

October 10, 1936

[Bud Oak, Sewa-]

FOR Speech File

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

October 10, 1936, 10.15 A.M.

(The President was introduced by Congressman
Wearin. There were about 10,000 people in
the audience.)

Good Morning. I am glad to have a chance to come into
this section. I have been hearing a lot about this section
from Congressman Wearin in Washington for a good many years.

It is a big problem that we are facing. It is a
problem which is going to be solved for one very good reason
and that is that the people of the United States know more
about government than they did four years ago. (Applause)

I realize and you realize, of course, in this part of
Iowa that you have had a drought, a pretty severe drought,
and you know the steps we are taking by cooperation with the
local governments and the State governments to help these
drought conditions and so to order things that, in the future,
while we will have droughts again, their effects will not
be as serious as they have been this year.

Yet, at the same time, we know there is the exact
opposite of drought and that is the possibility of piling
up the kind of surplus of agricultural products that we were

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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.

October 16, 1936, 10:15 A.M.

(The President was introduced by Congressman

Wearin. There were about 10,000 people in

the audience.)

Good morning. I am glad to have a chance to come into this section. I have been hearing a lot about this section from Congressman Wearin in Washington for a good many years. It is a big problem that we are facing. It is a problem which is going to be solved for one very good reason and that is that the people of the United States know more about government than they did four years ago. (Applause) I realize and you realize, of course, in this part of love that you have had a drought, a pretty severe drought, and you know the steps we are taking in cooperation with the local governments and the State governments to help these drought conditions and so to order things that in the future while we will have droughts again, their effects will not be as serious as they have been this year. Yet, at the same time, we know there is the exact opposite of drought and that is the possibility of being up the kind of surplus of agricultural products that we were

faced with when I first went to Washington. We all know what the result of that surplus was as well as we know what the result of the drought is. What we are trying to do is to get a balanced system of economy in the United States, and I believe that the people all over realize that no one section of the country can be prosperous unless the other sections of the country are prosperous.

The city dwellers have to have money to buy food and more food. Somebody in the Department of Agriculture worked out last year, in cooperation with a lot of expert doctors and dieticians, a survey of what the people of the United States eat. Then they put down as Class A, the diet that we ought all to have. Then Diet B was a pretty good diet but not the best. And they found that we are living today, in the United States, on Diet C. Now, that is the actual fact.

Why is it? It is because people have not the purchasing power for either a B-diet or an A-diet and, incidentally, if we had, all of us, the proper kind of diet in the United States we would have to put 40,000,000 acres more land back into the production of foodstuffs.

It has been a tremendously interesting experience in these past three and a half years to go around the United States and survey the agricultural problems. I believe we have made some real strides, but we haven't gone far enough

yet. We are going further along the lines we have taken already and, at the same time, we are going to work on new things.

Somebody talked about a policy that changes its model every year. Well, isn't the automobile better than it was twenty years ago? It is the same principle. Every year they get out a model that is a little better than it was twenty years ago. And so, while Model-T farming may have been all right ten years ago, we have got away from it and we have a model 1936 farming. (Applause)

I have a number of very distinguished people up here on the platform. There is an old friend of mine from down in Shenandoah, Earl May, there is Congressman Wearin himself, and also here is a neighbor of yours, Senator George Norris of Nebraska. (Applause)

It is mighty good to see you. I wish I could go through the country in an automobile instead of on a train, but I am going to come back during the next four years.

Goodbye and good luck. (Prolonged applause)