



Curriculum Guide

"Our Plain Duty" FDR and America's Social Security

Social Security Curriculum Guide Documents

Document #1: Statement of the President Upon Signing the Social Security Bill into Law

In this short statement FDR congratulates the Congress for passing this bill and making life more secure for many American citizens. (August 14, 1935)

Document #2: Political Cartoon on Social Security

This cartoon from the Chicago Tribune presents the fear of many young Americans that there would be no money available when they retired 30 or 40 years in the future. (October 17, 1935)

Document #3: Report of Unemployment Insurance Committee to the Industrial Advisory Board

This report outlines a federal plan to provide unemployment compensation for workers. It proposes a complex contribution and benefit program but acknowledges that as a federal measure, it may be unconstitutional. (June 18, 1934)

Document #4: The Problem of Economic Security – Outline Report

From the papers of Harry Hopkins, this is a suggested outline as a final report on the economic security issue. It includes a discussion on factors leading to insecurity and provides measures for pensions, health insurance, unemployment and workman's compensation. (June 22, 1934)

Document #5: Letter and Outline from the Committee on Economic Security

This letter and report to Harry Hopkins from Assistant Director Joseph Harris includes a summary of the Social Security bill as passed by the House of Representatives on April 19, 1935 and sent to the Senate. It addresses two specific provisions of particular interest to states. (May 6, 1935)

Document #6: Social Security Administration Information Poster

This 1936 poster provided the public with information about the new Social Security program.

Document #7: Address of the President (Fireside Chat) April 28, 1935

In this radio address the President describes his programs as a set of carefully thought pieces designed to fit and work together to bring about greater social security especially for those suffering from unemployment.

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Museum

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