

October 14, 1936

[Train Platform - Springfield, Illinois]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

October 14, 1936, 1:15 P.M.

(The President was introduced by Governor  
Horner.)

My friends, it is always an inspiration  
to come back to the home of Lincoln.

Here I am again, after an absence of only  
about a month. I am glad to be here standing by the  
side of my old friend, Governor Horner. (Applause)  
And I am glad he has said a word about courage, but  
the real courage I want to talk about is the courage  
of the American people. After those years that we  
went through, we can feel very proud of the way we  
have come back with smiling faces and with the de-  
termination never to go through that kind of a period  
again.

There are so many things I would like to talk  
about that I could keep on campaigning for a couple of  
months. You are here in the heart of a great agricul-  
tural community, a great agricultural State. I am telling  
the people in the East as well as in the West that 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.

(The President was introduced by Governor  
Hawley.)

My friends, it is always an honor

to come back to the home of Lincoln.

Never so often, often an absence of only

eight months, I am glad to be standing by the

side of my old friend, Governor Hawley.

And I am glad to be with a good crowd tonight, but

the real courage I want to talk about is the courage

of the American people. After these years that we

have known, we can feel very proud of the way we

have come back with nothing less than with the

revolution never to go through that kind of a period

again.

There are so many things I would like to say

about that I could keep on organizing for a couple of

months. You are here in the heart of a great nation-

and especially, a great agricultural State. I am telling

you people in the East as well as in the West that the

prosperity of the farmers of the Nation, makes for the prosperity of the industrial workers in the greater cities. The industrial workers cannot have prosperity unless the farmers do and, at the same time, I think we recognize that in these past three years we have gone a long ways towards reestablishing a parity, of reestablishing the purchasing power of the farmers, a purchasing power which started to slip in 1920 and kept on slipping right down to 1933.

We are determined that we will keep on going, working for a balanced economy. We want you people here in Illinois to be prosperous, but we want the people in the South to be prosperous too, also the people out on the Plains and on the Pacific Coast. After all, when you come down to it, down in the South where I have a farm myself -- incidentally, I don't make much money on it -- if they get a good price for their cotton it means that they can buy more corn and more hogs and more things produced up here. In the same way, if you have some money up here to spend you can buy more overalls made out of the cotton of the South. In other words, it is a rounded whole.

We don't want to accept this theory that some economists have that we have to have a fluctuation -- prosperity and then depression. We want to bring prosperity back and make it stay.

All through the country that I have been going through I find evidence of a real understanding of what your Government is trying to do. I find real evidence of their determination to keep on. That is why, on November 3rd, I am looking forward to receiving the news of the vote of the State of Illinois. (Applause)

(Governor Horner then introduced Mrs. Roosevelt to the audience.)