

October 9, 1936

[Hayfield, Minnesota]

FDR Speech File

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

October 9, 1936, 2.35 P.M.

I am glad to come to this section of Minnesota. I have never been on this railroad before. I hope in the next three or four years to come through by automobile and get a better idea of this country. (Applause)

One of the greatest things we ought to think a lot about in this campaign is what happened in the last four years with respect to our national point of view. I think we have gained in every section of the United States in an understanding that the prosperity in one section of the country is absolutely tied in with the prosperity in all the other parts of the country. Even back in the Eastern States and cities they are beginning to realize that the purchasing power of the farmers of the Northwest will have a big effect on the industry and the industrial workers' prosperity back in the East.

Just in the same way, I know you realize that if the factories in the big industrial cities are running full speed, people will have more money to buy foodstuffs.

I am told by the experts, and it is an interesting fact, that if every family in the United States had what might be called a class-A diet, that is to say the kind of a diet that

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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.

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the doctors and dieticians would like us to have for our own good and for our own health, we would have to put 40,000,000 acres more land into production of foodstuffs. The thing, in the last analysis, comes down to the question of purchasing power. And we have raised the purchasing power in this country from about 38 billion dollars in 1932 to over 60 billion dollars this year. (Applause)

And we haven't stopped yet. (Applause)

So I am very happy, after four years of not campaigning, to come out here and think not only in National terms but also to think in terms of the country as applied to what kind of a Government we are going to have in the next four years. (Applause) Somebody says, "The same one we've got." I have a sneaking suspicion that that is right.

It is good to see you all. You know, one of the interesting things about trying to campaign and be President too is that almost every station we come to there is a telephone message from Washington and they string a wire from a pole or out of the station through a car window and somebody talks directly from the train with one of the Departments, perhaps with the Treasury Department in relation to the stabilization of foreign exchange, or with the State Department in relation to what is going on, perhaps, in far distant lands. Here I am, pretty nearly in the center of the country, and yet I can keep in touch with the Government in Washington almost every hour of the day or night.

(Audience: Are we going to fight?)

The President: I hope we will never fight again as long as you and I are alive. Of course, the interesting thing is that while things are in pretty dangerous condition in Europe or in other parts of the world, this idea of the good-neighbor policy that we have established pretty satisfactorily in this hemisphere, not only with Canada on the North but with all the Republics on the South, that good-neighbor policy seems to be catching hold with the people themselves in other parts of the world. If in the long run the people get it, then the people who run those countries will get it too. So I believe that our foreign policy is making for peace throughout the world. (Applause)

Goodbye and good luck. (Applause)