

February 15, 1937

[James A. Farley - Mayflower Hotel]

FDR Speech File

1034

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
at the Testimonial Dinner for the Honorable James A. Farley
at the Mayflower Hotel
February 15, 1937

Mr. Vice President, Jim Farley: I am not going to say

"Fellow Democrats," I am going to say "Fellow Americans" because in
this gathering are represented those whom the voters in the United
States and all the states of the Union have called upon to take part
in the government of all the people of the country, no matter where
they may be, and so I say, "Fellow Americans": (applause)

I wish I could go down the line; I wish I could talk to you,
a lot of you, in a very personal way because there are not many here
tonight that can go back further than I do. Jack Garner has me beaten
by ten years. Very few others took an active part in the government
of this country prior to the Democratic victory of 1912. Yet those of
you who are older and those of you who are younger have read history,
certainly the history of the last half century, and in reading that
history I take it that there are few people -- I might say no people --
who, in the affairs of party government -- and, after all, for one
hundred and forty years out of our one hundred and fifty years our
Government has been run on the principle of two great parties -- there
is not one in all that time who has been of greater importance in the
government of the country from the point of view of responsible party
government than Jim Farley. (Applause)

This dinner to Jim Farley is on the part of all of us a very personal affair. It is not one of those official banquets with a formal list of formal speakers, talking on formal subjects into the small hours

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

at the same time we have to make our economy self-sufficient and
parted out of surplus so we would perhaps the agriculture and
the like of our cities and other and to satisfy our the the nation
and nation's resources as to afford us the the business and
industry. (emphasized added) you know we are not too well
off as they are. I think this will be given a large I
will take you back again because you know that is it just to the
people in the various parts. So I just repeat and in our full training
the business and the business must be done and that there are to
be paid out. This is going to result in increased cost of many things which we
are going to have to pay for and as far as low price are low price
this will be paid for another from that and to reinforce and strengthen
confidence in our home. I -- speech and one great trust is made I would
say to the wife. But -- confidence comes by system and of all
the more large our product you can be the more your cost low because
you -- nothing from out to strengthen him or her need and strengthen
your al government efforts to good and safe and fast the of our public
trust. Government is here to help our men return and to strengthen
business. (emphasized added and underlined)

given at the the day and year of which are now date also

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library made to me by me of the White House
where there are other records kept of similar messages issued to the

of the morning. It is not a political gathering, or a party gathering, or a victory gathering, or even a gathering to hatch some mysterious plot or pull off a coup d'etat.

The only label appropriate for the occasion is a very simple one which, with my permission, the cartoonists may copy, "Jim Farley and his friends." Many of us have known him through the years. Some of you have been associated with him for only a short time -- but all of us, old and young alike, have a common regard, a common affection for Jim Farley, (which) an affection that transcends formality because it is based on the man himself. (Applause)

History has recorded already, and will continue to record, a great many interesting facts about Jim. In due time history will talk out loud about his younger days of (local) public service to his town on the Hudson River and his country and his state. (It) And history will talk about his organizing of campaigns in state and nation; it will speak of his fine service as a member of the Cabinet of the United States, (the) as an administrator of an important Department of the Federal Government. It may even add his name to the distinguished list of major prophets. (Applause) Some of us old people remember 1896 and even as the name of William Jennings Bryan sometimes (applause) even as the name of the great commoner suggests the arithmetic of sixteen to one, so perhaps the name of Jim Farley will suggest the more modern arithmetic of forty-six to two. (Applause)

But when history is written, after all of us have passed from the scene, there will be something more important than the mere chronicle of success in (accomplishment) public office. In the book of history there are going to be other things written. Loyalty will be written

there -- that loyalty to friends (which) that results in loyalty from friends. (Applause) Honor and decency will be written there -- the honor and decency which have done much to raise the standards of public service in (our nation) the American Nation.

Good temper will be written there -- the kind of good temper (which) that is based on a sense of perspective, a sense of humor and a sense of forgiveness. In all my years of association with Jim Farley I have never once heard him utter one mean syllable about any human being. (Applause) I have never heard him suggest revenge or reprisal -- except once -- and that was when after a particularly vicious and mean attack that was made on him personally, Jim went to this long extent and said to me, "Governor" -- he has always called me Governor -- he said, "Governor, (he said to me) that fellow's mother ought to spank him." (Laughter, applause)

On (the) a certain Saturday before a certain first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (election), in speaking to the workers at headquarters -- and I am glad so many are here. I praised Jim Farley for the way he had taken things on the chin and had come up smiling every time. That means one more thing. It means courage and there is not a man in the United States who has more deep-seated, thoroughgoing courage than he has. (Applause)

Back of it all ultimate history will analyze the causes of human actions and the causes of human qualities. (It) And that element of history will, I think, agree with my analysis when I say that Jim Farley is not just a Democrat with a big "D" -- he is a Democrat in the sense that he has faith in his fellowman. He likes to believe, and he does believe, that men and women in every part of our country are funda-

mentally decent, are fundamentally honest, and (that) if they are given a chance through democratic processes, their decisions will be fundamentally sound. Because of this belief he has made in his short span of life -- because he is only a child -- and I know he is going to make through all the years to come (and I hope through all the years to come will continue to make), a definite contribution to the success of the democratic processes of American institutions.

