

"Saint Roosevelt"

Cedarburg, Wis. 10:45 A.M. Mar. 5, 1934

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt
Washington, D.C.

My dear Friend:

Just listened to the address given by your dear husband, our wonderful President. During the presidential campaign of 1932 we had in our home a darling little girl, three years old. My husband & I were great admirers of the Dem. candidate and so Dolores had to listen to much talk about the great man who we hoped and prayed would be our next Pres. We are Lutherans and she is Catholic so you'll get quite a thrill out of what I'm to tell you now. That fall Judge Karel of Mil. sent me a fine picture of our beloved President, which I placed in our Public Library. When I received this fine picture my dear mother (who has since been called Home) said to Dolores "Who is this man?" and Dolores answered without any hesitation "Why who else, but Saint Roosevelt!" The old saying goes fools and children often tell the truth and indeed we all feel if there ever was a Saint. He is one. As long as Pres. Roosevelt will be our leader under Jesus Christ we feel no fear. His speech this morning showed he feels for the "least of these" I am enclosing a snap shot of the dear little girl who acclaimed our President a Saint and rightly so. I'm sure Pres. Roosevelt had a great day on Feb. 16, the world day of prayer, when many hearts were lifted in prayer for him all over this great land of ours. We shall continue to ask our heavenly Father to guide and guard him in his great task as leader of the great American people.

With all good wishes for you and your fine family I am your most sincerely

Mrs. L.K.S.

TO
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D.C.

NOTICE
Nov 25 1934
Arkansas City, Kansas

Dear Madam:

I beg to inform you that I have been reading your writings in the Wichita Beacon and I must say that the whole nation should be enthused over them. I especially was carried away with the one on Old Age Pensions. It brought my mind back to the day of the Chicago Convention, when Mr. Roosevelt was nominated for the presidency.

Reprinted from *Down and Out in the Great Depression: Letter from the Forgotten Man*, by Robert S. McElvaine, ed. Copyright © 1983 by The University of North Carolina Press. Used by permission of the publisher.

- is this an accurate perception of what they experienced.

9.2: The New Deal and the "Common Man" (1934, 1936)

Roosevelt and the New Deal proved immensely popular with middle- and lower-income Americans. In 1936 FDR won in an extraordinary popular landslide when he ran for reelection. In the selections below—letters written by working class Americans to New Deal politicians, to FDR's wife, Eleanor, and to the president himself—we learn why the "common man" supported the administration's programs. How would you characterize the sources of this support? What New Deal programs particularly seemed to awaken the gratitude of ordinary Americans?

From: Irwin Unger Robert R. Jones, American Issues

Volume II Since 1865, 3rd Edition
Vintage Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2002

passed away

TO TENOR

RETRICK

Source/How

In our little home in Arkansas City, my family and I were sitting around the radio, to hear and we heard you when you flew over from N.Y. and entered the great hall and when he spoke it seems as though some Moses had come to alleviate us of our sufferings. Strange to say when he was speaking to see the moisten eyes and the deep feeling of emotions that gave vent to his every word and when you spoke then we knew that the white house would be filled with a real mother to the nation.

*Public
allusion*

I am glad to say you have not failed us, you have visited the slums, the farms and homes of your people, and formed first handed ideas for their benefits. Oh what a blessing while you have always had a silver spoon in your own mouth you have not failed to try and place one in every mouth in the land and when I read in the Beacon your brilliant ideas of the Old Age Pensions. You said the only thing lacking [sic] was the way to do it. So I said the first lady is seeking a way to help us and so let us help her to find it. . . .

Dear Madam, I am afraid to write more to you at this time as this is my first letter to the lady of the land as the others did not seem to be interested in the welfare of the people. Wife and I pray continually to God for your success. Every time the news boy hollers Extra our hearts are filled with fear that something has happened to the president, but as we go marching on to higher hills of prosperity through the new deal we are hoping and working to that point that all will be well. But one thing I was just about to forget I think that the home building program should be furnished means for back taxes included for repairs and etc. As many places are handicapped to get loans from government on account of being back taxes. Our heart in hand is ever with you and the Pres. to carry on.

