

August 22, 1935

[Bicentennial - Sainte Genevieve, Missouri]

FDR Speech File

01914

Original of telephone talk - 00
August 22, 1934

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TO THE PEOPLE OF SAINTE GENEVIEVE:

The history of the town of Sainte Genevieve eloquently testifies to the fortitude of those pioneers who built their homes on the western bank of the Mississippi and wrested minerals from the hills, furs from the forest, and a plentiful harvest from the plain; who merged their varied nationalities in a mighty effort to carve an American nation out of the Western wilderness.

We admire that Christian courage which refused to be daunted by Indian depredations and massacres, by a gradual change in the course of the Mississippi threatening the destruction of the settlement, or by the disastrous flood of 1785. In due course, through the rugged efforts of your predecessors, the hostile ~~Indians~~ ^{Indians} were pacified; and the restless Mississippi, far from annihilating the community, provoked a providential removal of the church and other buildings to a better site where the village could expand and flourish.

These triumphs over affliction are characteristic of the spirit of our early Americans. Although the problems which confront us today are of a different sort, I am confident that you have not lost the stalwart qualities of frontier days.

It is with a full appreciation of your past that, on this occasion of your Bi-Centennial Celebration, I extend to you my hearty wishes for a happy and prosperous future.

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT BY TELEPHONE
TO GREET THE PEOPLE OF SAINTE GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI,
AS THEY CELEBRATE "NATION'S NIGHT" AS A FEATURE
OF SAINTE GENEVIEVE'S BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

August 22, 1935

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We admire that Christian courage which refused to be daunted by Indian depredations and massacres, by a gradual change in the course of the Mississippi threatening the destruction of the settlement, or by the disastrous flood of 1785. In due course, through the rugged efforts of your predecessors, the hostile Indians were pacified; and the restless Mississippi, far from annihilating the community, provoked a providential removal of the church and other buildings to a better site where the village could expand and flourish.

These triumphs over affliction are characteristic of the spirit of our early Americans. Although the problems which confront us today are of a different sort, I am confident that you have not lost the stalwart qualities of

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. Underlined indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

The history of the town of Salinas
is a story of the struggle of those pioneers
who built their homes on the western bank of the Salinas
and wrested minerals from the hills, from the forests,
and a plentiful harvest from the plain; who sought their
varied occupations in a steady effort to carve an American
nation out of the Western wilderness.
We admit that Christian courage which refused to
be daunted by Indian depredations and massacres, by a gradual
change in the course of the Salinas; that through the
destruction of the settlement, or by the disastrous flood
of 1782. In due course, through the rugged efforts of your
precursors, the hostile Indians were pacified; and the
restless Salinas, far from annihilating the community,
promoted a providential removal of the church and other
buildings to a better site where the village could expand
and flourish.
These triumphs over affliction are characteristic
of the spirit of our early immigrants. Although the problems
which confront us today are of a different sort, I am con-
fident that you have not lost the stalwart qualities of

frontier days.

It is with a full appreciation of your past that, on this occasion of your Bi-Centennial Celebration, I extend to you my hearty wishes for a happy and prosperous future.

FOR THE PRESS

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The President tonight will speak by telephone to greet the people of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri, as they celebrate "Nation's Night" as a feature of Sainte Genevieve's bi-centennial celebration.

The following remarks of the President are released for publication in all editions of newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER than 9:00 O'clock, P. M., Eastern Standard Time.

JULIUS ROSEN
Assistant Secretary to the President

"The history of the town of Sainte Genevieve eloquently testified to the fortitude of those pioneers who built their homes on the western bank of the Mississippi and wrested minerals from the hills, furs from the forest, and a plentiful harvest from the plain; who merged their varied nationalities in a mighty effort to carve an American nation out of the Western wilderness.

"We admire that Christian courage which refused to be daunted by Indian depredations and massacres, by a gradual change in the course of the Mississippi threatening the destruction of the settlement, or by the disastrous flood of 1785. In due course, through the rugged efforts of your predecessors, the hostile Indians were pacified; and the restless Mississippi, far from annihilating the community, provoked a providential removal of the church and other buildings to a better site where the village could expand and flourish.

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