whistle-stop appearances. His energy, charm and commitment to action carried him to a decisive victory.

Democrats seized control of Congress for the first time in 16 years and dominated the new Senate by an overwhelming margin of 60 to 35. They enjoyed a 310 to 117 majority in the House.

Voters handed Franklin Roosevelt and the Democrats a blank check. Their only demand was action.

Quote 2:

"I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

THE GREAT DEPRESSION



COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM

Short Answer Questions

1. Who were the Republican & Democratic candidates who faced off in the 1932 presidential election? _____

2. Why was the 1932 campaign one of the most momentous in American history? _____

3. What made Franklin D. Roosevelt a credible/viable candidate to challenge Hoover? _____

4. Where was the 1932 Democratic convention held? _____
5. What impact did the 1932 election have on the power & control structure in the Congress? _____

Vocabulary

Convention – a series of meetings where a political party assembles to nominate candidates and adopt platforms and party rules

Delegate – a person designated to represent others at a gathering, as in a political convention

Front runner – one who leads in a competition

Whistle-stops – brief appearances in a small town, as during a political campaign, these were originally conducted from trains

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. Why do you think FDR went against tradition and chose to appear at the Democratic Convention in Chicago?

2. What did FDR mean by “...the country demands bold, persistent experimentation?” What does this tell you about the tone of the time?

3. Refer to FDR’s acceptance speech for the Presidential nomination, July 2, 1932. How did FDR show that he intended to change the Federal Government’s role in the welfare of everyday Americans?

Document 2:

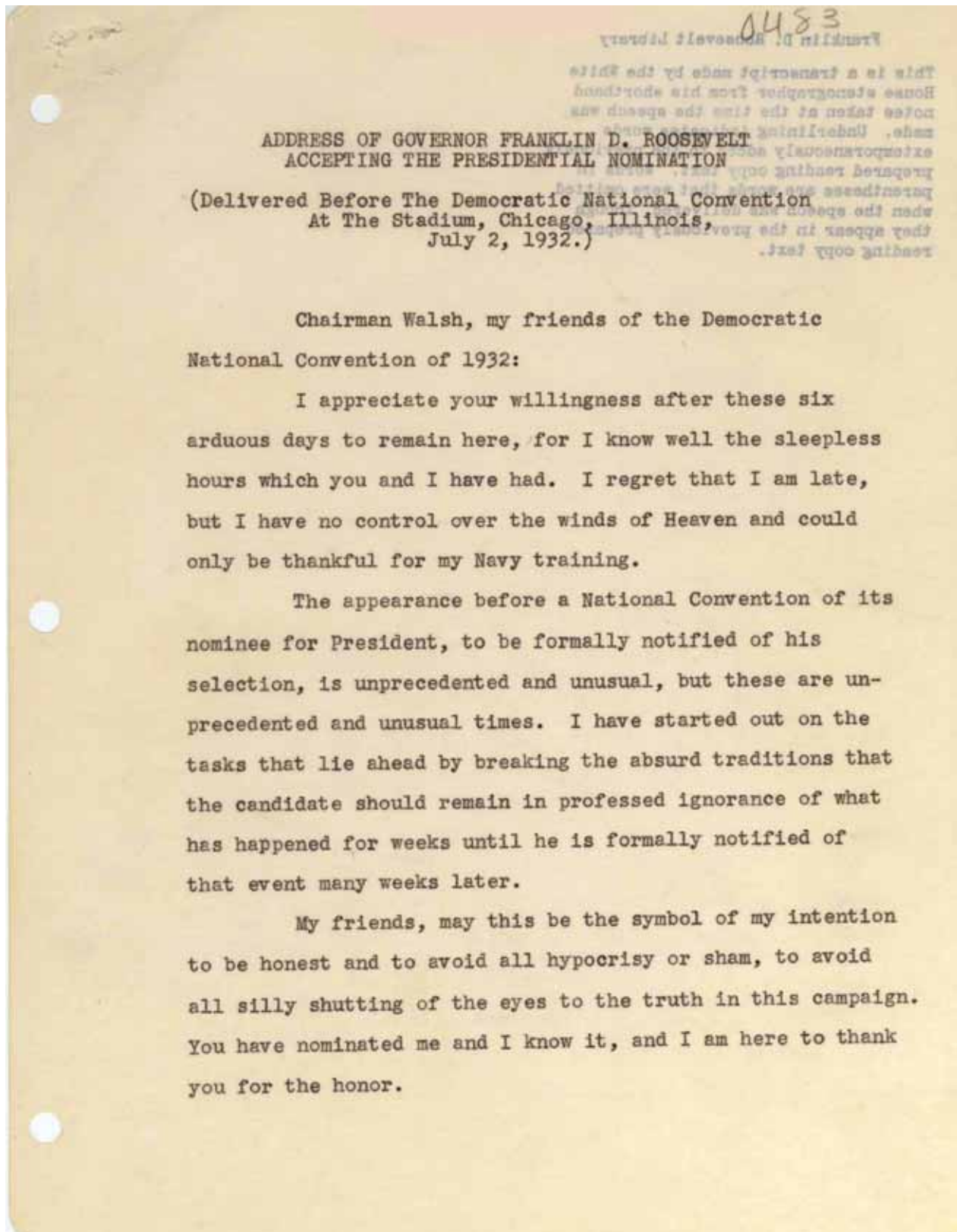
1. In the cartoon “A message of Hope”, who does “the Forgotten Man” represent? _____

Document 3:

1. In the cartoon “It IS a New Deal”, describe how each of the cards held by Uncle Sam are likely to impact the American people for the better. In what ways might these “cards” cause harm? _____

DOCUMENT 1 - Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential nomination acceptance speech given at the Democratic National Convention, July 2, 1932.

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Let it also be symbolic that in so doing I broke traditions. Let it be from now on the task of our Party to break foolish traditions. We will break foolish traditions and leave it to the Republican leadership, far more skilled in that art, to break promises.

Let us now and here highly resolve to resume the country's interrupted march along the path of real progress, of real justice, or real equality for all of our citizens, great and small. Our indomitable leader in that interrupted march is no longer with us, but there still survives today his spirit. Many of his captains, thank God, are still with us, to give us wise counsel. Let us feel that in everything we do there still lives with us, if not the body, the great indomitable, unquenchable, progressive soul of our Commander-in-Chief, Woodrow Wilson.

I have many things on which I want to make my position clear at the earliest possible moment in this campaign. That admirable document, the platform which you have adopted, is clear. I accept it one hundred per cent.

And you can accept my pledge that I will leave no doubt or ambiguity on where I stand on any question of moment in this campaign.

As we enter this new battle, let us keep always present with us some of the ideals of the Party: The fact that the Democratic Party by tradition and by the

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continuing logic of history, past and present, is the bearer of liberalism and of progress and at the same time of safety to our institutions. And if this appeal fails, remember well, my friends, that a resentment against the failure of Republican leadership -- and note well that in this campaign I shall not use the words "Republican Party," but I shall use, day in and day out, the words, "Republican leadership" -- the failure of Republican leaders to solve our troubles may degenerate into unreasoning radicalism.

The great social phenomenon of this depression, unlike others before it, is that it has produced but a few of the disorderly manifestations that too often attend upon such times.

Wild radicalism has made few converts and the greatest tribute that I can pay to my countrymen is that in these days of crushing want there persists an orderly and hopeful spirit on the part of the millions of our people who have suffered so much. To fail to offer them a new chance is not only to betray their hopes but to misunderstand their patience.

To meet by reaction that danger of radicalism is to invite disaster. Reaction is no barrier to the radical. It is a challenge, a provocation. The way to meet that danger is to offer a workable program of reconstruction, and the Party to offer it is the party with

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clean hands.

This, and this only is a proper protection against blind reaction on the one hand and an improvised hit-or-miss, irresponsible opportunism on the other.

There are two ways of viewing the government's duty in matters affecting economic and social life. The first sees to it that a favored few are helped and hopes that some of their prosperity will leak through, sift through, to labor, to the farmer, to the small businessman. That theory belongs to the party of Toryism, and I had hoped that most of the Tories left this country in 1776.

But it is not and never will be the theory of the Democratic Party. This is no time for fear, for reaction or for timidity. And here and now I invite those nominal Republicans who find that their conscience cannot be squared with the groping and the failure of their party leaders to join hands with us; here and now, in equal measure, I warn those nominal Democrats who squint at the future with their faces turned toward the past, and who feel no responsibility to the demands of the new time, that they are out of step with their party.

Yes, the people of this country want a genuine choice this year, not a choice between two names for the same reactionary doctrine. Ours must be a Party of liberal thought, of planned action, of enlightened international

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outlook, and of the greatest good to the greatest number of our citizens.

Now it is inevitable, -- and the choice is that of the times, -- it is inevitable that the main issue of this campaign should revolve about the clear fact of our economic condition, a depression so deep that it is without precedent in modern history. It will not do merely to state as do Republican leaders, to explain their broken promises of continued inaction, that the depression is world-wide. That was not their explanation of the apparent prosperity of 1928. The people will not forget the claim made by them then that prosperity was only a domestic product manufactured by a Republican President and a Republican Congress. If they claim paternity for the one they cannot deny paternity for the other.

I cannot take up all the problems today. I want to touch on a few that are vital. Let us look a little at the recent history and the simple economics, the kind of economics that you and I and the average man and woman talk.

In the years before 1929 we know that this country had completed a vast cycle of building and inflation; for ten years we expanded on the theory of repairing the wastes of the war, but actually expanding far beyond that, and also beyond our natural and normal growth. Now it is worth

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remembering, and the cold figures of finance prove it, that during that time there was little or no drop in the prices that the consumer had to pay, although those same figures proved that the cost of production fell very greatly; corporate profit resulting from this period was enormous; at the same time little of that profit was devoted to the reduction of prices. The consumer was forgotten. Very little of it went into increased wages; the worker was forgotten, and by no means an adequate proportion was even paid out in dividends, -- the stockholder was forgotten.

And, incidentally, very little of it was taken by taxation to the beneficent government of those years.

What was the result? Enormous corporate surpluses piled up -- the most stupendous in history. Where, under the spell of delirious speculation, did those surpluses go? Let's talk economics that the figures prove and that we can understand. Why, they went chiefly in two directions: first, into new and unnecessary plants which now stand stark and idle; and secondly, into the call money market of Wall Street, either directly by the corporations, or indirectly through the banks. Those are the facts. Why blink at them?

Then came the crash. You know the story. Surpluses invested in unnecessary plants became idle. Men

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lost their jobs; purchasing power dried up; banks became frightened and started calling loans. Those who had money were afraid to part with it. Credit contracted. Industry stopped. Commerce declined, and unemployment mounted.

And there we are today.

Translate that into human terms. See how the events of the past three years have come home to specific groups of people. First, the group dependent on industry; second, the group dependent on agriculture; third, and made up in large part of members of the first two groups, the people who are called "small investors and depositors;" in fact, the strongest possible tie between the first two groups, agriculture and industry, is the fact that the savings and to a degree the security of both are tied together in that third group -- the credit structure of the nation.

Never in history have the interests of all the people been so united in a single economic problem. Picture to yourself, for instance, the great groups of property owned by millions of our citizens, represented by credits issued in the form of bonds and mortgages -- government bonds of all kinds, federal, state, county, municipal -- bonds of industrial companies, of utility companies, mortgages on real estate in farms and cities, and finally

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the vast investments of the nation in the railroads. What is the measure of the security of each of those groups? We know well that in our complicated, inter-related credit structure if any one of these credit groups collapses they may all collapse. Danger to one is danger to all.

And how, I ask, has the present administration in Washington treated the interrelationship of these credit groups? The answer is clear: It has not recognized that interrelationship existed at all. Why, the nation asks, has Washington failed to understand that all of these groups, each and every one, the top of the pyramid and the bottom of the pyramid, must be considered together, that each and every one of them is dependent on every other; each and every one of them affecting the whole financial fabric?

Statesmanship and vision, my friends, require relief to all at the same time.

Just one word or two on taxes, the taxes that all of us pay toward the cost of government of all kinds.

Well, I know something of taxes. For three long years I have been going up and down this country preaching that government -- federal and state and local -- costs too much. I shall not stop that preaching. As an immediate program of action we must abolish useless offices. We

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must eliminate actual prefunctions of government -- functions, in fact, that are not definitely essential to the continuance of government. We must merge, we must consolidate subdivisions of government, and, like the private citizen, give up luxuries which we can no longer afford.

By our example at Washington itself, we shall have the opportunity of pointing the way of economy to local government, for let us remember well that out of every tax dollar in the average state in this nation, 40 cents enters the treasury in Washington, D. C., 10 or 12 cents only go to the state capitals, and 48 cents out of every dollar are consumed by the costs of local government in counties and cities and towns.

I propose to you, my friends, and through you, that government of all kinds, big and little, be made solvent and that the example be set by the President of the United States and his Cabinet.

And talking about setting a definite example, I congratulate this convention for having had the courage, fearlessly, to write into its declaration of principles what an overwhelming majority here assembled really thinks about the 18th Amendment. This convention wants repeal. Your candidate wants repeal. And I am confident that the United States of America wants repeal.

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Two years ago the platform on which I ran for Governor the second time contained substantially the same provision. The overwhelming sentiment of the people of my State, as shown by the vote of that year, extends, I know, to the people of many of the other States. I say to you now that from this date on the 18th Amendment is doomed. When that happens, we as Democrats must and will, rightly and morally, enable the States to protect themselves against the importation of intoxicating liquor where such importation may violate their State laws. We must rightly and morally prevent the return of the saloon.

To go back to this dry subject of finance, because it all ties in together -- the 18th Amendment has something to do with finance, too -- in a comprehensive planning for the reconstruction of the great credit groups, including government credit, I list an important place for that prize statement of principle in the platform here adopted calling for the letting in of the light of day on issues of securities, foreign and domestic, which are offered for sale to the investing public.

My friends, you and I as common-sense citizens know that it would help to protect the savings of the country from a dishonesty of crooks and from the lack of honor of some men in high financial places. Publicity is the enemy of crookedness.

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And now one word about unemployment, and incidentally about agriculture. I have favored the use of certain types of public works as a further emergency means of stimulating employment and the issuance of bonds to pay for such public works, but I have pointed out that no economic end is served if we merely build without building for a necessary purpose. Such works, of course, should insofar as possible be self-sustaining if they are to be financed by the issuing of bonds. So as to spread the points of all kinds as widely as possible, we must take definite steps to shorten the working day and the working week.

Let us use common sense and business sense. And just as one example, we know that a very hopeful and immediate means of relief, both for the unemployed and for agriculture, will come from a wide plan of the converting of many millions of acres of marginal and unused land into timberland through reforestation. There are tens of millions of acres east of the Mississippi River alone in abandoned farms, in cut-over land, now growing up in worthless brush. Why, every European nation has a definite land policy, and has had one for generations. We have none. Having none, we face a future of soil erosion and timber famine. It is clear that economic foresight and immediate employment march hand in hand in the call for

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the reforestation of these vast areas.

In so doing, employment can be given to a million men. That is the kind of public work that is self-sustaining, and therefore capable of being financed by the issuance of bonds which are made secure by the fact that the growth of tremendous crops will provide adequate security for the investment.

Yes, I have a very definite program for providing employment by that means. I have done it, and I am doing it today in the State of New York. I know that the Democratic Party can do it successfully in the nation. That will put men to work, and that is an example of the action that we are going to have.

Now as a further aid to agriculture, we know perfectly well -- but have we come out and said so clearly and distinctly? -- we should repeal immediately those provisions of law that compel the Federal Government to go into the market to purchase, to sell, to speculate, in farm products, in a futile attempt to reduce farm surpluses. And they are the people who are talking of keeping government out of business. Why, the practical way to help the farmer is by an arrangement that will, in addition to lightening some of the impoverishing burdens from his back, do something towards the reduction of the surpluses of staple commodities that hang on the market. It should be

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our aim to add to the world prices of staple products the amount of a reasonable tariff protection, give agriculture the same protection that industry has today.

And in exchange for this immediately increased return I am sure that the farmers of this nation would agree ultimately to such planning of their production as would reduce the surpluses and make it unnecessary in later years to depend on dumping those surpluses abroad in order to support domestic prices. That result has been accomplished in other nations; why not in America, too?

Farm leaders, farm economists generally, agree that a plan based on that principle is a desirable first step in the reconstruction of agriculture. It does not in itself furnish a complete program, but it will serve in great measure in the long run to remove the pall of a surplus without the continued perpetual threat of world dumping. Final voluntary reduction of surplus is a part of our objective, but the long continuance and the present burden of existing surpluses make it necessary to repair great damage of the present by immediate emergency measures.

Such a plan as that, my friends, does not cost the government any money, nor does it keep the government in business or in speculation.

And as to the actual wording of a bill, I believe that the Democratic Party stands ready to be guided by

DOCUMENT 1 - Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential nomination acceptance speech given at the Democratic National Convention, July 2, 1932.

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whatever the responsible farm groups themselves agree on. That is a principle that is sound; and again I ask for action.

One more word about the farmer, and I know that every delegate who lives in the city in this hall knows why I lay emphasis on the farmer. It is because one-half of our population, over 50,000,000 people, are dependent on agriculture; and, my friends, if those 50,000,000 people have no money, no cash, to buy what is produced in the city, the city suffers to an equal or a greater extent.

And that is why we are going to make the voters understand this year that this nation is not merely a nation of independence, but it is, if we are to survive, bound to be a nation of interdependence -- town and city, and North and South, East and West. That is our goal, and that goal will be understood by the people of this country no matter where they live.

Yes, the purchasing power of that half of our population dependent on agriculture is gone. Farm mortgages reach nearly ten billions of dollars today and interest charges on that alone are \$560,000,000 a year. But that is not all. The tax burden caused by extravagant and inefficient local government is an additional factor. Our most immediate concern should be to reduce the interest burden on these mortgages.

DOCUMENT 1 - Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential nomination acceptance speech given at the Democratic National Convention, July 2, 1932.

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Rediscounting of farm mortgages under salutary restrictions must be expanded and should, in the future, be conditioned on the reduction of interest rates. Amortization payments, maturities, should likewise in this crisis be extended before rediscount is permitted where the mortgagor is sorely pressed. That, my friends, is another example of practical, immediate relief: Action.

