

October 9, 1936

[Colwin, Snow]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN

OELWEIN, IOWA

October 9, 1936, 12.23 P.M.

(The President was introduced by Governor Herring)

My Friends, I am very glad to come through here today. I have never been in this part of the State before and it was time for me to come here.

You know, I find it terribly hard after four years to start in making political speeches again. One reason is that I have been so tremendously engrossed in trying to bring things back for the last four years and that goes beyond the mere lines of party politics.

(Audience: I'll say so.)

There is one mighty nice thing about these trips and that is that so far as I can tell in going along the railroad, the expressions on the faces of the railroad men makes me think that they are all right. After all, we are all tied in together and that is the lesson I am preaching. We won't have successful railroads, we won't have greater employment on the railroads unless the farmers are prosperous. And the farmers won't be prosperous unless the city dwellers have enough money and enough work to buy what the farmers produce. (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.

October 4, 1936, 12:12 P.M.

(The President was introduced by Governor Herring.)

My friends, I am very glad to come through here today.

I have never been in this part of the State before and

it was nice for me to come here.

You know, I find it terribly hard after four years

to start in making political speeches again. One reason

is that I have been so tremendously engaged in trying to

bring things back for the last four years and that goes

beyond the mere lines of party politics.

(laughter: I'll say so.)

There is one thing also that about these trips and

that is that so far as I can tell in going along the rail-

road, the expression on the faces of the railroad men makes

me think that they are all right. That all we are all

ried in together and that is the reason I am proceeding. We

won't have successful railroads, we won't have greater

employment on the railroads unless the farmers are prosperous.

And the farmers won't be prosperous unless the city dwellers

have enough money and enough work to buy what the farmers

produce. (Applause)

And it goes all the way through the whole scale of human endeavor. The small merchants, they cannot sell their goods either to farm population or to city population unless there is buying power. What we have been trying to do in the past four years, from the point of view of economics, has been a comparatively simple objective -- getting people work and procuring buying power for them.

As I go through the country this year, in comparison with 1932, we see of course an enormous difference; it is an enormous difference in the prosperity of the country as a whole and, incidentally, that applies to every part of the Nation that I have been in. And I am not making one kind of a speech in the East and another kind of speech in the West. (Applause) I am not making one kind of a speech to the farm people and another kind of speech to industrial workers for the very simple reason that in the four years we have gained a great knowledge of the inter-dependence of every part of the Nation on every other part. If the men and women who work in clothing factories in the City of New York are out of a job, they do not buy so much pork. That kind of an example goes for every known product of the land.

I am especially glad that the railroads are getting back on their feet again. Of course the Government has had some share in getting them back on their feet again. We loaned them a lot of money and they are repaying it; it was a good investment. Just in the same way, the Government has helped

to get the banks back on their feet; we loaned them some money and it was a good investment.

And so my friends -- this is not a prepared speech -- I just want to talk to you as one neighbor to another, I don't pretend to be a farmer, I happen to be by profession a lawyer, but I have farmed the best part of my life up on the Hudson River and down in the State of Georgia, so I do know about some of the problems of agriculture in the United States. Every day that I go through this country I try to learn more about it, and it is going to stand me in good stead whether I go back to the White House or not for the next four years.

(Audience: You are going back! (Applause)

And, incidentally, I get a tremendous kick out of it. It is good to see you all. (Prolonged applause, cheers)

(Mrs. Roosevelt said, "I leave the speaking on campaign trips to the one who makes the campaign.")

(Laughter)

The President: Prices are a bit better than they were, are they not?

Audience: Yes.

The President: We have lost Congressman Bierman. Has anybody seen him?

Governor Herring: He is probably up ahead.

Mrs. Roosevelt: I would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for the flowers because they are

very lovely and also for the warm welcome.

(The train was delayed in starting because  
the brakes failed to work.)