

August 28, 1936

[Huron, South Dakota]

FDR Speech File

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INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN
HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA
Friday, August 28, 1936, 9 P.M.

My friends: I am sorry I cannot be here by daylight, but it is better to come at night and have you greet me this way than not come at all.

I have had a very interesting two days, first in North Dakota and today in parts of South Dakota. I have had my old friend, Governor Berry, with me, and also Senator Bulow, and I have seen a lot of things I came out here to see at first hand. I think it is better to see these things at first hand than to stay in Washington reading blue prints and reports.

What I have seen in these last two days convinces me that we are on the right track. We are trying to restore this country out through here to a position where we can go ahead in South Dakota to better times, not only in the cities but on the farms. (Applause)

I told the good people this morning that of course no city in an agricultural country can exist unless the farms are prosperous. We have got to cooperate with one another

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.

... I am sure I cannot be here by accident, but as it happens to come at night and have you been

... I have had a very interesting day, first in

North Dakota and back in parts of South Dakota. I have

had my old friends, Governor Brown, and also some

for whom, and I have seen a lot of things I could not have

to see at first hand. I think this letter to see these

things at first hand was to stay in Washington reading

blue prints and reports.

What I have seen in these last few days convinces

me that we are on the right track. We are trying to remedy

this country out through here to a position where we can do

what in South Dakota we believe first, not only in the old

instead of trying to buck one another. (Applause)

That is why we have been trying to do what they call "planning". I hear the word "planning" is not popular with some people, but one reason why the water table has sunk as low as it is is because we did not think about the future twenty years ago. When we think of that we know that it makes good sense and that is why this cooperative work is going to go forward pretty well.

Not only the Federal Government, but the state government and the local governments, the people on the farm and the people in the cities are cooperating to make good on what we are trying to do.

It is a fine thing to know that you people out here are not despondent the way some people back East have told us. I have come out here to find you with your chins up, looking towards the future with confidence and courage. That is why I am grateful to you for the attitude you are taking.

As I said, it is a question of working together and I am very, very certain that we will have your cooperation in making the days to come more happy and prosperous than in the past.

Incidentally, I notice a good deal of a change up here from the days when wheat was selling at 25¢ and corn at 10¢, even if we have not got so much wheat and corn. And next year we hope that we will have them and that the prices for them will be better than they were in the old days.

I am glad to be here, although I wish I could have been here by daylight. I hope some day in the future to come back by daylight and see more of you. Many thanks. (Applause)

Now I hope you will excuse me. I have got to go back into the car and do some work. Good night.
(Prolonged applause)