

October 10, 1936

[State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska]

- 0943

FDR Speech File

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

at the State Capitol

Lincoln, Nebraska

October 10, 1936

Governor Cochran, Mayor Bryan, my friends of Nebraska:

I am glad to come here, to be here in the presence of so many old friends. It is so long since I have been in this capital city of the State that this wonderful structure that I face had not even been started.

I have seen -- in fact, all the people of America have seen photographs, of this wonderful Capitol building. Every one of them ought to come here and see it -- a great and worthy structure, worthy of a great state.

I am not here to deliver a formal, carefully prepared address to you. I want to talk to you for a few minutes just as one of your fellow Americans who has great privileges. One of those privileges which I have had in abundance is that of getting to know the United States. I suppose that I have been not once but a good many times in every state in the Union, and one of the great lessons of the last three and a half or four years is the need of our thinking in national terms, because we have come to realize that anything that harms one state harms all the states. And back in the East, back in the great industrial centers, they have at last come to realize

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.

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That has been one of the cardinal impulses that has directed all of our program during these past three years in Washington -- this thought that we had to help everybody and not just a few people here and there. And as I have come west over the railroads, I no longer see the long trains of empty cars on the sidings -- I see in the railroad shops engines that had been laid aside for the lack of use in 1929 being brought out of the shops, put on the tracks and started down the roads with a string of freight cars behind them.

Well, why is that? It is because the freight cars have got something to haul. And the reason the freight cars have got something to haul is because people have got money to buy things with -- that is pretty obvious -- and today the national income of the United States, this year, will have risen from about 38 billion dollars in 1932 to well over 60 billions in 1936.

In other words, it seems to me like a fairly simple mathematical question to put to you. If somebody that you trusted were to come to you and say, "Look here, will you borrow \$800 so as to get an increase in your annual income of \$2200?", would you do it or not?

Well, that is what has happened to our national finances. All you have to do is to add a lot of zeros to those figures. We have borrowed a net of 8 billion dollars more in these three and a half years and we have increased the national income over 22 billion dollars -- and it is a pretty good investment.

You know, in a campaign I always like to have a few days in between trips so that I can sit quietly for an hour or two or perhaps go to bed and before I turn the light out read some of the things that the other fellows are saying.

I got a telegram this morning on the train from a woman in Nebraska who was complaining that through this state people are going up and down, going to farms and going to homes and saying to the families in those farms and homes and in small towns: "If this man Roosevelt should go back into the White House, what will he do? Why, he will slap some kind of a tax on your home and your farm and take it away from you to pay the national debt."

Now, my friends, I believe in this motto right in front of me on the Capitol -- "The Salvation of the State is Watchfulness in the Citizens", and for the last three and a half years the citizens of this country have developed a watchfulness and an understanding greater than they ever had before,

and because of that they are going to be able to distinguish the truth from the false in this election.

Of course most people -- I won't say everybody, but give us a few more years and it will be everybody -- most people understand that taxes on real estate are levied in great part for the benefit of local government and in some states in small part for the maintenance of state government. There never has been and there never will be a Federal tax on farms or homes as long as I have anything to do about it.

Yes, I get a lot of amusement -- I was going to say a big kick -- out of this campaign.

Somebody, talking about the farm program of the last three and a half years, spoke of this farm program of the National Government -- by the way, as you know, it is operated in conjunction with the State Government, the State colleges and the local county committees right straight down to the individual farmer -- somebody said that this agricultural policy was just like that of the manufacturer of an automobile -- its model was changed every year.

Well, I accept that simile; it is good. In other words, the automobile, like farming, improves through the years and the policy relating to the automobile and the policy relating to farming ought to be to have a new model every year.

I want to express to you my belief that the model T type of farming may have been all right between 1920 and 1930, but it is out of date today.

Of course, as you know, the Federal Government, working with the local government, has made possible the saving of homes, and the saving of farms. You know also that the great bulk of all that money that was loaned is going to come back to the Treasury. In the same way, because it is all part of the same picture, the money we have loaned to keep the railroads going until the production and consuming power of the country could catch up, is also being repaid. The money we loaned to keep the banks open -- and, by the way, there wasn't a national bank failure in all the United States for a whole year for the first time in 55 years -- that money that saved the banks is coming back to the Treasury.

Some money was not loaned -- that is true -- some money was spent to keep a good many million families in these three and a half years from starving -- to give people work instead of a dole. I believe in work and not a dole. That money was spent in a good cause and, as one of my high class business friends from New York remarked to me the other day, "If there was as little waste among corporations in spending a sum like that as there has been in the Federal expenditure of that money,

there would be fewer bankrupt corporations in the United States today."

It comes back to your motto: "The Salvation of the State is Watchfulness in the Citizens". Read, learn, mark and inwardly digest -- and "inwardly digest" means separating the wheat from the chaff of a national campaign.

I believe -- I know -- that the American people know how to separate the wheat from the chaff and that is why I am confident of their verdict on the third day of November.

STATEMENTS FILE

FOR THE PRESS - October 10, 1936.

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AT THE STATE CAPITOL, LINCOLN, NEBR.

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That has been one of the cardinal impulses that has directed all of our program during these past three years in Washington -- this thought that we had to help everybody and not just a few people here and there. And as I have come west over the railroads, I no longer see the long trains of empty cars on the sidings -- I see in the railroad shop's engines that had been laid aside for the lack of use in 1929 being brought out of the shops, put on the tracks and started down the roads with a string of freight cars behind them.

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In other words, it seems to me like a fairly simple mathematical question to put to you. If somebody that you trusted were to come to you and say, "Look here, will you borrow \$800 so as to get an increase in your annual income of \$2200?", would you do it or not?

