

September 29, 1936

[Dedication of Medical Bldg. - Syracuse Univ.]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

September 29, 1936, 4.35 P.M.

Chancellor Graham, my first duty is to report to you that the cornerstone is well and truly laid. (Applause)

I have a great satisfaction. I have laid many cornerstones and, so far as I know, none of the buildings have tumbled down yet. (Applause)

I am renewing an old association in coming back to Syracuse and Syracuse University. And, incidentally, I am very proud of being an honorary alumnus of the University. (Applause)

I have had many associations with the University long before I became Governor. As a grower of trees, I was very familiar with and received the cooperation of the State College of Forestry. (Applause)

I have been here to the Medical Center before, at the time of the opening, I think it was, of the Psychopathic Hospital. I am tremendously interested in the splendid work that is being carried on at this great Medical Center, not only here but outside of the limits of the University and the institutions which form it. Also, I am somewhat familiar

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with the other problems of the City of Syracuse, such as how to make the State Fair pay (laughter) and how to get rid of the tracks in the middle of the city. (Laughter, applause) At last that dream has come true and when I came in a few minutes ago to the new station, I said to myself, "I will never be bothered by Mayor Marvin again." (Applause)

All of these projects, those which have been carried out solely by private enterprise and those which have been carried out by city enterprise, those that have been carried out by State or Federal enterprise and those, incidentally, that have been carried out through a combination of all of these forces, they have done much, especially in these last few years, to solve some of our Nation-wide problems.

I am very glad that the Secretary of the Interior has spoken to you about the objective of the work that we have helped in doing, about the number of men and, incidentally, women, who have been given work through the erection of these buildings, of the tremendous stimulus to education which has been made possible through keeping up, patching and erecting much needed buildings, school buildings, medical buildings, throughout all of the more than 3,000 counties of the United States.

We think of the hundreds of men who work and who are working on these buildings here. Think also of the hundreds of men who have worked and are working in other places,

creating the materials, getting them out of the mines and quarries and the factories in order to make buildings of this type possible.

And then there is another phase, I believe we should remember. You and I know that in these days of stress, many of the municipalities, many of the institutions of learning throughout the country, have found it difficult to make both ends meet. In that crisis, in order to keep up the work of municipalities and of private institutions, the Federal government has been able to give the kind of assistance which has prevented, in many cases, the imposition of taxes which otherwise would have become unnecessarily high. The State has also helped during all of these years and the result is that without Federal and State help we can well assume that the home owner and the small business man would have been far more greatly swamped with local taxes than he actually has been.

I am particularly happy to take part in the dedication of this medical building. As I remember it, this Medical College is a direct descendant of old Genessee College or, as we used to call it in the olden days, Genessee. And I remember, too, that it was Genessee College which gave the first Doctor's Degree in America to a woman, Doctor Elizabeth Blackwell. May that fine tradition be preserved in the days to come.

The country needs a large number of well-trained doctors

and nurses and, in the field of education, we need a large number of well-trained teachers. We have not reached the limit. We all know the reasons that are usually given for the need of turning out trained persons -- persons trained in social sciences. But there is another reason that is worth suggesting: During a period like this, in which machinery reduces the use of human labor in the production of things, Society needs to extend the use of human labor both mentally and physically, the kind of labor that doctors and teachers furnish as a splendid example. The country needs to extend that kind of labor in providing better care and better education for all of our people in every community because we have been so late in taking up the slack that other forms of modern invention have created for us. There is a big field there. Medical care in the United States is not adequate. There are thousands of communities throughout the length and breadth of the land which need more doctors, more night nurses, better doctors and better nurses, just in the same way that there are thousands of communities throughout the land that need better trained and better equipped teachers.

That is why I say that these medical centers, of which Syracuse Medical College is furnishing such a fine example, need the interest and the support of every citizen.

I am very certain that the University here and the citizens of the City of Syracuse and the citizens of the State of New York are proud of the work that is being carried

on here. I congratulate you not only on what you have done in the past but, with the added assurance of the facilities which this building will provide, I congratulate you on the usefulness to humanity which you will afford to future generations of America. (Prolonged applause)

Dedication Medical Building - Syracuse Univer-
sity. September 29, 1936

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
SEPTEMBER 29, 1936

First as Governor and now as President, I have maintained a close ~~personal and official~~ touch with Syracuse;

~~and~~, Incidentally, I am very proud of being an honorary Alumnus of this great University.

