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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mr. Roosevelt Makes Recommendations Concerning Needed Legislation

THE NATION PROSPEROUS

Recommendations Covering a Wide Range of Subjects—Finances, Combinations, Transportation, Natural Resources, and Other Interesting Topics Brought to the Attention of Our Lawmaking Body.

The message of President Roosevelt to the second session of the Sixtieth Congress was read in both houses, and was in substance as follows: To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Finances.
The financial standing of the nation at the present time is excellent, and the financial management of the nation's interests by the Government during the last seven years has shown the most satisfactory results. But our currency system is imperfect, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the Currency Commission will be able to propose a thoroughly good system which will do away with the existing defects.

During the period from July 1, 1901, to September 30, 1908, there was an increase in the amount of money in circulation of \$902,991,399. The increase in the per capita during this period was \$7.06. Within this time there were several occasions when it was necessary for the Treasury Department to come to the relief of the money market by purchases of United States bonds; by increasing subscriptions in national banks; by stimulating additional issues of national bank notes; and by facilitating importation of gold from abroad.

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During the seven years and three months there has been a net surplus of nearly one hundred millions of receipts over expenditures, a reduction of the interest-bearing debt by ninety millions, in spite of the extraordinary expense of the Panama Canal, and a saving of nearly nine millions on the annual interest charges. This is an exceedingly satisfactory showing, especially in view of the fact that during this period the Nation has never hesitated to undertake any expenditure that it regarded as necessary. There have been no new taxes and no increase of taxes; on the contrary some taxes have been taken off; there has been a reduction of taxation.

Corporations.
As regards the great corporations engaged in interstate business, and especially the railroads, I can only repeat what I have already said and again said in my message to the Congress. I believe that under the interstate clause of the Constitution the United States has complete and paramount right to control all agencies of interstate commerce and I believe that the National Government alone can exercise this right with wisdom and effectiveness, so as both to secure justice for, and to do justice to, the great corporations which are the most important factors in modern business. I believe that it is wrong to attempt to prohibit all combinations as is done by the Sherman anti-trust law, because such a law can be enforced only imperfectly and un-
equally, and its enforcement works almost as much hardship as good. I strongly advocate that instead of an unwieldy effort to prohibit all combinations, there shall be substituted a law which shall expressly permit combinations which are in the interest of the public, but shall at the same time give to some agency of the National Government full power of control and supervision over them. One of the chief features of this control should be securing entire publicity in all matters which the public has a right to know, and furthermore, the power, not by judicial but by executive action, to prevent or put a stop to every form of improper favoritism or other wrongdoing.

The railroads of the country should be put completely under the Interstate Commerce Commission and removed from the domain of the anti-trust law. The power of the Commission should be made throughgoing, so that it could exercise complete supervision and control over the issue of

the man of small means to invest his money in stocks. There must be prohibition of child labor, diminution of woman labor, shortening of hours of all mechanical labor; stock watering should be prohibited, and stock gambling so far as possible discouraged. There should be a progressive inheritance tax on large fortunes. Industrial education should be encouraged. As far as possible we should lighten the burden of taxation on the small man. We should put a premium upon thrift, hard work, and business energy; but these qualities cease to be mere main factors in accumulating fortunes long before that fortune reaches a point where it would be seriously affected by an inheritance tax such as I propose. It is eminently fitting that the Nation should fix the terms upon which the great fortunes are inherited. They rarely do good and they often do harm to those who inherit them in their entirety.

The above is the merest sketch, hardly even a sketch in outline, of the reforms for which we should work. But there is one matter with which the Congress should deal at this session. There should no longer be any patting with the question of taking care of the wage-workers, under our present industrial system, become killed, crippled, or worn out as part of the regular incidents of a given business. The majority of wage-workers must have their rights secured for them by State action; but the National Government should legislate in thoroughgoing and far-reaching fashion not only for all employees of the National Government, but for all persons engaged in interstate commerce. The object sought for could be achieved to a measurable degree, as far as those killed or crippled are concerned, by proper employers' liability laws. As far as those worn out, those who have been worn out, I call your attention to the fact that definite steps toward providing old-age pensions have been taken in many of our private industries. These may be indefinitely extended through voluntary association and contributory schemes, or through the agency of savings banks, as under the recent Massachusetts plan, or through the other legal measures should be our immediate duty; it is not at present necessary to consider the larger and more general governmental schemes that most European governments have found themselves obliged to adopt.

