
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

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Rhinebeck, NY - Extemporaneous remarks

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT

RHINEBECK, NEW YORK

November 7, 1932.

My friends, that was a mighty nice introduction by Jake Strong. He was right in saying that this is really a homecoming because, while I spent last night at Hyde Park, I have been down the River and across the River to Orange and then up to Ulster County and it is really only fifteen minutes ago that I came back to Dutchess County for the last time before Election Day.

There is only one great question in my mind. I have covered a great many thousands of miles and visited a great many States. I have been on the go now for almost every day of the past three months and I have gotten so in the habit of it that when tomorrow comes and I go up to the polls, I will find myself with nothing else to do and I think the only thing that I can possibly do in order to let out this surplus energy of mine is to start another campaign trip on Wednesday morning. (Laughter)

It has been a great experience. I went, as many of you know, not to make speeches but primarily to find out what the conditions are in different parts of the country and, frankly, the conditions in this country, East and West, North and South, are not what they ought to be.

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 or phrases that were previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were added when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

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We hope that they are going to get better and, if the responsibility is given to me and my associates during the next four years, we will earnestly strive for the bettering of conditions for the average American man and woman, for the average American family. And I believe we can do it.

I don't have to tell you, my neighbors, that in all the years to come, no matter what happens tomorrow, I shall be coming back to Dutchess County where my only home is.

There is one additional reason for a good vote for me tomorrow in Rhinebeck and I will tell you what that is: I want Monte Snyder down at the White House. (Applause) So, in voting for me, remember that you are really voting for Monte.

It has been fine to see all of you. I shall see you very often, of course, as I go through on my way to and from Albany between now and the first of January. I hope you will excuse it if some times, when I am in a hurry, we go past that red light. It just cannot be helped because there is such a thing as State business and it has to take precedence over other things.

Many thanks for this perfectly fine reception. I am grateful to you for it and I will be back again soon. (Applause)