

October 10, 1936

[Train Platform - Pacific Junction Iowa]

FDR Speech File

THIS IS A TRANSLATION OF THE RECORDS
MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN
PACIFIC JUNCTION, IOWA
October 10, 1936, 11:17 A.M.

(The President was introduced by Congressman Wearin. There were about a thousand people in the audience.)

Good morning. I am glad to come to Congressman Wearin's home county.

We have had an awfully interesting couple of days. I can see, by looking at your corn, that you people out here in this corner of the State have been through a drought. Of course, as you know, we are doing all we can to work out the principle of cooperative government between local government and state government and Washington to try to improve the drought conditions all through this area from here west and I think we are getting somewhere. We are recognizing the principle of home rule.

Of course there are all kinds of campaign stories going around that the average citizen with a little common sense does not pay much attention to.

(Laughter)

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.

(The President was interrupted by applause several times while at a certain point in the address.)

Good morning. I am glad to see so many of you here today. I can see, by looking at your faces, that you would not have in this corner of the State have been through a struggle. Of course, as you look on the ground all we can do is to work out the relations of a cooperative government between local government and state government and Washington to try to improve the conditions all through this area. I think we are getting somewhere. We are realizing the principle of local rule. Of course there are all kinds of things that are being done that the average citizen with a little common sense does not pay much attention to.

(Laughter)

Just for example, we got a telegram on the train this morning from a certain section of the country saying that there are a lot of people going around to people's homes saying that the debt of the United States, if I get reelected, is going to be liquidated by levying a tax on everybody's home and farm in the United States. That is a pretty good example of what some people are reduced to. And yet, you know it is an interesting fact that there are still some people in this country that do not know that taxes on real estate are used only for local and state purposes. In fact, in most states they are used only for local purposes.

We have been learning a lot in the last four years about government and just so long as we keep on taking an interest in government, I am not much worried about the future of the democratic form of government under our Constitution. (Applause)

You hear a lot about debts. Well, a little further up the road I put a question to a big crowd that was out. We have borrowed eight billion dollars more than we owed four years ago and here is the question:

Suppose somebody went to you and said if you will borrow eight hundred dollars it will increase your annual income every year by more than twenty-two hundred dollars, would you do it or not? (Applause)

Well, all you have to do to get a picture of American national finance is just add a whole lot of zeros to those figures. In other words, we have gone into debt eight billion dollars net, a little less than that, but the annual income today is over twenty-two billion dollars each year more than it was in 1932. I call that a pretty good investment. (Applause)

I am looking forward to coming out here again during the next four years. Things here are a lot better than they were in 1932 and things are going to be a lot better by 1940 than they are now. (Applause)