I renew my recommendation, made in a previous message to the Congress, that the eight-hour day should be rapidly and as far as practicable be extended to the entire work being carried on by the Government; the present law should be amended to embrace contracts for these public works which the present wording of the act seems to exclude.

I most earnestly urge upon the Congress the duty of increasing the totally inadequate salaries now given to our Judges. On the whole there is no body of public servants who do as valuable work, nor whose moneyed reward is so inadequate compared to their responsibility with the Supreme Court the Judges should have their salaries doubled. It is not fitting the dignity of the Nation that its most honored public servants should be paid sums so small compared to what they would earn in private life that the performance of public service by them implies an exceedingly heavy pecuniary sacrifice.

It is earnestly to be desired that some method should be devised for doing away with the long delays which now obtain in the administration of justice, and which operate with peculiar severity against persons of small means, and favor only the very criminals whom it is most desirable to punish. These long delays in the final decisions of cases make in the aggregate a crying evil, and a remedy should be sought. Much of this intolerable delay is due to improper regard paid to technicalities which are a mere hindrance to justice. In some noted cases this regard for technicalities has resulted in a striking denial of justice, and a flagrant wrong to the body politic.

Forests.
If there is any one duty which more than any other we owe to our children and our children's children, it is to save the forests of this country, for they constitute the first and most important element in the conservation of the natural resources of our country. There are of course two kinds of natural resources. One is the kind which can only be used as part of a process of exhaustion; this is true of mines, natural petrol and gas wells, and the like. The other, and of course ultimately far the most important, includes the resources which can be improved in the process of use; so the soil, the rivers, and the forests come under this head. Any really civilized nation will so use all of these three great natural assets that the nation will have their benefit in the future. Just as a farmer, after all his life making his living from his farm, will, if he is an expert farmer, leave it as an asset of increased value to his son, so we should leave our national domain to our children, increased in value and not worn out. There are small sections of our own country, in the East and in the West, in the Adirondacks, the White Mountains, and the Appalachians, and in the Rocky Mountains, where we can already see for ourselves the damage in the shape of permanent injury to the soil and the river systems which comes from reckless deforestation. It matters not whether this deforestation is due to the actual cutting of timber, or to the

fires that inevitably follow such reckless cutting of timber, or to reckless uncontrolled grazing, especially of sheep, the unchecked wanderings of which over the country means destruction of forests and disaster to the small home makers and the settlers of limited means.

Inland Waterways.
Action should be begun forthwith during the present session of the Congress, for the improvement of our inland waterways—action which will result in giving us not only navigable but hundreds of millions of dollars upon these waterways. The traffic on nearly all of these waterways is declining. This condition is the direct result of the absence of any comprehensive and far-reaching plan of waterway improvement. Obviously we cannot continue thus to expend the revenues of the Government without return. It is poor business to spend money for inland navigation unless we get it.

Denatured Alcohol.
I had occasion in my message of May 4, 1906, to urge the passage of some law putting alcohol, used in the arts, industries, and manufactures, upon the free list; that is, to provide for the withdrawal free of tax of alcohol which is to be denatured for those purposes. The law of June 7, 1906, and its amendment of March 2, 1907, accomplished what was desired in this respect, and the use of denatured alcohol, as intended, is making a fair degree of progress and is entitled to further encouragement and support from the Congress.

Pure Food.
The pure food legislation has already worked a benefit difficult to overestimate.

Indian Affairs.
It has been my purpose from the beginning of my administration to take the Indian Service completely out of the atmosphere of political activity, and there has been steady progress toward that end. The last remaining stronghold of politics in that service was the agency system, which had seen its best days and was gradually falling to pieces, from natural or purely evolutionary causes. Like all such survivals, was decaying slowly in its later stages. It seems clear that its extinction had better be made final now, so that the ground can be cleared for larger constructive work on behalf of the Indians, preparatory to their induction into the rank of American citizens.

