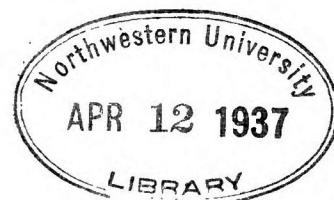


THE WORKS PROGRAM

--Works Progress Administration--



For release on delivery, Friday April 16, scheduled
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The following address was delivered by Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant
Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, at 2:15 p. m. Friday,
April 16, broadcasting from Station WRC in Washington, D. C.:

"PATRIOTISM, 1937 MODEL"

The challenge of all good citizenship today is to know conditions
as they really are. In the old days these were comparatively simple. For ex-
ample, taxation without representation was a plain understandable fact -- every-
one knew that the crown exacted tribute from the people -- life itself was
simple in almost all of its phases. The relations between people in those days
were relatively easy for almost every citizen to understand.

But today things are complex. Legislation for the masses hinges on
such complicated questions as collective bargaining and interstate commerce;
and none of these can be defined in simple terms or language. It is a hard job
for the average American citizen to keep up with the multiplicity of events
which are taking place and it is still more difficult for him to secure the
essential facts about these events and to analyze and digest them.

If we are to survive as a nation which is representative of all the
people, it is important that we strive to do these things.

We are faced with issues today which are far-reaching in their effect.
Issues which cannot and should not be determined by a few, but by a majority of

well-informed people. But, well-informed people are those who, for themselves, and as evidence of good citizenship, find out what is actually happening. Judgment should be based on facts, not propaganda.

It is clear to us that there are three routes our nation may elect to travel. Two of these involve loss of personal liberty and such a high degree of regimentation or dictatorship that no true patriot could but deplore them.

There is, however, a middle road that can be worked out by an intelligent and informed democracy. That middle ground is one which preserves in the greatest degree the tradition and heritage for which the D.A.R. stands. It is the one on which our country was founded and developed. And it is the one on which we can hope to build a safe and secure nation of the future.

Such a road takes us through a country where an industrious people work at their own skills -- earn their living, do not accept a dole -- where happy well-fed and decently-clad children go to school -- where playgrounds take the place of reformatories -- where mothers are secure -- and the old are unafraid. In such a nation the youth have opportunity for education, training in skilled occupations and a chance to think. In such a nation art and music and good books are important.

Such a nation as we envisage is not possible, however, unless the people of the country study the conditions under which we are living and then do something about them. It is not enough to hear the statement made that one-third of our nation is ill-clad, ill-fed and ill-housed. We must determine for ourselves whether this is true or not. It is not enough to listen to someone say that forty-five million people are without library facilities -- we must find out whether this is true or not. It is not enough to read that one million

children go to school hungry every day -- we must know the facts. We are not to accept statements that there is no longer unemployment because business is picking up unless we know that this is true. We must deny the statement that men and women can get jobs unless we know it to be a fact. The challenge of all good citizenship is to know conditions as they are.

But we must not be afraid to face the facts once we know what they really are, and facing facts means doing something about them.

This, our government is trying to do. It is an enormous and intricate task. It needs all the understanding, all the sympathy and all the intelligence of all the people -- However, there is evidence to prove that these things are being called into action.

It is amazing that over the whole nation there has not only developed but has become vocal the idea that poverty, idleness and ignorance are not conducive to the development of the right kind of men and women. Communities have suddenly become alert to the fact that their standards depend not on the condition of a few, but on the manner in which the total population lives. They are realizing that one diseased person may affect thousands and that the ignorance of any becomes the ignorance of all.

The phenomenal factor in this present day situation is that communities are not only recognizing conditions but are assuming responsibility for them. Every day from all parts of the nation proposals for projects pour into the Works Progress Administration headquarters seeking those things which will alleviate undesirable conditions; projects which propose to build roads and schools and libraries; to clothe and feed the unemployable; to carry books and learning into remote areas; to establish clinics and public health service

throughout the nation and hundreds of other different kinds of services. The eagerness with which such activities are being sought and carried on by local communities is in itself an astounding fact.

All this can be indicative of only one thing, that people are studying conditions in their own communities, forming their own judgments as to the facts, and deciding on how they want to remedy them. How effective this has been may be judged by the work which has been accomplished. Over three million people have been given work at their own skills -- over one hundred and twenty five thousand miles of roads have been built or repaired -- approximately sixteen thousand public buildings have been built or repaired -- seventeen million books rebound or repaired for twelve thousand five hundred public schools -- books have been made available to over two million persons who did not before have access to libraries -- one and one-half million visits were made by House-keeping Aides to homes of needy families where necessary household services were performed, and over one million children were served hot lunches in school -- medical, dental or nursing service was rendered to vast numbers of needy persons through ten million visits. An aggregate attendance of fifty-seven million people have listened to W.P.A. music and over sixteen million have attended the W.P.A. theatres. In January over two million people enrolled in Educational classes and forty-two thousand Recreational leaders served other millions of people.

These are facts. This is what has been done -- it is then for you to determine whether the next generation will be safer if we feed undernourished children in our public schools. It is for you to decide whether public parks and playgrounds guarantee better citizens. It is your choice whether art and books and music and education lead to a secure nation. You will be the one to

judge whether the restoration of historic buildings and the preservation of historic records will conserve the rich heritage of America and make more vital the lives of people who profit by these things. You can say whether the foreign-born residing in our land are better citizens because they can read and write the English language and because they know the elements of citizenship. .

These are the decisions which you and you only can make -- you can determine what the actual facts are and base your opinions of them. One thing we all know -- this is the road along which we must travel if we want to make sure "it can't happen here".