I aim to do the same thing, and it can be done, for the small home-owner in our cities and villages. We can lighten his burden and develop his purchasing power. Take away, my friends, that spectre of too high an interest rate. Take away that spectre of the due date just a short time away. Save homes; save homes for thousands of self-respecting families, and drive out that spectre of insecurity from our midst.

Out of all the tons of printed paper, out of all the hours of oratory, the recriminations, the defenses, the happy-thought plans in Washington and in every State, there emerges one great, simple, crystal-pure fact that during the past ten years a nation of 120,000,000 people has been led by the Republican leaders to erect an impregnable barbed wire entanglement around its borders through the instrumentality of tariffs which have isolated us from all the other human beings in all the rest of the round world. I accept that admirable tariff statement in the platform of this

DOCUMENT 1 - Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential nomination acceptance speech given at the Democratic National Convention, July 2, 1932.

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convention. It would protect American business and American labor. By our acts of the past we have invited and received the retaliation of other nations. I propose an invitation to them to forget the past, to sit at the table with us, as friends, and to plan with us for the restoration of the trade of the world.

Go into the home of the business man. He knows what the tariff has done for him. Go into the home of the factory worker. He knows why goods do not move. Go into the home of the farmer. He knows how the tariff has helped to ruin him.

Yes, at last our eyes are open; at last the American people are ready to acknowledge that Republican leadership was wrong and that the Democracy is right.

My program, of which I can only touch on these points, is based upon this simple moral principle -- the welfare and the soundness of a nation depend first upon what the great mass of the people wish and need; and secondly, whether or not they are getting it.

What do the people of America want more than anything else? In my mind, two things: Work; work, with all the moral and spiritual values that go with work. And with work, a reasonable measure of security -- security for themselves and for their wives and children. Work and security -- these are more than words. They are more than facts. They are the spiritual values, the true goal

DOCUMENT 1 - Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential nomination acceptance speech given at the Democratic National Convention, July 2, 1932.

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toward which our efforts of reconstruction should lead. These are the values that this program is intended to gain; these are the values we have failed to achieve by the leadership we now have.

Our Republican leaders tell us economic laws -- sacred, inviolable, unchangeable -- that these laws cause panics which no one could prevent. But while they prate of economic laws, men and women are starving. We must lay hold of the fact that economic laws are not made by nature. They are made by human beings.

Yes, when -- not if -- when we get the chance, the Federal Government will assume bold leadership in distress relief. For years Washington has alternated between putting its head in the sand and saying there is no large number of destitute people in our midst who need food and clothing, and then saying the States should take care of them, if there are. Instead of planning two and a half years ago to do what they are now trying to do, they kept putting it off from day to day and week to week, and month to month, until the conscience of America demanded action.

I say that while primary responsibility for relief rests with localities now, as ever, yet the Federal Government has always had and still has a continuing responsibility for the broader public welfare. It will

DOCUMENT 1 - Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential nomination acceptance speech given at the Democratic National Convention, July 2, 1932.

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soon fulfill that responsibility.

And now, just a few words about our plans for the next four months. By coming here instead of waiting for a formal notification, I have made it clear that I believe we should eliminate expensive ceremonies and that we should set in motion at once, tonight my friends, the necessary machinery for an adequate presentation of the issues to the electorate of the Nation.

I myself have important duties as Governor of a great State, duties which in these times are more arduous and more grave than at any previous period, and yet I feel confident that I shall be able to make a number of short visits to several parts of the nation, and my trips will have as their first objective the study at first-hand from the lips of men and women of all parties and all occupations, the actual conditions and needs of every part of an interdependent country.

One word more: Out of every crisis, every tribulation, every disaster, mankind rises with some share of greater knowledge, of higher decency, of purer purpose. Today we shall have come through a period of loose thinking, descending morals, an era of selfishness, of individual men and women and of whole nations. Blame not governments alone for this. Blame ourselves in equal share. Let us be frank in acknowledgment of the truth that many amongst

DOCUMENT 1 - Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential nomination acceptance speech given at the Democratic National Convention, July 2, 1932.

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us have made obeisance to Mammon, that the profits of speculation, the easy road without toil, have lured us from the old barricades. To return to higher standards we must abandon the false prophets and seek new leaders of our own choosing.

Never before, never before in modern history have the essential differences between the two major American parties stood out in such striking contrast as they do today. Republican leaders not only have failed in material things, they have failed in National vision, because in disaster they have held out no hope, they have pointed out no path for the people below to climb back to places of security and of safety in our American life.

Throughout the nation, men and women, forgotten in the political philosophy of the government of the last years look to us here for guidance and for more equitable opportunity to share in the distribution of national wealth.

On the farms, in the large metropolitan areas, in the smaller cities and in the villages, millions of our citizens cherish the hope that their old standards of living and of thought have not gone forever. Those millions cannot and shall not hope in vain.

I pledge you -- I pledge myself to a new deal for the American people. Let us all here assembled constitute ourselves prophets of a new order of competence

DOCUMENT 1 - Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential nomination acceptance speech given at the Democratic National Convention, July 2, 1932.

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and of courage. This is more than a political campaign;
it is a call to arms. Give me your help, not to win
votes alone, but to win in this crusade to restore America
to its own people.

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THE PROMISE OF CHANGE

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 2 - Political cartoon, "A Message of Hope," New York City Mirror, July 4, 1932.

NEW YORK CITY MIRROR
JULY 4, 1932

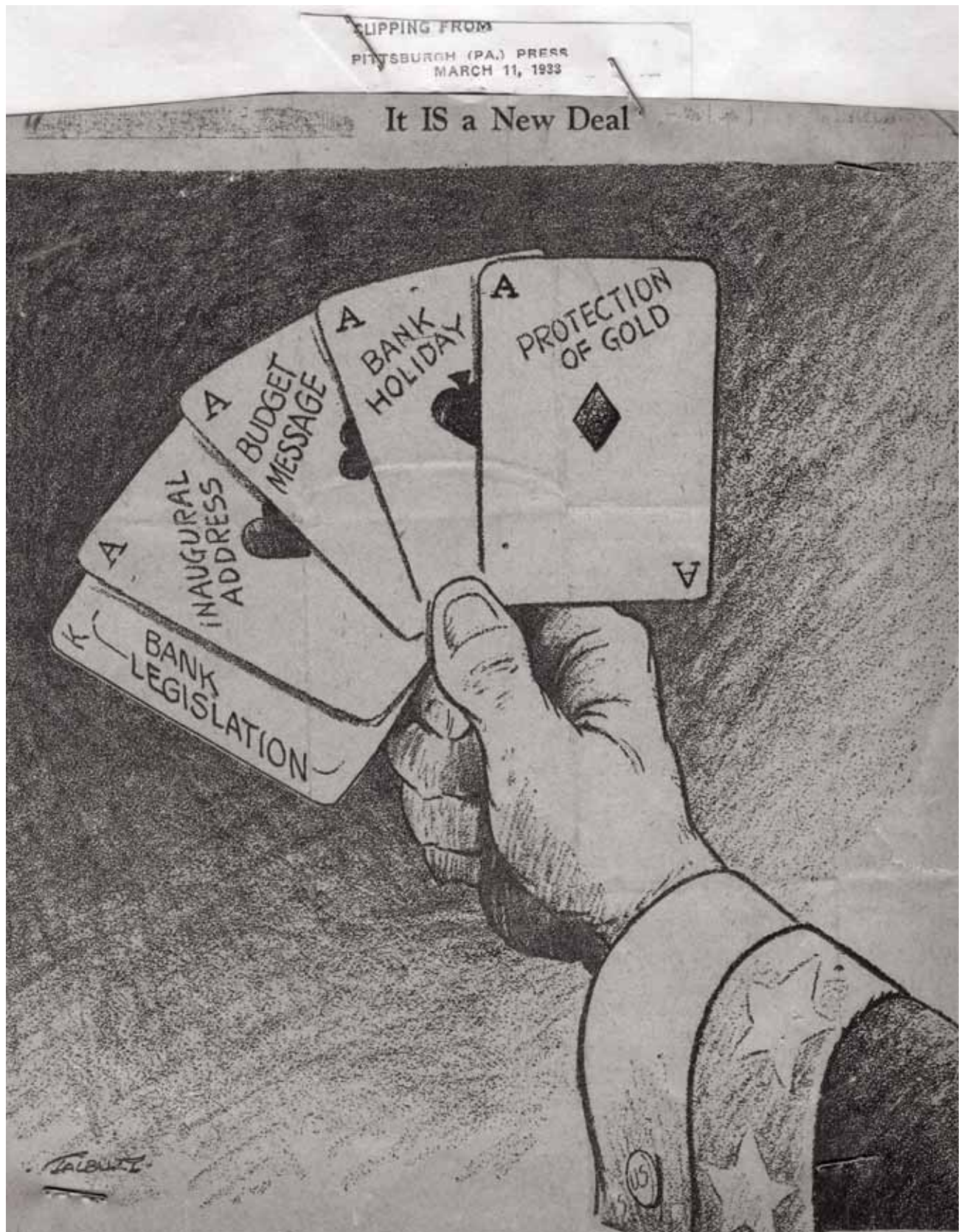
A MESSAGE OF HOPE



THE PROMISE OF CHANGE

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 3 - Political cartoon, "It IS A New Deal," Pittsburgh Press (P.A.), March 11, 1933.



THE GREAT DEPRESSION

COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM



Worsening Crisis

Main Idea/Enduring Understanding

In the five months between FDR's November election and his March inauguration, economic conditions went from bad to worse. The nation's banking system was on the brink of total collapse.

Quote 1:

"This nation asks for action, and action now." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

FDR's election restored hope to many. But before FDR could take office in March 1933 the economy took a disastrous turn.

America's troubled banking system began to collapse, in part because many commercial banks had speculated in stocks. When several prominent banks collapsed, depositors rushed to pull money out of the remaining banks.

During January and February 4000 banks were forced out of business. Because accounts were not government-insured, millions lost their life savings. Panicked depositors rushed to the remaining banks to withdraw their money. These bank runs threatened the entire financial system.

In desperation, 32 of the 48 states declared "bank holidays" - temporarily shutting their banks to prevent depositors from removing cash. Remaining states put strict limits on withdrawals. In an era before widespread credit cards, this meant people could not make purchases. In many places barter, IOUs, and money substitutes called "scrip" replaced cash transactions.

America's economy faced destruction.

Quote 2:

"We have provided the machinery to restore our financial system; it is up to you to support and make it work. It is your problem no less than it is mine. Together we cannot fail." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Short Answer Questions

1. What was the reaction of depositors as banks began to collapse? _____

2. What were the “bank holidays?” _____

3. When people could not get cash, what other methods did they turn to for conducting transactions? _____

4. About how many banks failed at the peak of the bank crisis in January & February 1933? _____

Vocabulary

Bank run – a situation where depositors withdrew their money to prevent losing it; the practice swells as people panic and banks run out of money

Bank Holiday – temporary shutting of banks to prevent depositors from removing cash

Scrip – a certificate indicating the rights of the holder to receive payment later in the form of cash

Bank Collapse – the failure of banks to stay in business due to speculation, poor investments, and in some cases illegal activities among prominent bankers

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. Why do bank closings affect so much of the economy?

2. Based on Clubb's political cartoon, how did the interval between the 1932 election and FDR's inauguration help or hinder the restoration of our financial stability? _____

Document 2:

1. Would you consider the February 21, 1933 cartoon to be pro or anti FDR? Give two reasons for your opinion. _____

2. Who is the man standing in the background with Uncle Sam? How would you describe Uncle Sam's feelings toward that man? How would you describe Uncle Sam's feelings toward President-Elect Roosevelt?

Document 3:

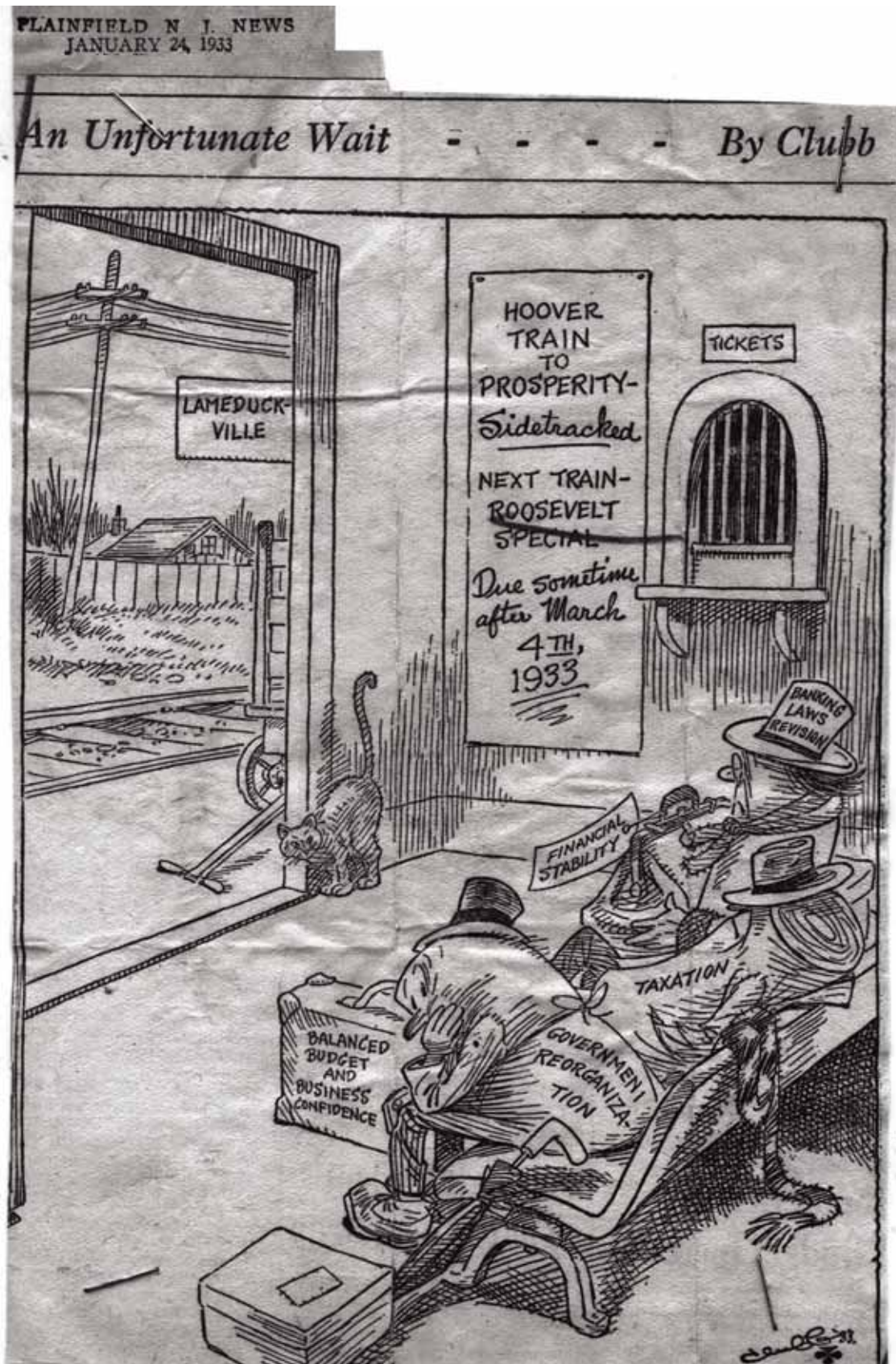
1. After studying the "Summary of Restrictions on Deposit Withdrawals," you might notice that eleven states had no restrictions put on withdrawals. What do you think may have been true of those eleven states that did not apply to the other thirty seven? _____

2. Find your state on the summary. How does it compare to surrounding states? How does it compare to states in other parts of the country? What might account for the differences? _____

WORSENING CRISIS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 1 - Political cartoon, "An Unfortunate Wait," Plainfield N.J. News, January 24, 1933.



WORSENING CRISIS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 2 - Political cartoon, "Sweeping Changes Are Expected After March 4th,"
Hoboken N.J. Observer, February 21, 1933.



DOCUMENT 3 - Summary of Restrictions on Deposit Withdrawals through March 3, 1933.

Statistical Division
March 3, 1933.

SUMMARY OF RESTRICTIONS ON DEPOSIT WITHDRAWALS
THROUGH MARCH 3, 1933.

<u>State</u>	<u>Date Started</u>	<u>Expires</u> <u>(Includes date shown)</u>
<u>General Restrictions by Proclamation of Governor.</u>		
Alabama	March 1	March 11
Arizona	March 1	March 4
California	March 1	March 4
Georgia	March 3	3 days
Idaho	March 2	March 18
Kentucky	March 1	March 11
Louisiana	March 1	March 4
Maryland	February 25	Indefinite
Michigan	February 14	Indefinite
Nevada	March 1	March 4
New Mexico	March 3	4 days
Oklahoma	March 1	March 4
Oregon	March 1	March 4
Tennessee	March 1	March 6
Texas	March 2	March 7
Utah	March 3	5 days
Washington	March 2	March 4
Wisconsin	March 3	2 weeks
<u>Widespread Restrictions under Statutes.</u>		
Arkansas		
Indiana		
Mississippi		
Ohio		
West Virginia		
<u>Scattered Restrictions under Statutes or by Independent Action.</u>		
Colorado		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Illinois		
Iowa		
Minnesota		
Missouri		
Nebraska		
New Jersey		
New York		
North Carolina		
Pennsylvania		
Vermont		
Virginia		

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM



Emergency Legislation: The Bank Holiday

Main Idea/ Enduring Understanding

To put a halt to the bank crisis, FDR declared a “bank holiday” temporarily closing all the nation’s banks so they could be examined and then reopened on sound footing.

Quote 1:

On Inauguration Day the new president offered hope to a desperate people:

“So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

He had promised Americans a New Deal. Now he began to construct it.

On his first full day in office, FDR confronted his greatest challenge - the banking crisis that threatened to destroy America’s economy.

Roosevelt began with a decisive act. Declaring a “bank holiday,” he temporarily closed all the nation’s banks. Then he called Congress into special session to pass emergency banking legislation to protect bank depositors and curb risky banking practices

Treasury officials feverishly began work on the Emergency Banking Act. Rushed to Congress four days later, it was approved within hours. The Act gave the government authority to examine bank finances, provide needed capital, and determine which banks were fit to reopen.

