

NATION: FDR's First 100 Days

New Deal's First 100 Days: Hope Replaces Fear

Washington, D.C., June 1933

President **Franklin Delano Roosevelt [FDR]** is bringing hope to the U.S. Americans believe him when he says he will pull the country out of the Depression.

When FDR became president, he said, "**The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.**" He told Americans to set aside their fear of the Depression. He said he would divide his action into three steps—relief, recovery, and reform.

Congress agrees with FDR. In the first **100 days** of his presidency, Congress passed 15 relief, recovery, and reform laws.

The new laws give FDR special powers to act quickly. The Constitution says Congress must write the laws. But this process takes a long time.

To end the Depression quickly, Congress gave FDR the power to act without them.

FDR's plan of action is being called the **New Deal** [giving poor

Americans the chance to start over again].

More on:

■ **The New Deal**, p. 24 and 25.



21st Amendment Ends Prohibition

Congress, Washington, D.C., December 1933

The **21st Amendment** to the Constitution is now law. Once again, Americans can make, sell, and drink alcohol. The 21st Amendment is the first amendment to repeal [take back] another amendment (the 18th—Prohibition).

FDR's Good Neighbor Policy: A Hand of Friendship to Latin America

Buenos Aires, Argentina
December 1936

The meeting between the U.S. and Latin American countries has ended—in friendship. Like good neighbors, these countries will help each other keep Europe out of the Western Hemisphere.

President Roosevelt [FDR] opened the meeting of Latin American countries. He came in person to show how much the U.S. wants to be their good neighbor.

The U.S. is the strongest country in the Western Hemisphere. Its Army and Navy have kept Europe out. But FDR wants Latin American countries to think of the U.S. as a friend, not as a policeman.

The Good Neighbor Policy—What It Does

To carry out the **Good Neighbor Policy**, the U.S. has:

- Signed a treaty—promising to leave Latin American countries alone.
- Pulled out of Caribbean countries—Cuba, Haiti, and Panama.
- Passed a Trade Agreements Act—giving low tariff rates to Latin American countries.
- Started loaning money to Latin American countries—for building roads, schools, and hospitals.



NATION: FDR and the New Deal

FDR's Alphabet Soup of Relief, Recovery, Reform

White House,
Washington, D.C., 1938

A 4R plan is making the U.S. well again. Hoover kicked off the first R at the start of the Depression.

Hoover's plan:

Reconstruction Finance Corporation—The

government loans money to business.

Roosevelt adds three more Rs.

Roosevelt's plan:

R Relief, Step 1—The government gives poor people money and jobs.

R Recovery, Step 2—The government gets business and farming started again.

R Reform, Step 3—The government passes laws to keep a Depression from happening again.



Below and at right: A look at the R,R, and R laws, 1933-1938.

- Relief laws
- Recovery laws
- Reform laws

1933 **1933**

*MEMO —
Jobs for people
Set up CCC!
• plant trees
• build roads
From:
Government*

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS [CCC]
WHAT: The government makes jobs for young people.
WHY: To give them something to do and a chance to earn money.
HOW: Puts men aged 18 to 25 on conservation projects —building roads; planting trees.
■ Gives them food and housing.
■ Pays them \$30 a month and makes them send \$25 a month home.

*MEMO —
To:
Banks
Rules for banks
From:
Government*

NATIONAL BANK HOLIDAY
WHAT: The government set rules for banks.
HOW: Closed all banks. Banks could open again when they met government rules.
RESULT: People put money back in banks because the government said the banks were safe.

1933 **1933**

*MEMO —
To:
Businesses
Help each other
From:
Government*

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY ACT [NIRA]
WHAT: The government makes businesses cooperate with each other.
WHY: To help businesses make money and grow.
HOW: By getting businesses to agree:
■ Not to cut prices on goods.
■ Not to make more goods than they can sell.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY [TVA]
WHAT: The government goes into the land development business.
WHY: To make unusable land usable. (The Tennessee River had flooded land in seven states. The floods had washed away the good soil. Farms were poor and people were poor.)
HOW:
■ Built dams for flood control.
■ Planted trees to hold down soil.
■ Made fertilizer to help the land.
■ Built electrical power plants. Cheap electricity brought in factories. Factories gave people jobs.

