
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 500

1932 September 15

Goodland, KS - Extemporaneous remarks

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS
OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
Goodland, Kansas
September 15, 1932, 10.05 A.M.

(There were about 1000 people in the audience.)

I am glad to be able to come through here again. You know, this travelling around the country is all right, if you can get enough sleep. Last night, about one o'clock in the morning -- I don't know where we were -- I heard somebody outside the window say: "Come on out. Don't be afraid of us. We are all right." (Laughter) And I turned over and went to sleep again.

Then, at five o'clock this morning, somewhere down the line, I heard another voice outside the window: "Come on out. What do you want to lay in bed so late for?" (Laughter) So you see I ought to be one of those people who live without sleep. (Laughter)

It's fine to see you! We are going through the country doing a very simple thing: We are showing ourselves to you, and we are talking very simply and plainly to the voters in most of the United States.

As you know, I was born on a farm fifty years ago,-- although I don't feel as if it was that long ago. I have lived on a farm ever since.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text. (There were about 1000 people in the audience.)

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somebody outside the window say: "Come on out. Don't be
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country doing a very simple thing: We are showing our-
selves to you, and we are talking very simply and plainly
to the voters in most of the United States.
As you know, I was born on a farm fifty years ago, --
although I don't feel as if it was that long ago. I have
lived on a farm ever since.

We have farming problems in our State as well as you have them here. Our State has been pretty hard hit in these last few years, as well as the West.

We have a perfectly simple objective, and that is to raise the purchasing power of the farm dollar to bring it back, in so far as possible, to the purchasing power of the industrial dollar. We are seeking that end, regardless of party. I believe that we should take the best advice that we can get from the men and women who represent the agricultural sections of the country. That is what we have tried to do in our State government back home, and we have accomplished a good deal along those lines. That is what we hope to do if we come into power in Washington next March. (Applause)

It has been fine to see you here. I am not making a political speech. I just want to say "Howdy" to you. I am trying not to make political speeches, but merely intend to talk to people from the different sections of the country. I believe that to be the only way one can obtain first-hand information. Therefore, this trip, aside from being in a certain sense political, is also an educational trip for me.

I have been out through this country a great many

times. I know there have been a good many changes which have taken place. I noticed, for instance, the last time I came through here on the Rock Island, and now, that you people in this section of Kansas are planting a great deal more corn than you used to plant.

But I don't believe that corn in Kansas, or corn in New York, is going to prove a very profitable crop, unless we can do something constructive in agriculture, as a whole.

As I said, I am spending a good deal of time on the train and at the various stops we make, in talking to people, trying to get first-hand information about conditions. It is an honest attempt to find out what each section of the country needs, and what each section of the country wants.

And so, with this very simple little talk, I am going to say "Good-bye" to you good people, and I hope to get back very soon. (Applause)

While I am here, I will introduce to you some of the members of my family. This is my "little boy Jimmie" (James Roosevelt). He is only six foot three inches -- that is all! (Laughter) Alongside of him, is his wife, Betsy (Mrs. James Roosevelt), and right over

here is my daughter, Anna (Mrs. Dall). (Applause)

(At this point, a little boy made his way thru the crowd, and the Governor leaned over the rail to shake hands with him, as the train pulled away from the station, amidst loud cheers and shouts: "We want Franklin D. Roosevelt. He's our man!")