Jim would not like it if I were to say, "We love him for the enemies he has made," because Jim does not think in terms of human enmity, but I can tell him that we love him for the friends he has made (applause) -- men and women and children, regardless of party -- men, women and children in every community of every one of our forty-eight states, including Maine and Vermont. (Applause)

So I know that you will (I ask you to) join with me in wishing him health and happiness through all the years to come -- health and happiness to my friend and your friend, a faithful servant of the people of our Republic, Jim Farley. (Applause)

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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February 15, 1937

CAUTION: This address of the President, to be delivered at the testimonial dinner for the Honorable James A. Farley, is for release in all editions of newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER than 10:35 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.

NOTE: Care must be exercised to prevent premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the President

This dinner to Jim Farley is on the part of all of us a very personal affair. It is not one of those official banquets with a formal list of formal speakers, talking on formal subjects into the small hours of the morning. It is not a political gathering, or a party gathering, or a victory gathering, or even a gathering to hatch some mysterious plot or pull off a coup d'etat.

The only label appropriate for this occasion is "Jim Farley and his friends." Many of us have known him through the years. Some of you have been associated with him for only a short time -- but all of us have a common regard, a common affection for Jim Farley, which transcends formality because it is based on the man himself.

History has recorded, and will continue to record, a great many interesting facts about Jim. In due time history will talk out loud about his younger days of local public service to his town and his county and his state. It will talk about his organizing of campaigns; it will speak of his fine service as the administrator of an important Department of the Federal Government. It may even add his name to the distinguished list of major prophets. Even as the name of William Jennings Bryan sometimes suggests the arithmetic of sixteen to one, so perhaps the name of Jim Farley will suggest the more modern arithmetic of forty-six to two.

But when history is written, after all of us have passed from the scene, there will be something more important than the chronicle of success in accomplishment. Loyalty will be written there -- that loyalty to friends which results in loyalty from friends.

Honor and decency will be written there -- the honor and decency which have done much to raise the standards of public service in our nation.

Good temper will be written there -- the kind of good temper which is based on a sense of perspective, a sense of humor and a sense of forgiveness. In all my years of association with Jim Farley I have never once heard him utter one mean syllable about any human being. I have never heard him suggest reprisal -- except once -- when after a particularly vicious and mean attack he said to me -- "that fellow's mother ought to spank him."

On the Saturday before election, in speaking to the workers at headquarters, I praised Jim Farley for the way he had taken things on the chin and had come up smiling every time. That means courage and there is not a man in the United States who has more deep-seated, thoroughgoing courage than he.

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Back of it all ultimate history analyses the cause of human actions and human qualities. It will, I think, agree with my analysis when I say that Jim Farley is not just a Democrat with a big "D" -- he is a Democrat in the sense that he has faith in his fellowman. He likes to believe that men and women are fundamentally decent, fundamentally honest, and that if they are given a chance through democratic processes, their decisions will be fundamentally sound. Because of this belief he has made, and I hope through all the years to come will continue to make, a definite contribution to the success of the democratic processes of American institutions.

Jim would not like it if I were to say "We love him for the enemies he has made" but I can tell him that we love him for the friends he has made -- men and women and children, regardless of party, in every community of every one of our forty-eight states, including Maine and Vermont.

I ask you to join with me in wishing health and happiness through all the years to come to my friend and your friend, a faithful servant of the people of our Republic, Jim Farley.

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STATEMENTS FILE

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STEPHEN EARLY
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Jim would not like it if I were to say "We love him for the enemies he has made" but I can tell him that we love him for the friends he has made,— men and women and children, regardless of party, in every community of every one of our forty-eight states, including Maine and Vermont.

I am glad you will join with me in wishing health and happiness through all the years to come, to my friend and your friend, a faithful servant of the people of our Republic, Jim Farley.

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② It is the key to success.

Draft of President's Speech
Dinner to Hon James A Farley
Dec 18, 1937.

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Vermont.

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happiness through all the years to come ~~as~~ my friend and your friend,
a faithful servant of the people of our Republic, Jim
Farley.
