

December 7, 1935

[Orthopedic Surgeons - Warm Springs]

FDR Speech File

0826

Grand Hotel, Warm Springs, Georgia

**INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS VISITING
WARM SPRINGS FOUNDATION
AT THE PATIENTS' SWIMMING POOL**

December 7, 1935, 11 A.M.

I wish you had seen this building ten years ago.

It was a perfectly good down-at-the-heel summer resort and nothing else.

Did you ever hear the story of how the first patients came down here? In the Summer or Spring before I came down my doctor had told me that he was finding that his patients who were swimming in Long Island Sound and in places where they could stay in the water a longer time, were showing a little more improvement than those who went up further North in places where they could not swim for long periods on account of the cold water. He told me that he was going to try the effect of exercising in warm water.

Well, he went abroad and died on the other side that Summer, and that Fall I heard about Warm Springs, I heard some very good reports about it, and I thought I would try it out and at least come down for a rest. I found that I could move about and exercise a good deal better in this water than any other place and the following

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.

... our energy and resolution will have been won to

the greater measure. And our research work will continue and it

will quicken

and furnish still more to you who have not big

I would advise to remember this as I said with other affairs
that actually were not part of this but related to health also

now we are treated just as you know when you travel and
you travel a motor car or take a boat you expect to be
treated like equal men. In everything from small to unison over
and over and above your other needs of dress treatment or
what ever else. Please remember to remember to always give
other forms of assistance to others and you are going to be
able to do this but in with the people here in New

England with foods from all over the country and
I suggest I am not foods shipped from other parts of the world
I mean a local man who does for the city or town which
he thinks are suitable for foods over which I don't know
particularly but has really made you think rather and not referred

Spring a couple of newspaper men came down here from Atlanta and they wanted a political story. One of them wrote a special feature story that went all through the country, in the Sunday papers. It was headed, "Annette Kellerman and Franklin Roosevelt swim their way back to health." Of course, that had nothing to do with it. I was furious and wanted to sue him for libel and everything else but, by gosh, within two weeks they began to arrive, and twenty-one Polio cases came and there wasn't a doctor, there wasn't anything down here. The place wasn't opened in the Spring of 1925. We were all upset by it. At the time the place was run by a Georgia editor, Tom Loyless. It was in an awful condition.

Fred Botts was one of those patients, and when he got here I took one look at him and thought he had an advanced case of T.B., so I sent over to Manchester for a doctor, Dr. Johnson, who was a general practitioner, and I said, "My God, we are not going to let this fellow go into the outdoor pool until we check on him." So Dr. Johnson came over and checked on him and found it was merely a case of undernourishment, and he checked on the others, and we put them in life preservers and got

them all to kicking around in the pool.

In the following Spring, 1926, the Orthopedic Association met in Atlanta. Dr. Hoke was President that year and I went up there and, of course, they could not do anything officially, but I asked their permission to suggest the appointment of an advisory committee which Dr. Frederick (?) headed and, as a result of the appointment of that Advisory Committee, we started in the Summer to experiment down here.

We did not know much, we did not know how to go about the thing, and so we got Dr. Hubbard to come down here and also one physio-therapist.

Well, we ran that experiment in the Summer of 1926. It was terribly crowded. All we could do was to check on nourishment and do a certain amount of plaster cast work. From that time on, which is somewhat less than ten years ago, see what has happened!

But the important point is that people all over the country know about what we are doing and are following our example in their own communities. My whole objective was to make the country as conscious about Polio as it is about T.B.. Everything that you people can do

and have done to help spread the gospel is all right.

It is good to see you all.