

October 12, 1936

[Train Platform - Syracuse, Kansas]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN
SYRACUSE, KANSAS

October 12, 1936, 8:10 P.M.

(There were about two thousand people in the audience.)

My friends, I have been trying to persuade some of the Eastern people on this train that this is not Syracuse, New York. A good many of them I think had never been west of the Mississippi before, but I have been through here a good many times in my life. I am glad to come back.

I have been watching, of course, as you know, some of the difficult problems that you have had to face this past summer. I realize what the drought has done ^{here} through and I want to tell you that I am very, very much interested in the work that the Federal Government is trying to do to alleviate drought conditions in the future so that they will not be as bad as they have been this past year. We had an enormous number of national problems and we are trying to tie them all into a rounded whole.

Things certainly are better. People who only raised five or ten bushels of wheat to the acre, at least

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.

(There were about 100,000 people in attendance.)

My friends, I have been trying to persuade you at the Executive level on this thing and this is not successful. Now I am here. I hope you will be successful at the legislative level, but I have been through here a good many times in the past. I am glad to see you here.

I have been watching, of course, as you have seen of the difficulties involved that you have had to face this year. I realize that the struggle has gone through and I hope to tell you that I am very, very much interested in the work that the Federal Government is trying to do to alleviate through committees on the things that they will not be able to do by themselves. We had an economic committee of national character and we are trying to do that all into a national whole.

Things certainly are better. People are more relaxed than they were a few months ago. I think it is about the best.

they got more than twenty-five or thirty cents a bushel, which was the price in 1932. (Applause)

With planning, because we have to look ahead as we all know whether it be with respect to farming or business or anything else, and with the help of the Federal Government I believe that the program we have been trying to work out for the agricultural part of the Nation is going to maintain prices. That is a long step and if, in addition to that, we can bring more water to the land, keeping the water table up, using land for its best purposes, then in the days to come farming is going to be a much more secure career for anybody to go into than it ever has been in our country.

One thing we are trying to do is to stabilize prices. After all, you are not the only people who have been farming. I have done it myself both in the North and the South. One of the things we have suffered from are prices that have varied in the last ten or fifteen years, running up and down the scale as much as four or five hundred per cent. I want to know, when I plant a crop, approximately what it is going to bring when I harvest it. That is one of the things we are working towards. We have

suffered in the past from extreme fluctuations of the prices of crops and when you have these fluctuations there is just one group which benefits, the speculators. We want the growers of crops to make the profits and not the speculators. (Applause)

I am glad to get into Kansas. I wish the train were not pulling out because I would like to say a lot more to you.

Good-night. (Applause)