

November 16, 1934

[Inspection Tour of Tenn. Valley Project]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INSPECTION TOUR OF  
THE TENNESSEE VALLEY PROJECTS

ON THE CLINCH RIVER, BELOW THE NORRIS DAM  
November 16, 1934 - about 4.15 P.M.

My friends:

I am getting a great thrill out of this. I was thinking today that it was only a year ago last January, less than two years ago and before I became President, that I came down to Muscle Shoals with Senator Norris and a number of other gentlemen. At that time a very great idea was just beginning to take shape. It was only an idea then and when I think of the very small period of time that has elapsed since then I am very proud to have had something to do with it. But I am a lot prouder of the way you good people are carrying that idea into actual fact. All of you who are working here at this great dam project and all of the good people throughout the Tennessee Valley who are working on the rest of this great program some day will be known as veterans -- you will be known as veterans of a new kind of war, the kind of war that is going to improve conditions for millions and millions of our fellow American citizens.

All I can say to you is "God speed the work." You are going at it with a splendid spirit and I am coming back here again some time when you get this work done.

**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.

I am getting a great thrill out of this. I am feeling today  
that it was only a year ago last January, less than two years  
ago and before I became President, that I came down to Kansas  
State with Governor Towle and a number of other gentlemen. At  
that time a very great idea was just beginning to get shape.  
It was only in later years and when I think of the very small  
period of time that has elapsed since then I am very proud to  
have had something to do with it. But I am a first grader of  
the way the good people are carrying that idea into actual fact.  
All of you who are working hard at this great job project and  
all of the good people throughout the Tennessee Valley who are  
working in the best of this great program now they will be known  
as veterans -- you will be known as veterans of a new kind of  
war, the kind of war that is going to improve conditions for  
millions and millions of our fellow American citizens.  
All I can say to you is "God speed the work". You  
are going to do it with a splendid spirit and I am coming back  
here again soon when you get this work done.

STATEMENTS FILE

On the Clinch River, below the Norris Dam  
Nov. 16, 1934 - abt 4.15 PM

My friends:

I am getting a great thrill out of this (~~speech~~)  
I was thinking today that it was only a year ago last  
January, less than two years ago and before I became  
President that I came down to Muscle Shoals with  
Senator Norris and a number of other gentlemen. At  
that time a very great idea was just beginning to  
take shape. It was only an idea then and when I  
think of the very small period of time that has elapsed  
since then I am very proud to have had something to do  
with it. But I am a lot prouder of the way you good  
people are carrying that idea into actual fact.  
All of you who are working here at this great dam  
project and all of the good people throughout the  
Tennessee Valley who are working on the rest of this  
great program some day will be known as veterans -- you  
will be known as veterans of a new kind of war, the kind  
of war that is going to improve conditions for millions  
and millions of our fellow American citizens.

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All I can say to you is "God speed the work."  
You are going at it with a splendid spirit and I am  
looking back here again some time when you get this  
work done.

-End-