

August 8, 1934

[Spauld, Wisconsin]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
SPARTA, WISCONSIN
August 8, 1934

I am sorry that we have no loudspeaker on the
end of the train, but this is not a political trip.

I have been coming across the Continent, as you know, with the object of seeing some of the conditions in the States at first hand. Today I have had the privilege of seeing, for the second time, a portion of the work that is going on to make the Mississippi River navigable from St. Paul and Minneapolis down to the Gulf of Mexico. It has been my ambition for a long time to put the interior of our great Continent into touch with the commerce of the world by water, and I hope to live to see the day, not long distant, when the Mississippi Valley will be able to take its products in vessels from the top of the Mississippi and from far up the Missouri and far up the Ohio and its other tributaries, to the Gulf.

I hope also to live to see the day when the great Middle West and Northwest will be able to send its products down the St. Lawrence River into the ocean. (Applause)

I am glad to get back into Wisconsin and I wish it were daylight so that I could see you. I hope sometime

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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.

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I have been coming across the Continent, as you know, with the object of seeing some of the conditions of the States at first hand. Today I have had the privilege of seeing, for the second time, a portion of the work that is going on to make the Mississippi River navigable from St. Paul and Minneapolis down to the Gulf of Mexico. It has been my ambition for a long time to put the interior of our great Continent into touch with the commerce of the world by water, and I hope to live to see the day, not long distant, when the Mississippi Valley will be able to take its products in vessels from the top of the Mississippi and from far up the Missouri and far up the Ohio and its other tributaries, to the Gulf.
I hope also to live to see the day when the great Middle West and Northwest will be able to send its products down the St. Lawrence River into the ocean. (A pause)
I am glad to get back into Wisconsin and I wish it were daylight so that I could see you. I hope sometime

soon to come out here in the daytime to see more of these conditions at first hand.

I feel, on the whole, that we are making definite progress and I believe that the country is still full of the kind of courage and faith that will maintain and increase that progress in the coming year. (Applause)

Thank you very much. (Cheers -- Applause)

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