

August 13, 1936

[Johnston, Pennsylvania]

FDR Speech File

#0885

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 hav-  
ing to face that situation in the days to come. The Fed-  
eral 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)

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.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH FOLLOWING IS THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH FOLLOWING:

(The meeting was held at the White House. There were approximately 100 persons present. Major General Johnson presided and introduced the President. Governor La Follette was also present. The President's speech followed.)

Address and Remarks:

My first thought in coming to Tennessee and this section of the Great State of Tennessee is to pay a single word of thanks, of gratitude to you good people who have made such heroic sacrifices for your country in this war.

You have shown the finest qualities of good American citizens, and the whole country is grateful to you for the way you faced these dangers of this 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 committee and with your State in taking every possible measure to prevent floods in the future. (Applause)

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)