*Power
in the
request*

Respectfully Yours,
P.F.A. [male]

(Columbus, Ga.
October 24, 1934)

[Dear President Roosevelt:]

I hope you can spare the time for a few words from a cotton mill family, out of work and almost out of heart and in just a short while out of a house in which to live. you know of course that the realtors are putting the people out when they cannot pay the rent promptly. and how are we to pay the rent so long as the mills refuse us work, merely because we had the nerve to ask or "demand," better working conditions.

which

I realize and appreciate the aid and food which the government is giving to the poor people out of work. Thanks to you but is it even partly right for us to be thrown out of our homes, when we have no change whatever of paying so long as the big corporations refuse of work. I for one am very disheartened and disappointed. I guess my notice to move will come next.

*How
they
have*

¹This is a reference to the unsuccessful 1934 textile workers' strike in

only speech

what are we to do. want you try to help us. want you appeal. "For us all," to the real estate people and the factories hoping you'll excuse this, but I've always thought of F.D.R. as my personal friend.

C.L.F. [male]

(Akron, Ohio
February 1936)

My Dear Mrs Roosevelt,

IMMEDIATE

I thought I would write a letter hoping you would find time to read it, and if you thought it was worth while answering it, I would be glad of any advise you would care to give me. A few weeks ago, I heard your talk over the air on the subject of the Old age pension, and I got to thinking what a blessing it would be to my mother, if it was possible for her to receive that pension, if the bill should pass. My mother has been in this country since April 1914 but she has never made herself a American Citizen, as she was sixty years old when she came here, and now she is eighty.

elderly

Mother came out to this country nineteen years ago [from Scotland] I thought as long as I lived there was no need to worry about her being taken care of, but I never dreamed of a depression like we have had well it has changed the whole course of our lives we have suffered, and no one knows but our own family, I have two children one nineteen, graduated from high school last June, and the girl graduates this coming June, and we have had the awfullest time trying to get the bare necessary things in life.

I am in no position to do the right thing for mother, I can't give her anything but her living but I thought if it was possible for her to get that pension it would be like a gift from heaven, as in all the years she has been in this country she has never had a dollar of her own.

I wish she could get it her days may not be long on this earth, and if she just had a little money coming in it would be like her last independent of her family, that least would know that if anything happened to me she could get a living, and not have to go back to the rest of her family, because she says she would rather go to a poor house, than live with any of the others.

*Young
people*

Mrs Roosevelt you might think I have lots of nerve writing to you when you have so much to attend to but I could not help admiring you for the splendid way you talked about the old people of this nation I feel sorry for all of them, they seem to be forgotten, and most young people think they have had there day and should be glad to die, but this is not my idea, I think that their last few years should be made as pleasant for them as it is possible, I know that if it was in my power to make my mother happy by giving her what she justly deserves, I would gladly do so. Well whether my mother ever gets anything or not, I hope all the other old people that is intitled to it gets it soon, because there is

pathos

²Misspellings are part of the original letter—Ed.
³Emphasis were added

nothing sadder than old people who have struggled hard all their lives to give their family a start in life, ~~then to be forgotten~~, when they themselves need it most.

I will finish now but before I do I want to thank you Mrs Roosevelt and also Mr Roosevelt for the good both of you are doing for this country you have given people new hope and every real American has faith in you and may you both be spared to carry on the good work and lead this nation ~~on to~~ victory.

Yours Respectfully,
Mrs J. S.
Akron, Ohio.

Description: This document is a collection of letters addressed to F.D.R. & his wife. They are all praising of the president, but make requests about aspects of the new deal, as the authors try to persuade F.D.R. or his wife to complete their requests. They are written by working-class people (one is an immigrant) from different areas of the country, between 1934 & 1936.

