

For Release 8:30 P.M.  
Wednesday, June 30, 1937.

Message from

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

and

Address of Welcome

of

HONORABLE HOMER CUMMINGS  
C. C.  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

At the Opening Session of

THE NATIONAL JAMBOREE, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Monument Grounds

Washington, D. C.

June 30, 1937.

8:30 p.m.

Over the Blue network of the National Broadcasting Company.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Allen, Distinguished Officials and members of the  
Boy Scouts of America:

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

"THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 21, 1937.

"FELLOW SCOUTS:

"Welcome to Washington.

"I had great pleasure last February in inviting you to  
hold the great National Scout Jamboree here and now it is an honor and  
a privilege to welcome you to the Nation's Capital.

"How fitting that you should hold this Jamboree in Wash-  
ington with your camp pitched within sight of the White House and the  
Capitol and almost within the shadow of the Washington Monument and the  
Lincoln Memorial. Yours will be a memorable encampment and I know you  
will draw inspiration from the environment and associations that will be  
yours during your stay in the city.

"The impressions which you will carry back to your homes  
will, I hope, be a permanent influence in your lives, for sooner than we  
who are older realize, you will assume the full responsibilities of  
citizenship. I firmly believe that few influences are more helpful in  
teaching self-reliance than is the influence which surrounds the  
youngsters enrolled in the Boy Scouts -- and a preliminary training

in self-reliance is surely an invaluable asset to those who a few years hence will assume all the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship.

"I have often expressed the conviction that there are many thousands of men throughout our country who are better citizens today because in boyhood they had enjoyed affiliation with the Boy Scouts. And so I like to think that the ideals of scouting are not simply ideals for boys. Honor, honesty, straightforward dealing and a spirit of helpfulness toward others are ideals for men and there is a better prospect that we shall find these characteristics in the men of the future if they are inculcated in boyhood through membership in the Boy Scouts.

"With these thoughts in my mind I bid all Scouts a welcome to Washington. I trust that your sojourn will be a pleasant one and that as a result of your rich and varied experiences here at the seat of Government you will be better Scouts and more stalwart citizens in the years to come.

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt."

You are encamped at the feet of shrines erected to the memory of those who performed glorious deeds in the public service. Your tents dot the land upon which have trod the feet of our most eminent patriots. Even the river which borders these hallowed grounds holds for us all a deep significance. Tonight as the peaceful Potomac glides by your camp ground and on to the sea, there is typified in its steady movement from the freshets in the hills the inevitable march of youth.

You have pitched your tents within the shadows of the past. This place is sacred with tradition, and yet for ten days you will live in the midst of a modern whirl, on a patch of ground surrounded by the surging, busy life of the Capital. But over you each night will float a carpet of eternal constellations symbolic of the simple, basic truths upon which the Boy Scouts of America was founded.

Like many visitors to Washington you will scurry from building to building, from monument to museum. In days to come you will be asked by the Scouts back home and by those who made your trip possible, just what Washington meant to you. Let me leave with you this thought. Washington is a city of symbols. Do not be content to ascend the Washington Monument without at the same time catching something of the spirit which inspired that monument. Do not leave the shrine of the Great Emancipator without resolving to do your part in the emancipations yet to come.

You are encamped in a setting of complexity. Here you may feel the pulse of a giant among the nations - hear the beat of its heart. We are a people in transition. We are continuously working out a civilization. You share it. You will improve upon it. That is the undimmed glory of youth. That is the challenge of our times.