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file

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That has been one of the cardinal impulses that has directed all of our program during these past three years in Washington -- this thought that we had to help everybody and not just a few people here and there. And as I have come west over the railroads, I no longer see the long trains of empty cars on the sidings -- I see in the railroad shop's engines that had been laid aside for the lack of use in 1929 being brought out of the shops, put on the tracks and started down the roads with a string of freight cars behind them.

Well, why is that? It is because the freight cars have got something to haul. And the reason the freight cars have got something to haul is because people have got money to buy things with -- that is pretty obvious -- and today the national income of the United States, this year, will have risen from about \$8 billion dollars in 1932 to well over 60 billions in 1936.

In other words, it seems to me like a fairly simple mathematical question to put to you. If somebody that you trusted were to come to you and say, "Look here, will you borrow \$800 so as to get an increase in your annual income of \$200?", would you do it or not?

Well, that is what has happened to our national finances. All you have to do is to add a lot of zeros to those figures. We have borrowed a net of 8 billion dollars more in these three and a half years and we have increased the national income over 22 billion dollars -- and it is a pretty good investment.

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Some money was not loaned -- that is true -- some money was spent to keep a good many million families in these three and a half years from starving -- to give people work instead of a dole. I believe in work and not a dole. That money was spent in a good cause and, as one of my high class business friends from New York remarked to me the other day, "If there was as little waste among corporations in spending a sum like that as there has been in the Federal expenditure of that money, there would be fewer bankrupt corporations in the United States today.

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LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - October 10, 1936. 1:45 PM

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And back in the East, back in the great industrial centers, they have at last come to realize that they cannot be prosperous there unless you people are prosperous out here.

That ~~is~~ has been one of the cardinal impulses that has directed all of our program during these past three years in Washington -- this thought that we had to help everybody and not just a few people here and there. And as I have come west over the railroads, I no longer see the long trains of empty cars on the sidings -- I see in the railroad shops engines that had been laid aside for lack of use in 1929 being brought out of the shops, put on the tracks and started down the roads with a string of freight cars behind them.

Well, why is that, It is because the freight cars have got something to haul. And the reason the freight cars have got something to haul is because people have got money to buy things with -- that is pretty obvious -- and today the national income of the United States, this year, will have risen from about 38 billion dollars in 1932 to well over 60 billions in 1936.

In other words, it seems to me like a fairly simple mathematical question to put to you. If somebody that you trusted were to come to you and say, "Look here, if you will borrow \$800 so as to get an increase in your annual income of \$2200", would you do it or not?

Well, that is what has happened to our national finances. All you have to do is add a lot of zeros to those figures. We have borrowed a net of 8 billion dollars more in these three and a half years and we have increased the national income over 22 billion dollars -- and it is a pretty good investment.

You know, in a campaign I always like to have a few days in between trips so that I can sit quietly for an hour or two or perhaps go to bed and before I turn the light out read some of the things that the other fellow is ~~saying~~ saying.

I got a telegram this morning on the train from a woman in Nebraska who was complaining that through this state people are going up and down, going to farms and going to homes and saying to the families in those farms and homes and in small towns: "If this man Roosevelt should go back into the White House, what will he do, Why, he will slap some kind of tax on your home and your farm and take it away from you to pay the national debt."

Now, my friends, I believe in this motto right in front of me on the Capitol -- "The Salvation of the State is Watchfulness in the Citizens" and for the last three and a half years the citizens of this country have developed a watchfulness and an understanding greater than ~~ever~~ they ever had before, and because of that they are going to be able to distinguish

the truth from the false in this election.

Of course most people -- I won't say everybody, but give us a few more years and it will be everybody -- most people understand that taxes on real estate are levied in great part for the benefit of local government and in some states -- in small part -- for the maintenance of state government. There never has been and there never will be a Federal tax on farms or homes as long as I have anything to do about it.

Yes, I get a lot of amusement -- I was going to say a big kick -- out of this campaign.

Somebody, talking about the farm program of the last three and a half years, spoke of this farm program of the National Government -- by the way, as you know, it is operated in conjunction with the State government, the State colleges and the local county committees right straight down to the individual farmer -- but somebody said that this policy -- the agricultural policy -- was just like that of the manufacture of an automobile -- it changed its model every year.

Well, I accept that simile, it is good. In other words, the automobile, like farming, improves through the years and the policy relating to the automobile and the policy relating to farming ought to have a new model every year.

I want to express to you my belief that the model T type of farm may have been all right between 1920 and 1930, but it is out of date today.

Of course, as you know, the Federal Government, working with the local government has made possible the saving of homes, the saving of farms -- and of course you know also that the great bulk of all that money that was loaned is going to come back to the Treasury just in the same way, because it is all part of the same picture that the money we have loaned to keep the railroads going until the production of the country and the consuming power of the country could catch up, that also is being repaid; and the money we loaned to keep the banks open in this country -- and, by the way, there wasn't a national bank failure in all the United States the whole year for the first time in 55 years in the year that was up last week -- that money that saved the banks is coming back.

Some money was not loaned -- that is true -- some money was spent to keep a good many million families in these three and a half years from starving -- to give people work instead of a dole -- and again I believe in work and not a dole -- that money was spent in a good cause and, as one of my high class business friends from New York remarked to me the other day, "If there was as little waste in the corporations of the United States in spending a sum like that as there has been in the Federal expenditure of that money, there would be fewer

bankrupt corporations in the United States today.

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^{you}
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in your annual income of \$2200⁰⁰ would you do it or not?"

Well, that is what has happened to our national finances.
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