

October 1, 1936

[Grafton, West Virginia]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
GRAFTON, WEST VIRGINIA
October 1, 1936, 2:55 P.M.

I am glad to come back here. The last time I came through, there was no such thing as the Tigrett Valley Dam and I am glad to see it.

I am not talking politics but I am calling your attention to the fact that this Dam up here is a pretty good boondoggling idea. (Applause)

I am told by the engineer in charge that here in Grafton there are no people who want work who cannot get work. (Applause) And so, as it has been well said on a number of occasions this morning on the train, we are not here to defend the New Deal, we are here to proclaim it. (Applause)

This is a very different sight from what I saw in West Virginia in 1932 and I believe the country is well on the way, not only towards a recovery but to the kind of a recovery that is going to stay. (Applause)

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from the 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.