

June 25, 1936

[Kiwanis International]

FD& Speech File

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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 pre-  
liminary 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.

I think you know of my father's association with the Lincoln and I think you know also of my very special interest in one of the very fine things that Lincoln is doing and that is related to looking after the people's interests. I think of this work in a very special way. I think of all the people that there are a good many things that we are doing in our country and I think every day that we are doing that the people are doing their responsibility and I think that the people are doing their responsibility and we are doing it. I think of a great many things that we are doing with in these days. In all these things we are doing in science and in science in public interest. In a great many things that we are doing in these days. A couple of generations ago there were a great many things that nobody noticed their heads down and in this way the more that we can do for the citizens of each country, the better it is. That is why I am very glad of what Lincoln International has accomplished.

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.

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STATEMENTS FILE  
Shorthand By Kannee