

RELIEF FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Goal:

When President Roosevelt took office in 1933, 13 million Americans were out of work and starving. FDR realized that these people needed help immediately and created the RELIEF programs to do just that.

Describe Three:

One RELIEF program started by President Roosevelt was the Civilian Conservation Corps, also called the CCC. The CCC hired unemployed single men between the ages of 18 and 25. For \$1 a day, these men planted trees, put up bridges and built National Parks. Another RELIEF program started by FDR was the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The FERA gave federal money to local agencies who then gave it to the poor (kind of like the Welfare system of today). In addition to the CCC and FERA, President Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration. The WPA hired the unemployed to build hospitals, schools (like CFA), and airports. The WPA also hired artists, photographers and writers to create photos, paintings and books about the Great Depression.

Criticisms:

Many critics of the RELIEF programs point to the fact that the New Deal was very expensive. Programs like the CCC and WPA were so costly that our government began to spend more than it was taking in through taxes. Also, many point to the fact that the

RELIEF programs were not creating enough spending to end the Great Depression.

RECOVERY PROGRAMS

Goal:

FDR's RECOVERY programs were going to focus on giving a boost to both Industry and Farming. To do this, he was forced to pass many laws giving the government more control over the economy.

Describe Two:

FDR knew that he must find a way to control production and prices and keep workers on the job. To do this, he created the National Recovery Administration. The NRA enforced laws that set wages, prices and working conditions in certain industries. Another RECOVERY program started by FDR was the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Under the AAA, the government paid farmers NOT to grow certain crops in the hopes that prices would rise. The AAA also paid farmers to plow certain crops under and destroy surplus cows and pigs.

Criticisms:

The biggest criticism of the RECOVERY programs was the fact that they weren't bringing an end to the Great Depression. By the mid-1930's, many businesses and farmers were still struggling

with no end in sight. Also, many people criticized the AAA for destroying crops and livestock when there were millions of starving people in the country.

REFORM PROGRAMS

Goal:

President Roosevelt knew that laws must be passed to prevent another Great Depression from happening. Two of the REFORM laws passed still exist today.

Describe Two:

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation program was passed to keep another Banking Crisis from hitting America. The FDIC insures the money you have in a bank. If your bank were to close the FDIC will refund your money (up to \$140,000). After the passage of this law, people's faith in banks returned and Americans started to put their money in the bank again. Probably the biggest New Deal law to be passed was Social Security. Social Security provides a monthly check to three groups of people: the elderly, unemployed and children who have lost a parent. This huge program ensures that the poorest Americans will now have money to spend even if they can't work.

Criticisms:

By far the biggest criticism of the REFORM programs was their cost. Social Security, obviously, is paid for by taxes. Today in 2014, our government mails almost \$80 Billion a month to the people receiving benefits. Americans living in the 1930's wondered how we would pay for such a thing.