
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Prescott, AZ - Extemporaneous remarks

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT
From the Back Platform of his Special Train
Prescott, Arizona, September 25, 1932, 8.00 P.M.

(Earlier in the afternoon, it was noted that for many miles an airplane had been following the train, and later it was learned that one of its occupants was Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who flew all the way from New York to Arizona, and joined the party at one of the stations along the line, before the party reached Williams, Arizona.)

My friends, it is good to be here tonight. I wish it were daylight, so that I could see this section of the State. I know the Southern section very well; also the country north of here, but I have never been in Prescott.

I have had a wonderful trip, and a perfectly marvelous reception everywhere. All I can tell you is that I am content that all the other states are going to follow the good example set by Maine two weeks ago. (Applause)

This being Sunday, I am not going to talk politics. But I can tell you this: that we have had a good many problems to meet on this trip, especially in some of the states and towns where we have passed through during the night. At one town, near the Colorado-Wyoming border line, we stopped at about three or four o'clock in the morning, and the large crowd outside the window said: "Come on out, Governor." And I opened one eye, and rolled over again. Well, that was all right! But the first thing I knew, they were saying: "Come on out. If you don't come out, we will vote for Hoover." (Laughter)

Then, a little farther on, up in Idaho, somewhere around three or four o'clock in the morning, we pulled in

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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.

My friends, it is good to be here tonight. I am delighted to see this section of the State. I know the Southern section very well. Also the country north of here, but I have never been in Kentucky. I have had a wonderful trip, and a perfectly marvelous reception everywhere. All I can tell you is that I am confident that all the other states are going to follow the good example set by Maine two weeks ago. (Applause)

This being Sunday, I am not going to talk politics. But I can tell you this: that we have had a good many problems to deal on this trip, especially in some of the states and towns where we have passed through during the night. At one town, near the Ohio-Kentucky border line, we stopped at about three or four o'clock in the morning, and the large crowd outside the window said: "Come on out, Governor." And I opened the eye, and rolled over again. Well, that was all right, but the first thing I knew, they were saying: "Come on out. If you don't come out, we will vote for Hoover." (Laughter)

When a little farther on, we in Idaho, somewhere around three or four o'clock in the morning, we pulled in

at a station, and my "little boy" Jimmie, who is standing behind me, here, went out on the platform, and there was a dear old lady who motored in about 200 miles to see me. She said, "I have got to see the Governor." And Jimmie said he "would not wake his old man up". So, she said, "That's all right. If you won't do that, I will go in and wake him up myself."

As some of you people know, the object of this trip, primarily, is not so much to make speeches on my part, as it is to find out the conditions and the needs of every section of the country. And, in restoring prosperity, we don't want prosperity in just one section alone. We want it to cover the whole United States. We want it to cover not only industry, but also agriculture, cattle raising, and mining, etc.
(Prolonged applause)

That is why I am doing a great deal more listening on this trip, than talking, in order to find about about conditions.

It is fine to see you all here. We have had a wonderful reception in this state.

As some of you know, a good many of my family have been coming out here. This past summer my youngest boy, John, was up here at Mrs. Greenway's Ranch.

Last summer, my boy Franklin, Junior, was out here.

The rest of us have been in Arizona many, many times in the past. We are glad to get back again. (Applause)

Here is my "little boy Jimmie".

A VOICE: Hello, Jimmie!

A VOICE: We want to see you over here, Governor. (Referring to other side of the platform, for the crowd was so great, they could not all see him where he was standing.)

GOVERNOR: All right. (Going to other side of platform.) Jimmie is better looking than I am. (Laughter)

It has been good to see you. Now, as some of you people know, Carl Hayden is a very old friend of mine. He was a friend of mine when I was down in Washington in the old days when I was in the Navy Department. (Applause)