

October 12, 1936

[Grealey, Colorado]

FDR Speech File

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This is a transcript made by the White
House staff from the original copy of the
speech made by the President on the
train in Greeley, Colorado, on
October 12, 1936, at 9 AM.
The speech was delivered in
the presence of the President's
staff and the press.

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN
GREELEY, COLORADO
October 12, 1936, 9 AM.

(The President was introduced by Fred Cummings.
The audience numbered about fifteen thousand.)

Good morning. I have just got through
breakfast and I am glad to come back here to be intro-
duced by Fred Cummings who is an old friend of mine.

The last time I stood here I think was with
Mrs. Roosevelt in the year 1920 when I was running for
Vice President. A lot of things have happened since
that time.

For example, I know of a lot of things that
have happened to the beet sugar industry. I want to
tell you a story about that. It relates to beets and
it relates to a lot of other things. Way back in 1932,
in the campaign, a man brought on the train a list
showing the fluctuations of prices of various raw mate-
rials, agricultural commodities, costs of cattle, sheep,
cotton, mining commodities such as gold and silver and
copper, so forth and so on. I found from that list that

all these commodities had fluctuated an average of four hundred per cent up or down -- up and down between 1820 and 1932. Well, I don't believe there is any permanent prosperity in a commodity that fluctuates four hundred per cent up or down any more than there is in your buying a mortgage or buying a home that fluctuates four hundred per cent up or down. Therefore, back in 1932 we laid a plan to try to iron out these up and down fluctuations and try to get commodities to a more stable year in and year out price level.

I think we have accomplished a good deal along that line. Sugar beets form one pretty good example. The average grower of sugar beets has, I think, recognized the fact that he is better off if he knows approximately, when he puts his seed in the ground, what the price is going to be when he harvests his crop, rather than having the advantage or the disadvantage of a highly fluctuating, speculative market. Whenever there are great fluctuations in prices, the only seller who really ever makes any permanent money is the speculator and that is why we have tried to stabilize, in large part, the prices of various farm commodities and other commodities as well.

I am saying this to you merely to give you one little slant on the general policy that the Govern-
ment has been following through/during the last four
with
years. I think that in the long run it is going to be a sound policy for the country, whether it applies to the raw products of the soil or the raw products of the mines. (Applause)

If you are interested in following it further, go and get a chart of the prices of any of these raw materials from the nearest library and see what I mean. If you will draw a line showing the prices as they have advanced or declined you will have a zigzag line that would horrify you if you checked it back for only about fifteen years.

I am going on down to Denver and then down to Pueblo. It is the first time that I have actually been down in the middle part of the State since I took office in 1933. I have, however, been what they call "a traveling President." I have been trying to keep in touch with the Nation. I have been pretty well all around the Colorado and I have touched a corner of Colorado several times. I am glad now to be able to go into the

State and see at first hand some of the conditions because I think it is going to help in the next four years. (Applause)

(The President then introduced Mrs. Roosevelt and a number of the gentlemen who were on the platform with him, including Governor Blood of Utah. He then said, "Good-Bye" and the train pulled out.)