

August 28, 1936

[Bismark, North Dakota]

FDR Speech File

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
Bismarck, North Dakota  
August 27, 1936

As you know, I came out here to see things with my own eyes. I felt that I could learn a lot more by coming out than by just reading blueprints and reports back in Washington.

What I have seen confirms me in the belief that I have had for a long time -- the belief that we are going to win on this problem.

It really comes down to three problems: The first is the immediate one of keeping people going who have lost their crops and lost their livestock. The second is to keep them going over the Winter until next year when we hope we will have more rain.

The third problem relates to the future -- not only the future of North Dakota but the future of a good many other states. It relates to working out a plan of cooperation with Nature instead of going along with what we have been doing in the past -- trying to buck Nature.

That means cooperation between all the agencies involved. There are a lot of Federal agencies, there are state agencies and there are local agencies, and our chief problem now is to work out a plan that all of these different agencies

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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.

can carry out, working intelligently with each other and not crossing wires.

It means we have got to have the cooperation of the people in the cities as well as the people on the farms. It is just as much their problem as it is the problem of the farmers themselves. Incidentally, in an agricultural country, there would not be any cities if there were not farms.

There was another reason for coming out here and that was to look at you people. Back East there have been all kinds of reports that out in the drought area there was a despondency, a lack of hope for the future and a general atmosphere of gloom. But I had a hunch, and it was the right one, that when I got out here I would find that you people had your chins up; that you are not looking forward to the day when this country would be depopulated, but that you and your children expect to remain here.

And that is what we all want to see -- the people in every part of the country. We want to see this country remain populated; we want to see it attain a greater prosperity.

A few days ago I was passing through one of the greatest industrial centers in the United States -- Gary, Indiana -- where you pass through mile after mile of steel factories. I told them there what is perfectly true, that your

problem out here is their problem back there, because the perfectly obvious fact is that steel factories would not run at full capacity unless the agricultural states were in a position to buy farm implements and other products of the steel mills.

I have learned a great deal today and I am going to learn more in the next few days. I get a picture which reassures me as to the future of the so-called Great Plains drought area -- reassurance of the fact that the Government can and must and will go ahead -- not only the Federal Government but the State government and the local government -- go ahead with winning out through a system of careful long range planning.

And so I ask for your cooperation through many, many years to come in putting that kind of a program into effect.

And again I say that you are not licked.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT -

BISMARCK, N. D., AUGUST 27, 1936.

As you know, I came out here to see things with my own eyes. I felt that I could learn a lot more by coming out than by just reading blueprints and reports back in Washington.

What I have seen confirms me in the belief that I have had for a long time -- the belief that we are going to win on this problem. (Applause)

It really comes down to three problems: The first is the immediate one of keeping people going who have lost their crops and lost their livestock. The second is to keep them going over the Winter until next year when we hope we will have more rain. (Applause). The third problem relates to the future -- not only the future of North Dakota but the future of a good many other states. It relates to working out a plan of cooperation with Nature instead of going along with what we have been doing in the past -- trying to buck Nature.

That means cooperation between all the agencies involved. There are a lot of Federal agencies, there are state agencies and there are local agencies and our chief problem now is to work out a plan that all of these different agencies can carry out, working intelligently with each other and not crossing wires.

It means we have got to have the cooperation of the people in the cities as well as the people on the farms. It is just as much their problem as it is the problem of the farmers themselves. Incidentally, in an agricultural country, there would not be any cities if there were not farms. (Applause).

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And so I ask for your cooperation through many, many years to come in putting that kind of a program into effect.

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