

Name _____

The Second New Deal and its Objectors

Part 1 - "Share the Wealth": Huey Long Talks to the Nation

Background: Huey Long first came to national attention as governor of Louisiana in 1928 and U.S. Senator in 1930. He ruled Louisiana as a virtual dictator, but he also initiated massive public works programs, improved public education and public health, and even established some restrictions on corporate power in the state. While Long was an early supporter of Franklin Roosevelt, by the fall of 1933 the Long-Roosevelt alliance had ruptured, in part over Long's growing interest in running for president. In 1934 Long organized his own, alternative political organization, the Share-Our-Wealth Society, in which he advocated a populist program for redistributing wealth through sharply graduated income and inheritance taxes. As his national recognition (and ambitions) grew, he spoke with increasing frequency to national radio audiences. No politician in this era—except Roosevelt himself and Long's sometime ally, Father Charles Coughlin—used radio as frequently and effectively. In this April 1935 radio address, Long sharply criticized FDR and the New Deal and then sketched out his alternative program.

From Huey Long's Share Our Wealth Speech:

Now in the third year of his administration, we find more of our people unemployed than at any other time. We find our houses empty and our people hungry, many of them half-clothed and many of them not clothed at all.

Mr. Hopkins announced twenty-two millions on the dole, a new high-water mark in that particular sum, a few weeks ago. We find not only the people going further into debt, but that the United States is going further into debt. The states are going further into debt, and the cities and towns are even going into bankruptcy. The condition has become deplorable. Instead of his promises, the only remedy that Mr. Roosevelt has prescribed is to borrow more money if he can and to go further into debt. The last move was to borrow \$5 billion more on which we must pay interest for the balance of our lifetimes, and probably during the lifetime of our children. And with it all, there stalks a slimy specter of want, hunger, destitution, and pestilence, all because of the fact that in the land of too much and of too much to wear, our president has failed in his promise to have these necessities of life distributed into the hands of the people who have need of them.

Now, my friends, you have heard me read how a great New York newspaper, after investigations, declared that all I have said about the bad distribution of this nation's wealth is true. But we have been about our work to correct this situation. That is why the Share Our Wealth societies are forming in every nook and corner of America. They're meeting tonight. Soon there will be Share Our Wealth societies for everyone to meet. They have a great work to perform.

Here is what we stand for in a nutshell:

Number one, we propose that every family in America should at least own a homestead equal in value to not less than one-third the average family wealth. The average family wealth of

America, at normal values, is approximately \$16,000. So our first proposition means that every family will have a home and the comforts of a home up to a value of not less than around \$5,000 or a little more than that.

Number two, we propose that no family shall own more than three hundred times the average family wealth, which means that no family shall possess more than a wealth of approximately \$5 million—none to own less than \$5,000, none to own more than \$5 million. We think that's too much to allow them to own, but at least it's extremely conservative.

Number three, we propose that every family shall have an income equal to at least one third of the average family income in America. If all were allowed to work, there'd be an income of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per family. We propose that one third would be the minimum. We propose that no family will have an earning of less than around \$2,000 to \$2,500 and that none will have more than three hundred times the average less the ordinary income taxes, which means that a million dollars would be the limit on the highest income.

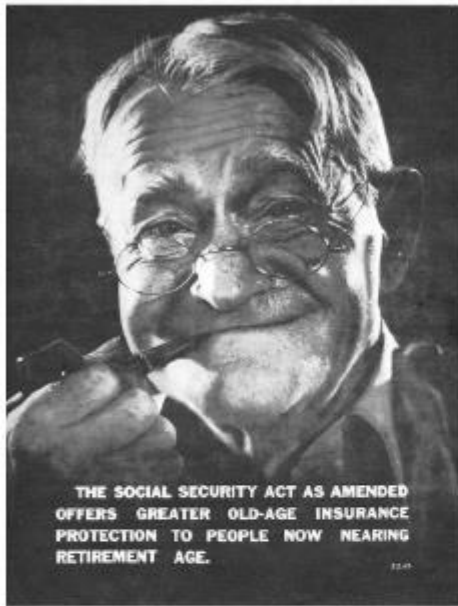
We also propose to give the old-age pensions to the old people, not by taxing them or their children, but by levying the taxes upon the excess fortunes to whittle them down, and on the excess incomes and excess inheritances, so that the people who reach the age of sixty can be retired from the active labor of life and given an opportunity to have surcease and ease for the balance of the life that they have on earth.