The healthy banks were authorized to reopen on March 13. The night before FDR went on nationwide radio to reassure Americans. His appeal worked. The following morning, when the banks reopened, depositors lined up to return their money. The banking crisis was over.

Quote 2:

“We have provided the machinery to restore our financial system; it is up to you to support and make it work. It is your problem no less than it is mine. Together we cannot fail.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

EMERGENCY LEGISLATION: THE BANK HOLIDAY

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Short Answer Questions

1. What was the first crisis confronted by FDR upon taking office? _____

2. What was the purpose of the “bank holiday?” _____

3. How long did it take the Treasury Department to create the Emergency Bank Act? How long did it take Congress to pass it? _____

4. What did FDR do to reassure the nation that they were safe? How did the people respond? _____

5. What may have been the consequences nationally if the president had not acted on the bank runs? _____

Vocabulary

Bank holiday - temporary shutting of banks to prevent depositors from removing cash

Bank depositors - people or businesses who put their money in a bank for safe keeping and earn a small amount of interest on their investment

Bank Crisis – the period during the Great Depression when failing banks began to close their doors to business, often leaving depositors with their life savings entirely wiped out

**EMERGENCY LEGISLATION:
THE BANK HOLIDAY**

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. In the president’s proclamation, why would he feel it was necessary to reference previous acts of Congress? _____

2. What were three primary goals of the president’s proclamation? _____

Document 2:

1. After looking at the photo of the run on the bank, can you recall anything similar during your lifetime? Why do you think the 1933 run-on-banks was unique during the past century? _____

EMERGENCY LEGISLATION:
THE BANK HOLIDAY

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Document 3:

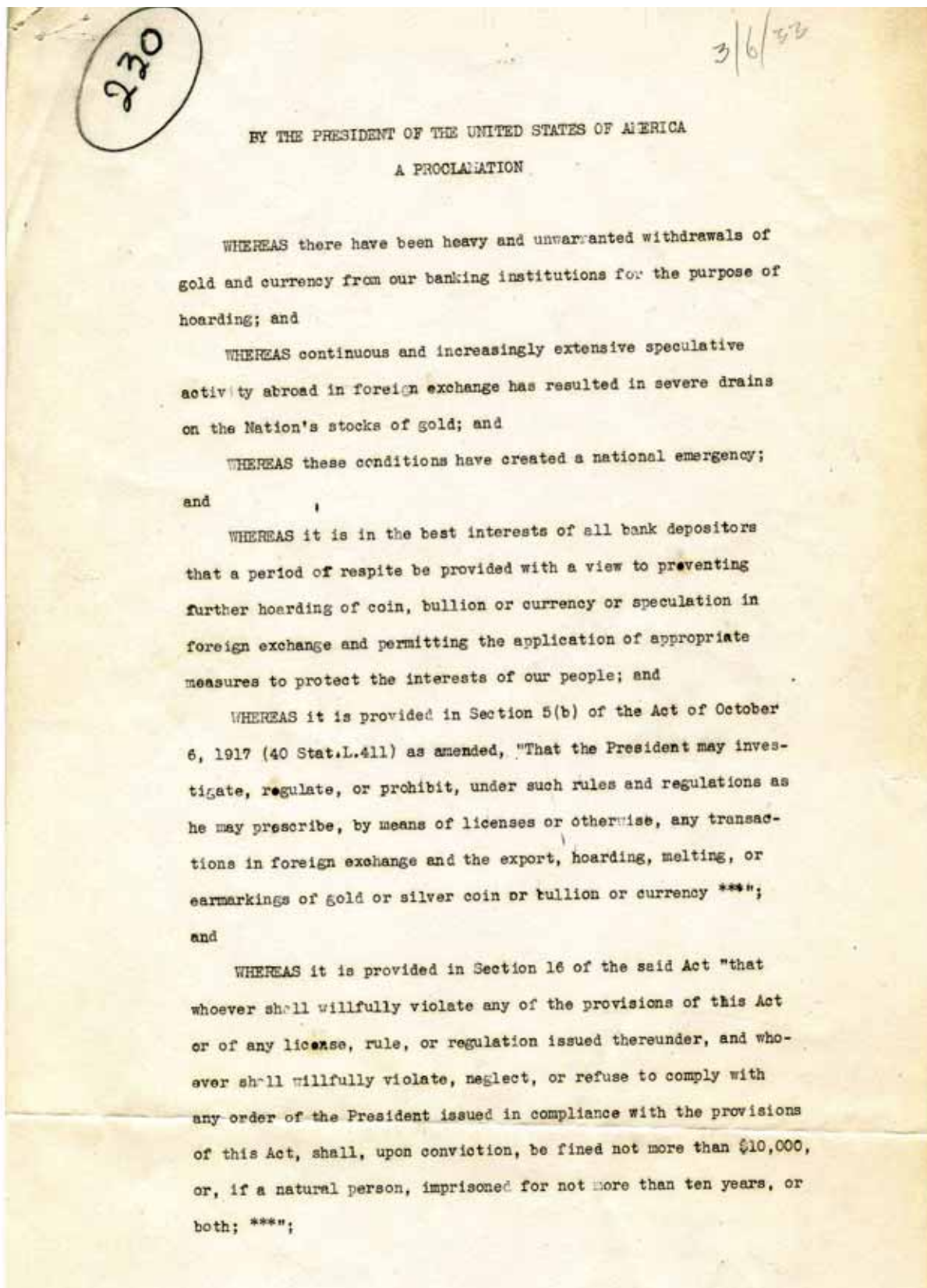
1. Read the text of the president’s Fireside Chat. Put yourself in the position of a bank depositor of 1933. What would be your reaction to the chat? Explain. _____

2. How would you describe the tone of the president’s address to the nation? _____

3. Where does FDR say people have been keeping their money if it has not been in a bank? _____

DOCUMENT 1 - Banking Proclamation made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, March 6, 1933.

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DOCUMENT 1 - Banking Proclamation made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, March 6, 1933.

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- 2 -

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, in view of such national emergency and by virtue of the authority vested in me by said Act and in order to prevent the export, hoarding, or earmarking of gold or silver coin or bullion or currency, do hereby proclaim, order, direct and declare that from Monday, the sixth day of March, to Thursday, the ninth day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Thirty Three, both dates inclusive, there shall be maintained and observed by all banking institutions and all branches thereof located in the United States of America, including the territories and insular possessions, a bank holiday, and that during said period all banking transactions shall be suspended. During such holiday, excepting as hereinafter provided, no such banking institution or branch shall pay out, export, earmark, or permit the withdrawal or transfer in any manner or by any device whatsoever, of any gold or silver coin or bullion or currency or take any other action which might facilitate the hoarding thereof; nor shall any such banking institution or branch pay out deposits, make loans or discounts, deal in foreign exchange, transfer credits from the United States to any place abroad, or transact any other banking business whatsoever.

During such holiday, the Secretary of the Treasury, with the approval of the President and under such regulations as he may prescribe, is authorized and empowered (a) to permit any or all of such banking institutions to perform any or all of the usual banking functions, (b) to direct, require or permit the issuance of clearing house certificates or other evidences of claims against assets of banking institutions, and (c) to authorize and direct the creation in such banking institutions of special trust accounts for the receipt of new deposits which shall be subject to withdrawal on demand without any restriction or limitation and shall be kept separately in cash or on deposit in Federal Reserve Banks or invested in obligations of the United States.

DOCUMENT 1 - Banking Proclamation made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, March 6, 1933.

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As used in this order the term "banking institutions" shall include all Federal Reserve banks, national banking associations, banks, trust companies, savings banks, building and loan associations, credit unions, or other corporations, partnerships, associations or persons, engaged in the business of receiving deposits, making loans, discounting business paper, or transacting any other form of banking business.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

(SEAL) Done in the City of Washington this 6th day of March - 1 A.M.
in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine
Hundred and Thirty-three, and of the Inde-
pendence of the United States the One
Hundred and Fifty-seventh.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

By the President:

CORDELL HULL
Secretary of State

EMERGENCY LEGISLATION

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 2 - Photograph, "Depression: Runs on Banks," shows people milling about outside of a bank, 1933.



EMERGENCY LEGISLATION

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 3 - Reading copy of FDR's first fireside chat on banking, March 12, 1933.

Page 1 OF 7

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 Capitols 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.

First of all let me state the simple fact that when you deposit money in a bank the bank does not put the money into a safe deposit vault. It invests your money in many different forms of credit--bonds, commercial paper, mortgages and many other kinds of loans. In other words, the bank puts your money to work to keep the wheels of industry and of agriculture turning around. A comparatively small part of the money you put into the bank is kept in currency--an amount which in normal times is wholly sufficient to cover the cash needs of the average citizen. In other words the total amount of all the currency in the country is only a ^{fraction} ~~comparatively small proportion~~ of the total deposits in all of the banks.

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,

DOCUMENT 3 - Reading copy of FDR's first fireside chat on banking, March 12, 1933.

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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.

It was then that I issued the proclamation providing for the nationwide 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.

The third stage has been the series of regulations permitting the banks to continue their functions to take care of the distribution of food and household necessities and the payment of payrolls. /

This bank holiday while resulting in many cases in great inconvenience is affording us the opportunity to supply the currency necessary to meet the situation. No sound bank is a dollar worse off than it was when it closed its doors last Monday. Neither is any bank which may turn out not to be in a position for immediate opening. The new law allows

DOCUMENT 3 - Reading copy of FDR's first fireside chat on banking, March 12, 1933.

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the twelve Federal Reserve banks to issue additional currency on good assets and thus the banks which reopen will be able to meet every legitimate call. The new currency is being sent out by the Bureau of ~~Printing and Engraving~~ ^{Printing} in large volume to every part of the country. It is sound currency because it is backed by actual, good assets.

^a Another question you will ask is this—why are all the banks not to be reopened at the same time? The answer is simple. Your Government does not intend that the history of the past few years shall be repeated. We do not want and will not have another epidemic of bank failures.

As a result we start tomorrow, Monday, with the opening of banks in the twelve Federal Reserve bank cities—those banks which on first examination by the Treasury have already been found to be all right. This will be followed on Tuesday by the resumption of all ~~other~~ ^{their} functions by banks already found to be sound in cities where there are recognized clearing houses. That means about 250 cities of the United States.

On Wednesday and succeeding days banks in smaller places all through the country will resume business, subject, of course, to the Government's physical ability to complete its survey. It is necessary that the reopening of banks be extended over a period in order to permit the banks to make applications for necessary loans, to obtain currency needed to meet their requirements and to enable the Government to make common sense check ups.

DOCUMENT 3 - Reading copy of FDR's first fireside chat on banking, March 12, 1933.

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Let me make it clear to you that if your bank does not open the first day you are by no means justified in believing that it will not open. A bank that opens on one of the subsequent days is in exactly the same status as the bank that opens tomorrow.

I know that many people are worrying about State banks not members of the Federal Reserve System. These banks can and will receive assistance from member banks and from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. These state banks are following the same course as the national banks except that they get their licenses to resume business from the state authorities, and these authorities have been asked by the Secretary of the Treasury to permit their good banks to open up on the same schedule as the national banks. I am confident that the state banking departments will be as careful as the National Government in the policy relating to the opening of banks and will follow the same broad policy.

It is possible that when the banks resume a very few people who have ~~been~~ not recovered from their fear may again begin withdrawals. Let me make it clear that the banks will take care of all needs ~~except, of course, the hysterical demands of hoarders~~--and it is my belief that hoarding during the past week has become an exceedingly unfashionable pastime. It needs no prophet to tell you that when the people find that they can get their money--that they can get it when they want it for all legitimate purposes--the phantom of fear will soon be laid. ^{People} ~~People~~ will again be glad to have their money

More

DOCUMENT 3 - Reading copy of FDR's first fireside chat on banking, March 12, 1933.

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where it will be safely taken care of and where they can use it conveniently at any time. I can assure you that it is ~~at~~ safer to keep your money in a reopened bank than under the mattress.

The success of our whole great national program depends, of course, upon the cooperation of the public--on its intelligent support and use of a reliable system.

Remember that the essential accomplishment of the new legislation is that it makes it possible for banks more readily to convert their assets into cash than was the case before. More liberal provision has been made for banks to borrow on these assets at the Reserve Banks and more liberal provision has also been made for issuing currency on the security of these good assets. This currency is not fiat currency. It is issued only on adequate security--and every good bank has an abundance of such security.

One more point before I close. There will be, of course, some banks unable to reopen without being reorganized. The new law allows the Government to assist in making these reorganizations quickly and effectively and even allows the Government to subscribe to at least a part of new capital which may be required.

DOCUMENT 3 - Reading copy of FDR's first fireside chat on banking, March 12, 1933.

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I hope you can see from this elemental recital of what your government is doing that there is nothing complex, or radical in the process.

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.

I do not promise you that every bank will be reopened or that individual losses will not be suffered, but there will be no losses that possibly could be avoided; and there would have been more and greater losses had we continued to drift. I can even promise you salvation for some at least of the sorely pressed banks. We shall be engaged not merely in reopening sound banks but in the creation of sound banks through reorganization.

DOCUMENT 3 - Reading copy of FDR's first fireside chat on banking, March 12, 1933.

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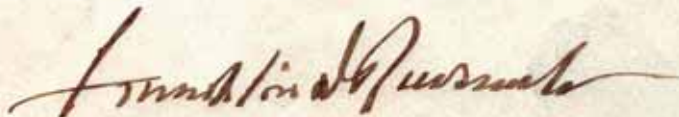
-7-

It has been wonderful to me to catch the note of confidence from all over the country. I can never be sufficiently grateful to the people for the loyal support they have given me in their acceptance of the judgment that has dictated our course, even though all our processes may not have seemed clear to them.

After all there is an element in the readjustment of our financial system more important than currency, more important than gold, and that is the confidence of the people. Confidence and courage are the essentials of success in carrying out our plan. You people must have faith; you must not be stampeded by rumors or guesses. Let us unite in banishing fear. We have provided the machinery to restore our financial system; it is up to you to support and make it work.

It is your problem no less than it is mine. Together we cannot fail.

* * * *

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION



COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM

The First 100 Days

Main Idea/ Enduring Understanding

The First 100 Days of the Roosevelt Administration was filled with emergency action and legislation intended to address the nation's deepening economic crisis. It was the most legislatively active period in American history.

Quote 1:

"This Nation asks for action, and action now." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

FDR's First 100 Days in office became the most action-packed in American history.

After enacting the Emergency Bank Act, Roosevelt next pushed reforms through Congress to fight fraud in the securities markets. He provided relief for debt-ridden homeowners and farmers facing the loss of their homes and property. And he worked to stimulate inflation in an effort to prop up sagging prices and wages that were dragging the economy down.

In the 100 Days of Action, March 9 to June 16, 1933, sixteen major issues were addressed.

March 31	Creation of Civilian Conservation Corps
April 19	Abandonment of Gold Standard
May 12	Federal Emergency Relief Act
May 12	Agricultural Adjustment Act
May 12	Emergency Farm Mortgage Act
May 18	Tennessee Valley Authority Act
May 27	Securities Act

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

June 5	Abrogation of Gold Payment Clause
June 13	Home Owners Loan Act
June 16	Glass-Steagall Banking Act
June 16	National Industrial Recovery Act
June 16	Emergency Railroad Transportation Act
June 16	Farm Credit Act

No new president had ever moved with such urgency, on so many fronts so quickly, issuing proclamations and executive orders and driving a torrent of legislation through Congress to relieve economic hardship, stimulate recovery, and enact reforms.

Quote 2:

"I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Notes:

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Short Answer Questions

1. What was the “First 100 Days?” _____

2. How many major pieces of legislation were passed in Roosevelt’s First 100 Days? Give at least 3 examples.

3. Besides passing legislation through Congress what other methods did FDR use to address the crisis facing the nation? _____

4. Why do you think that since FDR, each incoming president has had his own first 100 days watched closely? _____

Vocabulary

Inflation – a continual rise in the price of consumer goods and services

First 100 Days - period between March 4 and June 16, 1933 during which 16 major pieces of legislation were passed through Congress and signed by FDR

Relief, Recovery, Reform (3 R’s) – the three major goals that ran through all of the New Deal programs

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. Do you agree with Elderkin’s political cartoon “Off at Last?” Recalling conditions in the United States at the time of FDR’s first 100 days, explain why or why not? _____

2. FDR is shown injecting a bit of “leadership”. Describe three ways he showed or provided leadership. _____

Document 2:

1. What does FDR give as the reason for wanting to modify the Volstead Act? _____

2. With regard to FDR’s March 13, 1933 brief message to Congress, why do you think the president regarded this action to be “of the highest importance?” _____

Document 3:

1. Mr. Brown states that he is now making \$36.00 per month. How much does that equate to per year? How does that compare to what he was making before the Great Depression? _____