Description: This is a print of a speech given by Herbert Hoover in 1936 at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. He is trying to persuade Rep. party members to vote against FDR, by describing to them the pitfalls of his "New Deal!"

102. Herbert Hoover on the New Deal and Liberty (1936)

Source: Official Report of the Proceedings of the Twenty-First Republican National Convention-Held in Cleveland, Ohio (New York, 1936), pp. 115-19, 122-24. Courtesy of the Republican National Committee.

Even as Roosevelt invoked the word to uphold the New Deal, "liberty" — in the sense of freedom from powerful government — became the fighting slogan of his opponents. Their principal critique of the New Deal was that its "reckless spending" undermined fiscal responsibility and its new government regulations restricted American freedom. When conservative businessmen and politicians in 1934 formed an organization to mobilize opposition to Roosevelt's policies, they called it the American Liberty League.

As the 1930s progressed, opponents of the New Deal invoked the language of liberty with greater and greater passion. Freedom, they claimed, meant unrestrained economic opportunity for the enterprising individual. Far from being an element of liberty, the quest for economic security was turning Americans into parasites dependent on the state. In a speech ^{how} at the Republican National Convention of 1936, former president Hoover accused his successor of endangering "fundamental American liberties." Roosevelt, he charged, either was operating out of sheer opportunism, with no coherent purpose or policy, or was conspiring to impose "European ideas" on the United States. The election, he continued, in strident language that reflected how wide the gap between the parties had become, was a "holy crusade for liberty" that would determine the

IN THIS ROOM rests the greatest responsibility that has come to a body of Americans in three generations. In the lesser sense this is a convention of a great political party. But in the larger sense it is a convention of Americans to determine the fate of those ideals for which this nation was founded. That far transcends all partisanship. There are elemental currents which make or break the fate of nations. There is a moral purpose in the universe. Those forces which affect the vitality and the soul of a people will control its destinies. The sum of years of public service in these currents is the overwhelming conviction of their transcendent importance over the more transitory, even though difficult, issues of national life.

I have given about four years to research into the New Deal, trying to determine what its ultimate objectives were, what sort of a system it is imposing on this country.

To some people it appears to be a strange interlude in American history in that it has no philosophy, that it is sheer opportunism, that it is a muddle of a spoils system, of emotional economics, of reckless adventure, of unctuous claims to a monopoly of human sympathy, of greed for power, of a desire for popular acclaim and an aspiration to make the front pages of the newspapers. That is the most charitable view.

To other people it appears to be a cold-blooded attempt by starry-eyed boys to infect the American people by a mixture of European ideas, flavored with our native predilection to get something for nothing.

You can choose either one you like best. But the first is the road of chaos which leads to the second. Both of these roads lead over the same grim precipice that is the crippling and possibly the destruction of the freedom of men.

1. We have seen these gigantic expenditures and this torrent of waste pile up a national debt which two generations cannot repay. One time I told a Democratic Congress that "you cannot spend yourselves into prosperity." You recall that advice did not take then. It

hasn't taken yet. Billions have been spent to prime the economic pump. It did employ a horde of paid officials upon the pump handle. We have seen the frantic attempts to find new taxes on the rich. Yet three-quarters of the bill will be sent to the average man and the poor. He and his wife and his grandchildren will be giving a quarter of all their working days to pay taxes. Freedom to work for himself is changed into a slavery of work for the follies of government.

2. We have seen an explosive inflation of bank credits by this government borrowing. We have seen varied steps toward currency inflation that have already enriched the speculator and deprived the poor. If this is to continue the end result is the tears and anguish of universal bankruptcy and distress. No democracy in history has survived its final stages.

We have seen the building up of a horde of political officials, we have seen the pressures upon the helpless and destitute to trade political support for relief. Both are a pollution of the very fountains of liberty ^{res-bach}.

