

All

Good afternoon ~~Ladies and Gentlemen~~. Making such a call as I have been invited to make on you today is a novel experience. You need not be at home unless you really feel like it and I shall never know whether you are there or not. Then, too, I can do all the talking without fearing that you will accuse me of trying to steal the center of the stage. The radio really provides a new technique for visiting, one in which visitor and visited are equally protected.

However, whether you are in to me today or not I feel quite sure you are all sympathetic with the theme on which I have been asked to speak - the theme of the Home. Indeed, it would be difficult to find one of more universal interest. And how that interest has been quickened and deepened by the experiences we have been going through these recent years. Faced with losing our homes as so many of us have been, of having nowhere to go but back home, the place which we may have been calling old fashioned, out-of-date, had been neglecting, forgetting, suddenly became the most desirable, the most essential thing in the world.

How blessings do brighten as they take their flight, but it is rather a reflection isn't it on our sense of values that so often blessings should have to fly before we realize their intrinsic brightness?

Very striking the way the home in these past years has <sup>served</sup> seemed like the sanctuary in olden days. You remember how

the Greeks and Romans allowed a man pursued by enemies - even pursued by the law for good and sufficient reasons—to take refuge inside the Temple, and once there nobody could touch him. This right of sanctuary, as it was called, was long in force in England for the poor souls threatened with imprisonment for debt, a particularly brutal form of punishment it always seemed to me. The English public thought so too for it allowed debtors to take refuge in churches, Abbeys, even in the Royal Palaces and while there the law could not touch them.

In our recent hard days the home has served in the same way as the sanctuary for many who were down and out. The experience has been for tens of thousands of us a fresh demonstration that the home is the very core of social security.

That is the way the Government feels about it. National security and peace are <sup>restored</sup> today largely in terms of homes. To be sure it has always been an American ambition that every man and woman should have his home. This idea was behind that greatest of <sup>our</sup> home-making undertakings, the Homestead Law which gave to those with little of this world's goods a chance to acquire on easy terms one hundred and sixty acres of land. It is sixty six years now since that law was passed and in that period over a quarter of a billion of acres have been distributed to settlers. Today the Government is seeking the same end by helping us with our mortgages, lending us money to repair the ravages which a long period of forced economy causes, building us new homes on terms that any thrifty, interested, family can meet. And if we

belong to that large class of unfortunates who because of exhausted soil, a decaying industry, of dying towns, can no longer support ourselves, <sup>where we are settled it is</sup> why they are seeking to transplant us to places where we can start anew and how generous is <sup>the</sup> their help, how wise its guidance.

But the Government is not more home-conscious today than industry is. Very interesting to see how in these times of forced idleness industry has turned its ~~time~~ and energy to solving two fundamental problems in this national ambition to give everyone a home - first, the comfortable cheap house, the other making it possible to live with more ease and pleasure in this house.

Only the other day I went over a development of low priced houses, building for employees of a great industrial undertaking. I was amazed at the new materials, things I had never seen or heard of, that were going into the making of these homes, materials for keeping them warm in winter and cool in summer, cutting down the coal bill. Who that looked at the display of low cost houses at the Century of Progress Fair, at the many delightful exhibits that have been made in our cities in the last year particularly, can but rejoice at the understanding that our great industries have of the country's need of a low cost house which will be not only solid and comfortable but beautiful. <sup>also</sup> Industry is giving us this cheap house and it is ~~making it~~ easier to live in <sup>as</sup> never before. Inventors, technicians, engineers, have been busy finding ways to take out

of housework the heavy burdens which once so over-weighed the house wife that it was <sup>was</sup> possible for her properly to practice her art of home-making. In the last forty years electricity has <sup>been</sup> taught to perform practically all of her heavy tasks leaving her free to study, direct, cultivate, enjoy her realm. And the beauty of it is is that there is no place so remote that these new burden-lifters are not carried to them. I have been in homes in distant places in the Mountains of the Northwest, in equally remote places in the deserts of the Southwest where in the little homes of ranchers I found every modern convenience in use.

Nothing is more certain that as the years go on these blessings will spread into every nook and corner of the land. They must for the home is the very center of National Security. That for the Nation. For you and me it is all that and more. It is something essential, irreplaceable, to our happiness, the very marrow in the bone of our personal world.