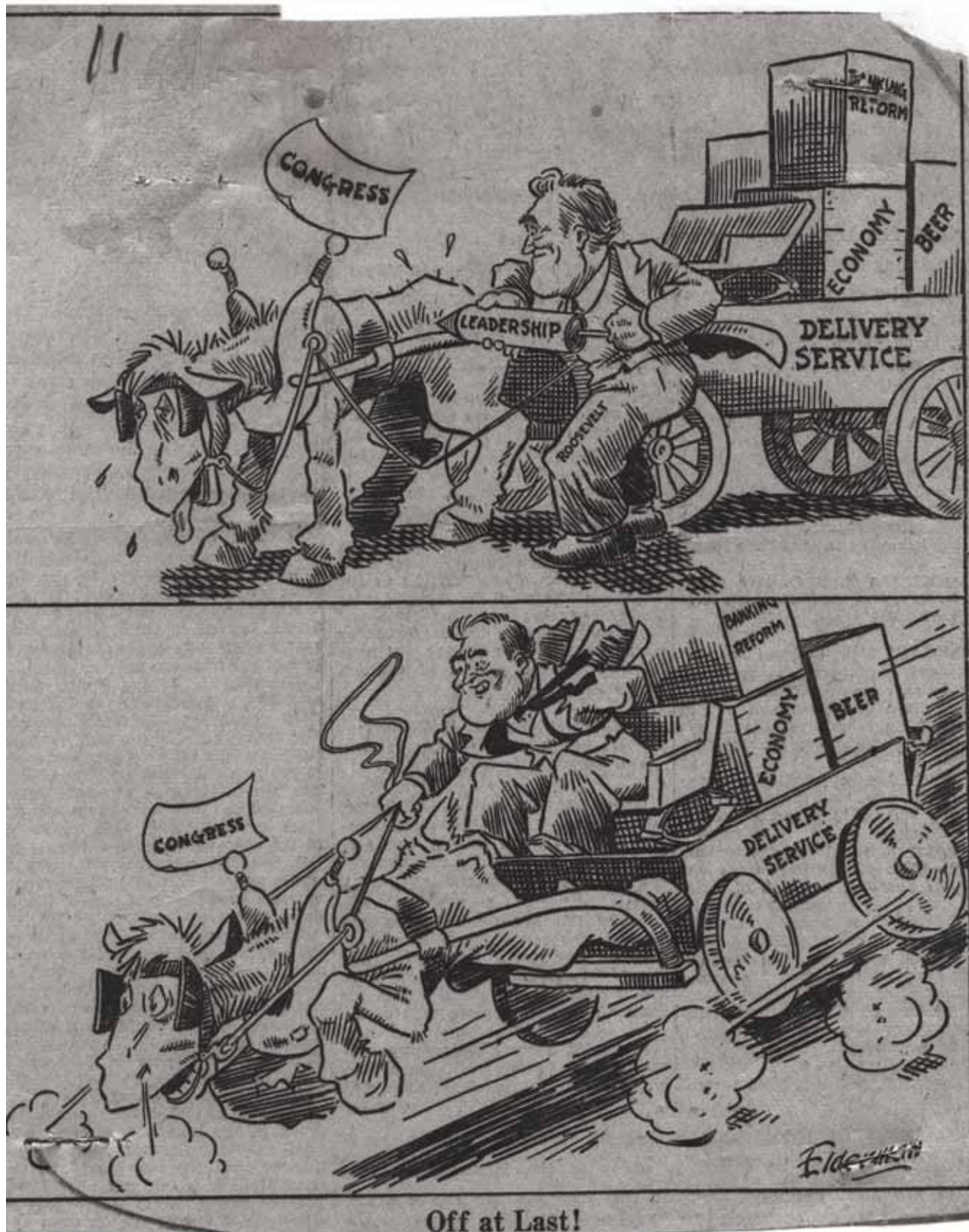
2. Mr. Brown says that before the Great Depression he was used to the average standard of living, about \$1800 per year for a family of eight. What is the average standard of living today? What would it be for a family of eight? _____

3. What is the tone of this letter? What evidence and examples does Mr. Brown give for his attitude towards the president and his leadership? _____

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

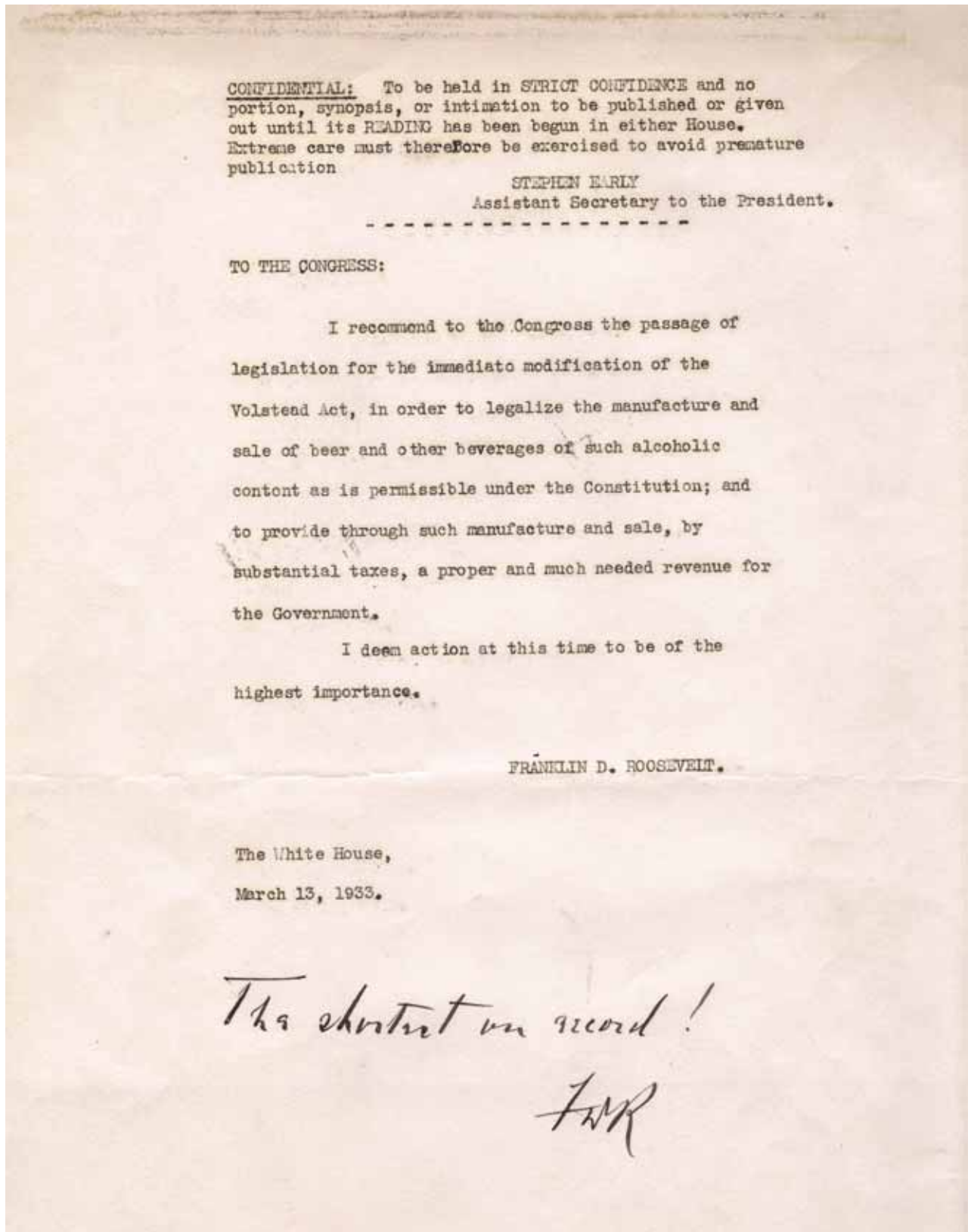
DOCUMENT 1 - Political cartoon, "Off at Last," undated.



THE FIRST 100 DAYS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 2 - Press Release for President Roosevelt's repeal of the Volstead Act, which legalized the production and sale of alcoholic beverages, March 13, 1933.



THE FIRST 100 DAYS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 3 - Letter to President Roosevelt from Lawton L. Brown, October 16, 1937.

FDR-104

Miller, Missouri,
October 16th 1937.

Honorable F. D. Roosevelt,
President United States of America,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

I take this means to extend to you my appreciation of your speech the other night. I assure you it gives me a feeling of the greatest security to know that we have a President that has the foresight and wisdom that you have shown.

Please understand that I am an ex-service man and in a CCC camp drawing thirty six dollars per month and that before I came here have worked for three bushels of turnips per day boarding myself. Might I add that I am the father of six children, three of which are in high school. Of course I am not satisfied with the condition we are forced to live in because of the depression. Having been fortunate enough to have been with a firm for some eleven years previous to 1932 my family was used to the average standard of living, (\$800. Annually). This is mentioned that you might know the drop in our living condition.

If we were to be faced with the continued circumstances we find ourselves in, life would be hopeless indeed BUT what cheers us is the thought, not of the petty errors of petty politics, but the splendid vision you have and the progress you have made. It is very easy to visualize what would have happened these past years when at the time you took over the ship of state the waves of despair was washing over the whole country, had we not some one with courage enough to do the things you have done.

Your speech encourages us to "saw wood" and pull for the future you so courageously plan. It seems very dark indeed to us at times and personally I would like to hear you broadcast more often. It brings us out of the "Blues".

May our God watch over your every move and word and be with the leaders of our Nation.

Very respectfully,



Lawton L. Brown
Miller, Missouri.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION



COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM

Reaching the People

Main Idea/ Enduring Understanding

FDR was a master communicator and used the radio, a relatively new form of media, to explain his administration's goals and actions directly to the people.

Quote 1:

"It has been wonderful to me to catch the note of confidence from all over the country. I can never be sufficiently grateful to the people for the loyal support they have given me in their acceptance of the judgment that has dictated our course, even though all our processes may not have seemed clear to them."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

FDR forged a powerful bond with Americans by communicating with them in ways no previous president had.

His free-wheeling press conferences, eventually totalling almost 1000, attracted attention. But Roosevelt's greatest communication tool was radio.

During his first days in office, FDR needed to calm the fears of an anxious nation and begin to explain his program for economic recovery. To do this, he used the greatest mass communication device of the 1930s - the radio.

This new invention revolutionized politics during the 1920s and 1930s. For the first time, millions could hear the live voices of national leaders. FDR was a master of radio, using it to bypass the Congress and the press and speak directly to the American people in their homes and workplaces. Days after entering office, he began an innovative series of radio addresses that reporters labeled "Fireside Chats" - speaking calmly and conversationally, as if he were actually sitting in his listener's living room. Thousands responded with letters. White House mail jumped from 5000 letters a week to 50,000.

Quote 2:

"... take out and spread before you a map of the whole earth, and . . . follow with me the references which I shall make to the world-encircling battle lines of this war." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Short Answer Questions

1. About how many press conferences did FDR hold? _____

2. What tool or technology did FDR employ to get his message past Congress and directly to the people? _____

3. What were FDR's informal radio addresses called? _____

4. How did the public react to FDR's radio addresses? _____

Vocabulary

Fireside Chats - a series of radio addresses by FDR which informed the American people of current issues and FDR's reaction to them

Mass communication - a means by which a large number of people are reached quickly and easily with a message or information

Notes:

Document 1:

[illegible]

Document 2:

1. This cartoon seems to demonstrate wide acceptance and approval of FDR's radio addresses. What method do political leaders use today to gauge public reaction to their positions and policies? _____

2. Which do you think is more useful or persuasive to a political figure, a poll, or letters from the people they represent? Why? _____

Document 3:

1. Pretend that the letter from N. Pierce of Lima, Ohio appeared on the editorial page of your local newspaper, or as a blog. How would you respond to this letter? What would you say in support? What would you say in opposition? _____

2. The letter is written in very emotional terms “inspiring renewed confidence and a feeling of security”... “impressed by the yearning, earnest sincerity of your words.” Why do you suppose people had such an emotional reaction to FDR when he spoke? _____

[illegible]

DOCUMENT 1 - Political cartoon, "Another Report to His Board of Directors," undated.



DOCUMENT 2 - Political cartoon, "Fan Mail," Brooklyn Eagle, July 26, 1933.



REACHING THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 3 - Letter to President Roosevelt, April 14, 1938.

h
FDR-105

127 N. Pierce
Lima, Ohio
April 14th, 1938

To the President,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

Rec'd
4-14-38
JW

Dear Mr. President:

The sound of your voice still is in our ears. With your last word the radio was turned off, but not the sound of your voice or the significance of your words- they will always live in our hearts. Your Fireside Talks have been wonderful, inspiring renewed confidence and a feeling of security, but tonight as we listened, there was established within us a feeling of love and reverence entirely selfless in influence.

Now ANYONE within the sound of your voice could fail to be impressed by the yearning, earnest sincerity of your words is more than we can comprehend! No matter what party or venomous greed combine to overthrow your visioned plans for security for your people, we, your people, who elected you OUR NATIONAL GOVERNOR will carry on in hopeful confidence and faith in your intelligence and integrity through every issue.

We are a small town, middle class family. The husband a good garage man, employed for a quarter of a century in one place, suddenly out of a job. The wife a musician, plying her trade, temporarily keeping the family body and soul together. (We were just recovering, slightly, from the last depression when this condition upset the apple cart.) We live in a \$20.00 a month flat- poor enough I grant you- carry in our own ice, along with many corresponding inconveniences, but, are we discouraged? WE ARE NOT! Not so long as you are at the helm setting the governmental sail.

And do not let such implicit confidence strike a chill of un-voiced fear in your soul, lest you, in the face of over-whelming circumstance, to sense, fail us. Even though you fail to realize ALL you have so nobly striven to attain, what you already have accomplished is an immortal monument to an infinitely stupendous activity- simply, better and more substantial living for a greed infested people.

And as to those high and mighty in authority who question your vision; who politely abuse you; who so feverishly attempt frustration of your well layed plans; shouting Dictator and getting away with it- Just WHO do they think THEY are fooling? It is obviously the omission of one letter from the word consequently influencing their disapproval- the letter "S"! Some people have the queerest notions as to what exactly constitutes true Democratic Government "for the people, etc.,"

Oh, Mr. President, do not let erroneous opposition to your great good break your heart. God knows you have earnestly tried! We believe in you, with you and are eternally grateful to you.

Sincerely and faithfully yours,

Carroll Penn Flinn
Ben L. Flinn

THE GREAT DEPRESSION



COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM

Social Security

Main Idea/ Enduring Understanding

The creation of Social Security was FDR's proudest domestic accomplishment. It created old-age pensions, unemployment insurance and other benefits for people in need.

Quote 1:

"We can never insure one hundred percent of the population against one hundred percent of the hazards and vicissitudes of life. But we have tried to frame a law which will give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

When the Depression struck there was no Federal aid for the elderly and the unemployed. Almost half of America's seniors were unable to support themselves. Jobless people fell quickly into poverty. Family resources and charities were stretched beyond the breaking point. State and local governments provided little aid.

Roosevelt, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, and other reformers had long supported the idea of government-sponsored pensions and unemployment insurance.

Powerful grassroots movements in California, Michigan, and Louisiana, led by Francis Townsend, Father Charles Coughlin, and Senator Huey Long proposed their own plans for providing for the needs of the elderly and unemployed, giving the Roosevelt plan a sense of urgency.

On August 14, 1935, FDR signed his proudest domestic achievement - the Social Security Act. It created old-age pensions and unemployment insurance, funded by payroll taxes on workers and employers. The Act also provided grants to states to assist disabled people and fatherless children.

Notes:

Short Answer Questions

1. Who did FDR task with heading up the effort to create a social security program? _____

2. What groups or organizations provided help to the elderly & unemployed prior to the creation of social security? _____

3. Who led grassroots movements to promoting their own plans for providing a form of social security? _____

4. How was the Social Security bill funded? _____

5. Besides the elderly, who else received benefits from social security? _____

Vocabulary

Vicissitudes - a difficulty or hardship

Social Safety Net - programs created, usually by governments, which seek to help the poor and vulnerable

Grassroots Movement - change or action beginning from the local levels of society

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. According to the President's Social Security signing statement, how many people were directly and immediately impacted by the creation of Social Security? _____

2. What factors does FDR site as making life insecure? _____

3. In the fourth paragraph, how does FDR describe how the bill will help individuals & future governments? _____

Document 2:

1. These men are visiting a soup kitchen. What organization is providing the soup? _____

2. Prior to the creation of Social Security, where might these men turn for help if this soup kitchen ran out of resources to supply soup? Where might they turn for help after August 14, 1935? _____

Document 3:

1. Has the prediction depicted in the carton been accurate? Is the cartoonist justified in his view of politicians? Why or why not? _____

2. In what ways has Social Security changed since 1977? _____

DOCUMENT 1 - President Roosevelt's statement upon signing the Social Security Act, August 14, 1935.

Page 1 of 2

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON SIGNING THE SOCIAL SECURITY BILL - AUGUST 14, 1935.

Today a hope of many years standing is in large part fulfilled. The civilization of the past hundred years, with its startling industrial changes, has tended more and more to make life insecure. Young people have come to wonder what would be their lot when they came to old age. The man with a job has wondered how long the job would last.

This social security measure gives at least some protection to thirty million of our citizens who will reap direct benefits through unemployment compensation, through old age pensions and through increased services for the protection of children and the prevention of ill health. (STOP)

We can never insure one hundred per cent of the population against one hundred per cent of the hazards and vicissitudes of life but we have tried to frame a law which will give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age.

This law, too, represents a corner stone in a structure which is being built but is by no means complete -- a structure intended to lessen the force of possible future depressions, to act as a protection to future Administrations of the Government against the necessity of going deeply into debt to furnish relief to the needy -- a law to flatten out the peaks and valleys of

SOCIAL SECURITY

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 1 - President Roosevelt's statement upon signing the Social Security Act,
August 14, 1935.

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-2-

deflation and of inflation — in other words, a law that will take care of human needs and at the same time provide for the United States an economic structure of vastly greater soundness.

I congratulate all of you ladies and gentlemen, all of you in the Congress, in the executive departments and all of you who come from private life, and I thank you for your splendid efforts in behalf of this sound, needy and patriotic legislation.

If the Senate and the House of Representatives in this long and arduous session had done nothing more than pass this Bill, the session would be regarded as historic for all time.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
(original)

SOCIAL SECURITY

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 2 - Photograph of Depression Era breadline outside of St. Peter's Mission in New York City, 1932.



DOCUMENT 3 - Political cartoon, "A Subject of Great Interest to Young Voters," Chicago Tribune, October 17, 1938.



THE GREAT DEPRESSION

COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM



Jobs and Relief

Main Idea/Enduring Understanding

The Great Depression put nearly one quarter of the population out of work with no means to provide for themselves and their families. What the nation needed most immediately was jobs.

Quote 1:

“Our greatest primary task is to put people to work.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

When FDR took office one out of four workers was without a job. Another one in four could only find part-time work. He moved immediately to put people back to work by launching the largest public works program in American history, directing billions of Federal dollars to fund work relief for the unemployed. His goal was to provide immediate assistance to the unemployed and to increase their purchasing power so they could buy more goods and services and help boost the nation's economy.

From 1933 to 1935, FDR created new agencies like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Public Works Administration (PWA), and the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) put young men aged 17-24 - many from urban areas - to work on conservation projects in healthy rural environments. During its nine-year existence, the CCC employed nearly three million men. They planted over two billion trees, fought forest fires, built trails, campgrounds, and reservoirs, and aided with soil conservation programs. It became one of the New Deal's most popular and successful programs. Its legacy remains today in facilities it constructed throughout America's national forests and parks.