3. We have seen the most elemental violation of economic law and experience. The New Deal forgets it is solely by production of more goods and more varieties of goods and services that we advance the living and security of men. If we constantly decrease costs and prices and keep up earnings the production of plenty will be more and more widely distributed. These laws may be restitched in new phrases so that they are the very shoes of human progress. We had so triumphed in this long climb of mankind toward plenty that we had reached Mount Pisgah where we looked over the promised land of abolished poverty. Then men began to quarrel over the division of the goods. The depression produced by war destruction temporarily checked our march toward the promised land.

Great calamities have come to the whole world. These forces have reached into every calling and every cottage. They have brought

tragedy and suffering to millions of firesides. I have great sympathy for those who honestly reach for short cuts to the immensity of our problems. While design of the structure of betterment for the common man must be inspired by the human heart, it can only be achieved by the intellect. It can only be builded by using the mould of justice, by laying brick upon brick from the materials of scientific research; by the painstaking sifting of truth from the collection of fact and experience. Any other mould is distorted; any other bricks are without straw; any other foundations are sand. That great structure of human progress can be built only by free men and women.

The gravest task which confronts the party is to regenerate these freedoms.

...

Fundamental American liberties are at stake. Is the Republican party ready for the issue? Are you willing to cast your all upon the issue, or would you falter and look back? Will you, for expediency's sake, also offer will-o'-the-wisps which beguile the people? Or have you determined to enter in a holy crusade for liberty which shall determine the future and the perpetuity for a nation of free men? That star shell fired today over the no man's land of world despair would illuminate the world with hope.

Questions

1. Why does Hoover believe that the future of freedom is at stake in the election of 1936?
2. How does Hoover's definition of freedom differ from Roosevelt's?

Vt. War Museum
1995

Reialyn Baxandall?

Reialyn Baxandall + Lindsay
Guthrie, American working women

The Depression
1600 to the Present

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FAMILY LIFE

Unemployment and the Depression deeply affected family relations. Some men, like Mr. Raparka in the excerpt below, found that their loss of breadwinner status undermined their accustomed position of power and authority in the home. Women, often forced to work harder than ever to keep their homes together, sometimes became more resistant to male domination and sought to renegotiate family relationships on a more egalitarian basis. Depression experiences demonstrated the extent to which women's subordination in families often arises from men's control of money.

The impact of unemployment did not destroy the Raparka family, but the adjustments made necessary did lead to a complete reorganization of the structure of family relationships. When Mr. Raparka lost his job in the fall of 1933 he dominated the family. Two years later it was Mrs. Raparka who was the center of authority.

Mr. Raparka as the chief breadwinner dominated this situation. His rule was stern and strict. He was not above putting down any dissension from his decisions, either on the part of the children or his wife, by force. On one occasion ten years previously his wife had left him for five days when he knocked her downstairs during an argument. The children received frequent whippings which only he was permitted to administer. All requests for money were made to him. He never told his wife how much he earned or how much he saved. She knew only that on payday she would receive her weekly allowance for household expenses, that he gave her and the children money for clothes and extras when he agreed that their requests were reasonable.

Apparently the evenings at home involved a mutual sharing of individual activities and interests. All members were regular at religious services and church activities. The weekly family party at the movies was the chief form

THE DEPRESSION

of recreation. All were interested and nearly equally concerned about the welfare of the baby and shared a pride in every sign of his development. Polish as spoken in the home, and even when acquaintances were present the shame at the parents' language handicap, so frequent in the children of immigrants, did not appear on the surface. The children spoke freely to their parents in Polish. The division of labor within the home provided for a sharing of duties between mother and daughter only, but father and sons were proud of the immaculate and well-kept home and contributed occasionally small items of home decoration from their earnings.