Postal Savings Banks.
I again renew my recommendation for postal savings banks, for depositing savings with the security of the Government behind them. The object is to encourage thrift and economy in the wage-earner and person of moderate means. In fourteen States it is already in operation, and the currency amount to \$8,900,245,402, or 98.4 per cent of the entire deposits, while in the remaining 22 States there are only \$70,308,543, or 1.6 per cent showing conclusively that there are many localities in the United States where sufficient opportunity is not given to the people to deposit their savings. The result is that money is kept in hiding and unemployed. It is believed that the aggregate vast sums of money would be brought into circulation through the instrumentality of the postal savings banks. While there are only 1,453 savings banks reporting to the Comptroller there are more than 61,000 post-offices, 40,000 of which are money order offices. Postal savings banks are now in operation in practically all the great civilized countries with the exception of the United States.

Parcel Post.
In my last annual message I recommended the Postmaster-General's recommendation for an extension of the parcel post on the rural routes. The establishment of a local parcel post system on the rural routes would be a benefit to the farmer and the country storekeeper, and it is desirable that the routes, serving more than 15,000,000 people, should be utilized to the fullest practicable extent. An amendment was proposed in the Senate at the last session, at the suggestion of the Postmaster-General, providing that, for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of establishing a special local parcel post system on the rural routes throughout the United States, the Postmaster-General be authorized and directed to experiment and report to the Congress the result of such experiment by establishing a special local parcel post system on a rural del-

ivery routes in not to exceed four counties in the United States for packages of fourth-class matter originating on a rural route or at the distributing post office for delivery by rural carriers. It would seem only proper that such an experiment should be tried in order to demonstrate the practicability of the proposition, especially as the Postmaster-General estimates that the revenue derived from the operation of such a system on all the rural routes would amount to many million dollars.

Education.
The share that the National Government should take in the broad work of education has not received the attention and care it rightly deserves. The immediate responsibility for the support and improvement of our educational systems and institutions rests and should always rest with the people of the several States acting through their state and local governments, but the Nation has an opportunity in education work which should not be lost and a duty which should no longer be neglected.

Census.
I strongly urge that the request of the Director of the Census in connection with the decennial work so soon to be begun, be complied with and that the appointments to the census force be placed under the civil service law, leaving the geographical requirements requested by the Director of the Census. The supervisors and enumerators should not be appointed under the civil service law, for the reasons given by the Director. I commend to the Congress the careful consideration of the admirable report of the Director of the Census, which, clearly and promptly adopted, will be adopted and immediate action thereon taken.

Soldiers' Homes.
All Soldiers' Homes should be placed under the complete jurisdiction and control of the War Department. Independent Bureaus and Commissions.
Economy and sound business policy require that all existing independent bureaus and commissions should be placed under the jurisdiction of appropriate executive departments. It is unwise from every standpoint, and results only in mischief, to have any executive work done save by the purely executive bodies, under the control of the President; and each such executive body should be under the immediate supervision of a Cabinet Minister.

Statehood.
I advocate the immediate admission of New Mexico and Arizona as States. This should be done at the present session of the Congress. The people of the two Territories have made it evident by their votes that they will not come in as one State. The only alternative is to admit them as two, and I trust that this will be done without delay.

Interstate Fisheries.
I call the attention of the Congress to the importance of the problem of the fisheries in the interstate waters. On the Great Lakes we are now under the very wise treaty of April 11th, of this year, endeavoring to come to an international agreement for the preservation and satisfactory use of the fisheries of these waters not otherwise achieved. Lake Erie, for example, has the richest fresh water fisheries in the world; but it is now controlled by the statutes of two Nations, four States, and one Province, and in this Province by different ordinances in different counties. All these political divisions work at cross purposes, and in no case they achieve protection to the fisheries, on the one hand, and justice to the localities and individuals on the other. The case is similar in Puget Sound.