The Public Works Administration (PWA) contracted with private construction companies to put additional people to work while the Works Progress Administration (WPA), hired the unemployed directly. It was the largest public works initiative in American history employing 3.3 million people at its height. WPA workers built thousands of roads, bridges, tunnels, parks, airports, schools, courthouses, post offices, and other public buildings. Agency artists created nearly 500,000 works of public art and brought theater, literature, oral histories, music, and dance to communities around the nation.

Together these agencies helped millions of families survive during the bleakest years of the Great Depression.

Quote 2:

“This is a great national crusade to destroy enforced idleness which is an enemy of the human spirit generated by this depression.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Short Answer Questions

1. What was the unemployment rate when FDR took office? _____

2. What was the main goal of FDR's jobs programs? _____

3. What were three New Deal Agencies charged with creating jobs? _____

4. Describe the activities of the CCC. _____

5. Describe the activities of the WPA. _____

Vocabulary

Public Works – structures, such as roads, dams or post offices paid for by government funds for public use

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. What was the purpose of the CCC? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
2. Who was eligible to work with the CCC? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
3. In what ways was the CCC like a military organization? In what ways was it different? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
4. Are there any similar agencies to the CCC today? What are they? What is one way they are similar? What is one way they are different? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Document 2:

1. Governors, especially those from large states, are often seen as potential presidential contenders. This was the case with FDR, who had tried many of the programs that became the New Deal as smaller experiments in New York State while he was governor. Identify three current governors who might have their eye on the White House. What clues does their track record as a governor give about the policies they might pursue in the White House? _____

2. What two goals did FDR have for the Civilian Conservation Corps as stated in the letter? _____

3. What lessons does this letter have for us in terms of modern environmental and employment problems? _____

DOCUMENT 1 - U.S. Department of Labor interview of National Emergency Conservation workers April 17 1933

Page 1 of 7

ORIGINAL TO WORK IN THE FORESTS
RETIREMENT FOR PRESERVATION

Questions and Answers for the Information of Men Offered the Opportunity to
Apply for National Emergency Conservation Work.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK

Bulletin Number 1 - April 17, 1933.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Washington, D. C.

Two hundred and fifty thousand men in the United States are to have the opportunity of working for six months in the Nation's parks and forests. Each man will receive a cash allowance of \$30 a month, most of which he will allot to his dependents at home. The number of places to be filled is small compared with the number of men who will want these places. The opportunity has come to you to decide whether or not you want to apply for a place in this service. The following questions and answers are given for your information and that of your family and to help you in arriving at a decision.

What Is Emergency Conservation Work?

Question: How did this National Emergency Conservation Work start?

Answer: Congress passed a law which was approved on March 31, 1933, providing for this work as a means of relieving a part of the distress and unemployment now existing throughout the United States.

Q. What is the purpose of this work?

A. Partly to give 250,000 men, many of whom have never had the chance to hold down a job, an opportunity to work, for six months period, at wholesome, healthful, outdoor work. Partly to accomplish work that needs to be done in the Nation's parks and forests; work that will contribute to the welfare of the whole country. In a word, the purpose of this work is both to build men and to build trees.

Who Are Eligible For Emergency Conservation Work?

Q. What men are eligible for this work?

A. The work is to be given primarily to young men between the ages of 18 and 25, who are citizens of the United States, unmarried and unemployed,

DOCUMENT 1 - U.S. Department of Labor interview of National Emergency Conservation workers April 17 1933

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ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

who wish to volunteer for this work, and who wish to allot a substantial portion of their \$30 monthly cash allowance to their dependents. In addition, there will be selected a certain number of older men, married or unmarried, who live near the national parks or forests, who are unemployed, and who have had actual experience in work in the forests. It will be especially valuable to have some of these older and experienced men among those getting their first taste of work in camp and forest.

Q. Does a man have to accept this work if it is offered to him?

A. No. No one is being "drafted" for emergency conservation work. To have one of these jobs is a privilege. Application is voluntary. No one should apply unless he is ready to fit into camp life with a group of 200 men and give his best efforts to the job.

Q. Will there be any discrimination because of race, creed, color, or politics?

A. There will not.

What Are The Conditions Agreed To?

Q. What will a man receive in return for this work?

A. He will receive his food, clothing, and shelter (probably in tents) in camp, for a period of six months. In addition he will receive a cash allowance of \$30 a month, most of which should be allotted to the people who are dependent on him, as the man will not need more than \$2.50 to \$5 a month in cash at camp for incidental expenses.

Q. Does the man have to stay on this job for the whole six months?

A. Yes. He is expected to stay for the whole six months. He has an opportunity to become fully informed about this Emergency Conservation Work before he starts. When he takes the enrollment oath he enters into a contract with the United States government to work for six months on Emergency Conservation work in return for receiving \$30 a month cash allowance, food, clothing, shelter, and medical service. If he left in the middle of the six months he would make a vacancy in the camp that would mean loss and extra expense for the government. If some extraordinary circumstance arises such as his receiving offer of a permanent job, the question of releasing him from further service will receive careful consideration, and his best interests will be cared for. However no man should start in on the Emergency Conservation Work unless he expects to work through the six months.

How To Apply.

Q. What is the first step if a man wants to apply for this work?

DOCUMENT 1 - U.S. Department of Labor interview of National Emergency Conservation workers April 17 1933

Page 3 of 7

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

A. He should fill out the Application Memorandum, which will be furnished by the organization who invites him to apply for enrollment.

Q. What is the next step?

A. As soon as the agency which selects the men is notified that more men should be sent forward, the agency will get in touch with the suitable number of the men who have applied and will instruct them to go to a certain United States Army Recruiting Station on a particular date for preliminary physical examination.

Q. Does this mean that the man is going to join the Army?

A. No. The machinery of the Army Recruiting Stations is being used because it is the most convenient and most effective way of handling the enrollment of the 250,000 men over the United States. However, the man does not enlist or become a soldier; he remains a civilian from beginning to end.

Q. What is done at the Recruiting Station?

A. The man is given a preliminary physical examination. The purpose of this is to see whether there are any physical conditions that would make it impossible or inadvisable for him to attempt hard, physical labor in the forests. For example, it would be unfair both to the man and to the job, to select a man who is crippled, or who has bad heart condition, or some other similar physical handicap. A man with a communicable disease (including venereal disease) cannot be accepted.

Q. How does the man get to the Recruiting Station if he lives at some distance from it?

A. This will have to be arranged by the man, his family, or the organization which has invited the man to apply. In many instances a neighbor will doubtless be willing to take one or more men to the Recruiting Station. In such cases, the neighbor ought to wait until he finds out whether the men are accepted, or whether any of them are rejected and need to be taken home again.

Q. What should a man bring with him to the Recruiting Station?

A. He should bring a lunch with him as he may be at the Recruiting Station all day. He should also come prepared to go directly from the recruiting Station to the "conditioning camp" without returning to his home if he is accepted. This means that he should bring with him whatever things he wants to take with him for the six months on the job. The man ought to "travel light". He may bring one suitcase if he wishes. Clothing, blankets and camp equipment will be provided for him at camp. He should bring toilet articles--tooth brush, comb, brush and shaving kit--and he may bring one good suit of clothes for excursions away from the camp, and any other special pieces of equipment, such as a flashlight, that he may want to take along.

DOCUMENT 1 - U.S. Department of Labor interview of National Emergency Conservation workers April 17 1933

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Getting Into Condition.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

Q. What happens after the man passes the preliminary physical examination at the Recruiting Station?

A. He is then sent on, at government expense, to a conditioning camp at one of the U. S. Army posts, where he remains about two weeks for more thorough physical examination, vaccination against smallpox and typhoid, formal enrollment, and for a conditioning or hardening process which will put him in shape for the outdoor life and the work in the forest.

Q. What if a man is rejected when this general physical examination is made?

A. He will then be sent back, at government expense, to the recruiting station at which he first applied.

Q. What does the process of enrollment include?

A. The man takes an oath (or affirmation) of enrollment, which reads as follows: "I,-----, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that the information given above as to my status is correct. I agree to remain in the Civilian Conservation Corps for six months unless sooner released by proper authority, and that I will obey those in authority and observe all the rules and regulations thereof to the best of my ability and will accept such allowances as may be provided pursuant to law and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. I understand and agree that any injury received or disease contracted by me while a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps cannot be made the basis of any claim against the Government, except such as I may be entitled to under the act of September 7, 1916 (39 Stat.742) (an act to provide compensation for employees of the United States suffering injuries while in the performance of their duties and for other purposes), and that I shall not be entitled to any allowances upon release from camp, except transportation in kind to the place at which I was accepted for enrollment. I understand further that any articles issued to me by the United States Government for use while a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps are, and remain, property of the United States Government and that willful destruction, loss, sale, or disposal of such property renders me financially responsible for the cost thereof and liable to trial in the civil courts. I understand further that any infraction of the rules or regulations of the Civilian Conservation Corps renders me liable to expulsion therefrom. So help me God."

Q. What will be the nature of the conditioning process at the camp?

A. It will include "setting up exercises", hikes, and certain types of manual labor in camp. It will not include military drill, or the "manual of arms".

DOCUMENT 1 - U.S. Department of Labor interview of National Emergency Conservation workers April 17 1933

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ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION
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In the Forest Camp.

Q. What happens at the end of the two weeks conditioning process?

A. The man is sent, at government expense, to a forest camp, which is his headquarters for the rest of the six months. Some of these camps will be in national or other forests, and the work in such places will be under the supervision of the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. Other camps will be in the national parks, and the work there will be under the supervision of the National Park Service of the United States Department of Interior.

The camps themselves will be in charge of officers of the U. S. Army which will supply the camp equipment, the supply service, and the camp management.

Q. How far is the forest camp likely to be from a man's home?

A. Forest camps of 200 men each will be located at various places in the forests and national parks where there is work to be done. A man may be sent to a forest camp in his own State or in a neighboring State. In general, the forest camp is likely to be in his general section of the country, at least. Transportation costs money, and men will not be sent longer distances than are necessary.

Q. What sort of work will be done in the forest?

A. Many kinds of work, including making trails, paths, simple roads, and firelanes, clearing and planting of trees; timber survey work; construction of fire towers, shelters, etc.; landscaping and other work in the park areas; eradication of tree pests and diseases; and improvement of the forest by thinning and removing undesirable species. The men will also be subject to emergency calls on any day at any hour of the day or night, to fight forest fires.

Q. Does a man need to have experience in camp life or work in the forests to fit into this work?

A. Not at all. It is expected that most of the men will be "green" at this sort of work. The leaders and foremen will help the men break in on the job and will give them the necessary instructions and guidance. Physical health and strength, willingness to work hard, and good conduct are enough to carry any man through successfully.

Q. What will be the hours of work?

A. Eight hours a day (including travel to and from work, and the lunch hour) for five days a week -- that is, forty hours a week.

DOCUMENT 1 - U.S. Department of Labor interview of National Emergency Conservation workers April 17 1933

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ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION
6

Q. Who will be in charge of the men?

A. While they are actually on the job, they will work under the supervision of the foresters or employees of the National Park Service, and of the United States Forest Service. While they are in camp or off the job they will be under the supervision of the Army officers who will be in charge of the camp itself.

Q. Will the men be under military discipline?

A. No. The men will be civilians and will be treated as civilians. There will be neither military drill nor military discipline. The clothing which they receive from the Army will be work clothes, not military uniforms. The men will, of course, be required to comply with such rules as are laid down for work and camp life. Continued violation of rules or instructions will be cause for dismissal from the Emergency Conservation Work.

Q. When does cash allowance begin?

A. As soon as the man has taken the oath of enrollment.

Q. When will a man be paid his cash allowance?

A. Twice a month. The allotment which he has made to his dependents will be mailed direct to them by the Army. The man will be paid the remainder in cash.

Q. Will a man be able to buy anything at camp?

A. Yes, there will be a "company exchange" which will have for sale the articles that men will be most likely to want to buy.

Q. What will a man do when he is off the job?

A. There will be much of interest to do on Saturdays and Sundays and after working hours. Keeping the camp and tents in good order, cleaning up, and carrying on the regular daily duties incident to camp life will require some time. There will be educational opportunities for those who are interested to study and take training courses in various phases of forestry. There will be recreational activities, circulating libraries, and so on. In many cases there will be opportunities for hiking, mountain climbing, fishing, and swimming. There will be religious services on Sundays. Permission to leave camp for a limited time outside of working hours may be granted, and visitors may be permitted to visit the camp, under the general rules which will be established.

Q. What if a man gets sick or has an accident while he is in camp or on the job?

DOCUMENT 1 - U.S. Department of Labor interview of National Emergency Conservation workers April 17 1933

Page 7 of 7

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

7
A. He will receive free medical care, and hospital care if needed. So far as accidents are concerned, he will come under the U. S. Compensation Law governing federal employees.

Q. What will happen at the end of the six months?

A. The man will turn in the clothing and camp equipment he received from the Army; and he will be sent back at government expense to the recruiting station where he originally applied; or to his home, if that is a shorter distance from the work camp than the recruiting station is.

Q. To sum it all up, what does a man get out of this offer?

A. Six months of hard but healthy outdoor work in the forests or national parks, in an enterprise that is for the benefit of the people of this country. Six months of camp life, food, clothing, shelter, medical service, and recreation plus \$30 a month cash allowance for himself and his dependents.

This is a concise statement of the facts about Emergency Conservation Work. There isn't any "catch" or any "joker" about it. The representative of the local organization who has invited you to apply will be glad to answer any other questions you may have. No one is forcing you to go into this work. The decision is up to you. Think it over. Make your own decision as to whether you want to fill out the application blank and apply for a place in the ranks of these 250,000 American men who are going out into the forests for Emergency Conservation Work.

DOCUMENT 2 - Letter to Mr. Van Meter from President Roosevelt's secretary, Missy A. LeHand, July 15, 1939.

Page 1 of 2

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

(2265)

July 15, 1939

x268
x26871/10.

My dear Mr. Van Meter:

I have shown your letter of June twenty-third to the President, with respect to the question as to who is entitled to the credit for the conception of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

x177

Basically the idea is one of conservation of forests and water and soil. No one alive today can claim to have originated the idea of conservation. True, it has become, in our generation, a more pressing need than ever before, as the tragic results of centuries of heedlessness and waste have piled up and become increasingly menacing. Modern wisdom and statesmanship is willing to spend public funds in the cause of conservation in order to prevent even greater and irreparable loss of public resources in the days to come.

Early in the President's political life, in the Senate of the State of New York in 1910-1913, he was interested in conservation. Later, as Governor, he took part in instituting a program of reforestation and soil conservation on a scale never before attempted in that State. Typical of his views in those days are several addresses printed in Chapter XX of Volume I of his presidential "Public Papers". Others may be found in his gubernatorial "Public Papers", for 1930 and 1931. x289/

149

Reforestation was tied up in his program with the whole subject of proper land utilization. Forests were replanted on submarginal farm land, which was no longer serviceable for other crops and which had been purchased by the State for the purpose of planting vast areas of trees upon them.

As the depression of 1929 continued and deepened, and as the Federal Government continued to refuse to accept responsibility for feeding and clothing and sheltering the

JOBS AND RELIEF

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 2 - Letter to Mr. Van Meter from President Roosevelt's secretary, Missy A. LeHand, July 15, 1939.

Page 2 of 2

- 2 -

x264
x88
unemployed, it was in his opinion the duty of the respective States to take up the burden to the limit of their resources. Therefore, the State of New York, in his term as Governor, definitely assumed the responsibility of providing public work for the unemployed where possible and of providing the necessities of life to those for whom work could not be provided.

Essentially, the Civilian Conservation Corps idea is merely a combination of these two thoughts: (1) putting people to work with public funds, and (2) conserving forests, water and soil.

As he looks back upon the origin of his message to the Congress in the Spring of 1933 on unemployment relief in general, in which was included the proposal for the Civilian Conservation Corps, he cannot find that the idea of the Civilian Conservation Corps was taken from any one source. It was rather the obvious conflux of the desire for conservation and the need for finding useful work for unemployed young men. This type of work had the added advantage of not providing competition with private enterprise.

The details of the project as finally worked out were shaped and formulated with the object of meeting the necessity for quick action over as wide an area as possible. They were changed from time to time only as experience showed the way to improvement.

I trust this answers the question in your mind as to the "actual origin of the CCC". This letter is not to be published or quoted from.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand
PRIVATE SECRETARY

I. Van Meter, Esq., x
Editorial Offices,
TIME,
Time & Life Building,
Rockefeller Center,
New York, N. Y.

x2442
xPP7-3338

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM



Labor Reforms

Main Idea/Enduring Understanding

Prior to the labor reforms enacted by the New Deal, workers - many of whom were children - were forced to endure low wages, long hours, and unsafe work places.

Quote 1:

“This Act defines . . . the right of self-organization of employees in industry for the purpose of collective bargaining. . . it should serve as an important step toward the achievement of just and peaceful labor relations in industry.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Before the New Deal, American workers had little power. Employers set wages as low as they wished. Pensions and other benefits were rare. Workplace safety was poor and child labor widespread. Unions had only limited legal protection. Workers who tried to organize faced intimidation, firing, and even violence. FDR changed this balance of power. The 1933 National Industrial Recovery Act had guaranteed labor’s right to organize and bargain collectively. In 1935 FDR signed the Wagner Act, the most important labor law in American history. It affirmed the right of workers to organize unions, required employers to bargain with union representatives, and enhanced the power of the National Labor Relations Board to mediate disputes. In 1938, a second landmark labor law was enacted. Its goal, in FDR’s words, was “to end starvation wages and intolerable hours.” The Fair Labor Standards Act established a national minimum wage and, eventually, a 40-hour week for workers in industry. It also fulfilled a decades-long dream of reformers - by prohibiting employment of children under the age of 16 in most occupations.

