

October 15, 1936

Detroit, MI - Hartmanek Stadium -
Western Campaigns Trip - Remarks

FDR Speech File

0973

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
HAMTRAMCK STADIUM, DETROIT, MICHIGAN
October 15, 1936, 7.40 P.M.

(The President was introduced by Governor Murphy)

My friends:

I am glad for many reasons to be with you tonight at this great gathering. I am happy to be here by the side of my old friends, Senator Couzens, Governor Murphy and Prentiss Brown and many others, and I am glad, also, to come to this dedication of one of the projects in which the Federal Government has been able to help your city.

As I came down those streets tonight, lined by thousands of men, women and children, I was thinking mostly about the children. I was thinking mostly about the days to come when they would be the citizens of the United States and take our places in the conduct of the affairs of the State and of the Nation. During these past three and a half years we have tried to do much to save the United States for these children.

We have tried to keep people from starving; we have tried to save the homes of the Nation; we have tried to restore employment to the people of the Nation. My

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from the shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words temporarily added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, although they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

My friends:

I am glad for many reasons to be with you tonight at this great gathering. I am happy to be here by the side of my old friends, Senator Connors, Governor Murphy and President Brown and many others, and I am glad, also, to come to this dedication of one of the projects in which the Federal Government has been able to help your city.

As I come down these streets tonight I think of thousands of men, women and children. I was thinking mostly about the children. I was thinking mostly about the date to come when they would be the citizens of the United States and take our place in the conduct of the affairs of the State and of the Nation. During these past three and a half years we have tried to do much to save the United States for these children.

We have tried to keep people from starving; we have tried to save the homes of the Nation; we have tried to restore employment to the people of the Nation. My

friends, I think that in three years we have come a long ways.

But it has been not only the emergency that we have had to cope with. We have been thinking about some of the things that the country needs in addition to food and lodging and that is why a great stadium of this kind appeals to me as one of the things that will last for many years and contribute towards enjoyment and recreation not only for us older people but for the younger generation as well.

Yes, I am thinking of a future America, where we may all have a little bit more of the better things of life than we have today, a little bit more in the way of money compensation for our work with a little bit more in the way of holidays, shorter hours and Saturdays off and Sundays off as well. (Applause)

Some people in this country have called it "boondoggling" for us to build stadiums and parks and forests and improve the recreational facilities of the Nation, but, my friends, if that can be called boondoggling, then I am for boondoggling and so are you. (Applause)

That is why I am looking forward in the next few years for a continuation of the policy that will work for the good of the average citizen in the United States and will not forget the forgotten man.

It has been a privilege to be with you tonight, and I hope that some time in the next four years I will be able to leave Washington and visit with you again. (Prolonged applause)

STATEMENTS FILE

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It has been a privilege to be with you tonight and I hope that some time in the next four years I will be able to leave Washington and visit with you again. (Prolonged applause)