

October 23, 1935

[The Citadel - Charleston, SC]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
THE CITADEL, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

October 23, 1935, 4.30 P.M.

(Mayor Maybank introduced Governor Johnston
of South Carolina, who, in turn, introduced
the President.)

Governor Johnston, Mr. Mayor, my friends of Charleston
and of South Carolina:

You have given me a very wonderful welcome home
to the continental limits of the United States. It is a very
happy ending to a very happy vacation.

I am glad to come back here after many years, for,
as some of you will remember, in the old days when I was
associated with the United States Navy under the Administration
of that great American President, Woodrow Wilson, I had the
opportunity of coming here on several occasions and of helping
to build up, to some degree at least, this splendid Navy Yard
in Charleston.

When I heard that I was to speak at The Citadel, old
memories came back to me, memories not only of my own visit to
the old school but memories also of the great historic tradition
of that school, an historical record, a war record, if you please,
of The Citadel boys that ought to be known to every boy in the
United States. Then when I learned that The Citadel had moved,
somehow I got a little choky over that, wondering what it would
be like and yet here I come and I find the old Citadel repro-

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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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...because I...
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duced. It is reproduced, I am confident, for generations to come for the continuance of this splendid institution and I am happy indeed that you have moved it here to these very fitting surroundings, and that The Citadel is under the command of my old friend General Summerall.

I was glad to be welcomed not only by the Governor and the Mayor but by my old friend Senator Smith, but I was sorry indeed that another old friend of mine, the Junior Senator, Senator Byrnes, could not be here at the same time. I have an idea that Jimmie Byrnes went away so that he would not have to hear fishing stories from me. (Laughter) We have fished together. I am a much better fisherman than he is, only he would never admit it. (Laughter) I could tell you a great many fishing stories, of fishing in Mexican waters and of fishing at the Treasure Island of Cocos in the Pacific Ocean, of fishing near Panama, of fishing down among the San Blas Indians in the Atlantic Ocean, in the Caribbean Sea. I don't know whether you would believe them all or not. I could tell you about fish that got away and about fish that were caught. (Laughter)

We have had a very happy three weeks and I am glad, in coming back here to the Southern Atlantic Coast, to find a very definite evidence of what I found in my trip across the Continent, starting from Washington and going out through the

Middle West, out into the Great Plains country, through the Rocky Mountain States and finally to the Pacific Coast. There was not one dissenting word -- there was general admission that this country was coming back. You could see it with your own eyes.

Today, on landing, I am told the same story about South Carolina.

Yes, we are on our way back -- not just by pure chance, my friends, not just by a turn of the wheel, of the cycle. We are coming back more soundly than ever before because we are planning it that way. Don't let anybody tell you differently.

There are many grave problems ahead. As you know, I spoke in San Diego, in California, three weeks ago today. I spoke in regard to the affairs of the world and I tried to make it clear then, as I continue to make it clear today, that it shall be my earnest effort to keep this country free and unentangled from any possible war that may occur across the seas.

I have come back very much sun-burned, very much full of health and ready to tackle a great many things. I wish I could stay with you longer but I have to be back in Washington tomorrow. I shall always bear with me a very happy recollection of this coming back home, back into our country, and a very happy recollection of all the kind things you have said and that you have done, of your coming out to greet me, of my

opportunity once more to see this historic city, to see those delightful and splendid old homes -- homes that belong not just to you who are fortunate to live in Charleston, but homes and churches and public buildings that belong to all of us Americans, all of us who care for the great traditions of the United States.

I hope you will always keep those homes, keep them for yourselves and keep them for your fellow countrymen as you would keep the splendid traditions of Charleston and the splendid traditions of South Carolina. I know that more and more people all over the United States are going to come to visit you just as your welcome today makes me want to come back every possible chance that I may get. Many thanks.