

August 12, 1935

[Remarks: Statement of Cuban Ambassador.]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT,
IN RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS BY DR. GUILLERMO PATTERSON,
CUBAN AMBASSADOR, AND SENOR JOSE MANUEL CASANOVA,
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC UNION OF CUBA.

August 12, 1935

I am not only gratified but very much touched at your coming here. It is a splendid thing for you to do, and it proves that something that we always wanted has worked out.

One has an ideal and wants to put it into effect. We tried two and a half years ago to establish a principle -- a principle that two nations, side by side, ought to be good neighbors. The next thing we did was to try to work out some practical demonstration of the value of the policy of the good neighbor.

People said a trade agreement would not accomplish anything; that a trade agreement would not work, but we put it through. The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

What pleases me particularly is that the economic revival in Cuba has come so quickly, even more quickly than we hoped when the trade agreement was signed. From all I hear from friends in Cuba and from you, the improvement in economic conditions is not merely at the top, but it extends down -- wages are better and you have a better purchasing power. It is a very, very fine thing.

Some day I am not only coming to Havana, but I am going into the interior of the country. I used to know it in the old days, twenty years ago.

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. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was read, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

I am not only gratified but very much touched at your coming here. It is a splendid thing for you to do, and it proves that something that we always wanted has worked out.

One has an ideal and wants to put it into effect. We tried two and a half years ago to establish a principle -- a principle that two nations, side by side, ought to be good neighbors. The next thing we did was to try to work out some practical demonstration of the value of the policy of the good neighbor.

People said a trade agreement would not accomplish anything; that a trade agreement would not work, but we put it through. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. What pleases us particularly is that the economic revival in Cuba has come so quickly, even more quickly than we hoped when the trade agreement was signed. From all the best friends in Cuba and from you, the improvement in economic conditions is not merely at the top, but it extends down -- wages are better and you have a better purchasing power. It is a very, very fine thing.

Some day I am not only coming to Havana, but I am going into the interior of the country. I need to know it in the old days, twenty years ago.

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 1935

Interim remarks of the President, in response to statements by Dr. Guillermo Patterson, Cuban Ambassador, and Senor Jose Manuel Casanova, President of the Social and Economic Union of Cuba:

I am not only gratified but very much touched at your coming here. It is a splendid thing for you to do, and it proves that something that we always wanted has worked out.

One has an ideal and wants to put it into effect. We tried two and a half years ago to establish a principle -- a principle that two nations, side by side, ought to be good neighbors. The next thing we did was to try to work out some practical demonstration of the value of the policy of the good neighbor.

People said a trade agreement would not accomplish anything; that a trade agreement would not work, but we put it through. The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

What pleases me particularly is that the economic revival in Cuba has come so quickly, even more quickly than we hoped when the trade agreement was signed. From all I hear from friends in Cuba and from you, the improvement in economic conditions is not merely at the top, but it extends down -- wages are better and you have a better purchasing power. It is a very, very fine thing.

Some day I am not only coming to Havana, but I am going into the interior of the country. I used to know it in the old days, twenty years ago.

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(Book containing 20,000 signatures presented
to the President)

I am very, very much not only gratified but very much touched at your coming up here. It is a splendid thing for you to do, and it proves something that we always wanted to have work out.

One has an ideal and wants to put it into effect. We tried two and a half years ago to establish a principle -- a principle that two nations, side by side, ought to be good neighbors. And on top of that the next thing we did was to try to work out some practical demonstration of the value of the policy of being good neighbors. And people said that a trade agreement would not accomplish anything; people said that a trade agreement was unconstitutional and people said that it would not work, but we put it through and we said that the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

President of the Mission: It works.

The President: What pleases me particularly is that the economic revival in Cuba has come so quickly, even more quickly than we could have hoped when the trade agreement was signed, and from all I hear from my friends in Cuba and from what you have told me, the improvement in economic conditions is not merely at the top, but that it extends down -- that the wages are better on the

farms and that you have a better purchasing power. It is a very, very fine thing. Your recovery has been quicker than ours.

President of the Mission: More surprising than the recovery has been the quickness of it.

The President: Perfectly true. Things are coming much better. Some day I am coming down to see you, but I am not only coming to Havana, but I am going into the rest of the country. I used to know it in the old days, 20 years ago.

The President of the Mission: It is beautiful today.

The President: I was there many times. I know the interior of the country and many of the smaller towns. So I hope some day to be able to get down to see you.

A member of the Mission: Very likely you were in Santiago?

The President: Yes, I was there in 1917.

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 1955



Extemporaneous remarks of the President, in response to statements by Dr. Guillermo Patterson, Cuban Ambassador, and Senor Jose Manuel Casanova, president of the Social and Economic Union of Cuba:

~~(Book containing 20,000 signatures presented to the President)~~

I I am ~~very, very much~~ not only gratified but very much touched at your coming ~~to~~ here. It is a splendid thing for you to do, and it proves ^{that} something that we always wanted to ~~have~~ ^{has} work out.

I One has an ideal and wants to put it into effect. We tried two and a half years ago to establish a principle -- a principle that two nations, side by side, ought to be good neighbors. ~~That~~ ~~on top of that~~ The next thing we did was to try to work out some practical demonstration of the value of the policy of ~~being~~ good neighbors. ~~The~~ People said ~~that~~ a trade agreement would not accomplish anything; ~~some~~ ~~said~~ that a trade agreement was ~~unconstitutional~~ and ~~people~~ ~~said~~ that it would not work, but we put it through. ~~and~~ ~~that~~ The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

~~President and Mission~~

The ~~President~~ What pleases me particularly is that the economic revival in Cuba has come so quickly, even more quickly than we ~~could~~ ~~have~~ hoped when the trade agreement was signed, ~~and~~ From all I hear from ~~my~~ friends in Cuba and from ~~what~~ you ~~have~~ ~~told~~ me, the improvement in economic conditions is not merely at the top, but that it extends down -- ~~that~~ ~~the~~ wages are better ~~conditions~~

~~Some~~ and ~~that~~ you have a better purchasing power. It is a very, very fine thing. ~~Your recovery has been quicker than some~~

~~The President of the Mission: More surprising than the recovery has been the quickness of it.~~

~~The President: Perfectly good things are coming much better.~~ 91 Some day I am coming down to see you and I am not only coming to Havana, but I am going into the ^{interior of} ~~rest of~~ the country. I used to know it in the old days, 20 years ago. (End)

~~The President of the Mission: It is beautiful today.~~

~~The President: I was there many times. I know the interior of the country and many of the smaller towns. So I hope some day to be able to get down to see you.~~

~~A member of the Mission: Very likely you were in Santiago?~~

~~The President: Yes, I was there in 1917.~~

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Interpreting remarks of the President, in response to statements by Dr. Guillermo Patterson, Cuban Ambassador, and Senor Jose Manuel Casanova, President of the Social and Economic Union of Cuba:

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People said a trade agreement would not accomplish anything; that a trade agreement would not work, but we put it through. The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

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Some day I am not only coming to Havana, but I am going into the interior of the country. I used to know it in the old days, twenty years ago.

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August 12, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE SUMNER WELLES:

You may care to have these copies
of the President's remarks.

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to
the President

Enclosure