We also propose the care for the veterans, including the cash payment of the soldiers' bonus. We likewise propose that there should be an education for every youth in this land and that no youth would be dependent upon the financial means of his parents in order to have a college education.

Source: Courtesy of Andy Lanset.

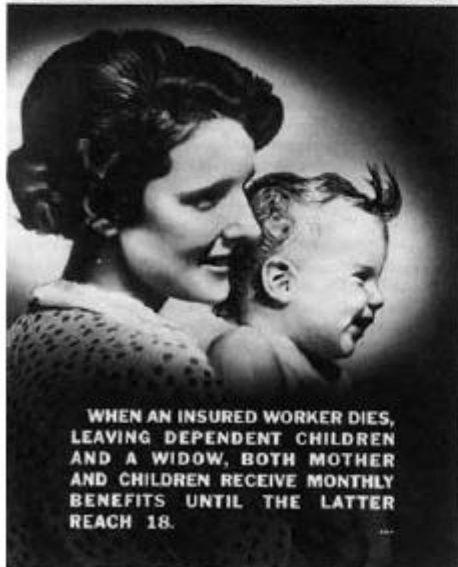
1. Who was Huey Long? What role did he play in the Depression?
2. What was the situation of the country at the time of the speech that spurred Long to action?
3. In one paragraph, summarize Huey Long's "Share Our Wealth" program.

Part 2 – Social Security Act
**MORE SECURITY FOR
THE AMERICAN FAMILY**



FOR INFORMATION WRITE OR CALL AT THE NEAREST FIELD OFFICE OF THE
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

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THE AMERICAN FAMILY**



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**TO AID
THE NEEDY BLIND**

For blind people who are in need, State and Federal funds provide cash allowances.

Most States also offer other services, including medical care, which help blind people to live as normally as possible.

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

... WORLDWIDE SERVICE

**UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION**

State unemployment compensation systems build up funds to pay weekly benefits to insured workers who lose their jobs.

These workers file benefit claims and register for new jobs at local offices of their State employment service.

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

... WORLDWIDE SERVICE

Source: <https://www.ssa.gov/history/pubaffairs.html>

4. What is the purpose of these posters?

5. Who created these posters?

6. What benefits did the Social Security Act create?

7. Considering what was happening in this time period, why was the Social Security Act created?

Part 3 – Roosevelt’s Court Packing Scheme

Background: In 1935 – 1936, the Supreme Court struck down eight pieces of President Roosevelt’s New Deal Legislation. Voters and members of Congress were outraged, but Roosevelt stayed silent until after his reelection in 1936. Just a few days after his second inauguration, Roosevelt delivered this Fireside Chat to the nation.

What is my proposal? It is simply this: whenever a judge or justice of any federal court has reached the age of seventy and does not avail himself of the opportunity to retire on a pension, a new member shall be appointed by the president then in office, with the approval, as required by the Constitution, of the Senate of the United States. That plan has two chief purposes. By bringing into the judicial system a steady and continuing stream of new and younger blood, I hope, first, to make the administration of all federal justice, from the bottom to the top, speedier and, therefore, less costly; secondly, to bring to the decision of social and economic problems younger men who have had personal experience and contact with modern facts and circumstances under which average men have to live and work. This plan will save our national Constitution from hardening of the judicial arteries.

The number of judges to be appointed would depend wholly on the decision of present judges now over seventy, or those who would subsequently reach the age of seventy.

If, for instance, any one of the six justices of the Supreme Court now over the age of seventy should retire as provided under the plan, no additional place would be created. Consequently, although there never can be more than fifteen, there may be only fourteen, or thirteen, or twelve. And there may be only nine.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, March 9, 1937

Source: <http://docs.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/030937.html>

8. What was Roosevelt’s proposal?

9. What were the two chief purposes of this plan?

10. Why did many people believe he was proposing this plan? Think about the impact this plan would have had on the President's power compared to the power of the judiciary.

Directions: Use the political cartoons to answer the questions below.



11. Based on the political cartoon, explain how the cartoon is a metaphor to Roosevelt's Court Packing Plan. (Write 2-3 complete sentences)