

October 12, 1936

[Train Platform - Garden City, Kansas]

For Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN
GARDEN CITY, KANSAS
October 12, 1936, 8:25 P.M.

My friends, I am glad that we are able to stop for a while but I wish it were daylight. I am not going to make a campaign speech at this hour of the night but some day I hope to get in through this section by daylight and see some of your problems at first hand. Of course I have read about them and read all the reports about the drought or about the subject of water conservation. All I can say is that your Government is extremely interested in the problem of water.

All the way down the Arkansas River, I have been confirmed in what I made up my mind to about four years ago and that was that in the water sheds out here in the West we have got to aim ultimately at using every single drop and gallon of water that comes out of the Heavens, either out in the Rockies or here in the Plains, use it usefully all the way down through all the states between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River. As a matter of fact, we have not only the problem of soil conservation but we have the problem of floods. As you know,

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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I am a great believer in trying to think ahead. If we had thought ahead twenty-five or fifty years ago we would be a good deal further along than we are today.

Our problems cannot be solved in the course of five years or ten years but we have learned a great deal about scientific law. When I was a small boy, people did not know nearly as much about the dangers of flying in the face of Nature, as we do today. That is why I am convinced that with the cooperation of the Federal Government and the State Government and the Local Government, by taking the advice, in large parts, of people who live on the land itself, in the course of the next generation we are going to make this whole country out through here a much safer place to live in. In other words, we are aiming at security, security not just for one year or two years but with the objective of making farming and cattle raising a career, something in which a man and his wife and family can be secure. It is all part and parcel of what we are trying to do to make old age secure in the United States. We do not pretend to be infallible but at least we are trying.

Well, we are pulling out. Good-night. (Applause)