

President Roosevelt's First Communication to Congress.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Congress assembled this year under the shadow of a great calamity. On the 6th of September, President McKinley was shot by an anarchist while attending the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo, and died in that city on the 14th of that month.

Of the last seven elected presidents, he is the only one who has been murdered, and the bare recital of this fact is sufficient to justify grave alarm among all loyal American citizens. Moreover, the circumstances of the assassination were such as to give the death of the president a peculiarly sinister significance.

Both President Lincoln and President Garfield were killed by assassins of types unfrequently uncommon in history; President Lincoln falling a victim to the terrible passions aroused by four years of civil war, and President Garfield to the revengeful fury of a disappointed office-seeker.

It is not too much to say that at the time of President McKinley's death he was the most widely loved man in all the United States; while his death has made the man of his position who has been so wholly free from the bitter animosities incident to public life.

The blow was aimed not at this president, but at all presidents; at every symbol of government. It was a deliberate attack, emphatically the embodiment of the popular will of the nation expressed through the forms of law as a New England town meeting.

Moreover, it cannot too often be pointed out that the interests of one set of men almost invariably endanger the interests of all. The rule in our national life is that the interests of the few are sacrificed to the interests of the many.

I earnestly recommend to congress that it should be the duty of the government to protect this country from anarchists or persons professing principles hostile to all government and justifying the murder of those who are in the government.

No man will ever be restrained from becoming president by any fear as to his personal safety.

During the last five years business conditions have been such that it is not to be congratulated because of its present abundance of prosperity.

The tremendous and highly complex industrial development which went on with ever accelerated rapidity during the latter part of the nineteenth century has brought us face to face, at the beginning of the twentieth century, with very serious social problems.

The growth of cities has gone on beyond comparison with any other growth in the history of the world.

In addition, a reason for caution in dealing with corporations is to be found in the international commercial conditions of today.

The national government should demand that the interests of the nation as a whole should be protected.

The mechanism of modern business is so delicate that extreme care must be taken not to interfere with it in a spirit of rashness.

There is a widespread conviction in the minds of the American people that the great corporations known as trusts are in certain respects a danger to the general welfare.

The first essential in determining how to deal with the industrial combinations is knowledge of the facts—publicity. In the interest of the public, the government should have the right to inspect and examine the workings of these industrial combinations.

Artificial bodies, such as corporations and joint stock or other associations, depending upon any statutory law for their existence, should be subject to legislative governmental supervision.

The large corporations, commonly called trusts, though organized in one state, always do business in many states, often in every little business in the state where they are incorporated.

When the constitution was adopted, at the end of the eighteenth century, no human wisdom could foresee the sweeping changes which were to take place by the beginning of the twentieth century.

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To decrease the sum of ignorance, so potent in producing the conditions of anarchy, passion, and hatred of order, out of which anarchistic sentiment inevitably springs.

There is general acquiescence in our present system as a national policy, the first requisite of our national policy is the continuity and stability of this economic policy.

Subject to this proviso of the proper protection necessary to our industrial well-being, the reciprocity policy should be our main policy.

The condition of the American merchant marine is such as to call for immediate remedial action.

The act of October 12, 1898, intended unequivocally to establish gold as the standard money and to maintain at a parity therewith all forms of money medium in use.

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public works. Where their purpose is to regulate the flow of water, they should be turned freely into the channels in the dry season to take the same course under the same laws as the natural flow.

The work of upbuilding the navy must be undertaken as a matter of national policy, foreign or domestic, is more important than this to the honor and material welfare.

There remains vast areas of public land which can be made available for homestead settlement, but only by reclamation.

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have established the permanence of independence. Through the Monroe doctrine we hope to be able to safeguard like independence and secure like permanence for the lesser among the New World.

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