How thoroughly this institutional structure depended on the father continuing his function as the chief breadwinner, however, became evident within two weeks after he lost his job. Earnings of \$15 a week had provided no margin of safety, no savings. At least the plane of living had been supported in a hand-to-mouth fashion. The unemployment coincided with the need for new clothes for school. The food for the babies could not wait a change from fresh to canned milk resulted in pneumonia which drained the whole family. Mrs. Raparka's pain in the back, present since the birth of the child, suddenly became worse. Her husband, with no money to pay for a doctor, refused to call one either for the mother or child for two weeks. This decision was attacked by the whole family. Finally, he contacted a friend of a friend who had a doctor. She discovered the heart where the aunt, having uttered an accidental remark for the money she had loaned her own expenses. He cashed her insurance policy to pay the money she owed for telling his wife. He had exhausted all available resources and was by now in a state of utter despair. His wife, who had been working in a garment factory, was rapidly developed into a nervous illness.

At this point Mrs. Raparka took the initiative. She went to the Catholic Social Service Bureau and asked for help. She received medical attention from her husband and milk for the baby. It is to this incident that the shift in family organization began. When Mr. Raparka requested help from an acquaintance he was furious at his move. He vehemently told his wife that he had nothing to do and she argued that he was the Department of Social Service. When the Catholic Society had suggested that she should be admitted to the public aid a deputy search for work and finished a two week job hunt thoroughly beaten down. The change wrought in him by this experience is evidenced by the fact that for the first time in his life, he volunteered to help his wife with scrubbing the floors and doing the washing (through he still refused to hang out clothes, an already activity he would be seen). The voice of our woman who argued what finer what he was engaged in domestic duties (washing his dishes, ironing) at this change in status. The notes also indicate that the wife was gaining a new position of authority in her supervision of her husband's efforts. On several occasions she insisted he do over again for her but she did not do so well. His response to her

And it's heritage

And

1920-1940

request made in the presence of the visitor was to grab his coat from the hook and flee from the house, slamming the door behind him. At this juncture Mrs. Raparka would remark, "He'll be back. He'll be back for work. But then why not find? He no look. He can help here." Then she would go into a long criticism of her husband. She could not understand why he couldn't find work, he always had before. He must be getting lazy. Maybe if she made him work at home he would find a job in self-defense.

Ignorance
of the
importance
of
the
job

We do not know the course this readjustment would have taken had it not been for two facts. The first was that Mrs. Raparka decided to look for a job herself. After a futile search of ten days, she learned that jobs cannot be had for the asking. The stores her husband told of "No Help Wanted" signs, company police who wouldn't even let one apply, blunt refusals, and vague promises were true. She declared she was filled with shame at making her husband work at home.

At about the same time Mr. Raparka got a job on C.W.A. (Civilian Works Administration), and later under F.E.R.A. (Federal Emergency Relief Administration), for the same wages he had formerly received as a molder's helper—\$15 a week. Once more the normal pattern of family affairs was on the way to being reestablished. It was noticed, however, that children and wife did not recognize his authority with the same passive submission as before. Possibly an adolescent assertion of independence was overdue. In any case the two older children argued frequently with their father when his decisions crossed their own desires. Mrs. Raparka also insisted that he turn over his work relief wages to her in full. This he refused to do, but his refusal had to be repeatedly made. Nor did he close the issue once and for all as he would have done a year before. He was less belligerent in the enforcement of his authority, and the renewal of the former pattern of relationships appears to have been the result of restored habits rather than of any dogmatic assertion of his own position as head of the family. This situation continued until the fall of 1934. The elder son, now graduated from trade school, obtained work as a mechanic and was soon earning \$25 a week. The importance of this change lies in two facts. In the first place, since the F.E.R.A. wages were based on a budgetary deficiency estimate, added family resources of \$25 a week automatically cut Mr. Raparka off work relief. Once more he became "unemployed," and a noncontributor to the support of the family.

