

October 17, 1936

Niagara Falls, NY - Western Campaign
Trip - Remarks

0983

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE NEW ATHLETIC FIELD
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK
October 17, 1936, 9:55 A.M.

(There were about 5000 people in the audience.)

I am very glad to come back to Niagara Falls after an absence, I think, of four years. Many things have happened in those four years and I believe, from what I saw on the streets a few minutes ago, that it is a happier Niagara Falls than it was then.

And it gave me a distinctly homelike feeling to come through Hyde Park.

I take great pleasure in coming to this dedication of this Stadium today. There are many reasons why we ought to be proud of what we have been doing. This Stadium, like many others in the country, represents a two-fold effort. The first is to give work to people who need work, and the other is to build for the future.

As you good people know, all of these projects on which the Federal Government is helping the local government have been conceived by the particular locality. The projects have been thought of in the first instance by the local government, by citizens' associations and

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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As you good people know, all of these projects on which the Federal Government is helping the local government have been conceived by the particular locality. The projects have been thought of in the first instance by the local government, by citizens' associations and

civic organizations. For that reason, the Federal Government has been very glad to go along with projects that the localities themselves have wanted.

I suppose that this particular Stadium might be called "boondoggling", but it is pretty good boondoggling. And, in creating these new monuments, for they are monuments, we are thinking not only about the very practical things like waterworks and sewage disposal and projects of that kind that every community needs, but we are also thinking about the kind of projects that will be useful to us and to our children in our recreational life. More and more, we are getting shorter working hours in this country and we have to do more things which will give people a chance to enjoy themselves when they are not working. (Applause)

With the advent of the automobile, we are building great parks in almost all of the states -- state parks of which you have a very good example here, and Federal parks. We are building improved highways, farm-to-market roads, and we are going in for reforestation. And we are also building things like this Stadium, places where we can come to watch baseball and football games. My one

regret is that you haven't a football game scheduled this morning. (Applause)

May I say, in closing, just one further thing to you people who live close to the Border. I believe that in these past two or three years the relations between the United States and our great neighbor, the Dominion of Canada, have come to a point of friendship and understanding which we have never had in bygone years. It is a splendid thing, and I am very happy that this undefended Border of ours has become internationally famous. People in other continents talk about this Border between us and Canada. They cite it as an example of what they wish they had between themselves and their neighbors. (Applause)

You, who live along the Border, are in large part responsible on both sides of the Border for this friendly feeling. We can thank you people here in Niagara Falls and I think I can even go so far as to thank our Canadian neighbors on the other side of the River for the splendid understanding between this country and Canada, for the example that you are giving to all the world in behalf of a better understanding and peace between nations. (Applause)

Thank you and goodbye. (Prolonged applause)