

October 12, 1936

[Train Platform, La Junta, Colorado]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN
LA JUNTA, COLORADO
October 12, 1936, 5 P.M.

I am glad to come back to La Junta. I have been here many times before and it looks to me as if things are a little bit better than they were in this section four years ago, the last time I went through.

I don't have to talk to you about the Arkansas Valley. You know this end of it a lot better than I do but I can tell you that I have had a tremendous interest in all of the plans for the whole watershed of the Arkansas from away back in the Rockies to the point where it hits the Mississippi River. I described what we are doing this morning in Denver. We have a perfectly sound objective. We want to make every drop and every gallon of water that runs down the river serve some useful purpose to mankind on its way to the sea. That is what we are trying to do in developing these irrigation and flood control projects. In about an hour I am going to pass through the site of what will eventually be the Caddoa Dam.

(Applause)

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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.

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(Applause)

I am sorry to be a little bit late for the melon season. But I believe they found a few that were late comers and they are on board the train and we are going to have them for supper tonight.

I am also glad to come into a railroad town because you people know of the splendid progress that railroad transportation has made in the last year. We are picking up all the time and the reason that freight and passenger travel is picking up is because people on the whole have more money to spend. (Applause)

Four years ago there were some tourists but they were riding on the box cars and the roofs of trains. This year they are riding in Pullmans and there are more of them and there are going to be still more to come.

In connection with our railroad problem, you know we have been trying to link into the broad policy of working for social security and that is one reason why the Railroad Retirement Act, that splendid piece of legislation, was passed by the Congress. I feel very certain that that, together with the Social Security Act, is going to do an awful lot for the people of this

country in the years to come.

If we can keep this prosperity going the way it is picking up at the present time, we need not worry much about paying back the comparatively small sum of money we borrowed to get back in the past four years.

I hope very much to come back here from Washington before another four years are up. (Applause)

(Your stenographer was called away but was informed that the President had gone on to say that the delay in getting the train started was due to a telephone call. The President then told the audience how, with the help of modern inventions such as the telephone, he keeps in touch with national affairs.)