His status, dependent on his economic contribution, was once more under attack. In the second place, the earnings of the children in foreign-American families are customarily handed over to the mother. The son followed this procedure. Mrs. Raparka now had in her possession \$10 a week more than the family resources had amounted to for some time, and she controlled the purse strings. It was her husband's turn now to ask her for money for his personal needs. She did not give him an allowance. Each request was judged on its own merits. She now decided how much would go for current

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THE DEPRESSION

expenses and how much would go to pay back bills, what clothes she and the children would leave, whether the dentist would be consulted, and whether the daughter could go to the high-school ball. To this shift in roles the husband could offer no objection outside of sulken resentment, since his privilege in the control of expenditures depended on his provision of the income. He was not even called on to share in such decisions. The mother and the older son talked over the matter and shared that responsibility. When the daughter graduated from high school two years later and began earning, she also was taken into the family councils. When the younger son finished the eighth grade, the mother and older son disagreed as to whether he should go to trade school or to Hillhouse [college preparatory high school]. The son, in true paternal fashion, insisted that his younger brother should have the opportunity he had missed. But the mother eventually carried the day, by the use of identical arguments the father had used to send the elder son to trade school.

The consolidation of the mother's position was aided for a four-month period during which the father took a job on a farm as laborer for \$20 a month and his keep. This occurred in the summer of 1935. With him absent from home, the organization of family life around the mother's authority proceeded without interruption even from Mr. Raparka's sulken dissent. When he returned to the family circle it was as a beneficiary not as a partner. One day while our visitor was present he went out saying he thought he could commit suicide. Mrs. Raparka remarked, "He won't, you know. But if he did, maybe I could get widow's aid and my boy, he could get married."

In the summer of 1938, Mr. Raparka asked for money to go to New York in search of a job. He has not been heard of since. But his departure caused little change in the routine or structure of family life. He long since had ceased to be an integral part of the major business of family activities.

Just a shift in a change of responsibility

Description: This is an account of one immigrant family in the 1930's, it describes the shift in family dynamic after the father lost his job due to the depression. It was written by Reilyn Barandali in 1995, in order to increase understanding of the impacts of the G.D. on the average working-class family.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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COLLECTION

After the Day of Infamy: "Man-on-the-Street" Interviews Following the Attack on Pearl Harbor

About this Collection Collection Items Articles and Essays

Featured Content

Mr. Alan Lomax
 Executive Director
 Radio Division
 Library of Congress
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Alan:

I hope sometime that the two disks I slipped you by air express Monday night reached you safely and quickly.

Ever since then I have been working against the extraordinary restrictions which this terrible business has in our country imposed on us as a nation. You know my profound admiration for having obtained the two and having returned to me an original copy of the original copy - in my opinion, the most of a field which has not before been touched by the radio, and a field of enormous importance to our country. It indicates their consciousness of themselves as Americans, and it indicates their willingness to discuss the situation which the common people of the nation are feeling and thinking, the situation of others than governmental leaders, public magistrates, and so on.


By this time of the week I am so certain of its continued usefulness that I must have had to have a continuous and developing part in it. Surely it is being continued, isn't it? And we must have!

Whatever the facts, potential or actual, I want to talk with you about it. I had some to discuss with you after December 10th for that purpose.

My two disks have to be set by the first of the year, and I don't want to miss any. But by far the most important and important possibility is with the recording method which you and I tried last Monday. Even if the returns from other collectors were not made, I am certain that the two disks I put in your hands would prove that we must go on with a widespread and important project of this sort for the duration of the war. I have said this before.




Letter from Fletcher Collins to Alan Lomax, Page 1, December 11,...



AUDIO

"Man-on-the-Street," Bloomington, Indiana, December 10, 1941



AUDIO

"Man-on-the-Street," Texas, December 9, 1941



About this Collection

what/how

After the Day of Infamy: "Man-on-the-Street" Interviews Following the Attack on Pearl Harbor presents approximately twelve hours of opinions recorded in the days and months following the bombing of Pearl Harbor from more than two hundred individuals in cities and towns across the United States. On December 8, 1941 (the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor), Alan Lomax, then "assistant

when

in charge" of the Archive of American Folk Song (now the American Folklife Center archive), sent a telegram to fieldworkers in ten different localities across the United States, asking them to collect "man-on-the-street" reactions of ordinary Americans to the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the subsequent declaration of war by the United States. A second series of interviews, called "Dear Mr. President," was recorded in January and February 1942. Both collections are included in this *when* presentation. They feature a wide diversity of opinion concerning the war and other social and political issues of the day, such as racial prejudice and labor disputes. The result is a portrait of everyday life in America as the United States entered World War II.

