

October 22, 1936

[Hartford, Conn.]

FDR Speech File

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This is a transcript of the President's remarks at the  
Hartford, Connecticut, on October 22, 1936, at 10:30 a.m.  
The President was introduced by Governor Cross.

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

October 22, 1936, 10.30 a.m.

(The President was introduced by Governor Cross.)

Governor Cross, Mayor Spellacy, my friends of  
Connecticut:

You are more than friends in Connecticut, for  
you are my neighbors. (Applause) No one could fail to  
be inspired by this wonderful sight before me. Tens of  
thousands of men, women and children -- even the chil-  
dren -- not only the men and women, but the children too.  
(Applause) And they are taking, all of you, more of an  
interest in the problems of government and the future of  
the country than at any time before in our American his-  
tory.

I am here in a two-fold capacity. I am here as  
President to talk with your Governor and your State offi-  
cials, your Congressmen and your Senators, in regard to  
the problem of floods. And I am here also, I am told, as  
a candidate for a high public office.

My old friend, Tom Spellacy, has told me that  
where I am standing today, at this moment, the water would  
have been up around my hips if I had been here at the time

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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.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
OCTOBER 22, 1938

Government Order, Mayor Bellamy, my friends  
Connecticut  
You are more than friends in Connecticut, for  
you are my neighbors. (Applause) It is the  
to be reached by this wonderful night before me. I am  
- millions -- even the children  
them -- not only the men and women, but the children too.  
(Applause) And they are looking all of you here of an  
interest in the problems of government and the future of  
the country than at any time before in our American his-  
tory.  
I am here in a two-fold capacity. I am here as  
President to talk with your Governor and your State offi-  
cials. Your Congressmen and your Senators, in regard to  
the problem of floods. And I am here also, I am here as  
a candidate for a high public office.  
My old friend, the Bellamy, has told me that  
where I am standing today, at this moment, the water would  
have been up around my hips if I had been here at the time

of the great flood.

I think that we can get a little parable out of that flood -- a parable relating to government and the reason why your Government in Washington has to keep in close with the governments of the states and of the cities of the Nation, and why, under certain circumstances, the Government at Washington must help.

This River of yours goes through four states -- Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. A large part of the flood waters that visited you recently had their origin in some other state. No matter what you do in Connecticut, no matter how many dikes you build, no matter how many precautions you take, unless the floods are controlled at the source of the River, your work will be in vain. That is why the problem of floods involves more than one state.

There are two approaches to that problem: The first is by the method of cooperation between states -- the interstate compact method -- and I am glad to say that these states of New England are working together, planning for the control of floods. But, my friends, that method is insufficient in itself. You cannot ask the State of Vermont, for example, to pay the entire cost of controlling the flood

waters that flow through Vermont. The chief benefit is going to be not to Vermont, but to Massachusetts and Connecticut. Then again, when you come to the final problem, you find that you have the duty of the Federal Government to control the waters of navigable rivers, and your Federal Government stands ready to do its share towards flood prevention in the future. (Applause)

It is a happier Connecticut that I have come back to than the Connecticut I saw in 1932.

I do not particularly like figures and neither do you, but just listen for one minute:

In this State, employment in the City of Hartford alone is forty-five per cent greater this year than it was in 1932. Aggregate payrolls are eighty-two per cent greater than they were in the Spring of 1933.

Twenty-three thousand workers have been re-employed by private industry and payrolls are running at the rate of forty-four million dollars a year more than before recovery began.

Building construction is up four times what it was in those days, and the retail stores are selling twenty-eight per cent more merchandise than they sold then.

And because Connecticut, like the State of New York, is also an agricultural state, let me point out to you that in the State, the value of your farm products -- I mean the money received by the farmers of the State -- has gone up somewhere between thirty and forty per cent.

And let me point out to you that when we are taking stock we are thinking not only of our own city, not only of our own state, not only of the region of states in which we live, but we are thinking about the Nation as a whole, realizing that the prosperity of the West is reflected in the prosperity of the East, and that, unless the cotton farmer of the South can get a fair price for his cotton, he is unable to buy the manufactured products of New England.

That is the lesson that we have learned these past three years, and that is why your Administration in Washington has been thinking about the return of prosperity in terms of the whole Nation and not just in terms of one part of the Nation.

And, my friends, I regard the State of Connecticut as a very integral part of the Nation. (Applause)

I am glad that prosperity is back with us again and, believe me, it is going to stay.

And I know that on the third of November, some time in the evening, I am going to get a telegram from Wilbur Cross and Tom Spellacy, and a lot of my old friends here, telling me that the State of Connecticut is in the Democratic column. (Prolonged applause)