Quote 2:

“Today there is general recognition that there should be a floor to wages and a ceiling to hours . . . that working conditions should be safe and healthy and that child labor should be eliminated from industry.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Notes:

Short Answer Questions

1. What were the conditions like for workers before the New Deal? _____

2. What rights were workers granted under the Wagner Act? _____

3. What rights were workers granted under the Fair Labor Standards Act? _____

Vocabulary

Unions - an organization of workers joined together for a common purpose, usually improving job conditions

Pension - a fixed amount paid regularly by a former employer, a government, etc. to a retired, disabled or deserving person or his dependents

Collective Bargaining - negotiation between a union and an employer for determining wages, hours, rules and working conditions

Wagner Act - Labor law signed by FDR in 1935, affirming the rights of workers to organize unions, required employers to bargain with union representatives, and strengthened the power of the National Labor Relations Board to mediate disputes

Minimum Wage - lowest wage paid to workers as determined by law

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. What evidence of poor working conditions does Lucy Overton give in her letter to the President? _____

2. If Mrs. Overton and her colleagues at the bank are working 65 hours per week, for 50 weeks per year; how much money are they being paid per hour? How much money are they making each year? _____

3. Research how much a person working in a bank in the Miami area makes in overtime. How many hours do they work each week? _____

4. Mrs. Overton says she doesn't make enough to have "the proper things in life". What do you think she means by that? What would you define as the "proper things in life"? _____

Document 2:

1. What do you think this is a picture of? _____

2. What emotions does this picture stir in you? _____

3. What types of improvements do you think the workers are asking for? _____

Document 3:

1. According to the President's July 5, 1935 statement what rights did workers gain through the Wagner Act?

2. What does FDR define as the "high purpose" of this act? _____

3. FDR describes the act as, "defining rights...to be necessary as both an act of common justice and economic advance." What does he mean by that? _____

LABOR REFORMS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 1 - Letter to President Roosevelt from Lucy Overton, October 14, 1937.

FDR-103

(3)
✓ 10/18/37
JH

October 14, 1937

President F. D. Roosevelt,
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

My family and I personally enjoyed your talk over the air last night. The conditions you touched upon are both obvious and true.

I am employed by a bank in Miami, we work from 8:30 AM to 6PM, having 30 minutes for lunch. All together, including night work, we put in approximately 65 hours a week.

We do not have the proper working conditions, no air conditioning, other than in the boss' office, today we are without drinking water. An employee was hurt last week on the stairs, due to the stairs being in a bad condition.

I might add that our employees, the majority of them, get from \$60. to \$75. a month. Rents as you know in Miami are very high, as well as food and clothes. It means that the permanent residents of Miami must take rooms and live until the tourist leave next Spring. On such salaries, it is impossible to do anything for ourselves, such as buying a home, or having the proper things in life. THANKS FOR YOUR TALK, let's hope something can be done about it, we are all with you.

Very truly yours,

Lucy Overton
Lucy Overton
c/o Mrs. D. Lingo
104 N. E. 86th St.
Miami.

confidential. //

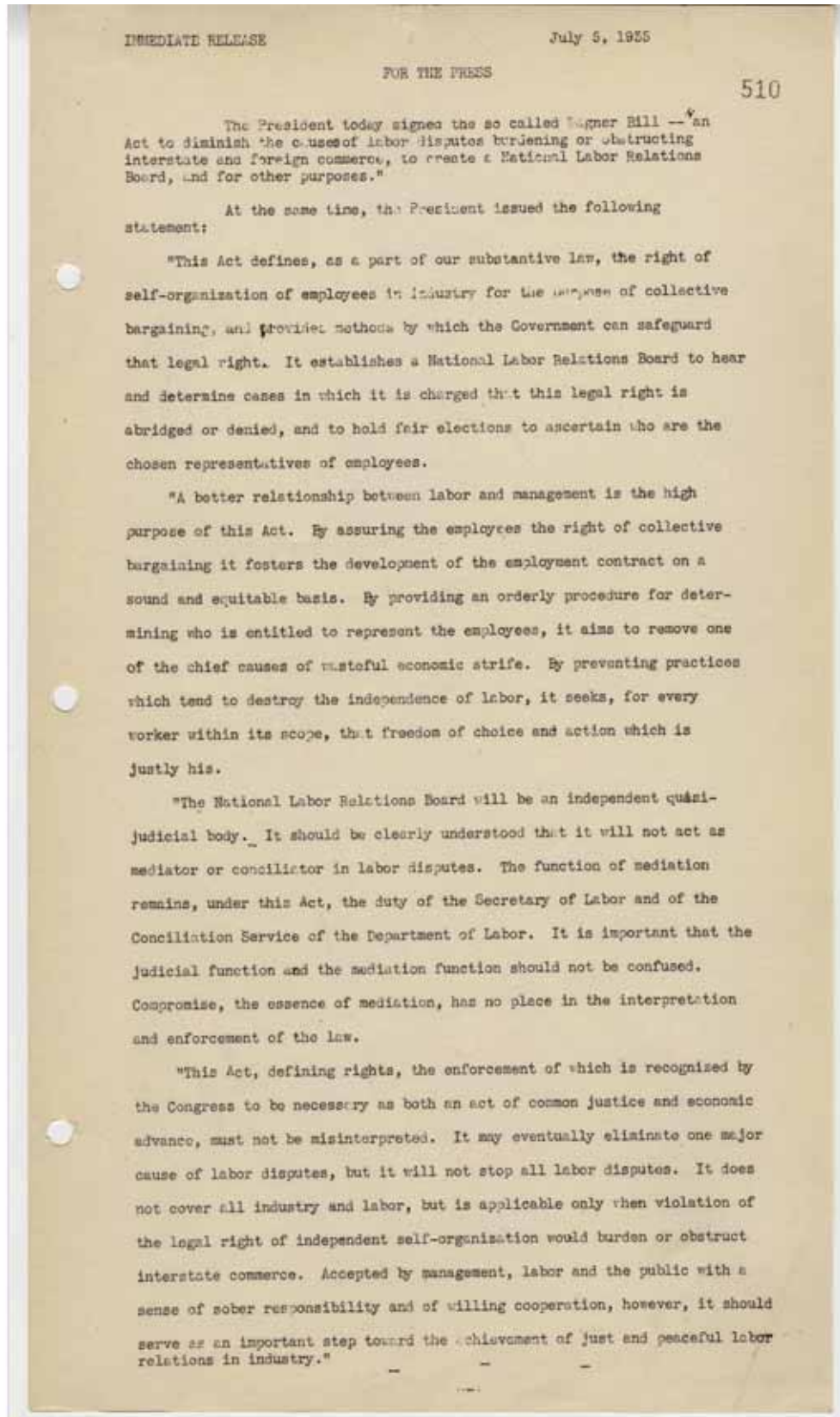
LABOR REFORMS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 2 - Photograph, "From The Depression Years, by Horan, pg 168,"
Minneapolis police battle striking truck drivers, 1934.



DOCUMENT 3 - Press Release of the Nation Labor Relations Act (also known as the Wagner Act), July 6, 1935.



THE GREAT DEPRESSION

COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM



Financial Reforms

Main Idea/Enduring Understanding

Prior to the New Deal's financial reforms, banks often engaged in risky practices and the securities markets were rife with fraud.

Quote 1:

"...there must be a strict supervision of all banking and credits and investments, so that there will be an end to speculation with other people's money. . . ." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

During his first week as president, Roosevelt prevented the collapse of America's banking system. But further financial reforms were needed to reduce risk and restore confidence.

FDR pushed reforms through Congress to protect bank depositors, curb risky banking practices, and to fight fraud in the securities markets. He provided relief for debt-ridden homeowners and farmers facing the loss of their homes and property. And he worked to curb the excesses of capitalism through government regulation.

Reforming the Banks

The Glass-Steagall Banking Act stabilized the banks, reducing bank failures from over 5,000 in 1933 to 57 in 1934. To protect depositors, the Act created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), which still insures individual bank accounts. It also ended risky stock speculation by commercial banks by separating commercial banking from investment banking.

Helping Homeowners

The Depression put tremendous pressure on homeowners' ability to pay their mortgages. Roosevelt responded to the mortgage crisis by creating the Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC). By 1936 the Home Owners Loan Corporation made nearly one million loans and had financed 20 percent of the mortgaged urban homes in America.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION



COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM

Fighting Fraud

The Securities Act was designed to curb investor fraud, risky credit deals, reduce risk, and restore public confidence and encourage investment. The Act required companies that issue stock to file detailed information about new securities with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Any false statements could lead to criminal prosecution and civil suits.

Quote 2:

“I should like to have it said of my first Administration that in it the forces of selfishness and of lust for power met their match. I should like to have it said of my second Administration that in it these forces met their master.” - Franklin Roosevelt

Notes:

Short Answer Questions

1. What was the first crisis FDR addressed when he came to office? _____

2. What dangers did homeowners and farmers face? _____

3. What is the purpose of the FDIC? _____

4. What was the Securities Act designed to do? _____

Vocabulary

Glass - Steagall Banking Act - a provision enacted in 1934 to stabilize the banks, creating the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp, which still insures individual bank accounts today

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation - an organization created as part of the Glass-Steagall Banking Act, which insured individual bank accounts against loss, still in effect today

The Securities Act - bill enacted in 1934 to bring federal regulations and oversight to the stock market

Commercial Banks - banks primarily concerned with receiving deposits from and lending to businesses

Investment Banks - a financial institution that assists individuals, corporations or governments in raising capital (monetary worth) by acting as the client's agent in the issuance of securities. These banks do not take deposits.

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. In the 1945 letter, Mrs. Arnold addresses both the presidents’ domestic and foreign policies. After reading her letter, which do you think she thought of as more important? Explain. _____

Document 2:

1. How have FDR’s banking reforms had an impact on today’s banking issues? Should the government be involved in issuing mortgages? Why or why not? _____

2. Why was the mortgage refunding plan seen as such “good news” to farmers? How did this impact the rest of the country? _____

DOCUMENT 1 - Letter to President Roosevelt from Mrs. Madeline Arnold, January 20, 1945.

FDR-038

5702 Harford Rd!
Baltimore 14 Md.His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States.

Jan. 20/45.

Ackd
1-21-45

after hearing the simple but very sincere Inaugural ceremonies, over the radio, my family and I just had to send our congratulations and Best Wishes.

you have indeed been a real "friend" to us, when we were in the greatest need of one. It had not been for the H O L C our home would have been taken away, now, in time it will be paid for, only, because you made plans to help us and many others that were sorely in need of help at that time.

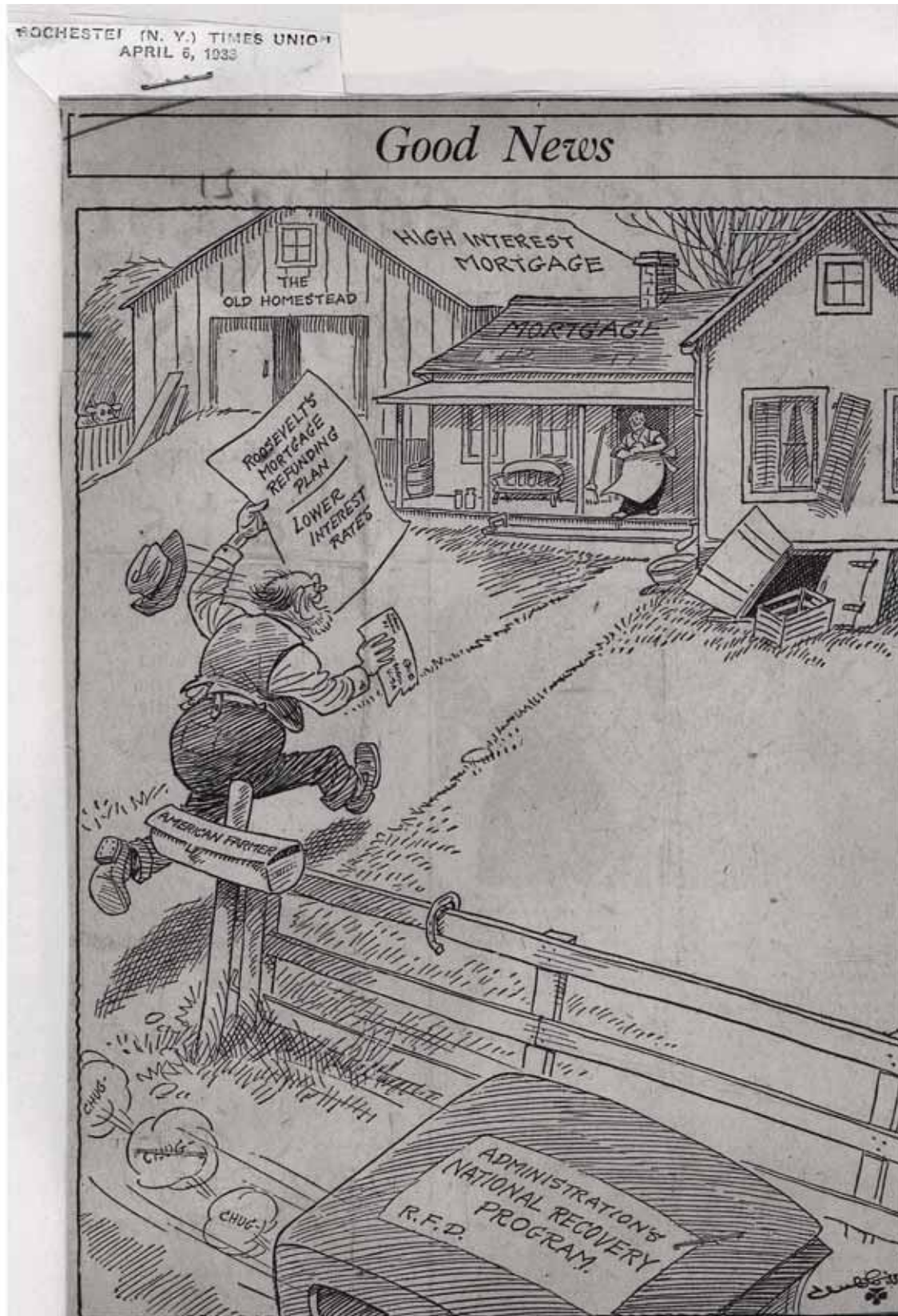
Our hope and prayer is that God will grant you continued wisdom and strenght and with His guidance, help you, meet the supreme test, to achieve your wish, a just and honorable peace.

Yours very Sincerely and Respectfully
(Mrs) Madeline J. Arnold

FINANCIAL REFORMS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 2 - Political cartoon, "Good News," Rochester (N.Y.) Times Union, April 6, 1933.



THE GREAT DEPRESSION

COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM



Rural Reforms

Main Idea/Enduring Understanding

During the Great Depression, 20% of Americans were farmers. They had been suffering environmental and economic problems since the 1920s. FDR saw helping them as crucial to ending the Great Depression.

Quote 1:

“ . . . if we can greatly increase the purchasing power of the tens of millions of our people who make a living from farming . . . we shall greatly increase the consumption of those goods which are turned out by industry.”
- Franklin D. Roosevelt

FDR believed aiding America's farmers was crucial to ending the Great Depression.

In 1933 more than one in five workers were farmers. Falling prices for agricultural products sharply cut farm income during the Great Depression. Strapped for cash, many farmers couldn't pay their mortgages. Thousands had lost their farms and many more faced the threat of foreclosure.

The centerpiece of Roosevelt's farm policy was the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA). The AAA sought to raise farmers' income by increasing crop prices. To do this, the government paid farmers to cut production by reducing livestock herds and leaving some fields unplanted. Some objected to cutting agricultural production when many Americans lacked adequate food, but the agency's success in raising farm prices greatly relieved rural suffering by getting badly-needed cash into the hands of farmers. By 1934, over three million farmers were participating in the program.

Roosevelt also planned to improve rural life and productivity by bringing electricity and industry to underdeveloped areas.

Powering Rural America

In 1933, 90% of America's farmers lived without electricity. Ignored by private power companies, who could not make a profit wiring rural areas, farm families passed their nights in darkened homes.

A long-time advocate of public power, FDR was determined to bring affordable electricity to rural Americans. Electricity would transform farm life with pumps to supply running water, refrigerators, washing machines, and other labor-saving devices.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION



COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) put thousands of people to work building dams and public power plants in the giant Tennessee River Valley. The TVA controlled flooding, improved agriculture, and sparked economic growth and improved living standards in a region touching seven states.

Notes:

Short Answer Questions

1. What percent of the population were farmers in 1933? _____

2. How did the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) seek to raise crop prices? _____

3. What percent of American farmers had electricity in 1933? _____

4. How did having electricity help farmers? _____

Vocabulary

Foreclosure - legal process that seizes property when debt is in default (not paid)

Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) - New Deal program designed to assist farmers threatened by debts and loss of their farms

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) - New Deal project that used dams and water-power to provide electricity to rural areas in the U.S.

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. Examine the documents about the TVA. Make a list of the benefits of electrification beyond providing power for rural farms. How then was the TVA project economically important for all Americans? What impact on the environment did the TVA have? _____

2. In the 21st century oil pipelines and production are new ways to provide energy. How do these projects impact our environment? _____

Document 2:

1. Describe the conditions of this woman's kitchen. List 3 ways her work could be made easier if she had access to electric power. _____

Document 3:

1. Why do you think FDR refers to helping farmers as building a strong foundation? _____

2. Who else does FDR say will be helped by this farm bill? Explain how helping the farmers will help them.

3. According to FDR, what is the role of the government in solving the problem? What role does he foresee for private business? _____

DOCUMENT 1 - Remarks of David E. Lilienthal, director of TVA electricity program,
"Progress in the Electrification of the American Home and Farm,"
September 20, 1934.

Page 1 of 3

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
New Sprankle Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

Released to morning papers
Sept. 20, 1934

PROGRESS IN THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE AMERICAN HOME AND FARM

Remarks of David E. Lilienthal, Director in charge of the TVA electricity program and president of Electric Home and Farm Authority, before the Chattanooga, Tennessee, Chamber of Commerce and guests Wednesday evening, September 19, 1934, upon the opening of the EHFA display headquarters in that city.

The progress of this country can be traced in our successful efforts to relieve men and women of back-breaking toil and deadening drudgery. America has led the world in making electricity do the hard and disagreeable work which is a part of our industrial age. In the factory this great work has reached a stage which would have seemed impossible only a generation ago.

And now the next great step: To bring the magic power of electricity to the aid of the home and farm. I can think of nothing which we can accomplish in America in the next twenty-five years which holds greater promise for the enrichment of life.

If the Electric Home and Farm Authority does nothing more than point the way to the electrification of the American home and farm, it will amply justify its creation by the President.

In its few months of existence, the Electric Home and Farm Authority has made clear to a large part of the American public certain principles. These principles are, we believe, the guideposts to be followed if we are to reach the goal of the electrification of America's homes and farms within the coming generation. We have been greatly encouraged to find the wide acceptance and enthusiastic response which has been made not

DOCUMENT 1 - Remarks of David E. Lilienthal, director of TVA electricity program,
"Progress in the Electrification of the American Home and Farm,"
September 20, 1934.

