INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
August 13, 1936

(The meeting was held at the CCC Camp near Johnstown. There were approximately ten thousand people present. Mayor Shields of Johnstown presided and introduced the President. Governor Earle spoke as well. The President's speech follows:)

Ladies and gentlemen:

My first thought in coming to Johnstown and to this section of the great State of Pennsylvania is to bear a simple word of thanks, of gratitude to you good people who showed such heroic courage last March when you found yourselves in dire peril.

You have shown the finest qualities of good American citizens, and the whole country is grateful to you for the way you faced those dangers of that time.

We want to keep you, as far as we can, from having to face that situation in the days to come. The Federal Government, I need not assure you, so long as I have anything to do with it, is going to cooperate with your communities and with your State in taking every possible measure to prevent floods in the future. (Applause)
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.

The President's Message:

In this hour of struggle, of unity and power...
I came here especially to see with my own eyes what I had read about and seen in photographs. I am going through various sections of the country on that same mission because I believe I can render a better service if I have seen things at first hand than if I just stayed in Washington.

And so, again, I want to express my gratitude to you for your courage and the way you are facing the situation today.

Many thanks. (Applause)