

President Franklin D. Roosevelt



The Question: The stock market crash of 1929 has triggered the Great Depression: the biggest economic downturn in American history. What should the government do?

My Life: (Deliver in a calm and even-tempered tone. Your goal is to calm down Huey Long who you think is loud and obnoxious. If he swears, chastise him for it. You also don't like Bailey.)

- My fellow Americans, thank you for having me speak to you at these troubling times.
- I was born in 1882 in Hyde Park, New York City.
- When I saw my fifth cousin Theodore become President of the United States, I decided to dedicate my life to public service.
- In 1921, I was stricken with polio which confined me to a wheelchair for most of my life. But I didn't let that stop me. I became Governor of New York before I became President.

My Point of View and Personality:

- I am an upper class white male. While my Republican critics call me a radical, I see myself as a liberal. I am interested in keeping the systems.
- My **New Deal Coalition** has brought big city Democratic Party machines, labor unions, farmers, Jews, Catholics, African Americans, and Southern Whites together for one purpose: to make the country better.
- My **Brain Trust** is my collection of advisers from the country's greatest colleges: Harvard, Columbia, Yale. **With them in my corner, we can't lose.**
- My **Fireside Chats** allow me to speak to the American people directly through the radio.
- I consider myself a calming voice in these troubling times.

My Argument: The U.S. should address the Great Depression through...(The 3 Rs)

REFORMING The System:

- Huey Long wants to replace America with communism. We don't have to go there. That's like throwing out a nice Cadillac only because it's got bugs on its windshield.
 - We don't need to throw the whole system away, we just need to fix its ugly parts.
- Let's have a **bank holiday** where we close all the banks. When they reopen they will follow clear rules on what they can and can't do.

RELIEVING suffering:

- Yes, Mr. Long and Ms. Lange, I know people are starving. That is why my government systems such as the **Federal Emergency Relief Administration** will provide food for them at no cost. We'll pay for it on the government's tab.

RECOVERING The Economy:(Let's put Americans back to work!)

- My **New Deal** programs create projects all over the country to make money. Men and women, young and old can participate. If you're willing to work. I got an agency for you. (SAVE FOR ACT 2) **(To Waters)** I'm sorry President Hoover shot at you. We'll try to get you your checks but I offer something better: actual jobs. The **CCC will put young men in the forests to make nature trails** and the **WPA will have young women paint murals.** **(To Lange)** Every time I try to have the federal government pay farmers not to grow things, the Supreme Court shoots it down. Guess I'll have to pack it with judges who support my plan. **(To Long)** Please calm down, Mr. Long. I admire your passion but you get fired up like that you'll likely end up shot. (SPOILER ALERT) You do get shot in 1935 **and you die.** **(To Bailey)** Mr. Bailey, the laws I'm proposing will make sure the bankers don't cheat. We're in this mess because they were cheating. Is that the America you want to live in?

Josiah Bailey



The Question: The stock market crash of 1929 has triggered the Great Depression: the biggest economic downturn in American history. What should the government do?

My Life: (Think of yourself as a used car salesman. You are interested in money and you think the economic downturn is natural. You see any change as a threat that could kill the country)

- Now, before we all get carried away, let's take a step back and look at what makes this country great. But, first, let me introduce myself.
- I was born in North Carolina and made a career off of promoting direct democracy.
- I became a Senator from my great state in 1931.

My Point of View and Personality:

- I am a white Senator with an extremely conservative point of view.
- Even though I'm a democrat, I absolutely hate what Roosevelt and Long are trying to do.
- I reached across the aisle and joined **the conservative coalition**: a group of federal politicians who believe that any change to the government is inappropriate. We hate the New Deal and everything it stands for.

My Argument: The U.S. should address the Great Depression through...

Letting Boom/Bust Economics Run its Course:

- My fellow Americans, don't let the rest of these people scare you. What is happening now is nothing to be worried about. The Great Depression is perfectly natural.
- With **boom/bust economics**, the government doesn't intervene in the private sector. When businesses are free to do whatever they want, the economy works like a rollercoaster.
 - Yes, we are in a slump now. But if you let private businesses do their thing, the economy will start rising. With every boom, the standard of living will go higher.
 - Inevitably, the standard of living will drop. That's what the "bust" part means. We just need to trust that private businesses will recover quickly.
 - Before you complain about this policy, just remember. Our government has used this policy **for decades** and we have always recovered.
 - **The Panic of 1873** happened and we recovered in five years.
 - **The Panic of 1893** happened and we also recovered in five years.
 - I promise you this: in five more years, this great nation will recover.
- Take the Stock Market for example:
 - In the '20s, we had a **bull market** where **stocks rose by over 20 percent**. Now, we're paying for it with a **bear market** where **stocks drop by 20 percent**. It's natural. I promise you, in five years, **we'll have another bull market**.
- Don't let Huey Long and President Roosevelt fool you! They stand for communism.
 - If the government steps in on businesses, **that's not freedom!**
 - What makes our nation great is laissez-faire capitalism. **We will fail without it!**

(SAVE FOR ACT 2) (To Long) Mr. Long, Just chill out, we're in a slump. That's natural. **(To his response)** Let me see if I got this right, you want to completely dismantle the government and redistribute wealth, right? You know what that is, that's communism! Why don't you go live in Russia with Uncle Joey Stalin!?

(To Roosevelt) You say the bankers are cheaters, I say they were "groundbreaking geniuses."

(To his response) This is America, the smart are rich and the dumb are poor.