

October 28, 1936

[Brooklyn College - Brooklyn, NY]

FDR Speech File

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INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
 ON THE OCCASION OF LAYING THE CORNERSTONE,  
 BROOKLYN COLLEGE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

October 28, 1936, about 11.00 A.M.

Mr. Mayor, my friends:

I have seen blueprints and I have seen photographs  
 and now I see the real article with my own eyes. (Applause)

Every time that the Mayor of the City of New York  
 comes to Washington I tremble (laughter), tremble because it  
 means he wants something and he nearly always gets it.

This project for Brooklyn College is killing two  
 birds with one stone. We are not only putting to work, we  
 not only have put to work many thousands of good people who  
 needed work, but we are also improving the educational facili-  
 ties of this great Borough, not just for today but for genera-  
 tions to come.

Out of this depression, while there has been much  
 misery and much suffering, there has also come much good  
 because, especially in educational lines, it has given this  
 country an opportunity, not only in this city, not only in  
 every other city of the country, but in almost every county  
 of the three thousand and more counties in the United States,  
 to get better schools for the young people. That is why I am  
 very, very keen, very much interested in all of these public  
 works projects which have improved the schools of the nation.

I am glad to come here today and to wish to Brooklyn  
 College the fine and successful future that it deserves.

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 prepared reading copy text. ( ) indicates words that were not in the speech but were added at the time of the reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were not in the speech but were added at the time of the reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were not in the speech but were added at the time of the reading copy text.

Mr. Mayor, my friends:

I have seen blueprints and I have seen photographs and now I see the real article with my own eyes. Every time that the Mayor of the City of New York comes to Washington I tremble (laughter), tremble because it means he wants something and he nearly always gets it. This project for Brooklyn College is killing two birds with one stone. We are not only getting to work, we not only have but to work many thousands of good people who needed work, but we are also improving the educational facilities of this great Borough, not just for today but for generations to come.

Out of this depression, while there has been much misery and much suffering, there has also come much good because, especially in educational lines, it has given this country an opportunity, not only in this city, but only in every other city of the country, but in almost every county of the three thousand and more counties in the United States, to get better schools for the young people. That is why I am very, very keen, very much interested in all of these public works projects which have improved the schools of the nation. I am glad to come here today and to wish to Brooklyn College the line and successful future that it deserves.

You, here, are doing a great work. May it live through the generations to come for the building up of a better American citizenship.

So, my friends, I am glad to have been with you today. I have a somewhat hectic and hurried day but I hope sometime in the future to come back and see this building being used and occupied. (Prolonged applause)

BK College

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