

October 13, 1936

[Train Platform, Florence, Kansas]

FDR Speech File

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INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN
FLORENCE, KANSAS
October 13, 1936

(About 2,000 people.)

My friends, I am very glad to come here and I wish I can stay here longer.

You know, it is a perfect shame to have to do campaigning on a day like this.

I have been out here, through these parts, many times before, as you know, and there is one thing makes me very happy: Every State I have been in, and that includes not only the agricultural States but the industrial States as well, things seem to be coming back. People, on the whole, are a lot better off than they were four years ago. (Applause)

There isn't any panacea of either mind or medicine that the Nation can't take that will cure it of all its ills overnight, but we in Washington have, as you know, been trying to build up a great many things all through the country that needed to be built up, realizing as I said in the City of New York that the industrial workers in the cities cannot be prosperous unless the farmers are prosperous too. You can see it on the railroads. The

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.

October 13, 1936

(About 1,000 people.)

My friends, I am very glad to come here and I wish I
could stay here longer.
You know, it is a far less chance to have to do
something on a day like this.
I have been out here, through these parts, many
times before, as you know, and there is one thing which
is very bright: Every state I have been in, and first
of all, the agricultural states and the labor-
ing states as well, things seem to be coming back.
People, on the whole, are a lot better off than they were
four years ago. (Applause)

There isn't any panacea of either mind or medicine
that the nation can't take that will cure it of all its
ills overnight, but we in Washington have, as you know,
been trying to build up a great many things all through
the country that needed to be built up, realizing as I
said in the CITY OF NEW YORK that the industrial workers
in the cities cannot be prosperous unless the farmers
are prosperous too. You can see it on the radio.

old strings of empty cars on the sidings that we saw from 1929 to 1933, almost all of them are out at work, going up and down the line full of various kinds of products. (Applause) And, at the same time, we have tried to work for a greater security for the people.

When it comes down to one of our basic troubles in the past, I think it will be found in the fluctuation of prices. A couple of years ago I got a chart showing the prices of raw materials of all kinds, the prices that they brought between 1920 and 1933. That was for a period of about thirteen years and it was a zig-zag line that went up and down and up and down. The farmer, the miner, the producer of industrial goods could never know what he was going to get because of this fluctuating line. And so we have been trying to work out what might be called a more ordered economy, a more stable price level so that, to use a simple example, if you borrowed or loaned a thousand dollars this year, by 1940 when you paid the money back or got the money back you would get the same kind of a thousand dollars instead of, as we remember not so long ago, debts that had to be paid with three times as many bushels of wheat as when they were incurred. They were debts that were incurred when wheat was selling at a dollar a bushel and when the debts fell due wheat was selling at 33 cents and it took just three times as many bushels of wheat. Now, that just isn't right and so we are trying to work for a better balanced

economy. It is going to take a number of years but I think the people of this country want stability in their economy, stability in their security, so that they will know from day to day, from year to year, that the future is not going to leave them without homes, without farms and as mere subjects of charity.

It is a big task that we have before us. I do not pretend to be the final, last word, but I do think that in these past four years we have been getting somewhere and I hope we will continue to get somewhere farther in the next four years. (Applause)

I want to thank the CCC boys for these perfectly lovely roses that were given to Mrs. Roosevelt. (Cheers for Mrs. Roosevelt)