

October 14, 1936

[Joint, Illinois - Train Platform]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN
JOLIET, ILLINOIS
October 14, 1936

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

My friends, I am glad to be here and I am glad also to be going through the State with Governor Horner.

As I have traveled through a great many states I have been thinking of a simile: four years ago or, to be more accurate, on the fourth of March, 1933, the Government and the people of the United States, so far as their prosperity went, were a good deal like a freight train that had a broken axle and had gone off the track. Well, the first job was to put the freight train back on the track and we did it. The next job was to get it moving again and we did it. Today, all over the United States, people have got more buying power and people are living better than they were four years ago. (Applause) And I believe that that is going to continue for the next four years. (Applause)

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 the audience.

My friends, I am glad to be here with you tonight.

Kind also in helping to help the boys with their homework.

However,

As I have traveled through a great many states I have been thinking of a similar four years ago, on the 4th of March, 1933, the government and the people of the United States, as far as their prosperity went, were a good deal like a train. This train had a broken axle and was on the verge of falling. The first job was to get the train back on its feet and to get it moving again and we did it. Today, all over the United States, people have got more buying power and people are living better than they were four years ago. (Applauds)

And I believe that that is going to continue for the next four years. (Applauds)

We are coming to understand that the prosperity of the country is not just dependent on factories running, because the factory cannot run unless people buy the things that are made in them. We need prosperity among the farmers as well and if the farmers are prosperous, the industrial workers of the Nation will be prosperous. Then, too, we have tried to provide more security for the average family. We have tried to make your bank deposits safe and it is only about a week ago that we established a record for the first time in fifty-five years when we had gone through one full year without the failure of a single national bank in any part of the United States. (Applause)

I am having a mighty interesting trip and, so far as I am concerned, I am having such a good time that I wish this campaign could go on until December 3rd instead of November 3rd. But, my friends, two weeks from next Tuesday when I get reports from the State of Illinois, I feel confident that the State of Illinois is going to help to keep the present Government going for another four years. (Applause)

Mrs. Roosevelt wants me to thank you very much for

this very beautiful bunch of roses.