
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 504

1932 September 16

Cheyenne, WY - Extemporaneous remarks

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
on improvised platform back of his special train
Cheyenne, Wyoming
September 16, 1932, 9.15 A.M.

I hope I am not premature in saying: "Governor
Miller": (Prolonged applause)

My friends, I am glad to come back here. It is
twelve long years since I drove around Cheyenne. I passed
through a couple of times since then, however. But I am
certainly glad to be back now.

This is the most wonderful arrangement for "com-
ing ashore from our boat" that I have ever seen. (Refer-
ring to improvised stage or platform built on the railroad
track, right in back of the train, after it had been backed
into the siding, permitting the Governor and his party to
step right on to the stage, from the back-platform of his
private car, the "Pioneer".)

You know, my Navy training makes me still think
in terms of "a boat". We keep referring to the rear end
as the "stern" (laughter), which even you people, who are
about as far away from any ocean as you possibly can be,
will no doubt appreciate. (Laughter)

I am making mighty few political speeches on this
trip. The trip started the first day under very excellent

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 of 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.

"Governor: I hope I am not premature in saying: (Prolonged applause)

My friends, I am glad to come back here. It is twelve long years since I drove around Cheyenne. I passed through a couple of times since then, however. But I am certainly glad to be back now.

This is the most wonderful arrangement for "coming ashore from our boat" that I have ever seen. (Laughter)

Right to improvised stage or platform built on the railroad track, right in back of the train, after it had been backed into the siding, converting the Governor and his party to step right on to the stage, from the back-platform of his private car, the "Pioneer".

You know, my Navy training makes me still think in terms of "a boat". We keep referring to the rear end as the "stern" (laughter), which even you people, who are about as far away from any ocean as you possibly can be, will no doubt appreciate. (Laughter)

I am making mighty few political speeches on this trip. The trip started the first day under very excellent

political auspices, because we heard the first day out of the news of the election that took place in the State of Maine. (Applause) And we have had "signed, sealed and delivered" guarantees in Missouri, in Kansas, and in Colorado, that they were going to do even better than Maine. (Applause) So, I have come here today to get the same kind of a guarantee from the State of Wyoming. (Applause, laughter)

A VOICE: You will, Governor! (Applause)

The real fundamental purpose of my coming out through the country is not so much to make speeches as to find out at first hand what the people in the different sections of the country think. I want to get first-hand information about conditions, because, when I go down to Washington on the 4th of March next (applause), I want to know as much as possible at first hand about the conditions and the needs in every section of the country.

We all recognize that we have been pretty hard hit these past few years. It isn't going to be an easy thing for us to make a quick recovery. But I want to have that recovery, when it does come, under proper planning, and proper leadership, affect every section of the country, instead of just one section.

In other words, I am of the belief that one of our chief troubles today, from the point of view of economics, agriculture -- which includes cattle and sheep, etc. -- agriculture, I say, plays a mighty important part in the recovery program. We cannot, as I said in Kansas, have the country successful if it is going to be "half boom" and "half broke".

One of the most important things is to restore to agriculture as a whole a lost buying power. You and I know that it costs -- just to use a homely example -- two wagon-loads of farm produce today to buy what one wagon-load would have bought before the war. That is a condition that must be corrected. And it must be corrected not just in the wheat fields of Kansas, or in the corn belt, or in the cattle region; but it must be corrected in every part of the country.

I personally have lived on a farm for fifty years; and in addition to that, during the past eight years, I have been running a farm down in the State of Georgia. You people will recognize the simple example that if the cotton farmer of the State of Georgia produces his cotton, and has to sell it below the cost of production, it is going to affect the people in the

wheat belt, the people in the corn belt, and the people in the cattle section of the country, because the purchasing power of the cotton farmer will be taken away. Just the same way, too: if you people out in this section of the Nation are not able to have the proper buying power, it is going to affect, and does affect the big manufacturing centers in the East. You can't buy their products.

At last, after a good many years, they are coming to realize that fact. That is why we have an opportunity next year of getting through legislation, and of adopting a national policy which will try to bring about a restoration of business and of agriculture hand in hand; not just one, without the other -- but both together. (Applause)

And so, I am going on to Salt Lake City with my old friend, Governor Dern, and from there on up to Butte, Montana; then on up to Seattle and Portland, Oregon, and down the Coast to California, and back through Arizona, and through the middle west, to Sioux City. Then I am going back to do a little running of my State's business. From there on, we will take one more short trip out through the middle west. Then will come election day. I am very confident of the result on the 8th of November.

I am particularly happy that the State of Wyoming stood by me so loyally in the Convention at Chicago. (Prolonged applause) I am also very happy to have had the privilege of meeting yesterday, down in Denver, and of riding up on the train with a very old friend of mine -- Senator Kendrick. May he long represent you at Washington. (Applause)

Now, I am going to have the privilege of driving around your fine city -- Cheyenne. I am going to drive out to the Soldiers' Home, among other things. I want to see all of the fine improvements that you people have made since I was here twelve years ago. It has been a great pleasure to see you, and I hope that I will get out this way soon. Many thanks! (Prolonged applause)

I would like to introduce to you my "little boy Jimmie", and my daughter-in-law, Betsy, as well as my daughter, Anna. (Applause)