

June 1, 1936

[Associated Countrywomen of the World]

FOR Speech File

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READING COPY

President's remarks to Third
Triennial Conference of
Associated Country Women of
the World --White House

June 1, 1936.

engaged in agriculture or is directly dependent on the results of agriculture. This means that you ladies have a great responsibility for today and for the future; it means that you can raise ~~the standards~~ not only the standards of agricultural life but the standards of all life as well.

For we are coming more and more to realize that the city dwellers cannot be prosperous, cannot work in their factories and their stores unless the agricultural population and those dependent on them have a greater purchasing power throughout the years. Your task and mine concerns itself not only with new problems: we are confronted with the necessity of undoing past mistakes, of restoring the former gifts of nature ~~and~~ to their former value, and of seeing to it that harmful practices of the olden days shall not be repeated.

We are trying many new things - most of them we believe will succeed; some of them may not succeed, and in such cases we shall seek better substitutes.

I congratulate you on this fine gathering which has exceeded our hopes both in numbers and in the ^{scope of} territory represented. We, citizens of the United States, are proud to present to you, the representatives of so many other nations, a cross-section of the farm women of our country. We are glad to have you visit the United States and, as a result of this friendly meeting, the farm life of every nation is bound to march forward with increasing efficiency and increasingly high standards.

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the President

Until comparatively recent years people in almost every nation believed a current saying that farmers would never be able to agree among themselves. If this saying applied to the farmers I, as a mere man, suppose it applied to the farmers' wives and daughters as well.

Recent history has exposed the fallacy; we have changed it to read -- farmers and farmers' wives and farmers' sons and farmers' daughters can cooperate and do cooperate.

The very fact of this cooperation has made possible here and abroad the great progress that has been made in improving the conditions of life in rural communities.

People are prone to forget that by far the greater part of the world's population is actively engaged in agriculture or is directly dependent on the results of agriculture. This means that you ladies have a great responsibility for today and for the future; it means that you can raise not only the standards of agricultural life but the standards of all life as well.

For we are coming more and more to realize that the city dwellers cannot be prosperous, cannot work in their factories and their stores unless the agricultural population and those dependent on them have a greater purchasing power throughout the years.

Your task and mine concerns itself not only with new problems: we are confronted with the necessity of undoing past mistakes, of restoring the former gifts of nature to their former wise, and of seeing to it that harmful practices of the olden days shall not be repeated.

We are trying many new things - most of them we believe will succeed; some of them may not succeed, and in such cases we shall seek better substitutes.

I congratulate you on this fine gathering which has exceeded our hopes both in numbers and in the scope of territory represented. We, citizens of the United States, are proud to present to you, the representatives of so many other nations, a cross-section of the farm women of our country. We are glad to have you visit the United States and, as a result of this friendly meeting, the farm life of every nation is bound to march forward with increasing efficiency and increasingly high standards.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, U.S. President

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
to the Associated Countrywomen of the World
from the South Portico of the White House
Washington, D.C., June 1, 1936, 3:30 P.M.

(The ladies sang "Home on the Range.")

Ladies: I am very glad that your singing is making "Home on the Range" as familiar in Dutchess County, New York, and in Meriwether County, Georgia, as it is on the plains of Western Texas.

(Applause)

Until comparatively recent years, people in almost every nation in the world believed the saying that was then current that farmers would never be able to agree among themselves. (Laughter) And if this saying used to apply to farmers, I, as a mere man, supposed that it applied equally to farmers' wives and their daughters.

(Laughter)

But recent history, especially in this country during the past few years, has exposed that saying as a fallacy. We have changed it. We have changed it to read, "Farmers and farmers' wives and farmers' sons and farmers' daughters can cooperate and do cooperate."

(Applause)

The very fact of this cooperation has made possible here and in other countries the great progress that we have accomplished in improving the conditions of life in rural communities. I think people are apt to forget that by far the greater part of the world's population is actively engaged in agriculture or is directly dependent on the results of agriculture. This means that you ladies have a great

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.

responsibility for today and for the future. It means that you can raise not only the standards of agricultural life but the standards of all other life as well. For we are coming more and more to realize that the city dwellers cannot be prosperous, cannot work in their factories and their stores unless the agricultural population and those dependent on them have a greater purchasing power throughout the year. (Applause)

Your task and mine concerns itself not only with new problems but we are confronted also with the necessity of undoing past mistakes, of restoring the former gifts of nature to their former values and of seeing to it that the harmful practices of the olden days shall not be repeated in the days to come.

Yes, we are trying many new things and most of them we believe will succeed. Some of them may not and in such cases we are going to unite on even better substitutes.

And so I congratulate you on this fine gathering which has exceeded our hopes both in numbers and in the scope of the territory that is represented. We, the citizens of the United States, are proud to present to you, the representatives of so many other nations, a cross section of the farm women of America. We are glad to have our friends visit the United States and, as a result of this friendly meeting, the farm life of every nation is bound to march forward with increasing efficiency and increasingly high standards.

Good luck to you all.

June 1, 1936.

These remarks of the President to the Third Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World must be held in strictest confidence until released. Release upon delivery expected about 3:30 P.M. Eastern Standard Time today.

STEPHEN EARLY

Assistant Secretary to the President

Until comparatively recent years people in almost every nation believed a current saying that farmers would never be able to agree among themselves. If this saying applied to the farmers I, as a mere man, suppose it applied to the farmers' wives and daughters as well.

Recent history has exposed the fallacy; we have changed it to read -- farmers and farmers' wives and farmers' sons and farmers' daughters can cooperate and do cooperate.

The very fact of this cooperation has made possible here and abroad the great progress that has been made in improving the conditions of life in rural communities.

People are prone to forget that by far the greater part of the world's population is actively engaged in agriculture or is directly dependent on the results of agriculture. This means that you ladies have a great responsibility for today and for the future; it means that you can raise not only the standards of agricultural life but the standards of all life as well.

For we are coming more and more to realize that the city dwellers cannot be prosperous, cannot work in their factories and their stores unless the agricultural population and those dependent on them have a greater purchasing power throughout the years.

Your task and mine concerns itself not only with new problems; we are confronted with the necessity of undoing past mistakes, of restoring the former gifts of nature to their former value, and of seeing to it that harmful practices of the olden days shall not be repeated.

We are trying many new things - most of them we believe will succeed; some of them may not succeed, and in such cases we shall seek better substitutes.

I congratulate you on this fine gathering which has exceeded our hopes both in numbers and in the scope of territory represented. We, citizens of the United States, are proud to present to you, the representatives of so many other nations, a cross-section of the farm women of our country. We are glad to have you visit the United States and, as a result of this friendly meeting, the farm life of every nation is bound to march forward with increasing efficiency and increasingly high standards.

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