

October 21, 1979

[Foad River, Mass.]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

October 21, 1936

My friends, this is a very wonderful welcome that you have given me at Fall River and in Massachusetts.

It is a real homecoming for I have been coming to Fall River for more than fifty years.

I was glad to hear about the better conditions in Fall River for I know very well that the depression started here long before 1929. I want you good people to remember that your National Government in Washington remembers that Fall River is on the map. I am grateful to all of you men and women for the courage that you showed through all those difficult years and I am confident that in the future that courage will be rewarded by better conditions -- better security for your homes and a better future for your children.

In coming here I have, of course, some very close memories of one of your fellow citizens -- my old friend and associate, Louis Howe, who was with me all those strenuous years, first in the Navy Department, then in Albany and, after that, in Washington. To him I owe a very deep debt of gratitude. To him you owe a deep debt of gratitude because it was his clear, sound, American thinking that has had much to do with the progress we have made in this Administration.

This is not a speech. It is just a little message of thanks to you whom I could, in a sense, call my neighbors -- for Fall River is the neighborhood that I have known all my life.

I am grateful to you and I am glad to have been here.

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at Fall River, Massachusetts
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STATEMENTS FILE

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