

## Conservative, Liberal, and Radical Solutions to the Great Depression

*Say that civilization is a tree which, as it grows, continually produced rot and dead wood. The radical says: "Cut it down." The conservative says: "Don't touch it." The liberal compromises: "Let's prune, so that we lose neither the old trunk nor the new branches." This campaign is waged to teach the country to march upon its appointed course...avoiding alike the revolution of radicalism and the revolution of conservatism.*

Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1932



### Conservative Solutions

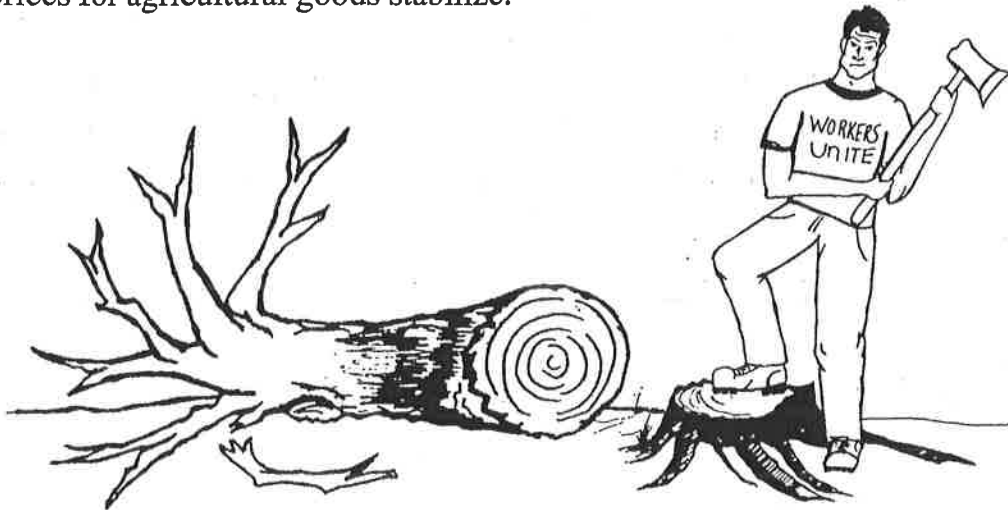
- Provide tax relief, loans, and encouragement to businesses. Business prosperity and the accumulation of wealth at the top will "trickle down" to those in need by creating more jobs.
- Discourage federal aid to the poor. Instead, encourage private charities and local and state governments to organize and provide poverty relief.
- Balance the budget to maintain financial stability.
- Ask for voluntary cooperation from businesses to stabilize wages and hours in an average workday.
- Increase the federal government's commitment to public works. Blame economic problems on the natural business cycle, and buoy public confidence through optimistic public statements.

...and American businesses from foreign competition



### Liberal Solutions

- Increase taxes on the income of the wealthy and corporations.
- Provide direct federal relief to the poor.
- Make a massive federal commitment to public works to provide jobs and encourage economic growth. Government spending will get the economy moving again.
- Create a federal planning agency that includes industrial leaders to better plan economic activity.
- Provide aid to farmers in the form of loans and payments to take crops out of production until prices for agricultural goods stabilize.



### Radical Solutions

- Seize the income and property of the wealthy and redistribute it so that all Americans share equally.
- Have the government, rather than private business owners, control all business enterprises.
- Guarantee employment to all workers through government control of industries.
- Reorganize the farming industry into cooperatives to eliminate the disastrous effects of competition and market forces.