

October 17, 1936

[Utica, NY]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UTICA, NEW YORK
October 17, 1936, 4.30 P.M.

(The President was introduced by Congress-
man Fred J. Sisson.)

My friends, I am glad to be back in Utica and Oneida County again. Most of you good people have seen me and I have seen you many times before.

I am glad to be standing here by the side of your Mayor and Bill Bray and Fred Sisson.

A little while ago, although it has been raining in Buffalo this morning and in Rochester a little later on, I was looking out of the side window of the car and I saw a rainbow. I think that is a mighty happy omen.

We have had a very wonderful trip through a great many states, and everywhere that we have gone there is one thing that is different from the year 1932, there are smiles on the faces of the men and women of America.

There is no question but that things are better in every part of the country and, as you know, we have tried to work these past three and a half years for a well rounded economy. It has not been just a question

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.

My friends, I am glad to be back in Ulster and
Oneida County again. Most of you good people have seen
me and I have seen you many times before.
I am glad to be standing here by the side of
your Mayor and Bill Gray and Fred Sizemore.
A little while ago, although it has been raining
in Buffalo this morning and in Rochester a little
later on, I was looking out of the side window of the
car and I saw a rainbow. I think that is a slightly happy
omen.
We have had a very wonderful trip through a
great many places, and everywhere that we have gone there
is one thing that is different from the year 1933, there
are smiles on the faces of the men and women of America.
There is no question but that things are better
in every part of the country and, as you know, we have
tried to work these last three and a half years for a
well rounded economy. It has not been just a question

of bringing one section of the country back or one state back at the expense of the others. We tried to bring back an economy, a prosperity, that would go all the way down the line so that we could have a wider distribution of wealth and, with that, a few more good things for the average citizen of the country.

And in addition, we have been thinking not merely in terms of greater prosperity for the moment, we have been trying to look ahead, trying to look ahead for the obtaining of a greater security for the men, and the women and children who are going to live in this country after us. That has been a very important objective that we have kept constantly before our eyes and I am convinced by personal observation that the people realize, more and more, especially in these past three and a half years, the importance of their taking an interest in government itself and the problems of government.

As you know, in 1929, when I first went to Albany as Governor, it was only a few months after that that this country was hit by the worst crash it had had in its history. We started, in those days in Albany, some of the things -- without any help from Washington --

some of the things that we have transferred to Washington since I have been there. We started old age pensions in this State. We took care of needy unemployed in this State. We began, for the first time, a farm program in this State with the help of the farmers and the farm leaders themselves.

We still have to go a long ways in all of these. In other words, we cannot keep just the same old Model T that we used to have ten years ago.

Since I have been down in Washington you have had in Albany a Government which has had to face great problems but, under the leadership of Governor Lehman and his Administration (applause) you have had the same kind of forward-looking liberal Government that is trying to take care of the great majority of people that we have been trying to give you in Washington.

And so, my friends, I am mighty glad to come back into my own home State. (Applause) It is a pretty fine State to live in. I wish I could be two different people, one in Washington and the other in the State of New York. (Applause)

I am quite confident from all that I have seen, from the great crowds that have come down, I am quite confident what the people of the State of New York are going to say about their two Governments in Albany and Washington on Tuesday, November third. (Prolonged applause)