

August 7, 1934

[Thorn Platform - Wadena, Minnesota]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS TRAIN

WILLMAR, MINNESOTA  
August 7, 1934, 8.45 P.M.

My friends, you know I haven't got any loudspeaker on this train because I am not on a political campaign trip. (Laughter)

I have come out through the Northwest, all the way from the coast, with the hope of learning more at first-hand about some very difficult conditions all through this part of the country. I always like to see things with my own eyes instead of just studying blueprints. I have learned a great deal.

I have been very grateful for the wonderful receptions I have had but, from what I have seen, I am even more determined than I have been at any time in the past that the Government of your Nation is going to do all it possibly can to improve living conditions and social conditions and economic conditions for the benefit of the average man and woman and child of this country.

There are some things that neither you nor I can control; you cannot control Mother Nature. I had hoped today, out at Devils Lake, we were going to have a good, old-fashioned rainstorm but we haven't had it yet. I wasn't as lucky as I was in Puerto Rico. They have had six weeks of drought down there; they were

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.

My friends, you know I haven't got any loudspeaker on this train because I am not on a political campaign trip.

(Coughs)

I have come out through the Northwest, all the way from the coast, with the hope of learning more at first-hand about some very difficult conditions all through this part of the country. I always like to see things with my own eyes instead of just studying blueprints. I have learned a great deal.

I have been very grateful for the wonderful reception I have had out there that I have seen, I am even more determined than I have been at any time in the past that the Government of your Nation is going to do all it possibly can to improve living conditions and social conditions and economic conditions for the benefit of the average man and woman and child of this country.

There are some things that neither you nor I can control; you cannot control Mother Nature. I had hoped today, out at Devils Lake, we were going to have a good, old-fashioned rainstorm but we haven't had it yet. I wasn't as lucky as I was in Fargo. Now, they have had six weeks of drought down there; they were

all going to churches and praying for rain -- they had been doing it for weeks. By the grace of God, the day I landed, the heavens opened up and it rained all day.

I am glad to be back in Minnesota after an absence of two years. You have a fine State. I believe from the bottom of my heart that, regardless of party politics, you are behind our efforts to improve the conditions of the United States.

It is good to see you all and I wish I could stay here longer and see things at first-hand. (Cheers and applause)