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I can not too strongly urge upon the Congress the clear necessity for immediate action. A continuation of the strangulation of banking facilities is unthinkable. The passage of the proposed legislation will end this condition and I trust within a short space of time will result in a resumption of business activities.

In addition, it is my belief that this legislation will not only lift immediately all unwarranted doubts and suspicions in regards to banks which are 100 per cent sound, but will also mark the beginning of a new relationship between the banks and the people of this country.

The Members of the new Congress will realize, I am confident, the grave responsibility which lies upon me and upon them.

In the short space of five days it is impossible for us to formulate completed measures to prevent the recurrence of the evils of the past. This does not and should not, however, justify any delay in accomplishing this first step.

At an early moment I shall request of the Congress two other measures which I regard as of immediate urgency. With action taken thereon we can proceed to the consideration of a rounded program of national restoration.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 9, 1933.



PROMPT ACTION RESPECTING FINANCES, ETC.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A REQUEST FOR PROMPT ACTION BY CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO FINANCES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE PRESIDENT BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE THE ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

MARCH 10, 1933.—Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The Nation is deeply gratified by the immediate response given yesterday by the Congress to the necessity for drastic action to restore and improve our banking system. A like necessity exists with respect to the finances of the Government itself which requires equally courageous, frank, and prompt action.

For three long years the Federal Government has been on the road toward bankruptcy.

For the fiscal year 1931 the deficit was \$462,000,000.

For the fiscal year 1932 it was \$2,472,000,000.

For the fiscal year 1933 it will probably exceed \$1,200,000,000.

For the fiscal year 1934, based on the appropriation bills passed by the last Congress and the estimated revenues, the deficit will probably exceed \$1,000,000,000 unless immediate action is taken.

Thus we shall have piled up an accumulated deficit of \$5,000,000,000.

With the utmost seriousness I point out to the Congress the profound effect of this fact upon our national economy. It has contributed to the recent collapse of our banking structure. It has accentuated the stagnation of the economic life of our people. It has added to the ranks of the unemployed. Our Government's house is not in order and for many reasons no effective action has been taken to restore it to order.

Upon the unimpaired credit of the United States Government rest the safety of deposits, the security of insurance policies, the activity of industrial enterprises, the value of our agricultural products and the availability of employment. The credit of the United States Government definitely affects these fundamental human values. It, therefore, becomes our first concern to make secure the foundation. National recovery depends upon it.

Too often in recent history liberal governments have been wrecked on rocks of loose fiscal policy. We must avoid this danger.

It is too late for the leisurely approach to this problem. We must not wait to act several months hence. The emergency is accentuated by the necessity of meeting great refunding operations this spring.

We must move with a direct and resolute purpose now. The Members of the Congress and I are pledged to immediate economy.

I am, therefore, assuming that you and I are in complete agreement as to the urgent necessity, and my constitutional duty is to advise you as to the methods for obtaining drastic retrenchment at this time.

I am not speaking to you in general terms. I am pointing out a definite road.

The last Congress enacted legislation relating to the reorganization and elimination of executive agencies, but the economies thus to be effected are small when viewed in the light of the great deficit for the next fiscal year. They will not meet the pressing needs of our credit situation. Provision for additional saving is essential, and therefore I am asking the Congress to-day for new legislation laying down broad principles for the granting of pensions and other veteran benefits and giving to the Executive the authority to prescribe the administrative details. We are unanimous in upholding the duty of the Government to care for those who suffer in its defense and for their widows and orphans. The application, however, of this great principle to large numbers of people involves complications—so great that it is almost impossible to draw legislation with sufficient flexibility to provide substantial justice in varying situations. The proposed legislation states the principles and, limited to them, permits the Executive to draw the lines of differentiation necessary to justice.

In accord with the same purpose of substantial justice I request also the enactment of legislation relating to the salaries of civil and military employees of the Government. This would repeal the existing furlough plan, substituting therefor a general principle and authorizing the Executive to make application of this principle. The proper legislative function is to fix the amount of expenditure, the means by which it is to be raised, and the general principles under which the expenditures are to be made. The details of expenditure particularly in view of the great present emergency can be more wisely and equitably administered through the Executive. The flexibility of the measures which I am proposing is not only practical, but proceeds along the road of constitutional government.

Such economies which can be made will, it is true, affect some of our citizens; but the failure to make them will affect all of our citizens. The very stability of our Government itself is concerned and when that is concerned the benefits of some must be subordinated to the needs of all.

When a great danger threatens our basic security it is my duty to advise the Congress of the way to preserve it. In so doing I must be fair not only to the few but to the many. It is in this spirit that I appeal to you. If the Congress chooses to vest me with this responsibility it will be exercised in a spirit of justice to all, of sympathy to those who are in need and of maintaining inviolate the basic welfare of the United States.

I ask that this legislation go into effect at once without even waiting for the beginning of the next fiscal year. I give you assurance that if this is done there is reasonable prospect that within a year the income of the Government will be sufficient to cover the expenditures of the Government.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 10, 1933.*

