

January 21, 1933

[Shuford, Alabama]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS BY PRESIDENT-ELECT ROOSEVELT

SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA

January 21, 1933

(The President was introduced by Governor Miller  
of Alabama.)

Governor Miller, My Friends:

I think I can almost say, "My neighbors", because, from my little cottage at Warm Springs, from Pine Mountain which lies back of it, I can look into Alabama. (Applause)

I am here for two reasons: The first is to fulfill a promise made to myself because, during the campaign, I said that I wanted to see Muscle Shoals. (Applause) The other is that I do not believe that any person in the world can act or make a recommendation in regard to any great project unless he has seen the project himself. (Applause)

So, today, I am looking forward with the greatest of interest to seeing this particular part of the Tennessee Valley. I am very confident that the distinguished gentlemen who are with me from the Congress of the United States will be able to work with me and get something practical done. (Applause)

Every single part of the United States is represented here today. Senator Norris is the author of Muscle Shoals. (Applause) Senator Dill, who has taken such a great interest 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.

(The President was introduced by Governor Miller of Alabama.)

Governor Miller, My Friends:

I think I can almost say, "My neighbors," because from my little cottage at Warm Springs, I see the mountains which rise back of it, I can look into Alabama. I am here for two reasons: The first is to fulfill a promise made to myself because, during the campaign, I said that I wanted to see Uncle Chocoma. (Applause) The other is that I do not believe that any person in the world can get or have a recommendation in regard to any great project unless he has seen the project himself. (Applause)

So, today, I am looking forward with the greatest of interest to seeing this particular part of the Tennessee Valley. I am very confident that the distinguished gentlemen who are with me from the Congress of the United States will be able to work with me and get something practical done. (Applause) Every single part of the United States is represented here today. Senator Norris is the author of Uncle Chocoma. (Applause) Senator Hill, who has taken such a great interest in

the power question as a whole, comes from the Pacific northwest. (Applause) Mr. Scattergood is a gentleman who has done so much to build up the use of electricity in the Southwest. (Applause) And, finally, another section of the country is well represented by the gentleman who has been for some years the chairman of my own Power Authority in the State of New York and he represents the great St. Lawrence Development. (Applause) So you might say that all four corners of the United States are here today.

We are here because the Muscle Shoals Development and the Tennessee River Development as a whole are national in their aspect and are going to be treated from a national point of view. (Applause)

And so, my friends, I am looking forward with the greatest of pleasure to my day here. It is going to give me a great advantage in putting Muscle Shoals back on the map. (Prolonged applause).