Page 2 of 3

only in the Tennessee Valley but throughout the country to these simple principles. I should like to briefly enumerate them.

First, the people of the country want more electricity. The twenty million people who have electricity in their homes want to use it more generously and for many more purposes. The ten million homes which have no electricity at all keenly want the advantage of this giant servant of the average man. The demand exists all over the country in all kinds of communities and among all kinds of people.

Second, the far wider use of electricity cannot be achieved unless electric rates are drastically reduced. As a corollary, when electric rates are reduced substantially and drastically and not timidly and inadequately, the use of electricity immediately expands. And once people become accustomed to the increased use of electricity, they never return to their earlier customs.

Third, a wide generous use of electricity necessitates reductions in the price of electricity-using appliances. There must be standardization of design along sound lines. There must be standardization of quality on the basis of the usage of the average family, the elimination of meaningless frills and decorations which increase costs and work against standardization.

Fourth, the man of average income must have financing available for electricity-using appliances. Collections should be made by the central stations furnishing the electricity so as to eliminate duplication of collection expense. A rigid standard of credit should be adopted. Consumer credit in this field is a sound policy, we believe, because these appliances are a necessity of life and almost invariably effect a saving

DOCUMENT 1 - Remarks of David E. Lilienthal, director of TVA electricity program, "Progress in the Electrification of the American Home and Farm," September 20, 1934.

Page 3 of 3

in the family budget. Experience has shown that credit losses in this field are so slight as to be negligible where the project has been reasonably well managed.

Fifth, the consumers should be protected against inferior electric appliances through the medium of a consumers' laboratory to be operated under government auspices. This laboratory should also conduct research looking toward the improvement of designs and new designs which will make electric appliances best adapted to the needs of the average family. The mark of approval of such an agency may well become sufficiently important that few customers will buy equipment unless it has been approved by such an agency.

It is encouraging to note the progress which has been made in the few months in which this program has been in effect. TVA electricity rates have, we believe, already demonstrated the social wisdom and business soundness of drastic rate reductions. Privately owned utilities in this area and elsewhere have been convinced of the soundness of this view, and rate reductions by voluntary act of the management have resulted in millions of dollars savings annually to electric consumers.

RURAL REFORMS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 2 - Photograph, "New Haven, C.T. Tenant in old home," U.S. Housing Authority, 1940.



DOCUMENT 3 - Draft of FDR's message to Congress regarding the Tennessee Valley Authority, April 10, 1933.

Page 1 of 3

April 10, 1933.

TO THE CONGRESS:

The continued idleness of a great national investment in the Tennessee Valley leads me to ask the Congress for legislation necessary to enlist this project in the service of the people.

It is clear that the Muscle Shoals development is but a small part of the potential public usefulness of the entire Tennessee River. Such use, if envisioned in its entirety, transcends mere power development: it enters the wide fields of flood control, soil erosion, afforestation, elimination from agricultural use of marginal lands, and distribution and diversification of industry. In short, this power development ^{of war days} leads *logically* to national planning for a complete river water shed

DOCUMENT 3 - Draft of FDR's message to Congress regarding the Tennessee Valley Authority, April 10, 1933.

Page 2 of 3

-2-

involving many States and the future lives and welfare of millions. It touches and gives life to all forms of human concerns.

I, therefore, suggest to the Congress legislation to create a Tennessee Valley Authority, ~~which is~~ a corporation clothed with the power of government but possessed of the flexibility and initiative of a private enterprise. It should be charged with the broadest duty of planning for the proper use, conservation and development of the natural resources of the Tennessee River Drainage Basin and its adjoining territory for the general social and economic welfare of ^{the nation} ~~its inhabitants~~.

This Authority should also be clothed with the necessary power to carry these plans into effect.

Its duty should be the rehabilitation of ^{the} Muscle Shoals development and the coordination of it with the wider plan.

RURAL REFORMS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 3 - Draft of FDR's message to Congress regarding the Tennessee Valley Authority, April 10, 1933.

Page 3 of 3

-3-

Many hard lessons have taught ~~this nation~~ *us*
the human waste that results from lack of planning.
Here and there ^{*a few*} wise cities ^{*and counties*} have looked ahead and ~~a~~
~~few counties also have planned.~~ But our nation has
"just grown." It is time to extend planning to a
wider field, in this instance comprehending in one
great project many States directly concerned with
the ~~Basin~~ of one of our greatest rivers.

This in a true sense is a return to the
spirit and vision of the pioneer. If we are successful
here we can march on, step by step, in a like develop-
ment of other great natural territorial units within
our borders.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM



The Dust Bowl

Main Idea/Enduring Understanding

A long drought in the early 1930s, coupled with decades of intensive farming and a lack of soil conservation, resulted in a major environmental challenge that came to be known as the Dust Bowl.

Quote 1:

"I talked with families who had lost their wheat crop, lost their corn crop, lost their livestock, lost the water in their well, lost their garden and come through to the end of the summer without one dollar of cash resources, facing a winter without feed or food - facing a planting season without seed to put in the ground. That was the extreme case, but there are thousands and thousands of families on western farms who share the same difficulties." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

The New Deal's greatest environmental challenge unfolded on the Great Plains.

Prior to the New Deal, poor agricultural practices had contributed to soil depletion and decreased yields leaving this vast region ecologically vulnerable. A long drought in the early 1930s triggered disaster. The winds that sweep across the plains began carrying off its dry, depleted topsoil in enormous "dust storms." In the hardest hit area - nicknamed the "Dust Bowl" - hundreds of thousands of people abandoned the land.

FDR attacked this problem on several fronts. The Soil Conservation Service helped farmers enrich their soil and stem erosion. The Taylor Grazing Act regulated grazing on overused public ranges. And the New Deal's Farm Security Administration (FSA) assisted migrant workers by operating clean residential camps that became islands of stability for migrants enduring grinding poverty. The FSA also promoted soil conservation and improved farmland ravaged by erosion.

The Shelterbelt Program fought wind erosion by planting over 200 million trees in a belt running from Canada to Texas. This immense windbreak moderated the Dust Bowl's destructive winds.

A lover of nature and rural life, FDR had a keen interest in conservation. His conservation vision emphasized government planning in the development and preservation of natural resources. This was reflected in his approach to public power, which emphasized flood control and reducing soil erosion along with the production of cheap electricity.

Short Answer Questions

1. What human activities helped to contribute to the “Dust Bowl?” _____

2. What did the FSA do for migrant workers? _____

3. How many trees were planted as part of the shelterbelt program? _____

4. Describe the role FDR felt the government should play in conservation. _____

Vocabulary

Great Plains - a broad expanse of flat land, much of it covered in prairie and grassland. This area covers parts of the U.S., states of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

Soil Depletion - a reduction in the quality of soil for farming, occurring when the components that contribute to fertility are not replaced. This leads to poor crop fields. Depletion can be due to excessively intense cultivation.

Drought - an extended period when a region notes a deficiency in its water supply whether surface or underground water. A drought can last for months or years.

THE DUST BOWL

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Dust Storms - occur in arid and semi-arid regions. Dust storms arise when a strong wind blows loose sand and soil from a dry surface for long distances.

Dust Bowl - a period of severe dust storms that greatly damaged the ecology and agriculture of the U.S. and Canadian prairies during the 1930s

Farm Security Administration (FSA) - initially called the Resettlement Administration, the FSA was an effort to combat American rural poverty. Efforts were made to improve the lifestyle of sharecroppers, tenants, and very poor landowning farmers. The FSA is famous for its small but highly influential photography program, 1935-44, that portrayed the challenges of rural poverty.

Shelterbelt - a program that was created in 1934 to develop wind-breakers in the Great Plains states by planting millions of trees to reduce wind velocity and lessen evaporation of moisture from the soil

Notes:

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. After reading Lorena Hickok’s report to Henry Hopkins and comparing her findings with the accompanying photo, what steps would you have taken if you were president?_____

2. Do you think the actions FDR took could have been improved upon? Explain. _____

3. What role did the environment play in the problems of the farmers? What evidence do we see locally and nationally that the environment is impacting farm production? _____

Document 2:

1. Refer to FDR’s Fireside Chat on September 6, 1936. How did FDR propose to alleviate the suffering of the western farmers? How does he connect this with the rest of the country? _____

2. Why do you think FDR chose the night before Labor Day to give this speech? _____

THE DUST BOWL

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 1 - Letter to Mr. Hopkins from Lorena A. Hickok, October 30, 1933.

Page 1 of 4

FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR
WASHINGTON

RECEIVED

NOV 8 1933

FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF
ADMINISTRATION

Dickinson, N.D.,
October 30, 1933.

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

I just wound up my first day's work in North Dakota. I must say there was nothing particularly joyous about it.

This afternoon, with a couple of Morton County Commissioners, from Mandan, I drove over a road so full of ruts that you couldn't tell it from ploughed fields up to a shabby little country church, standing bleakly alone in the center of a vast tawny prairie land.

Grouped about the entrance to the church were a dozen or more men in shabby denim, shivering in the biting wind that swept across the plain.

Farmers, these, "halled out" last summer, their crops destroyed by two hail storms that came within three weeks of each other in June and July, now applying for relief.

Most of them a few years ago were considered well-to-do. They have land--lots of land. Most of them have 640 acres or so. You think of a farmer with 640 acres of land as being rich. These fellows are "land poor." A 640-acre farm at \$10 an acre--which is about what land is worth hereabouts these days--means only \$6,400 worth of land. Most of them have a lot of stock, 30 or 40 head of cattle, 12 or 16 horses, some sheep and hogs. Their stock, thin and rangy, is trying to find a few mouthfuls of food on land so bare that the winds pick up the top soil and blow it about like sand. Their cows have gone dry for lack of food. Their hens are not laying. Much of their livestock will die this winter. And their livestock and their land are in most cases mortgaged up to the very limit. *They are all away behind on their taxes, of course. Some of them five years!*

After a succession of poor crops--this whole area apparently is in process of drying up and becoming a desert--these fellows had a good one last year. But wheat in North Dakota last year brought about 30 cents a bushel. It costs 77 cents a bushel to raise it.

This year they had no crop at all. I sat in with an investigator who was taking their stories. Again and again on the applications appeared the statement: "Halled out. No crop at all." One man had sewn--I believe, at that, they say "sewed" when they refer to planting of crops--140 acres of wheat, 25 acres of oats, 20 acres of rye, 30 acres of corn, and 20 acres of barley. All he harvested was a little corn. He was lucky, at that. I drove past cornfields today that had never grown up at all. There lay the immature stalks on the ground as the hail had beaten them down--half-starved cattle rooting around among them. From 800 acres of land one old German

DOCUMENT 1 - Letter to Mr. Hopkins from Lorena A. Hickok, October 30, 1933.

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had harvested this year 150 bushels of wheat and seven bushels of rye.

Of the men I saw this afternoon none had any income except a little here and there from cream checks. And this will soon be stopped, for their cows are going dry for lack of food.

For themselves and their families they need everything. Especially clothing. "How about clothes?" the investigator asked one of them. He shrugged. "Everything I own I have on my back," he said. He then explained that, having no underwear, he was wearing two pairs of overalls and two, very ragged, denim jackets. His shoes were so far gone that I wondered how he kept them on his feet. With one or two exceptions none of the men hanging about the church had overcoats. Most of them were in denim--faded, shabby denim. Cotton denim doesn't keep out the wind very well. It was cold enough today so that I, in a woolen dress and warm coat, was by no means too warm when I stood out in the wind. When we came out to get into the car, we found it full of farmers, with all the windows closed. They apologized and said they had crawled in there to keep warm....The women and children are even worse off than the men. Where there has been any money at all, it has gone for shoes for the children and work clothes for the men. The women can stay inside and keep warm, and the children can stay home from school.

I am quite sure that anything that could be done in the way of getting clothing out to these people IMMEDIATELY--shoes, overshoes, warm underwear, overcoats--would do quite a bit toward clearing up unrest among North Dakota farmers!

The plight of the livestock is pitiable. All these people have got to keep their stock alive this winter is roughage--and darned little of that. They've even harvested Russian thistle to feed to their horses and cattle. Russian thistle, for your information, is a thistle plant with shallow roots that dries up in ~~late~~ the fall and is blown across the prairies like rolls of barbed wire. The effect on the digestive apparatus of an animal, if it were fed the dried plant, would be, I should imagine, much the same as though it had eaten barbed wire! However---"We tried to cut it while it was still green," one of the farmers said.

There is a good deal of complaint about the inflexibility of our rules governing the granting of livestock relief. The rules were made applicable, I was told, to farms in Wisconsin, for instance, smaller farms, with less stock. They point out to me here that they can't find a market for their stock--that, to conform to our rules for providing food for the stock, they will have to kill most of it. Or they'll cheat on us--pretend to sell it, but not actually do so. If they get rid of most of their stock, they say, they'll probably be on relief next winter, too, since they need the stock in normal times to get a living. It doesn't take much, they say, to keep this stock alive. One man said he lost seven milch cows last winter, and that \$25 worth of feed ~~and~~ have kept them alive. I'm going to find out more about this Friday when, in Bismarck, I'm to see a man named Wilson, who, they tell me, knows all about it.

DOCUMENT 1 - Letter to Mr. Hopkins from Lorena A. Hickok, October 30, 1933.

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In the county I visited this afternoon the Federal Relief Administration, through the North Dakota State Relief Committee, is doing a 100 percent job. The county's financial resources are exhausted and nobody will take their tax warrants. The job, as I wired you tonight, is shamefully inadequate.

I don't know exactly what is wrong. I'm going to try to find out when I return to Bismarck Friday. But what is actually happening, I was told, is this:

In the county there are now 1,000 families--a third of the population--on relief. Mostly farmers. To handle the job the County Commissioners are given \$6,000 a month. That means \$6 per family. And most of the families are huge--eight or ten children. The set-up in this county is different from that in most other counties in the state. The relief here is being handled by the County Commissioners. Bismarck apparently suspects them of using relief for political purposes. They are constantly after the commissioners, I was told, to cut down the load. Whether there's any politics in the show in that county I don't know. But this I do know--those people at that church applying for relief today certainly looked as though they needed relief.

The commissioners told me they had tried to work out a plan whereby the men could work on county roads this fall for more adequate relief--in order that they might get enough to buy clothing and fuel now, when they need it. To do this, the commissioners said, the families should be getting at least \$15 a month for the next three months. That doesn't sound like much to me. They went ahead, on the advice of the state highway department, they said, and put the men to work. Most of them are now owed \$10 or \$15. But today the State Relief committee told them to cease all road work and that they would get \$6,000 a month for relief and no more. The commissioners say that, if they could have \$15,000 a month these next three months--until the people get clothed and stocked with fuel--they might be able to get along, by half-starving them, on \$6,000 ~~the next~~ a month the rest of the winter!.....Well, anyway, it's our money that is being spent, and we're getting the blame. I'll try to get the other side of the story in Bismarck on Friday. But on the face of it, it looks as though somebody was responsible for a pretty rotten job.

I was told in Bismarck that in the county I visited this afternoon I would find a good deal of unrest--"farm holiday" spirit. I can't say that I did. They seemed almost too patient to me. I went to see one farmer who was supposed to be a chronic kicker. I found him doing the family washing! His wife died five years ago and left him with eight children, the eldest now 14. Somehow he has kept that family together--doing the washing and cooking himself, besides farming! With an expression of utter hopelessness on his face he was putting around a dilapidated old washing machine. The rolls on the wringer were entirely worn away--right down to the iron bars. He said he had done some kicking. He wanted his boy (14) to substitute for him on road work. The boy was no good at housework, he explained, and, if he went out to work on the roads, things went to pieces at home!

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4.

In Bismarck this morning I had a long talk with the chief justice of the North Dakota Supreme Court, who is also chairman of the state relief committee. He and the commissioners with whom I spent the afternoon, while not quite so bitter or so gloomy as Floyd Olson and some of the farm people in the Twin Cities, were not any too cheerful.

Chief Justice Christensen told me that "in most counties" no farm loans had been granted at all--that he had heard of cases where applications made last May had still received no action. He blamed it on red tape and inadequate personnel. I am trying to find out just what a farmer has to go through to get a federal loan, but didn't get much help from him. He said most of the applications had to be made in writing and sent to St. Paul, which would of course slow things up. The whole machinery is so complicated! I heard of organizations today that I didn't know existed. *And none of them seems to be accomplishing much.*

In the county I visited this afternoon farmers had received federal loans, but the impression was that the loans were granted to pay back the Twin City bankers. Our friend Mr. C.T. Jaffray certainly is not popular in this section of the country. When I pointed out that, even though the money did go to the banks, it probably saved their farms for them, someone remarked, "Well, the farms aren't worth saving now."

They are not at all impressed with Mr. Wallace's acreage reduction plan. This, they say, is why:

Twenty-five years ago they used to get 21 bushels to the acre of wheat in this territory. If they get 10 bushels to the acre nowadays, it's a bumper crop. They insist that what they need is not reduction in production, but a decent price for what they do produce. Wheat was selling in North Dakota for 70 cents a bushel today. They say it costs 77 cents a bushel to raise it.

"In order to make a living," one farmer told me, "we've got to get 7 cents a pound for hogs, 9 cents a pound for beef, and \$1 a bushel for wheat."

Tomorrow I'm heading up to Williston, where I am told there is a strong farmers holiday organization. Wednesday I'm proceeding to Bottineau, away up on the Canadian border, one of the worst spots in the state, from the standpoint of destitution. I'm to spend all day Thursday there, driving down to Bismarck Friday morning to see the Governor and have more conversation with the state relief outfit. Saturday and Sunday I'll be in the Southeastern part of the state, a very bad area. I'll wind up in Fargo Monday and proceed from there on Tuesday into South Dakota.

If this seems too slow to you--I don't see how I could move much faster and still get around the state at all--I can be reached with a wire at the Hotel Prince, Bismarck, Friday.

Cheerio---although God knows I don't feel very cheerful at the moment!

Lorena A. Hickok

DOCUMENT 2 - FDR's Fireside Chat, September 6, 1936.

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On Drought Conditions

September 6, 1936

Address of the President

I have been on a journey of husbandry. I went primarily to see at first hand conditions in the drought states; to see how effectively Federal and local authorities are taking care of pressing problems of relief and also how they are to work together to defend the people of this country against the effects of future droughts.