*MEMO —
To:
Land Developers
Use wasteland
From:
Government*

1935 **1935**

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT [SSA]
WHAT: The government goes into the pension business.
WHY: To put aside money for people who no longer can earn money for themselves.
HOW: Social Security takes some money from everyone's paycheck. The money is used:
■ To pay monthly pensions for old people who are retired [no longer work].
■ To pay monthly pensions for the handicapped.
■ To pay unemployment benefits for people laid off from jobs.

*MEMO —
Set up Social Security
From:
Government*

WAGNER ACT
WHAT: The government protects labor unions and workers.
HOW: ■ Says workers can form labor unions.
■ Says business cannot fire anyone for belonging to a union.
■ Lets unions bargain collectively. [The union, not separate workers, work for more money and shorter hours for all the union's members.]

*MEMO —
To:
Labor Unions and Workers
Unite!
From:
Gov't*

NATION: FDR and the New Deal



FDR: President #32

TIMELINE: Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR)

BORN: January 30, 1882, Hyde Park, New York.

OFFICES HELD: New York state senator; assistant secretary of the Navy during World War I; New York state governor; U.S. president.

FIRST: Roosevelt was the first U.S. president:

- To be crippled. In 1921, polio made his legs useless.

- To use a "brain trust" as well as a cabinet as advisers. The first brain trust

was a group of experts: five university teachers, one judge, and one lawyer. Roosevelt asked them to help plan ways to end the Depression. He called on many brain trusts for advice during his presidency.

- To keep Americans informed by radio. Roosevelt had his first radio show, called a "Fireside Chat," on March 12, 1933. He explained his plan to make banks strong again. After this talk, he had weekly Fireside Chats.

- To win four terms as president.

1933

MEMO —

To: Farmers

Slow down food production.

From: Government

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT [AAA]

WHAT: The government slowed down food production.

WHY: To make food harder to get so farm prices would go up.

HOW:

- Paid farmers not to grow crops such as corn and cotton.
- Paid farmers to destroy crops in the field and some animals, such as pigs.

RESULT:

- Unpopular law. Food was destroyed while people were hungry.
- Farm prices went up.
- Supreme Court said the law was unconstitutional because Congress could not tell farmers how much food to raise.

1933

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION [FDIC]

WHAT: The government insures bank deposits [gives people their savings back if the bank closes].

WHY: To keep people from losing all their savings if their banks fail.

MEMO —

To: Banks

Insure deposits

From: Government

1934

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION [WPA]

WHAT: The government makes jobs for people.

WHY:

- To let people earn money by working, not by taking handouts.
- To make the U.S. a better place to live.

HOW: By starting:

- Building projects—schools, sewage plants, roads.
- Entertainment projects—paying people to write plays, books, and music; to paint pictures.

MEMO —

Jobs for people

Set up WPA!

From: Government

1937

SUPREME COURT REFORM

WHAT: FDR wants the Supreme Court to OK his New Deal laws.

HOW: FDR tries to name six extra judges to the Supreme Court—one new judge for every judge over 70 years old.

WHY: The judges already in the Supreme Court did not back New Deal laws. They had said seven New Deal laws were unconstitutional. FDR said the Supreme Court was keeping the U.S. from getting back on its feet after the Depression.

RESULT: Congress said "no" to FDR's plan. But, after this, the Supreme Court judges let New Deal laws stand.

1938

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT [FLSA]

WHAT: The government sets rules for workers in business.

WHY: To protect workers.

HOW:

- Set the first minimum wage at 25 cents an hour.
- Set the workweek at 44 hours.
- Said no goods made by children under 16 could be shipped between states.

MEMO —

To: Businesses

Rules for business

From: Gov't

NATION: The First Lady

Thumbs Down on New Deal

Washington, D.C., 1938

Roosevelt may be in trouble. Many Americans say they do not trust the New Deal anymore. New Deal programs cost too much money. The **national debt** [money the government owes] is rising.

