

October 10, 1936

[From Platform, Canton, Mass.]

FDR Speech File

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

October 10, 1936, 9.10 A.M.

Good Morning. This is a grand crowd, perfectly fine.

I am glad to get into this section of the State. I understand that you good people were pretty hard hit by the drought this year. As you know, I have been going around the United States trying to get at first-hand information in regard to drought conditions and a lot of other conditions.

I am glad to come here for another reason. I understand that Henry Wallace was born about fourteen miles from here. (Applause)

Down in Washington we have never had a Secretary of Agriculture, certainly in our generation, who has understood the farm problems as well as Henry Wallace, and who has tied it into the National economy as well as he has.

I speak about National economy because Creston is a pretty good example of what I mean. There are a lot of railroad men in this town. There are more jobs on the railroads. The railroads of the country are picking up. We have helped them with Federal loans and they are paying them back, by the way, but their prosperity is caused by the fact that a greater volume of goods is moving over the

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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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tracks. That means National economy in the best sense. It means more food products, more manufactured products but, most important of all and behind it all, more purchasing power. Looking at you people, I should say that you had, in spite of the drought, more purchasing power than you had in 1932. (Applause)

The Federal Government, in thinking about this problem for four years, undertook at the very beginning to help in raising purchasing power. Yes, we have incurred a deficit but I will put it to you this way: Suppose I were to say to anybody in this crowd, "If you, by borrowing \$800 could increase your annual income \$2200 every year, would you do it?" (Applause)

Well, that, in effect, is what happened to the country. We have increased the National debt a net of a little less than 8 billion dollars and we have increased the National annual income of the Nation over 22 billion dollars. (Applause)

Of course, in a campaign, all kinds of figures are presented, but most of them are presented by people who never read the budget of the United States Government. And you can take my word for it, as one who has read it a great many time -- and it is bigger than a Sears Roebuck catalogue -- that what I am telling you is strictly according to the figures.

I am glad to have been here. I wish I could get out and drive around and see the conditions. On this problem

of the drought, as you know, we are using every means at the disposal of the Federal Government to keep us from having as bad droughts in the future. We cannot regulate the weather altogether but we are cooperating with the different States and the local governments in trying to prevent future droughts from being as bad as they are today.

So, my friends, I am glad to have been here and I wish I could stay longer.

There are a number of distinguished people on the platform with me. The Governor has already spoken to you. Mr. Baldrige (a candidate for Congress) is here, and Henry Wallace is here. It is good to see you.
(Prolonged applause)