The 1941 recordings were made as a part of the the Library of Congress' Radio Research Project. A portion of this project aimed to create documentary recordings of Americans from around the country who described their lives, sang their songs, and told the stories of their own regions. The project's staff believed that most commercial radio broadcasts of the day were dominated by programs created in the great urban centers and that these programs failed to reflect regional culture, local talent, and, in particular, the voices of the people speaking in their own words. Alan Lomax was serving as folklore consultant for the project when he sent the December 8, 1941 telegram, asking fieldworkers to collect "man-on-the-street" reactions. This request resulted in approximately four and one half hours of recordings that were used to create a fifteen-minute radio program for the Mutual Broadcasting System.

why they did it



Pete Seeger playing banjo, 1948. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, New York World Telegram and Sun Newspaper Collection. Photograph by Mel Kirkwood. Reproduction Number LC-USZ62-124417.

A second set of recordings, in which the interviewees were asked to address their thoughts and opinions on the attack and the declaration of war directly to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was made under the auspices of the Office of Emergency Management in January and February 1942. These recordings total approximately seven and one half hours and were also used to create a radio program, entitled "Dear Mr. President," which was broadcast in May 1942. Pete Seeger and Huddie Ledbetter (Leadbelly) recorded original songs for the "Dear Mr. President" interviews. Included in this presentation are Pete Seeger's "Dear Mr. President" and "The Martins and Coys."

In most cases, the recordings were digitized by Library of Congress staff directly from the discs on which they were originally recorded. The only editing redacted interviewee names from several recordings and removed Leadbelly's two songs for which permissions have not yet been received. Otherwise, the recordings are presented as they were originally recorded.

This online presentation includes one essay: "Making and Maintaining the Original Recordings." Also

included are biographies of the fieldworkers who conducted and arranged the interviews, complete transcripts of the interviews, related manuscripts, and original disc sleeves.

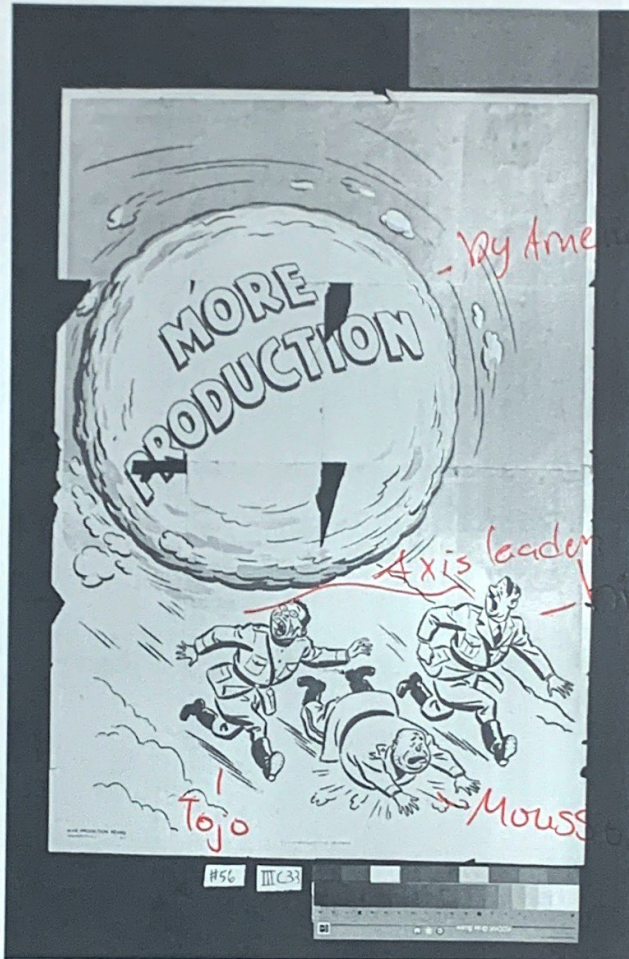
This online presentation also includes a set of interviews conducted in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. During the course of these interviews, Library interviewers advised some interviewees that the interviews would not be broadcast. Presumably, the agreement to safeguard the identity of these persons was intentional, as some of the interviewees worked for the Federal government and/or otherwise required anonymity in order to participate. For this reason, the Library has edited the Washington, D.C., audiotapes and transcripts to remove interviewee names.

