

October 13, 1936

[Oraffe, Kansas - Train Platform]

FDR Speech File

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

October 13, 1936, 3.52 P.M.

(There were about 7,000 people in the audience)

I am glad to come here but I wish that I could spend a little bit more time than I am allowed on this trip.

I am glad to come to the home town of former Governor Hodges. (Applause)

I have been tremendously interested in coming through Kansas today to see with my own eyes a lot of things I had been reading in reports back in Washington. I could not get here on the trip to the drought areas. You have had some pretty hard times in this State with your crops, but I take it that conditions here this year are not quite as bad as they were in the western part of the State.

I think you all realize that what we have been trying to do for agriculture in the past three years has been aimed at greater security for the men, women and children on the farms. I think we have got somewhere.

Somebody remarked that our agricultural policy was like that of the automobile makers -- a new model for every year. I accepted that simile, I think it is a pretty good one. We are making great progress each year in our national policy towards agriculture. Of course, it has to be a national

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Europe today to see with my own eyes a lot of things I had
been reading in reports back in Washington. I could not
get here on the trip to the Group's arena. You have had
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I take it that conditions here this year are not quite as
bad as they were in the western part of the State.
I think you all realize that what we have been trying
to do for agriculture in the past three years has been aimed
at greater security for the soil, water and children on the
farm. I think we have got somewhere.
Somebody remarked that our agricultural policy was like
that of the automobile maker -- a new model for every year.
I accepted that title. I think it is a pretty good one.
We are making great progress each year in our national policy
towards agriculture. Of course, it has to be a national

policy. It cannot be 48 different kinds of policies. And each year, in working toward the ultimate goal of security for agriculture, we not only have changed the laws but we plan to continue to change the laws. We are not changing the fundamental objectives but we are saying, just like the automobile manufacturer, that while the principle of the car is the same as it was twenty years ago, we have got past the Model T. (Applause)

While Model-T agriculture may have been all right ten years ago, we don't want it anymore. We have got beyond that. There is no question, also, that the objective which we have for a greater stability of prices for crops is something that the whole nation not only needs but, I think, wants. Certainly it is important for us not to go back to 9-cent corn and 30-cent wheat and 2-cent hogs. We believe, having put the price level back to a more reasonable figure, that we will be able to keep it there.

Yes, this year we are planning and why not? After all, that is one of the things that government is intended to do, to think not in terms of just this year and the next year but, for the good of the people, to think for many long years ahead.

When you build a schoolhouse, and I know you have built some new schoolhouses in Kansas, some of them with the help of the Federal Government, you are building it not just for the number of children who will attend school this year, but

you are thinking ten years and twenty years ahead. You know from experience that the improvements which go on in education have not stopped going on. You know that the improvements in every single thing we do have got to continue in the future just as they have in the past. That is the simplest way of expressing the philosophy that lies behind the kind of government we have been trying to give in the past four years.

One of the important factors in trying to work out a government program in these four years has been the fact that we tried to give to the communities themselves every assistance based on what they decided were their needs. Our whole farm program has been built up, through these years, with the cooperation of the farmers themselves. We are trying to get the best cross-section of expert opinion we can find. That has been the basis of what we have been trying to do, and I think in another four years we will be able to carry the country a good many steps farther toward a greater security and prosperity. (Applause)

Goodbye and good luck. (Applause)