The National Democratic Radio Address

A Brief History

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, has been chosen to deliver this week's national Democratic radio address. The practice of addressing the nation via radio began with President Franklin Roosevelt's famed "fireside chats" during the Great Depression and World War II. It was revived during the Reagan era in the form of a midday radio address by the President every Saturday, and has been used by every president since. The Democratic radio address developed as a weekly response to President Reagan's address, and still airs an hour after the President's address as an official counterpoint. Each week, a prominent Democrat is chosen to speak about the Democratic agenda or events of note in an opportunity to address important issues concerning the American public. The address is broadcast on major national and international radio networks. [A. Nibley, "The President Discovers an Old Friend - Radio," The Courier-Mail, 5/18/1985]