

October 11, 1936

[Fr. Francis E. Mahan, Cheyenne, Wyoming]

FDR Speech File

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

Fort Francis E. Warren

Cheyenne, Wyoming

October 11, 1936

General Humphreys, ladies and gentlemen:

I am glad to come back here. As you know, I am not a stranger. I think it was in 1920 that I first came to Fort D. A. Russell. I was here four years ago after the name had been changed in honor of a very old friend of mine, Senator Warren, and I am glad to come back here today, not only because it is Sunday, and a day off, but also because it is an anniversary. This happens to be Mrs. Roosevelt's birthday. So I am having a very nice home party.

I was telling the General when we were out a little west of here and saw the rifle ranges, that my only worry was that these boys who learned to shoot in this clear atmosphere when they got back to the effete east, would not be able to see the targets.

It's a grand country. And you know, as a matter of fact, in travelling through this part of the West I always feel that Cheyenne is sort of a cross-roads of all this part of America. It corresponds, as I said to Senator O'Mahoney this morning, in our country, to the same position as the Panama Canal occupies between North and South America -- one

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.

I am glad to come back here. As you know, I am not a stranger. I think it was in 1920 that I first came to this D. A. Russell. I was here four years and after the war had been changed in honor of a very old friend of mine, Secretary of War, and I am glad to come back here today. Not only because it is a happy day for me, but also because it is an anniversary. This happens to be the Roosevelt's birthday. So I am having a very nice party.

I was telling the General when we were out a little west of town and saw this bridge, that my only worry was that those boys who landed so close to this class stenographer when they got back to the office east, would not be able to see the bridge.

It's a grand country. And you know, as a matter of fact, in travelling through this part of the West I always feel that Chicago is sort of a cross-roads of all this part of America. It corresponds, as I said to Senator O'Mahoney this morning, in our country, to the same position as the Panama Canal occupies between North and South America -- one

of the cross-roads of travel from the north to the south and the east to the west, and it is a pretty fine cross-roads to come back to.

As a matter of fact, one of the great things that has happened is the pick-up in travel. I am very, very happy back in the State of New York, when I hear of people who are going to get in their automobiles and get to know their own country. There are more and more of them doing it every year. There are more and more people from the coast and the plains that are coming East each year and seeing some of our scenery. In up-State New York, you know, we are quite proud of that scenery, even though our highest point is only about five thousand feet, about a mile lower than you are here. But a mile up in the air in New York State seems very, very high. Every year that goes by we in this country are getting to know each other better.

It seems to me that sectional lines are getting narrower and narrower as years go by, and we are getting to know each other. We are getting to know that we talk the same language and have the same point of view about life, and when I look at this country as a whole it is a pretty big country. I am very glad that we are setting an example. And it is a good thing to say on Sunday. It is a good thing to say at an

Army fort, and the Army agrees with me just as much as you men and women civilians do. It is a fine thing that this nation is setting an example for peace in the world.

And that is one reason why we have a very fine though a very small Army, because we are keeping our Army in training in the interest of peace. I think we are making strides in the sense that we are setting an example for other nations in the way of peace. Certainly on this continent our neighbors to the north in Canada, and to the south, all the way down to Cape Horn, have begun to realize the point, the objective of the ideal of the Good Neighbor. And in this entire hemisphere at the present time, all the way from the North Pole down to the South Pole, there isn't any war going on anywhere, and we are very proud of that.

I have talked about travel, getting to know our own country. In December there is going to be held in the capital of the Argentine Republic, a great conference of the twenty-one American Republics in the interest of more firmly cemented peace in this hemisphere. Down there I think probably one of the topics is going to be the building of a great highway all the way from North America down through Central America and into South America, so that we people up here can get to know our neighbors on the south -- take a holiday, put the family

into an automobile and drive down through Central America and across the Panama Canal and all the way through to Chile or the Argentine.

It gives us a nation of one hundred and twenty-five million people a chance to get to know those other Americans who, after all, are pretty fine human beings and deserve to get better known. It will give them a chance to meet us here and see more of us. That is the thing today which is going to keep peace in the world -- a better knowledge of the world.

I always think of a thing like this when I come to a place like Cheyenne, where you have hundreds of thousands of people passing through every hour. I am glad they are able to come here to get some of the fine spirit of Wyoming. I know a good deal about it, not just because Senators and Representatives from Wyoming tell me about it, but because I have seen it first hand. And so I am very glad to have been able to have had this holiday with you today and I hope to come back and see you very soon.

5 copies Informal Extraordinary  
Remarks by the President  
at  
Fort Francis E. Warren  
Cheyenne, Wyoming.  
October 11, 1936.

~~STATEMENTS FILE~~

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It's a grand country. And you know, as a matter of fact, in travelling through this part of the West I always feel that Cheyenne is sort of a cross roads of all this part of America. It corresponds, as I said to Senator O'Mahoney this morning, in our country, to the same position as the Panama Canal occupies between North and South America - - one of the cross roads of travel from the north to the south and the east to the west, and it is a pretty fine cross roads to come back to.

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language and have the same point of view about life, and when I look at this country as a whole it is a pretty big country. I am very glad that we are setting an example. And it is a good thing to say on Sunday. It is a good thing to say at an Army fort, and the Army agrees with me just as much as you men and women civilians do. It is a fine thing that this nation is setting an example for peace in the world.

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