

Transcribed Excerpts from Interview with Italian Munitions Worker Charles Fusco, 1938

... In the nine years of this depression even though I didn't feel it much because I always gave myself a push but think of the others who are weak — what about them? You know there shouldn't be a depression in this country. You know we have everything — even the most money but all you hear today is the same old baloney — the Democrats are in power and the Republicans won't let loose with the money. Well, I say that the money men started this thing and I believe the government should make laws to force these capitalist to bring back prosperity. They can do it if they wanted to. But all you hear nowadays is let's balance the budget. I don't believe this budget has been balanced since the indians were here so why the hell do it now. I don't mean that we should go overboard on everything and start spending money left and right because I am against chislers and fluke jobs but let's get down to business and start manufacturing things and sell them to everybody who got the cash — and to those who haven't the cash give them enough credit and a job so that they can pay.

... You know sometimes I wonder what way we are drifting — some of the laws that was passed in the last few years were very good for the people and I guess you know what happened. You take the N.R.A. I think that was very good — it gave everybody a 10 chance except those who are misers and are never satisfied if they make 100 dollars a week. This other law the Social Security I believe is the best. The only fault I find is that a man has to reach the age of 65 before he can collect. Well, how many do? They tell you nowadays that a person lives longer — well they used to before this depression but, hell, today you worry your god damn head off on how to meet both ends and that makes your life much shorter. You see what I mean that this government wants to do something good for the people and does but, damn it, they put strings to it. Tell me how many reach the age of 65? Very few. Why the hell don't they give a person a break and say at 56 years old you should retire from work and enjoy life instead of waiting until he is almost dead they give him a few dollars a month. I think the whole shooting match is wrong. And unless we get the crooks and chislers out of Washington, we'll remain the same.