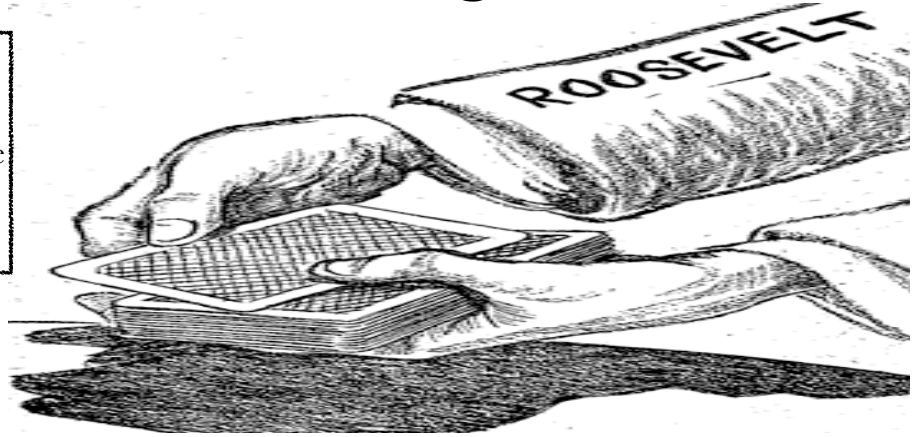


14 of FDR's Alphabet Agencies

Accepting the Democratic nomination for President in 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt promised the American people a "**NEW DEAL.**" Once elected, he delivered on his promise.



Between 1933 and 1939 dozens of federal programs, often referred to as the Alphabet Agencies, were created as part of the New Deal. With FDR's focus on "relief, recovery and reform," the legacy of the New Deal is with us to this day.

In his inaugural address on March 4, 1933, he declared: "This nation asks for action and action now." With the famous phrase, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself," he promised to exercise "broad executive power to wage war against [the Depression]." What followed was a dizzying array of initiatives. Roosevelt immediately gathered a "Brain Trust" of economic advisors and instructed his staff to "take a method and try it. If it fails, try another. But above all try something."

In his first hundred days in office, Roosevelt called Congress into emergency session and launched a record fifteen major pieces of legislation. Between 1933 and 1938 the administration and Congress created dozens of federal programs collectively known as the New Deal, and often referred to as the "Alphabet Agencies."

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Primary Function</u>
<p>CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps)</p>	<p>Created in 1933, the CCC took unmarried men aged 18-25 from relief rolls and sent them into the woods and fields to plant trees, build parks, roads, and fight soil erosion on federal lands. Young men sent their \$30 a month home to their families and left a legacy of outdoor recreation areas. The CCC provided jobs for 2.5 million young men during its ten years.</p>
<p>CWA (Civil Works Administration)</p>	<p>Created in 1933, but lasting only one year, this agency provided construction jobs for more than four million people (\$15 p/wk) to work on schools, roads, & sewers. This program contributed to the morale and self-esteem of millions of displaced people by providing them with steady employment.</p>
<p>FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.)</p>	<p>To restore confidence in banks and encourage savings, Congress created the FDIC to insure bank customers against the loss of up to \$5,000 their deposits if their bank should fail. Created by the Glass-Steagall Banking Reform Act of 1933, the FDIC is still in existence.</p>
<p>FERA (Federal Emergency Relief Admin.)</p>	<p>Created in 1933, FERA supported nearly five million households each month and funded thousands of work projects for the unemployed. It also provided vaccinations and literacy classes for millions of poor people.</p>

Agency	Primary Function
<p>TVA <i>(Tennessee Valley Authority)</i></p>	<p>Perhaps the most ambitious undertaking of the New Deal, the TVA was a comprehensive federal agency created in 1933 for the economic development of the Tennessee River watershed. The TVA built 16 dams to control flooding, generate hydroelectric power, increase agricultural production, & revitalize the the region. The TVA also provided jobs, low-cost housing, reforestation & other services.</p>
<p>FCC <i>(Federal Communications Commission)</i></p>	<p>The FCC was to merge the administrative responsibilities for regulating broadcasting & wire communications into one centralized agency. Today the FCC regulates radio & television broadcasting, interstate telecommunications, and all international communications that originate or terminate in the United States.</p>
<p>FHA <i>(Federal Housing Administration)</i></p>	<p>The FHA was created in 1934 to stimulate the building industry by providing small loans for home construction.</p>
<p>SEC <i>(Securities Exchange Commission)</i></p>	<p>The SEC was created in 1934 to serve as a federal "watchdog" administrative agency to protect public and private investors from stock market fraud, deception and insider manipulation on Wall Street. The SEC is still in existence</p>
<p>NLRA <i>(National Labor Relations Act)</i></p>	<p>The NLRA (also called the Wagner Act) of 1935 created the National Labor Relations Board to protect the rights or organized labor to organize and collectively bargain with employers.</p>
<p>REA <i>(Rural Electrification Administration)</i></p>	<p>The purpose of this legislation was to supply electricity to rural communities. Before the onset of the New Deal, only 10 percent of areas outside cities had electricity. Established in 1935, the REA granted low-cost loans to farm cooperatives to bring electric power into their communities. The program was so successful that 98 percent of American farms were equipped with electric power under this initiative.</p>
<p>SSA <i>(Social Security Administration)</i></p>	<p>Established in August 1935 under the Social Security Act, this was to administer a national pension fund for retired persons, an unemployment insurance system, and a public assistance program for dependent mothers & the physically disabled. Today, it is the nation's most important and expensive domestic program, covering nearly 49 million Americans and accounting for about 1/4 of the federal budget.</p>
<p>WPA <i>(Works Progress Administration)</i></p>	<p>The WPA (1935-1943) was the largest & most comprehensive New Deal agency, affecting every American locality. It employed more than 8 million people to build roads and highways, bridges, schools, airports, parks, & other public projects. In total, the WPA built 650,000 miles of roads, 78,000 bridges, 125,000 buildings, & 700 miles of airport runways. Under the arts program, many artists, photographers, writers, and actors became government employees, working on a myriad of public projects ranging from painting murals to writing national park guidebooks.</p>
<p>FSA <i>(Farm Security Administration)</i></p>	<p>The FSA was created in 1937 to aid sharecroppers. The FSA set up temporary housing for "Okies" and "Arkies" (Dust Bowl refugees from Oklahoma and Arkansas) who migrated to California in hope of finding work.</p>
<p>FLSA <i>(Fair Labor Standard Act)</i></p>	<p>The last major piece of New Deal legislation (1938), this important labor law set minimum wage (25 cents and hour) and maximum hour standards (establishing the 40-hour work week). It also severely curbed the use of child labor.</p>