

October 29, 1936

[Sunbury, PA]

FOR SPEECH FILE

1001

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL TRAIN
SUNBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

October 29, 1936, 11.25 A.M.

(The President was introduced by Governor Earle.

There were about 5,000 people in the audience.)

My friends, first of all let me thank you very much for these delightful flowers. I notice that there isn't a sunflower among them. (Laughter, applause)

I am glad to come to Sunbury. Senator Guffey has been telling me that this is the original home of the incandescent lamp. That being so, I can congratulate you this year as well for having seen the light.

Also, I want to say a word to you about something I knew about last Spring. You had a flood here which made conditions very serious. As you know, the Federal Government is planning on this river and other flood rivers of the country, in cooperation with the State of Pennsylvania and with the counties and cities, for the elimination of the flood danger in the years to come.

You have shown a wonderful spirit of coming back. I am told that where this train is standing today, there was about four feet of water last Spring. I want to assure you that the Government next Spring will be undertaking some of the work of flood prevention.

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. Parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, although they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

(The President was introduced by Governor Reavis.

There were about 5,000 people in the audience.)

My friends, first of all let me thank you very much for these delightful flowers. I notice that there isn't a

single flower among them. (Laughter, applause)

I am glad to come to Cambridge. Senator Gaffey has been telling me that this is the original home of the incandescent lamp. That being so, I can congratulate you this year as well for having seen the light.

Also, I want to say a word to you about something I know about last Spring. You had a flood here which made conditions very serious. As you know, the Federal Government is planning on this river and other flood rivers of the country, in cooperation with the State of Pennsylvania and with the counties and cities, for the elimination of the flood danger in the years to come.

You have shown a wonderful spirit of coming back. I am told that where this train is standing today, there was about four feet of water last Spring. I want to assure you that the Government next Spring will be undertaking some of the work of flood prevention.

I believe in the spirit and theory of cooperation between the different kinds of government we live under. That has been one of the major policies of this Administration, to help the states and localities to overcome conditions for which they are not wholly responsible. And so, the next time I come to Sunbury, I hope that this city will be flood-proof. (Applause)

Thank you very much for this warm reception. It is mighty good of you to come out. (Prolonged applause)

(The President was presented with a thermometer. He said: "It is a very nice thermometer and the prediction for next Tuesday on this thermometer is 'fair and warmer'".)