March 20, 1933

On this day in 1933 with Congress still in session after being called into Emergency session by FDR on March 9, Roosevelt continued his aggressive first month in office, and fulfilled a campaign promise of reducing government spending, signed the Economy Act into law. The Economy Act reduced the salaries of federal employees by 15 percent, and forced veterans to forgo part of their war benefits. It also reorganized several government agencies in hopes of maximizing their cost efficiency. Opposed by a large group of Democrats in the House, the bill passed with the aid of 69 Republicans 266-138 on March 11. It passed in the Senate 62-13 on March 15. FDR believed this act would save \$500,000,000. The actual saving was around \$240,000,000.





March 22, 1933

On this day in 1933 the first steps to end Prohibition was won by the passage of the Beer and Wine Revenue Act. This act amended the Volstead Act of 1919 to legalize the sale of wine and beer that contained no more the 3.2 percent alcohol. The Beer and Wine Revenue act was followed, in December 1933, by the passage of the 21st Amendment, which officially ended Prohibition.



