

June 15, 1936

[Martinsburg, ^{West} Virginia]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS TRAIN
MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA
June 15, 1936, 10:36 A.M.

(A special stop was made at Martinsburg at the request of Congressman Randolph, who introduced the President.)

It is perfectly true, when I get back at Martinsburg that I feel very much as if I was back home. Another thing is that this country of yours up the Potomac and with Virginia reminds me a good deal of my own country on the Hudson River.

It is also true, of course, that this Potomac Valley is coming back into its own. I hope that within a very few years we will be able to carry through a great Parkway from the Nation's Capitol following in general the line of the Valley and the old national pike which came through here and went clear out west to the Ohio. (Applause)

We have had a very grand trip. We have covered a lot of territory. It has been extraordinarily interesting going to those historic spots for the Centennial of Arkansas and Texas and ending yesterday with the opening of the Vincennes Memorial and finally, yesterday afternoon, going to the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. As you know, Abraham Lincoln's ancestors came

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

(The President said that he had been invited to the Congress of Congressmen Assembly, which included the President.)

It is particularly true, when I get back to Washington, that I feel very much as if I was back home. Another thing is that this country of yours is the foremost and best of the world. I feel that of my own country on the Hudson River. It is also true, of course, that this

Potomac Valley is coming back into its own. I hope that within a very few years we will be able to carry through a great highway from the Nation's Capital following in general the line of the Valley and the old National Pike which came through here many years ago.

(The President said that he had been invited to the Congress of Congressmen Assembly, which included the President.)

We have had a very grand trip. It has been extraordinarily covered a lot of territory. It has been extraordinarily interesting going to those classic spots for the Centennial of America and seeing yesterday with the opening of the Vinson Memorial and finally yesterday afternoon, going to the headquarters of the Lincoln. As you know, Andrew Lincoln's operators come

originally from New England, worked on down to Virginia and crossed with West Virginia on their way to Kentucky. The whole Nation ought to go to that little log cabin near Hodgenville, Kentucky, where Lincoln was born.

Everything we have seen shows me that the country is certainly a lots better off than it was a few years ago. (Applause)

(The Woodrow Wilson Club presented flowers.)