I saw drought devastation in nine states. I talked with families who had lost their wheat crop, lost their corn crop, lost their livestock, lost the water in their well, lost their garden and come through to the end of the summer without one dollar of cash resources, facing a winter without feed or food -- facing a planting season without seed to put in the ground.

That was the extreme case, but there are thousands and thousands of families on western farms who share the same difficulties.

I saw cattlemen who because of lack of grass or lack of winter feed have been compelled to sell all but their breeding stock and will need help to carry even these through the coming winter. I saw livestock kept alive only because water had been brought to them long distances in tank cars. I saw other farm families who have not lost everything but who, because they have made only partial crops, must have some form of help if they are to continue farming next spring.

I shall never forget the fields of wheat so blasted by heat that they cannot be harvested. I shall never forget field after field of corn stunted, earless and stripped of leaves, for what the sun left the grasshoppers took. I saw brown pastures which would not keep a cow on fifty acres.

Yet I would not have you think for a single minute that there is permanent disaster in these drought regions, or that the picture I saw meant depopulating these areas. No cracked earth, no blistering sun, no burning wind, no grasshoppers, are a permanent match for the indomitable American farmers and stockmen and their wives and children who have carried on through desperate days, and inspire us with their self-reliance, their tenacity and their courage. It was their fathers' task to make homes; it is their task to keep those homes; it is our task to help them with their fight.

First let me talk for a minute about this autumn and the coming winter. We have the option, in the case of families who need actual subsistence, of putting them on the dole or putting them to work. They do not want to go on the dole and they are one thousand percent right. We agree, therefore, that we must put them to work for a decent wage, and when we reach that decision we kill two birds with one stone, because these families will earn enough by working, not only to subsist themselves, but to buy food for their stock, and seed for next year's planting. Into this scheme of things there fit of course the government lending agencies which next year, as in the past, will help with production loans.

Every Governor with whom I have talked is in full accord with this program of doing work for these farm families, just as every Governor agrees that the individual states will take care of their unemployables but that the cost of employing those who are entirely able and willing to work must be borne by the Federal Government.

If then we know, as we do today, the approximate number of farm families who will require some form of work relief from now on through the winter, we face the question of what kind of work they should do. Let me make it clear that this is not a new question because it has already been answered to a greater or less extent in every one of the drought communities. Beginning in 1934, when we also had serious drought conditions, the state and Federal governments cooperated in planning a large number of projects -- many of them directly aimed at the alleviation of future drought conditions. In accordance with that program literally thousands of ponds or small reservoirs have been built in order to supply water for stock and to lift the level of the underground water to

DOCUMENT 2 - FDR's Fireside Chat, September 6, 1936.

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protect wells from going dry. Thousands of wells have been drilled or deepened; community lakes have been created and irrigation projects are being pushed.

Water conservation by means such as these is being expanded as a result of this new drought all through the Great Plains area, the western corn belt and in the states that lie further south. In the Middle West water conservation is not so pressing a problem. Here the work projects run more to soil erosion control and the building of farm-to-market roads.

Spending like this is not waste. It would spell future waste if we did not spend for such things now. These emergency work projects provide money to buy food and clothing for the winter; they keep the livestock on the farm; they provide seed for a new crop, and, best of all, they will conserve soil and water in the future in those areas most frequently hit by drought.

If, for example, in some local area the water table continues to drop and the topsoil to blow away, the land values will disappear with the water and the soil. People on the farms will drift into the nearby cities; the cities will have no farm trade and the workers in the city factories and stores will have no jobs. Property values in the cities will decline. If, on the other hand, the farms within that area remain as farms with better water supply and no erosion, the farm population will stay on the land and prosper and the nearby cities will prosper too. Property values will increase instead of disappearing. That is why it is worth our while as a nation to spend money in order to save money.

I have, however, used the argument in relation only to a small area -- it holds good in its effect on the nation as a whole. Every state in the drought area is now doing and always will do business with every state outside it. The very existence of the men and women working in the clothing factories of New York, making clothes worn by farmers and their families; of the workers in the steel mills in Pittsburgh, in the automobile factories of Detroit, and in the harvester factories of Illinois, depend upon the farmers' ability to purchase the commodities they produce. In the same way it is the purchasing power of the workers in these factories in the cities that enables them and their wives and children to eat more beef, more pork, more wheat, more corn, more fruit and more dairy products, and to buy more clothing made from cotton, wool and leather. In a physical and a property sense, as well as in a spiritual sense, we are members one of another.

I want to make it clear that no simple panacea can be applied to the drought problem in the whole of the drought area. Plans must depend on local conditions, for these vary with annual rainfall, soil characteristics, altitude and topography. Water and soil conservation methods may differ in one county from those in an adjoining county. Work to be done in the cattle and sheep country differs in type from work in the wheat country or work in the corn belt.

The Great Plains Drought Area Committee has given me its preliminary recommendations for a long-time program for that region. Using that report as a basis we are cooperating successfully and in entire accord with the Governors and state planning boards. As we get this program into operation the people more and more will be able to maintain themselves securely on the land. That will mean a steady decline in the relief burdens which the Federal Government and states have had to assume in time of drought; but, more important, it will mean a greater contribution to general national prosperity by these regions which have been hit by drought. It will conserve and improve not only property values, but human values. The people in the drought area do not want to be dependent on Federal, state or any other kind of charity. They want for themselves and their families an opportunity to share fairly by their own efforts in the progress of America.

The farmers of America want a sound national agricultural policy in which a permanent land use program will have an important place. They want assurance against another year like 1932 when they made good crops but had to sell them for prices that meant ruin just as surely as did the drought. Sound policy must maintain farm prices in good crop years as well as in bad crop years. It must function when we have drought; it must also function when we have bumper crops.

The maintenance of a fair equilibrium between farm prices and the prices of industrial products is an aim which we must keep ever before us, just as we must give constant thought to the sufficiency of the food supply of the

DOCUMENT 2 - FDR's Fireside Chat, September 6, 1936.

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nation even in bad years. Our modern civilization can and should devise a more successful means by which the excess supplies of bumper years can be conserved for use in lean years.

On my trip I have been deeply impressed with the general efficiency of those agencies of the Federal, state and local governments which have moved in on the immediate task created by the drought. In 1934 none of us had preparation; we worked without blueprints and made the mistakes of inexperience. Hindsight shows us this. But as time has gone on we have been making fewer and fewer mistakes. Remember that the Federal and state governments have done only broad planning. Actual work on a given project originates in the local community. Local needs are listed from local information. Local projects are decided on only after obtaining the recommendations and help of those in the local community who are best able to give it. And it is worthy of note that on my entire trip, though I asked the question dozens of times, I heard no complaint against the character of a single works relief project.

The elected heads of the states concerned, together with their state officials and their experts from agricultural colleges and state planning boards, have shown cooperation with and approval of the work which the Federal Government has headed up. I am grateful also to the men and women in all these states who have accepted leadership in the work in their locality.

In the drought area people are not afraid to use new methods to meet changes in Nature, and to correct mistakes of the past. If overgrazing has injured range lands, they are willing to reduce the grazing. If certain wheat lands should be returned to pasture they are willing to cooperate. If trees should be planted as windbreaks or to stop erosion they will work with us. If terracing or summer fallowing or crop rotation is called for, they will carry them out. They stand ready to fit, and not to fight, the ways of Nature.

We are helping, and shall continue to help the farmer to do those things, through local soil conservation committees and other cooperative local, state and federal agencies of government.

I have not the time tonight to deal with other and more comprehensive agricultural policies.

With this fine help we are tiding over the present emergency. We are going to conserve soil, conserve water and conserve life. We are going to have long-time defenses against both low prices and drought. We are going to have a farm policy that will serve the national welfare. That is our hope for the future.

There are two reasons why I want to end by talking about reemployment. Tomorrow is Labor Day. The brave spirit with which so many millions of working people are winning their way out of depression deserves respect and admiration. It is like the courage of the farmers in the drought areas.

That is my first reason. The second is that healthy employment conditions stand equally with healthy agricultural conditions as a buttress of national prosperity. Dependable employment at fair wages is just as important to the people in the towns and cities as good farm income is to agriculture. Our people must have the ability to buy the goods they manufacture and the crops they produce. Thus city wages and farm buying power are the two strong legs that carry the nation forward.

Re-employment in industry is proceeding rapidly. Government spending was in large part responsible for keeping industry going and putting it in a position to make this reemployment possible. Government orders were the backlog of heavy industry government wages turned over and over again to make consumer purchasing power and to sustain every merchant in the community. Businessmen with their businesses, small and large, had to be saved. Private enterprise is necessary to any nation which seeks to maintain the democratic form of government. In their case, just as certainly as in the case of drought-stricken farmers, government spending has saved.

Government having spent wisely to save it, private industry begins to take workers off the rolls of the government relief program. Until this Administration we had no free employment service, except in a few states and cities. Because there was no unified employment service, the worker, forced to move as industry moved, often travelled over the country, wandering after jobs which seemed always to travel just a little faster than he did. He was often victimized by fraudulent practices of employment clearing houses, and the facts of employment opportunities were

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at the disposal neither of himself nor of the employer.

In 1933 the United States Employment Service was created -- a cooperative state and Federal enterprise, through which the Federal Government matches dollar for dollar the funds provided by the states for registering the occupations and skills of workers and for actually finding jobs for these registered workers in private industry. The Federal-State cooperation has been splendid. Already employment services are operating in 32 states, and the areas not covered by them are served by the Federal Government.

We have developed a nationwide service with seven hundred District offices, and one thousand branch offices, thus providing facilities through which labor can learn of jobs available and employers can find workers.

Last Spring I expressed the hope that employers would realize their deep responsibility to take men off the relief rolls and give them jobs in private enterprise. Subsequently I was told by many employers that they were not satisfied with the information available concerning the skill and experience of the workers on the relief rolls. On August 25th I allocated a relatively small sum to the employment service for the purpose of getting better and more recent information in regard to those now actively at work on WPA Projects -- information as to their skills and previous occupations -- and to keep the records of such men and women up-to-date for maximum service in making them available to industry. Tonight I am announcing the allocation of two and a half million dollars more to enable the Employment Service to make an even more intensive search than it has yet been equipped to make, to find opportunities in private employment for workers registered with it.

Tonight I urge the workers to cooperate with and take full advantage of this intensification of the work of the Employment Service. This does not mean that there will be any lessening of our efforts under our WPA and PWA and other work relief programs until all workers have decent jobs in private employment at decent wages. We do not surrender our responsibility to the unemployed. We have had ample proof that it is the will of the American people that those who represent them in national, state and local government should continue as long as necessary to discharge that responsibility. But it does mean that the government wants to use resource to get private work for those now employed on government work, and thus to curtail to a minimum the government expenditures for direct employment.

Tonight I ask employers, large and small, throughout the nation, to use the help of the state and Federal Employment Service whenever in the general pick-up of business they require more workers.

Tomorrow is Labor Day. Labor Day in this country has never been a class holiday. It has always been a national holiday. It has never had more significance as a national holiday than it has now. In other countries the relationship of employer and employee has more or less been accepted as a class relationship not readily to be broken through. In this country we insist, as an essential of the American way of life, that the employer-employee relationship should be one between free men and equals. We refuse to regard those who work with hand or brain as different from or inferior to those who live from their property. We insist that labor is entitled to as much respect as property. But our workers with hand and brain deserve more than respect for their labor. They deserve practical protection in the opportunity to use their labor at a return adequate to support them at a decent and constantly rising standard of living, and to accumulate a margin of security against the inevitable vicissitudes of life.

The average man must have that twofold opportunity if we are to avoid the growth of a class conscious society in this country.

There are those who fail to read both the signs of the times and American history. They would try to refuse the worker any effective power to bargain collectively, to earn a decent livelihood and to acquire security. It is those short-sighted ones, not labor, who threaten this country with that class dissension which in other countries has led to dictatorship and the establishment of fear and hatred as the dominant emotions in human life.

All American workers, brain workers and manual workers alike, and all the rest of us whose well-being depends on theirs, know that our needs are one in building an orderly economic democracy in which all can profit and in which all can be secure from the kind of faulty economic direction which brought us to the brink of common ruin seven

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years ago.

There is no cleavage between white collar workers and manual workers, between artists and artisans, musicians and mechanics, lawyers and accountants and architects and miners.

Tomorrow, Labor Day, belongs to all of us. Tomorrow, Labor Day, symbolizes the hope of all Americans. Anyone who calls it a class holiday challenges the whole concept of American democracy.

The Fourth of July commemorates our political freedom -- a freedom which without economic freedom is meaningless indeed. Labor Day symbolizes our determination to achieve an economic freedom for the average man which will give his political freedom reality.

THE DUST BOWL

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 3 - Photograph of the dust storm in Rolla, Kansas, taken from a water tower one hundred feet high, April 14, 1935.



THE GREAT DEPRESSION

COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM



New Deal Setbacks

Main Idea/Enduring Understanding

Despite the success of the New Deal programs, and the 1936 landslide re-election, FDR's plans for expanding the New Deal ran into serious opposition in the Supreme Court in his second term.

Quote 1:

"The Courts, however, have cast doubts on the ability of the elected Congress to protect us against catastrophe by meeting squarely our modern social and economic conditions." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

During his first term, FDR vastly expanded the Federal Government's role in the nation's economy. Unprecedented jobs programs like the CCC and WPA put millions of people to work. By 1937, the economy showed marked improvement. Unemployment had declined from 25 percent to 17 percent. America's Gross National Product (GNP) was approaching pre-Depression levels. But some of FDR's plans went awry.

The centerpiece of FDR's economic revival plan was the National Industrial Recovery Administration (NRA). The NRA sought to end cut-throat competition that was reducing wages and prices to disastrous levels. It encouraged businesses in hundreds of industries to create codes of "fair competition." The codes set maximum hours and minimum wages, guaranteed union rights, and prohibited child labor.

But the NRA proved ineffective. Its codes proved unwieldy. Many favored larger businesses and encouraged monopolistic practices that hindered economic recovery. In 1935 the NRA was declared unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court was becoming a major threat to the New Deal. FDR feared future rulings would overturn other reforms, including Social Security.

In 1937, Roosevelt moved to remake the Court. He requested legislation empowering him to add up to six new justices for every current justice over age 70. Outraged critics charged he wanted to "pack" the Court. The Senate buried FDR's proposal in committee resulting in his greatest legislative defeat.

Also in 1937, FDR made a fateful decision about Federal spending. By the fall, unemployment had fallen from 25 to 14 percent. FDR believed the economy had turned a corner and Federal stimulus spending was no longer needed.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION



COMBINING DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTARIES FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM

In September, he announced major spending cuts aimed at balancing the Federal budget. Fearing inflation, he also supported action by the Federal Reserve to tighten credit.

The results were disastrous. As spending fell and interest rates rose, economic activity dropped steeply. By March 1938 unemployment had jumped back up to 19 percent. FDR's critics called it the "Roosevelt Recession."

Quote 2:

"That plan has two chief purposes. By bringing into the judicial system a steady and continuing stream of new and younger blood, I hope, first, to make the administration of all Federal justice speedier and, therefore, less costly; secondly, to bring to the decision of social and economic problems younger men who have had personal experience and contact with modern facts and circumstances under which average men have to live and work. This plan will save our national Constitution from hardening of the judicial arteries."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Notes:

Short Answer Questions

1. How well did the Roosevelt jobs programs work? _____

2. Why did FDR see the Supreme Court as a threat to the New Deal? _____

3. Why did FDR cut federal spending in 1937? What was the result? _____

4. What was the goal of the National Industrial Recovery Administration? _____

5. What were the problems with the NRA? _____

6. What two basic constitutional principles were being called into question with the Roosevelt plan to rearrange the court? _____

Vocabulary

Gross National Product (GNP) - total value of all goods and services produced in a country during one year

Checks & Balances - constitutional process that allows each branch of government to restrict or oversee the others

Separation of Powers - constitutional process that divides duties of governing among the executive, legislative and judicial branches

Document Based Questions

Document 1:

1. Explain what E.E. Roberts means when he says the name “dictator” should be used to describe the court, not FDR. _____

2. Who does E.E. Roberts think is controlling the Supreme Court? _____

3. What threat does E.E. Roberts make in the 3rd paragraph of his letter? What do you think he means by that? _____

Document 2:

1. Review the suggestions made for “recasting” the NRA from an emergency to a permanent organization. If these reforms had been accomplished, would the NRA have been more or less constitutional? _____

2. Why wasn't the NRA put under the control of the Department of Labor? _____

3. What was the problem with the three person panel? Who ended up making the final decisions? Why was this considered unfair? _____

Document 3:

1. Create your own set of codes for "fair competition." List three things you would include. _____

2. Having created your own set of codes, design a logo that would represent your version of the NRA. What symbols, colors, and letters would you use? _____

NEW DEAL SETBACKS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DOCUMENT 1 - Letter to President Roosevelt from E. E. Robert, March 5, 1937.

FDR-140

✓
Mitchell South Dakota.

March 5- 1937.

404 - East 7 Avenue

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Washington D.C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

As I review the past four years, I have a feeling of deep gratitude in my heart for you. Not only for what you have done for the people of this Nation, but also for what you are still striving to do. No, President could do more. The conditions you have been compelled to labor under has been hard, never knowing but your hard work would all be in vain. I believe decisions handed down by the Supreme Justices have been unjust. Mr. President if you had been working for the rich instead of the poor, the constitutionality of the bills would never have been called unconstitutional by the 9 old Dictators. There is where the name dictatorship belongs, not to you.

Here in the drouth stricken Dakotas, where the people have undergone great hardships, many times your words of encouragement would come to us over the air, giving us new faith and courage, to carry on. you will never realize how much this has meant to us. For without Federal aid I do not know how the people would live. For this we are very grateful

And today as you face another crisis as you told us Thursday evening, in your Victory day address, greater than the one you faced March 4-1933, we are with you. And will give you all the support we can. If Congress does not help you lessen the power of the Supreme Court, (I believe it will) if not, then the people will. For you have not betrayed our trust in you.

Very sincerely yours,
E. E. Roberts
E. E. Roberts.

DOCUMENT 3 - NRA Blue Eagle poster displayed by businesses to show support for the government program, National Recovery Administration, 1934.