Fisheries and Fur Seals.
The federal statute regulating interstate traffic in game should be extended to include fish. New federal fish hatcheries should be established. The administration of the Alaskan fur-seal service should be vested in the Bureau of Fisheries.

Foreign Affairs.
This Nation's foreign policy is based on the theory that right must be done between nations precisely as between individuals, and in our actions for the last ten years we have in this matter proven our faith by our deeds. We have behaved and are behaving towards other nations, as in private life an honorable man would behave towards his fellows.

Latin-American Republics.
The commercial and material progress of the twenty Latin-American Republics is worthy of the careful attention of the Congress. No other section of the world has shown a greater or more rapid development of its resources during the last ten years and none other has more social claims on the interest of the United States. It offers today probably larger opportunities for the legiti-

mate extension of our commerce than any other group of countries. These countries will want our products in greatly increased quantities, and we shall correspondingly need theirs. The International Bureau of the American Republics is doing a useful work in making these nations and their resources better known to us, and in acquainting them not only with us as a people and with our purposes towards them, but with what we have to exchange for their goods. It is an international institution supported by all the governments of the two Americas.

Panama Canal.
The work on the Panama Canal is being done with a speed, efficiency and entire devotion to duty, which make it a model for all work of the kind. No task of such magnitude has ever before been undertaken by any nation; and no task of the kind has ever been better performed. The men on the Isthmus, from Colonel Goethals and his fellow commissioners through the entire list of employees who are faithfully doing their duty, have won their right to the ungrudging respect and gratitude of the American people.

Ocean Mail Lines.
I again recommend the extension of the ocean mail act of 1891 so that satisfactory American ocean lines to South America, Asia, the Philippines, and Australia may be established. The creation of such steamship lines should be the natural corollary of the voyage of the battle fleet. It should precede the opening of the Panama Canal. Even under favorable conditions several years must elapse before such lines can be put into operation. Accordingly I urge that the Congress act promptly where foresight already shows that action sooner or later will be inevitable.

The Army.
As regards the Army I call attention to the fact that while our junior officers and enlisted men stand very high, the present system of promotion by seniority results in bringing into the higher grades many men of mediocre capacity who have but a short time to serve. No man should regard it as his vested right to rise to the highest rank in the Army any more than in any other profession. It is a curious and by no means creditable fact that there should be so often a failure on the part of the public and its representatives to understand the great need, from the standpoint of the service and the Nation, of refusing to promote respectively, clearly incompetent men. The higher places should be given to the most deserving men without regard to seniority; at least seniority should be treated as only one consideration. In the stress of modern industrial competition no business firm could succeed if those responsible for its management were chosen simply on the ground that they were the oldest people in its employment; yet this is the course advocated as regards the Army, and required by law for all grades except those of general officer. As a matter of fact, all of the best officers in the highest ranks of the Army are those who have attained their present position wholly or in part by a process of selection.

Navy.
I approve the recommendations of the General Board for the increase of the Navy, calling special attention to the need of additional destroyers and colliers, and above all, of the four battleships. It is desirable to complete as soon as possible a squadron of eight battleships of the best existing type. The North Dakota, Delaware, Florida and Utah will form the first of this squadron. The four vessels proposed will form the second division. It will be an improvement on the first, the ships being of the heavy, single caliber, all big gun type. All the vessels should have the same tactical qualities, that is, speed and turning circle, and as near as possible these tactical qualities should be the same as in the four vessels before named now being built.

The American people have cause for profound gratification, both in view of the excellent condition of the fleet as shown by this cruise, and in view of the improvement of the fleet which is now in progress. I do not believe that there is any other service in the world in which the average of character and efficiency of the enlisted men is as high as is now the case in our Navy. I believe that the same statement can be made as to our officers, taken as a whole; but there must be a reservation made in regard to those in the highest ranks—as to which I have already spoken—and in regard to those who have just entered "B" service; because we do not now get full benefit from our excellent naval school at Annapolis. It is absurd not to graduate the midshipmen as ensigns; to keep them for two years in such an anomalous position as at present the law requires is detrimental to them and to the service. In the academy itself, every first classman should be required in turn to serve as petty officer and officer; his ability to discharge his duties as such should be a prerequisite to his going into the line, and his success in commanding should largely determine his standing at graduation. The Board of Visitors should be appointed in January, and each member should be required to give at least six days' service, only from one to three weeks, to be performed during June week, which is the least desirable time for the board to be at Annapolis so far as benefiting the navy by their observations is concerned.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.
The White House, Tuesday, December 5, 1908.

