INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL
IN FRONT OF THE SOUTH PORTICO OF THE WHITE HOUSE
Wednesday, June 24, 1936, 12:30 P.M.

As a fellow member, I am very happy to greet you here. (Applause)

I think you know of my fairly long association with the Kiwanis and I think you know also of my very special interest in one of the many fine things the Kiwanis is doing and that relates to looking after the crippled children. (Applause) I know of the practical results of this work in a great many communities. I think we all recognize that there are a good many fields, a good many problems in our modern life where it is in every way best for the country that the primary and preliminary responsibilities should rest upon the civilian organizations and not wholly on Government. (Applause)

That is as it should be. It applies, that principle to a great many things that we have to cope with in these days. As we all know, there has been an advance in science and an advance in public understanding of a great many things that, in the old days, were taken for granted. A couple of generations ago there were a great many evils that nobody bothered their heads about and in this work the more that can be done by the citizens of each community, the better it is. That is why I am very proud of what Kiwanis International has accomplished.
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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I think you know or have heard your representatives (Thurmond, Bryan) speak of the proposition that I have been discussing at some length and that we have considered a great deal.

I think it is clear that we are working toward a proposition to achieve a more equitable sharing of the responsibilities of government that will be to the advantage of all concerned across the board.

I believe we have a duty to assure that the government and the people of this country recognize and respect the contributions of all segments of our society and that we strive for a more equitable distribution of the responsibilities of government.

Let us be clear: the participation of different segments of our society is essential, and it is our responsibility to encourage full participation of all segments of the community. The pursuit of this goal is not only essential for the success of our society but also for the health and well-being of the people we serve.

Let us work together to achieve this goal, and let us be proud of the progress we have made and the progress we can make in the future.
in these years.

It is through organizations like Kiwanis that we are able to spread through the communities -- not merely through our own membership but to all of our friends and neighbors - what might be called a better education among the masses of the people - a better understanding of the problem. It is the old idea of sitting around a table and talking it over.

One of my jobs in Washington is to sit around a table and talk it over. I do it every day that I am here and they are talks that touch practically every phase of our national life. One of the other things that we seem to have accomplished in these more recent years is the spread of the understanding that the country is one big country and that the handling of problems in one locality affects the handling of problems in all other localities and communities. In other words, the force of example is of tremendous importance and effect in a great continent such as ours.

You probably heard the term, "Good Neighbor." We seem to have established it fairly well in our relations with all of the Governments of North, Central and South America. What I hope is that we will extend the doctrine of the good neighbor to all of the communities within our own borders. In that work Kiwanis has accomplished much.
I wish I could have attended the various meetings of this convention. Some day, when I get through with my job here, I hope you will let me come just as a Delegate. (Applause)

We have just one more job and that is for all of you to turn your backs to me and get photographed. (Photograph taken)

Good luck.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

6/25/36

Extemporaneous remarks by the President
12:30 PM, Wednesday, June 24, 1936 before the
members of the Kiwanis International gathered
in front of the South Portico.

STATEMENTS FILE
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