Even before I became Governor, I was familiar, ~~and~~
as a grower of trees, with the far-flung accomplish-
ments of the State College of Forestry. As Governor it was
a privilege to help in increasing its useful work -- ~~work which~~ *experimental and educational*
~~through its experimental work and through its graduates is~~ *work which*
producing amazing results in every one of the rural counties
of our State.

As Governor also, I was able to take part in the first definite effort to elevate the railroad tracks and eliminate the grade-crossings from the streets of your beautiful city.

Since I have been in Washington thoroughly useful and necessary projects of that kind have been made possible and accelerated by the cooperation, through loans and through grants, of the Federal Government. ~~The objectives of the~~

~~legislation which made this possible were, I think, well understood by most people.~~ Syracuse University needed this

Medical Building in order to carry forward the fine service it is rendering in the training of Doctors, who, for many long years to come, will care for private and public health in this

~~State~~ and in many others. This building, ~~in other words,~~

will served a useful purpose. That was one of ^{the objectives} ~~the criteria~~. Another

~~objective~~ was to give useful work, at going wages, to a large number of American citizens who were in dire need of work.

Employment on the job itself did not end the contribution by the Federal Government. Hundreds of men were employed in private industry in order to turn out the materials of many kinds -- the raw materials and the processed materials --

which were produced in the mines, the quarries and the factories of many other localities within the borders of the United States.

~~That was another of the criteria.~~

Finally, in the giving of Federal help, not only toward the construction of this building, but also in a hundred other ways in Syracuse, as in every other community of the United States, we have enabled cities, counties, states, institutions of learning and institutions of philanthropy to solve financial problems which three years ago were dragging them toward bankruptcy.

Before I left Albany the authorities of ~~your city~~, ~~like the authorities of~~ ^{our} ~~other~~ cities, pleaded with me in the office of the Governor to give them State assistance, on the ground that they had reached their debt limits or that the burden of their taxation had become intolerable. The State during those four years, and subsequently during the ~~four~~ ^{four months} ~~years~~ ^{of} under Governor Lehman, did its full share to save municipalities from bankruptcy and prevent enormous increases

in local tax rates. The State and the Federal Government have, therefore, contributed their full share to the well-being of the home owner and the businessman, who, without such assistance would have been swamped with local taxes on their homes and business properties.

I am particularly happy to take part in the dedication of this Medical Building at Syracuse University.

The country needs a large
~~We can use an indefinite~~ ^{well Trained} number of doctors and nurses; and in
the field of education ~~we can use an indefinite~~ ^{a large} number of ^{well Trained}
teachers. We have not reached the limit. I say this because during a period in which machinery reduces the use of human labor in the production of things, society must extend the use of human labor, of which doctors and teachers furnish a splendid example, in providing better care, better education for all of our people in every community. We thus assist in taking up the slack which modern invention creates.

I extend my congratulations to the University and to all the citizens of Syracuse and the State of New York in the added usefulness to humanity which this building provides.



THE ONONDAGA



SYRACUSE
NEW YORK

September 29, 1936

Franklin dear -

If you speak at the Medical College, I have been asked by dozens of women to give you this historical fact - -

The Syracuse Medical College used to be the old Geneva College.

Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman physician to receive a Doctor's Degree in America - - she got it from the Geneva Medical.

The women wanted you to mention this fact and to say that you hoped the College would keep up this fine tradition of welcoming women to the Medical course.

This may not be important but the women seem to think you would want to mention it. I love you.

Affectionately

Nancy

IN THE  SYSTEM

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
SEATTLE, WASH.
BOSTON, MASS.
NEWARK, N.J.
PATERSON, N.J.

THE ROOSEVELT
THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
THE CLYDE
THE BRANSON
THE ROBERT TRIST
THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON

HARRISBURG, PA.
ALBANY, N.Y.
SYRACUSE, N.Y.
ROCHESTER, N.Y.
NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.
ERIE, PA.

THE PENS HARRIS
THE TEN EYES
THE ONONDAGA
THE SENECA
THE NIAGARA
THE LAWRENCE

AKRON, OHIO
FLINT, MICH.
TUCSON, ARIZ.
TORONTO
WINNIPEG

THE PORTAGE
THE SUNSET
O. OROUSTADOR
IN CANADA
KING EDWARD HOTEL
THE PRINCE EDWARD