The money is coming from the government. But the government has to get its money from the people. And the government is spending more money than it takes in from the people.

The government gets money for New Deal relief, reform, and recovery in three ways:

\$ Inflation. The government made money worth less. \$1.00 might now be worth 90 cents.

\$ Deficit spending. The government spends more than it takes in in taxes. The government spends money it doesn't have [like buying on credit]. The government now has a deficit of [owes] \$40 billion.

\$ Taxes. Corporations are taxed at a higher rate. Inheritances and gifts are now taxed.

CIO Parts From AF of L— Unskilled Workers Get New Union

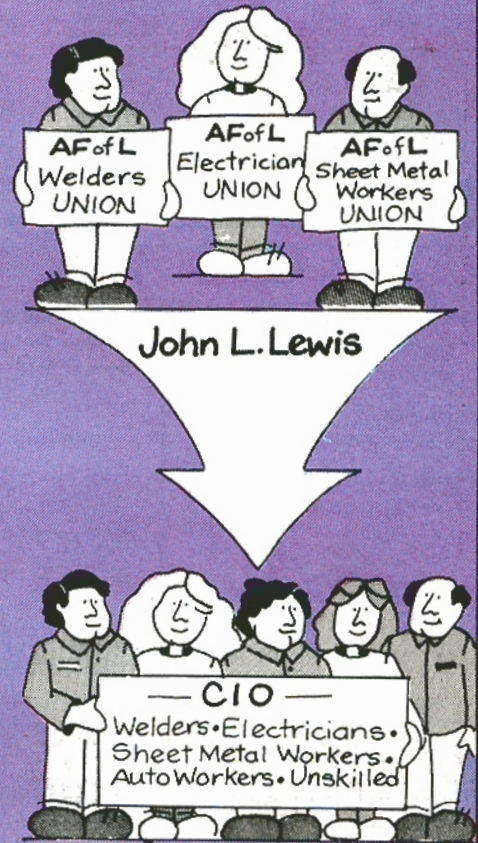
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 1938

Unskilled workers now have a union. The **Congress of Industrial Organizations [CIO]** labor union has left the American Federation of Labor [AF of L] union. In just three years, the CIO has grown from nothing to a strong union. New Deal laws, like the Wagner Act, helped the CIO grow fast.

The CIO grew out of an idea from **John L. Lewis**. In 1935, he headed the United Mine Workers, a union of workers in the mining industry.

Lewis wanted workers in other industries to have a union, too. For example, he wanted auto workers to belong to an auto workers' union. So he started reorganizing workers in the AF of L into these industry unions. As they grew, these unions called themselves CIO unions.

The AF of L said only skilled workers should belong to unions. The CIO said unskilled workers should belong to unions, too. The AF of L fought Lewis and the CIO. But the CIO has won the fight. The CIO is now bigger and stronger than the AF of L.



Eleanor Roosevelt: Shocking to Some, Savior to Many

Washington, D.C., 1938

First lady **Eleanor Roosevelt** is shocking some Americans. Other presidents' wives have stayed in the White House, giving parties and dinners.

But Mrs. Roosevelt does not care about feeding people in the White House. She cares about the hungry people across the U.S. She cares about old people, poor people, black people, and young people.

Mrs. Roosevelt travels all over the U.S. She visits the poor in

their shacks. She talks to old people who have lost their homes. She talks to young people who have no money to go to school and to farmers who have no money to farm.

She tells the president what she has seen and heard. She gives him her ideas about what laws or new government works will help different parts of the country.

When Roosevelt became president, he said he would help the "forgotten man." Mrs. Roosevelt is helping him keep his promise.

FIRST LADY OF LABOR

WHO: Frances Perkins

WHAT: Secretary of Labor

WHEN NAMED: 1933

NOTED FOR: First woman cabinet member.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

■ Pushed Civilian Conservation Corps and Public Works Act.

■ Helped plan Social Security Act.

■ Drew up Fair Labor Standards Act.