

October 16, 1936

[Garrison, Ohio - Train Platform]

FDR Speech File

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

GALION, OHIO
October 16, 1936, 4.57 P.M.

(The President was introduced by Governor Davey. There were approximately 10,000 people in the audience.)

My friends, I am glad to be here today, to come back through Galion. I have been here many times before. I am particularly glad to see, by the expression on your faces, that you are much more cheerful than you were in 1932.

You know, while I am a lawyer, theoretically, I am also a bit of a farmer. I farm in two places, one on the Hudson River and the other down in Georgia. That is why I know something about farm prices. One reason why I think you are more cheerful is because corn is selling at better than ten or fifteen cents a bushel and because hogs and cattle are selling at better than three or four cents a pound.

Of course, the improvement in agricultural prices was one of the vital parts of the plan that we started three years ago. And I am not making one kind of a speech to farm people and another to city people. Nor am I making one speech in the West and another one in the East. (Applause)

I believe that in the last few years the people of this country have begun to think in national terms. You, I know, understand that unless farm prices are good, the great farming population of this country cannot buy the things

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.

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I believe that in the last few years the people of this country have begun to think in national terms. Now, I know, understand that unless farm prices are good, the great farming population of this country cannot buy the things

that are made in the cities. That means that the railroads are not making money because there are no goods to be hauled and, in the same way, the people in the cities, unless they have work, cannot buy the produce of the farms in the country. In other words, we are all in the same boat, no matter what our occupation, no matter whether we live on the farm or in the city, no matter whether we live in the North or the South.

I know from personal experience that people in the cotton belt in this country cannot buy the foodstuffs produced in the North if they have to sell their cotton for four or five cents a pound. In the same way, you people cannot buy overalls made of southern cotton when you get ten or fifteen cents a bushel for your corn.

I have always been particularly interested in the fact that this part of Ohio has gone in for diversification in farming. The more, all through the country, that we can diversify our farming and not depend entirely on one crop, the better it will be for the Nation as a whole. You are setting a perfectly fine example for the farmers in the State of New York and the farmers out West and the farmers down South.

I am mighty glad to see you and I want to thank you in behalf of Mrs. Roosevelt for the flowers. They are perfectly beautiful and there has not been a sunflower come aboard the train yet. (Laughter, applause)

And so, my friends, on the third of November I am
expecting a telegram from the State of Ohio saying that all
is well. (Applause)

Goodbye. (Prolonged applause)