

For Release 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 11, 1935.

Message From

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

and

Address of Welcome

of

ATTORNEY GENERAL HOMER CUMMINGS

At the Opening Session of

THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL, A. A. O. N. M. S.

National Theater

Washington, D.C.

June 11, 1935,

2:30 p.m.

Over the network of the National Broadcasting Company.

Mr. Director General, Mr. Imperial Potentate, and Members of the
Imperial Council:

The President of the United States has requested me to deliver
the following message:

"THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 7, 1935

"Fellow Nobles of the Imperial Council of the Mystic Shrine:

"I take the very greatest pleasure in extending to you a
most hearty welcome on the occasion of this decennial pilgrimage to the
capital of your country -- the Mecca, not only of the one hundred temples
of your organization, but of the more than one hundred millions of our
citizens whose interest, cooperation, and loyalty are vital to the
successful functioning of our American Democracy.

"Every genuine organization has its own merits -- its own
distinct contribution to make. You Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, in
your devotion to the maintenance of hospitals for crippled children and
to other enterprises of philanthropic endeavor are daily attaining to the
lofty standards implicit in the titular designation of your members. But
you do not thus carry, as mere duty, your share of the social load; you
appreciate that the problems of life are too serious always to be taken
seriously; and you practice the belief that gaiety of spirit is a health-
ful reinforcement to the things that make life sane and sound.

"In this spirit Washington receives you; the preparations
made throughout the length and breadth of the city are the visible

evidences of the warmth of its feeling for you. The capital of your country invites you to relax in the cordiality of its welcome: that you may be fortified to renew that journey, which -- as we all know -- will lie through both oasis and desert, but which can never be entirely either the one or the other.

"Fellow Nobles, I bid you welcome to Washington.

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt."

Nobles of the Imperial Council of the Mystic Shrine, it is a source of great satisfaction to me to have been invited to be present on this occasion and to assist, in behalf of the Government of the United States, in welcoming this great Convention. You come to this Capital at what is a most delightful season. You find this modest metropolis clad in the verdure of a Southern Spring. You find us, with the winter garment of depression slipping from our shoulders, facing what, I hope, will prove a summer not alone of roses and wine, but of the bright sun and clear air of social and economic improvement.

You find us installed in a magnificent series of new buildings, rising on the banks of an historic river. These buildings are more than a superb expression of the perfection of mechanical processes and the genius of art. In them even the least imaginative spectator can discern a reflection of the enduring grandeur of his Government and those imperishable aspirations for which it stands. I might paraphrase the famous inscription on the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral at London to read: "If you require an evidence of the vigor of your Government, look around you!"

Do not let these majestic facades produce the impression, however, that your Government is as austere, as abstract and impersonal, as its exterior might suggest. Behind those walls and in those buildings are men. I trust it will not be surprising if I assert that those men are human, attempting to bring to bear upon such problems as few generations have ever had to meet their wisest judgment, their shrewdest counsel, their most industrious application to their manifold duties, all not untouched, I hope, with the trace of good humor that leavens the heaviest loaf. Without these qualities Government is dull and dead; with them - and above all with a sense of perspective - Government becomes a less desperate and somewhat calmer business.

So I trust this Convention will find us our amiable selves. If Washington is en fete in your honor, it is because all of us recognize that your merriment, your costumes, your parades, your pastimes and your evolutions - more intricate even than the most intricate evolutions of Government itself - are an assurance that the spirit of fun is still alive, that there is more confidence in both the present and the future than some of the children of gloom would permit us to believe.

You have gathered here from all parts of the United States, bringing to us a true cross-section of our people. In your manifold contacts during this week with those of us in official positions, there will be afforded a stimulation of which all of us stand in need and which we, at times, leave this official atmosphere of Washington to seek. So I hope that out of your pilgrimage there will grow a mutual understanding that will contribute to the better temper of the times.

While this Convention means, of course, the exercise of all forms of fun and frolic, there remains in the background a serious purpose, of which

the President has spoken in his message - the care and treatment of crippled children, which this great organization maintains as the basis of its work. The plight of crippled children touches our hearts, and it touches our hearts no whit less to realize that the tens of thousands of Shriners gathered for this Convention are supporters of this most noble of charities.

Your interest in children will permit me, I trust, to make brief mention of an interest that the Department of Justice has in children too, although of a somewhat different character. The recent kidnapping on the Pacific Coast, which I rejoice to say is moving toward a complete and satisfactory solution, has brought us once again a tragic reminder of a menace that threatens one of the tenderest relationships of life. Terrible as it is, the crime of kidnapping is but one of a series of crimes with which the Federal Government is seeking to deal.

Last week I announced that I would request authority from the Congress to establish in the Department of Justice a new Bureau, to be known as the Bureau of Crime Prevention, which, with the two existing Bureaus, the Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Prisons, I hope to integrate into a well-rounded structure to deal with the problem of crime in all of its principal aspects - first, cause and prevention; second, detection and apprehension; third, punishment and rehabilitation. When that structure is completed, I trust that its work will commend itself to your interest and support, for without the expression of a sustained and informed public opinion in this field, no permanent accomplishment is possible.

Nobles of the Imperial Council of the Mystic Shrine, I hope that your visit amongst us will, indeed, be pleasant. To those representatives

of Temples in Canada and Mexico, as well as those in Hawaii and The Canal Zone, I extend a special welcome. To all of your membership who have done us the honor of this visit, permit me to extend our thanks. Your presence here, your festivities, your good spirits and your magnificent enthusiasm, offer us a stimulation and an assurance that will live long in our memories.