allows for more honesty

This presentation was made possible with the generous support of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the New Deal Network.



"snowball effect" will crush Axis powers



- by America, presumably

Axis leader Hitler

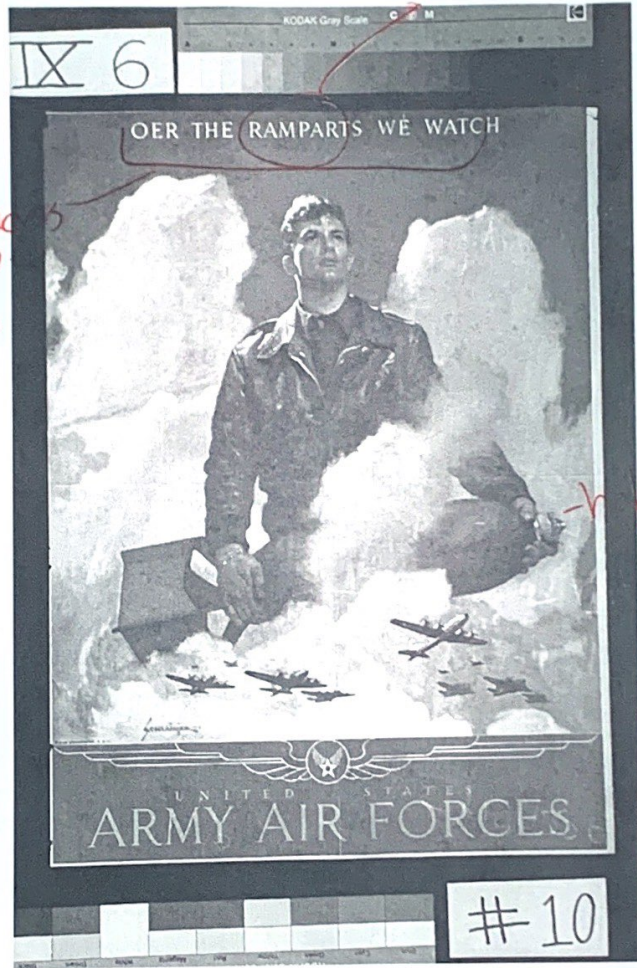
Tojo

Mussolini

Description:

This is a political cartoon produced by the War Production Board in 1942 that shows the power the U.S. has over Axis leaders because of its great production. It was used as propaganda to demonstrate the power of the U.S. & to encourage support of production.

Description: This poster is a propoganda piece, used to push support of the Air Force (& military in general); it displays an airman as a powerful, commanding figure who watches over the country & defends it. It was created in 1945 by artist Jes Schlaikjer.



wall around acity (defense)

dramatic

defends of the country

in sky above others
dreamy/god-like (in the clouds)

holding bomb/missile

very persuasive in nature

#10

family at home

#31

OURS...to fight for



FREEDOM FROM WANT

III E 9

Promoting excess of food

when war is over, no more rationing

smiling, happy

not against each other - leaning in

Description:

This poster was a hopeful propoganda: showing that by ending the war, people would not be in want of food anymore; it depicts a happy family feasting together. It was created by Norman Rockwell in 1943 & distributed by the Office of War Information.