

October 17, 1936

[Albany, NY - Porch of Executive Mansion]

FDR Speech File

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Transcript of the Speech
This is a transcript of the speech
made by the President at the
Executive Mansion on October 17, 1936.
The speech was made at the
request of the Governor of New York.
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**INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE PORCH OF THE EXECUTIVE MANSION
ALBANY, NEW YORK
October 17, 1936, 7.30 P.M.**

(The President was introduced by Governor Lehman. There were about 8000 people in the audience.)

Governor Lehman, Mayor Thatcher, and my old friends and neighbors: (Applause)

You know, I think I said on another occasion, four years ago, that I could not make a formal speech to you people, and I feel just that way now because it has been the best homecoming that I have ever had.

You know, Albany must mean something to a man and to his wife when they started living there when they were a very young married couple. In those early days, beginning in 1911, we occupied two houses, two different houses in Albany. I was what might be called a kid Senator. Later on, many years afterwards, after being in Washington for a while, we came back to this old house, and those four years that we spent here, those years were very happy years for all of our family.

We got to know all the people who lived across the street and on each of the side streets so that we

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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.

INTRODUCED BY GOVERNOR LEHMAN, SENATOR LEHMAN, AND BY HIS FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS (Applause)

You know I think I had in another speech four years ago, that I could not make a formal speech to you people, and I feel that way now because it has been the best homecoming that I have ever had.

You know Albany must mean something to a man and to his wife when they started living there when they were a very young married couple. In those early days beginning in 1911, we occupied two houses, two different houses in Albany. I was what might be called a big boss - ten years later on, my years afterwards, after being in Washington for a while, we came back to this big house and those four years that we spent here, those years were very happy years for all of our family.

We got to know all the people who lived across the street and on each of the side streets so that we

recognized them every time we went in and out of the Executive Mansion. We almost felt as if they had been brought up with us.

And now, after four years, there is nothing strange about coming back here to Albany because it is a place that has meant so much in the lives of Mrs. Roosevelt and myself, especially when, in the Executive Mansion, there are two people of whom we are very, very fond, Governor and Mrs. Lehman. (Applause)

I am inclined to think that Albany agrees with the rest of the State of New York that we cannot afford to have any change in the occupants of the Executive Mansion for the next two years. (Applause) And I quite frankly am looking forward in the next two years at least, perhaps four years, to coming up to Albany with my wife to spend the day and visit with Herbert Lehman and his wife.

We have had a very wonderful trip through the United States these past days. I seem to thrive on ten nights in a sleeping car. (Laughter) And it has been a great lesson, the greatest lesson that I know of, to compare the faces of the people today with the faces of the

people as they were four years ago. (Applause)

I think we have a happier America, I think we have a better America than we had then, and I believe also that, under the leadership of Governor Lehman, we have a much happier and a much better State of New York. (Applause)

And so, my friends, let me tell you how happy both Mrs. Roosevelt and myself are to come here tonight and to have this wonderful reception you have given us, this truly wonderful homecoming you have given us. It is delightful to come here as the guests of Governor and Mrs. Lehman and of my old friend, Mayor Thatcher. (Applause)

(The President was then photographed with Governor Lehman, the President remarking, "Of course, Herbert and I have never been photographed before, so we are going to try it." "I still have more hair than the Governor has.")

(The President then said, "Good night.")