
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Ogden, UT - Extemporaneous remarks

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
From the Back Platform of his Special Train
September 18, 1932, 5.45 P. M., Ogden, Utah

(Mr. Farley, in addition to others, was on the back platform, having joined the party at Salt Lake City.)

I am very glad to have a chance to stop in Ogden, my friends. I was here, as some of you may remember, two years ago, with about twenty-five other varieties of Governors. (Laughter) We had a wonderful luncheon here, and went up the Canyon. I shall never forget that trip.

We have just had two days in Salt Lake City, which I also shall never forget. You know, I am not a stranger in these parts. I am always glad to come back again.

I remember one episode here in 1915 that relates to a very splendid American, who was always very perfectly frank -- the late Vice-President Marshall. Secretary Lane and I were escorting him across to open the Exhibition in San Francisco, and we started out across Salt Lake, at just the sunset hour. We were all on the back platform of the car, and we were raving about the beauties of nature which you have out here. Finally, our good friend, the Vice-President, couldn't stand it

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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.

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I am very glad to have a chance to stop in Ogden, my friends. I was here, as some of you may remember, two years ago, with about twenty-five other members of the Governor's (laughter) We had a wonderful luncheon here and went up the Canyon. I shall never forget that trip. We have just had two days in Salt Lake City, which I also shall never forget. You know, I am not a stranger in these parts. I am always glad to come back again.

I remember one episode here in 1918 that relates to a very splendid American, who was always very perfectly frank -- the late Vice-President Marshall. Secretary Lane and I were recording his notes to open the exhibition in San Francisco, and we started out across Salt Lake, at just the sunset hour. We were all on the back platform of the car, and we were raving about the beauties of nature which you have out here. Finally, our good friend, the Vice-President, couldn't stand it

any longer. He said, "I don't see what you people see in mountains. I was brought up on an Indiana farm, and I never saw a mountain until I was thirty years old; and I don't care if I never see one again." (Laughter)

Well, at least, the Vice-President was frank. But none of us could agree with him. Every member of the party was thrilled by that wonderful sight of your mountains. We had a great day yesterday, as well as today. There was a wonderful gathering in the Tabernacle last night.

I was particularly happy to be the guest of my old friend, Senator King, and my old friend, Governor Dern. I am very much in hope that the State of Utah on the 8th of November will make Senator King the Senior Senator from Utah.

A VOICE: And Roosevelt, President. (Applause)

I want you to see my little boy, Jimmie. (James Roosevelt) (Applause) He is right here.

As you know, I talked last night about the railroad situation. I know that this is one of the railroad centers of the country. I hope that you will go along with me in what I have said, not only about the rehabilitation of the railroads, in making them safe for all time

to come; but also what I said about the permanence of employment of the railroad employees, and the maintaining of their wages, so that they can maintain their present standard of living. I think that is a very important matter.

As I told them at the State Capitol today, sometimes I have a good many problems on this trip. A couple of mornings ago -- I don't think it was daylight -- somewhere around half-past three or four o'clock in the morning, we pulled into a station -- I don't even know the name of it -- it was about on the line between Colorado and Wyoming -- I heard the people outside the window of my "stateroom" saying, "Come on out! Come on out, Governor. We want to see you." I just opened one eye, and they kept on yelling. The next thing I heard was, "Come on out. If you don't come out, we will vote for Hoover." (Laughter) So I was a good deal worried. I didn't know what to do. I got to thinking it over, and the next thing I knew, it was eight o'clock. (Laughter)

It is fine to see you. (Applause)

Now, I want you to meet the National Chairman of the Democratic Party, Mr. James A. Farley, who is right here. (Applause) He is another "little fellow" -- about six feet high!

MR. FARLEY: I am glad to see all of you. How are you all? Vote the Democratic Ticket in November.

(Applause)

A VOICE: Where is Mrs. Roosevelt?

GOVERNOR: She had to send the small boys to school. She is going to come out to join us by plane at Arizona.

A VOICE: Here's hoping that Roosevelt will be President. (Hurrah! Applause)

A VOICE: Are you going to have McAdoo with you in Washington?

GOVERNOR: He is another Democratic Senator down there.