
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Everett, WA - Extemporaneous remarks

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
From the Back Platform of his Special Train
Everett, Washington, September 20, 1932, 9.30 A. M.

Good morning, my friends. Somewhere around four

o'clock this morning I heard a great deal of noise and I looked out of my window. There were about six hundred people down at a station. So I got my boy, Jim, over here, out of bed, and he went out to the rear platform, and I didn't. (Laughter)

As a matter of fact, this trip west is not merely for the purpose of making speeches. What I am trying to do is find out the conditions that exist in different parts of the country. You can find out a great deal by going into the various sections of the United States, much more than you can by merely staying in Albany, New York, or Washington, D. C. That is just why I am taking this trip. I want to find out by actually seeing them, what the conditions are.

I had hoped that as I came out to the Coast I would find that the conditions were better than in the East, or Middle West, but I am sorry to say that that is not so. As far as I can see, the depression extends clear across and is just as bad out here as it is at home.

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.

I looked this morning I heard a great deal of noise and I looked out of my window. There were about six hundred people down at a station. So I got my box, Jim, over here out of bed, and he went out to the rear platform, and I (laughter)

As a matter of fact, this trip was not merely for the purpose of making speeches. What I am trying to do is to find out the conditions that exist in different parts of the country. You can find out a great deal by going into the various sections of the United States, much more than you can by merely staying in Albany, New York, or Washington, D. C. That is just why I am taking this trip. I want to find out by actually seeing them, what the conditions are.

I had hoped that as I came out to the Coast would find that the conditions were better than in the East or Middle West, but I am sorry to say that that is not so. As far as I can see, the depression extends clear across and is just as bad out here as it is at home.

That is why we are going to try in the next four years to bring about more normal conditions.

Some of you have probably read about the talks I have given -- I don't call them speeches -- on the farm problems, and railroad problems and other matters. I believe that by all of us working together, regardless of party, we can bring better times in the United States.

I am glad of the opportunity to get this brief glimpse of you all, and I hope later on to have an opportunity to spend more time with you.

Here (indicating) is my son, Jimmie, (indicating) and the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Honorable James A. Farley. (Applause) I would introduce the girls to you, my daughter-in-law, Betsy, and my daughter, Anna, but I don't think they are dressed yet.

AUDIENCE: Bring them out! (Laughter)