

US History

The Great Depression & The New Deal

Learning Target:

I can assess why President Hoover reacted to the Great Depression in the ways he did and identify how he tried to solve the problems of the depression.

5. Hoover & Public Relief

Hoover's Philosophy –

“I do not believe that the power and duty of the Government ought to be extended to the relief of individual suffering. The lesson should be constantly enforced that though the people support the Government the Government should not support the people.” – Herbert Hoover

Opposition of Direct Relief –

- Many wanted direct relief from the federal government to the needy
 - Direct relief would include food, clothing, shelter, and money
- Hoover rejected the idea of direct relief from the government
 - Believed private charities could best provide for those in need

Reasons for Hoover's Opposition of Direct Relief –

1. The Creation of a Large Bureaucracy
 - Government agencies would have to be created to provide relief
 - Would cause more money to be spent
2. Inflation of the Federal Budget
 - The creation of government agencies would cost money
 - Did not want big government waste
3. Reduction of Self-Respect
 - Worried that people would begin to expect a handout
 - Believed hard work was the answer

Congress' Response to Hoover –

- Bill proposed by the senate to create a Federal Emergency Relief Board
- Board would be authorized to give states \$375 million for aid to the unemployed
- Hoover refused to support the bill and it fell 14 votes shy

Encouraging Voluntarism –

- Hoover and many others believed voluntary efforts were preferable to government aid to help the needy
- Quickly became clear that private charities would not be enough
- Government did little but encourage people to donate to these charities