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)
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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.

Good morning, I come to give a message.

To the people and the Congress in Washington, I come to tell you that in the midst of this greatest of all human crises, I believe that our great Republic is safe. For there is no one who believes in life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the American way of life who does not also believe that this nation is dedicated to the fulfillment of that way of life.

But the crisis that we face is not one of the kind that can be overcome by mere talk and planning. It is a crisis of the national resources, and we must act with the same speed and determination that characterized the action of the United States during the war.

Our first duty is to save our economy. We must take every step necessary to preserve the national resources and to use them to the best advantage of the nation. The government must take steps to stop the destruction of our industries and to save our materials.

We must also take steps to stop the spreading of the war. We must do everything in our power to bring about a peaceful solution of the conflict.

I have said before that I am a believer in the American way of life. I believe that our way of life is the best in the world. I believe that our way of life is the way for a peaceful and prosperous future for all.

The time for action is now. Let us act with the same speed and determination that characterized the action of the United States during the war. Let us act to save our economy and to preserve our national resources. Let us act to bring about a peaceful solution of the conflict.

I thank you.
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)