JUDGE TAFT SPEAKS
Discusses Live Issues Before Southern People
SPEAKS OUT ON RACE PROBLEM

The President-Elect Urges Southern Voters to Break Away From Out-Lived Sentiment and Cast Their Ballots in Accordance With Their Real Economic and Political Beliefs
New York, Special.—President-elect William H. Taft, who came to New York to address the North Carolina Society of this city, was given a tumultuous reception by the members of the organization and by prominent men from all parts of the South, at the annual dinner of the North Carolinians at the Hotel Astor. Five hundred members and guests of the society filled the brilliantly decorated banquet hall, which was resplendent of the pines of the Tar Heel State, the cones and branches of the resinous trees forming the background for more fragrant blooms which were scattered everywhere over snowy linens and flag-draped walls. Intertwined emblems of the State and nation were conspicuous in the decorations of the banquet hall and larger flags were displayed in front of the hotel throughout the day and evening.

Mr. Taft, in the course of an address which was confined entirely to the South and its problems, urged again that the voters of the South should break away from the out-lived sentiment and traditions of their past political affiliations and cast their ballots in accordance with their economic and real political beliefs. Mr. Taft declared that nothing would give him greater pride during his coming term in the Chief Executive office than to so direct the policy of the national government with respect to the Southern States as to convince the intelligent citizens of the South of the desire of his administration to aid them in working out satisfactory solutions of the serious problems before them, and of bringing them and their Northern fellow citizens closer and closer in sympathy and point of view.

At the conclusion of practically every one of his pointed sentences Mr. Taft was interrupted by applause and cheering. He frankly expressed himself regarding the so-called "negro question" and declared that neither he nor the Republican party had any idea of forcing upon the people of the South the dominance of an ignorant class. Mr. Taft declared that the North years for a closer association with the South and quoted statistics to show that the industries of the South had grown and prospered more during the past decade than any other section of the country. As to the negro, Mr. Taft said he would neither ask nor receive more than an equal chance to qualify himself for the franchise.

In discussing the race issue Mr. Taft used the following language: "The proposal to repeal the fifteenth amendment is utterly impracticable and should be relegated to the limbo of forgotten issues. What we are considering is something practical, something that means attainable progress. It seems to me, therefore, that there is, or ought to be, a common ground upon which we can all stand in respect to the race question in the South, and its political bearings that takes away any justification for maintaining the continued solidarity of the South to prevent the so-called negro domination. The fear that in some way or other a social equality between the races will be enforced by law or brought about by political measures really has no foundation except in the imagination of those who fear such a result. The Federal government has nothing to do with social equality. The war amendments do not declare in favor of social equality; all that the law or constitution attempts to secure is equality of opportunity before the law and in the pursuit of happiness and in the enjoyment of life, liberty and prosperity. Social equality is something that grows out of voluntary concessions by the individuals forming society.

In concluding his address the President-elect said: "The recent election has made it probable that I shall become more or less responsible for the policy of the next presidential administration, and I improve this opportunity to say that nothing will give me greater pride because nothing would give me more claim to the gratitude of my fellow citizens if I could so direct that policy in respect to the Southern States as to convince their intelligent citizens of the desire of the administration to aid them in working out satisfactory solutions of the serious problems before them, and of bringing them and their Northern fellow citizens closer and closer in sympathy and point of view. During the last decade, in common with lovers of our country, I have watched with delight and thanksgiving the bond of union between the two sections grow firmer. I pray that it may be given to me to strengthen this movement, to obliterate all sectional lines and leave nothing of difference between the North and South save a friendly emulation for the benefit of our common country."