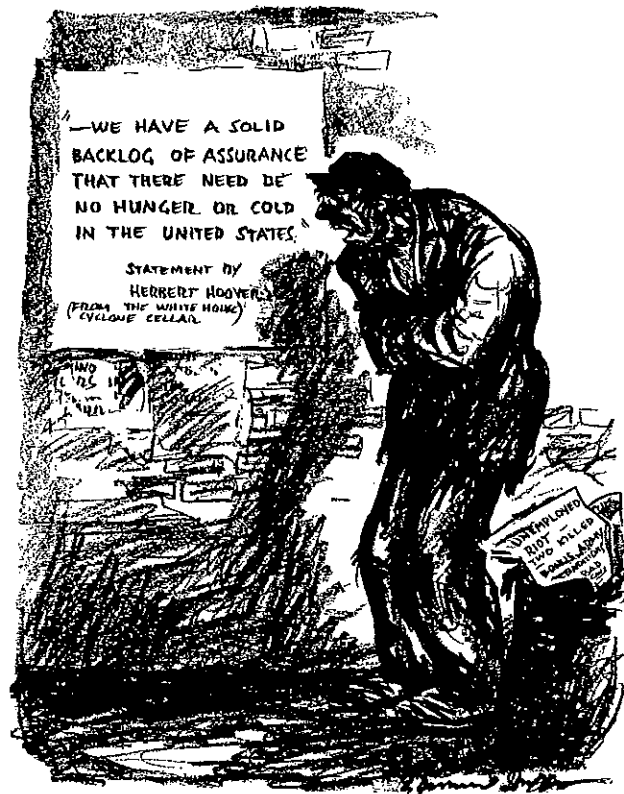


unity after community the whatever of heading off the resident, cold-blooded and ctims were to be stood up death by starvation today—aily because of plain lack of against the government of That is not merely because have from the first set your h no fault of their own are r convinced that if necessary ultitudes should have their le.

States? Do you know what vation of a few which is at ent to the press on July 17 n the actual situation, that of which you are the chief sign the so-called relief bill ie Reconstruction Finance ole to finance the relief of this provision, "We have a o hunger and cold in the be based only upon "absod d concluded with the state-pt as a last extremity." ... Is is happening in the United

St. Louis and the charitable ch they can no longer sup- who now have nowhere to vill be forthcoming for their lgeport, and other cities and the State does not come to ring further for their unem-d? Did you read that eight pitol last week demanding they would return 300,000 ouis have already fired on a wn of Clinton, Mass., where and crying children crowded -only to learn that the town rrow a cent from any bank, e out of every six residents of nal cases; they can be multi-n of the country. Is it any



Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

Cartoon of stooped man looking at a Hoovers sign, which reads—We have a solid backlog of assurance that there need be no hunger or cold in the United States.

wonder, Mr. President, that thirty States moved at once? And how long do you think the \$300,000,000 is going to last in the face of this?

6. President Franklin D. Roosevelt Says Government Must Act, 1933

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

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933, as published in Samuel Rosenman, ed., *The Public Papers of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Volume Two: The Year of Crisis, 1933* (New York: Random House, 1938) 11–16.

themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.

In such a spirit on my part and on yours we face our common difficulties. They concern, thank God, only material things. Values have shrunk to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone....

Yet our distress comes from no failure of substance. We are stricken by no plague of locusts. Compared with the perils which our forefathers conquered because they believed and were not afraid, we have still much to be thankful for. Nature still offers her bounty and human efforts have multiplied it. Plenty is at our doorstep, but a generous use of it languishes in the very sight of the supply. Primarily this is because the rulers of the exchange of mankind's goods have failed, through their own stubbornness and their own incompetence, have admitted their failure, and abdicated. Practices of the unscrupulous money changers stand indicted in the court of public opinion, rejected by the hearts and minds of men....

The money changers have fled from their high seats in the temple of our civilization. We may now restore that temple to the ancient truths. The measure of the restoration lies in the extent to which we apply social values more noble than mere monetary profit....

Restoration calls, however, not for changes in ethics alone. This Nation asks for action, and action now.

Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the Government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of a war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our natural resources....

We must act and act quickly.

Finally, in our progress toward a resumption of work we require two safeguards against a return of the evils of the old order; there must be strict supervision of all banking and credits and investments; there must be an end to speculation with other people's money, and there must be provision for an adequate but sound currency....

Through this program of action we address ourselves to putting our own national house in order and making income balance outgo. Our international trade relations, though vastly important, are in point of time and necessity secondary to the establishment of a sound national economy. I favor as a practical policy the putting of first things first. I shall spare no effort to restore world trade by international economic readjustment, but the emergency at home cannot wait on that accomplishment....

In the field of world policy I would dedicate this Nation to the policy of the good neighbor—the neighbor who resolutely respects himself and, because he

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government of all kinds is
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does so, respects the rights of others—the neighbor who respects his obligations and respects the sanctity of his agreements in and with a world of neighbors....

It is to be hoped that the normal balance of executive and legislative authority may be wholly adequate to meet the unprecedented task before us. But it may be that an unprecedented demand and need for undelayed action may call for temporary departure from that normal balance of public procedure.

I am prepared under my constitutional duty to recommend the measures that a stricken nation in the midst of a stricken world may require. These measures, or such other measures as the Congress may build out of its experience and wisdom, I shall seek, within my constitutional authority, to bring to speedy adoption.

But in the event that the Congress shall fail to take one of these two courses, and in the event that the national emergency is still critical, I shall not evade the clear course of duty that will then confront me. I shall ask the Congress for the one remaining instrument to meet the crisis—broad Executive power to wage a war against the emergency, as great as the power that would be given to me if we were in fact invaded by a foreign foe....

7. Father Charles Coughlin Denounces Roosevelt and Proposes a Third Party, 1936

Ladies and gentlemen, may I gratefully acknowledge that these broadcasting facilities have been extended to me by the Columbia Broadcasting System?

It is my purpose to engage your attention as I discuss, first, why I do not find it morally possible to support either the Republicans and their platform or the Democrats and their promises....

In the Autumn of 1932 it was my privilege to address the American people on the causes of the so-called depression and upon the obvious remedies required to bring about a permanent recovery.

Those were days which witnessed a complete breakdown of the financial system under which our Western civilization had been developed. It was also evident that under this financial system there resulted a concentration of wealth and a multiplication of impoverished families. Unjust wages and unreasonable idleness were universally recognized as contradictions in an age of plenty. To my mind it was inconceivable that irrational and needless want should exist in an age of plenty....

What was the basic cause which closed factories, which created idleness, which permitted weeds to overrun our golden fields and plowshares to rust? There was and is but one answer. Some call it lack of purchasing power. Others, viewing the problem in a more philosophic light, recognize that the financial system which was able to function in an age of scarcity was totally inadequate to operate successfully in an age of plenty....

Father Charles E. Coughlin, "A Third Party," speech given June 19, 1936. Reprinted by permission of the Charles E. Coughlin Collection, Special Collection Series XXV, at the Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections, Northwestern University.