

September 24, 1937

[Luthatland & Thammopolis, Wyoming]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

Wheatland, Wyoming
September 24, 1937, 12:45 P.M.

(The President spoke from the rear platform of his train.)

Well, this was not a scheduled stop but the Governor told

me I ought to stop here for a couple of minutes just to say "How do you do?" to you all, and I am glad to do it.

I have been quite thrilled by seeing this very lovely valley.

I have never been here before. It is good farming land and I am glad that this Government has been helping with this new Wheatland reservoir.

Up in the club car ahead there are a couple of dozen newspaper men. You know all about the Wheatland reservoir but they don't. And so this trip is not only to educate me but it is to educate the Press. They are listening to what I say; they do not have to leave the car, they can hear through this little instrument (indicating microphone) everything I am saying to you and so, for their benefit, I am going to tell them that this reservoir has cost \$400,000., of which the Federal Government is putting up \$325,000. and the Irrigation District \$75,000. and that the reservoir is going to provide supplementary storage water for 50,000 acres of farm land. In other words, 4,000 families are going to be benefited by the work which is being done jointly by the Irrigation District and the Federal Government. It seems to me that that is a pretty good illustration of what we have been trying to do in the last four years -- trying to improve the condition of the average citizen.

And so I am glad to come here. I wish I could see the reservoir myself with my own eyes. I am glad to see this fine, prosperous valley and be able to say "How do you do?" to you good people.

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
Thermopolis, Wyoming
September 24, 1937, 9.20 P.M.

(The President spoke from the rear platform of the Presidential special train.)

Well, I only have had one disappointment today and that is in coming here after dark.

I have had a wonderful day coming all the way up from Cheyenne and I have just finished a mighty good supper with the Senator and the Congressman.

I am especially sorry not to see these wonderful springs because, ever since a great many years ago when I started trying to help the crippled children down in Georgia Warm Springs, I have been interested in their curative qualities and I hope very much that in the future, just as quickly as possible, these wonderful springs given to us by nature will be utilized in such manner that they will be of lasting benefit to humanity. (Applause) There is no reason I know of why that should not come about here and you have my very hearty blessing in anything you can do to bring it about.

Some day I hope to come back here during daylight hours and see this grand spot and, incidentally, to go down the Big Horn Valley by daylight. I wish I could have done it this time but, as you probably know, I am trying to cover a lot of territory in a very short time. And so I hope to see you again.

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.

Well, I can't have had the opportunity to see you in the last few days. I have had a somewhat busy day and I have just finished a night's work. I am especially sorry not to see those wonderful people of yours, even since a great many years ago when I started trying to help the crippled children down in Georgia. I have been interested in their creative activities and I hope very much that in the future, just as plainly as possible, these wonderful people will be able to be of service to humanity. There is no concern I think that should not come about here and you have my hearty wishes in everything you can do to help it about.

Now that I hope to come back here during the next few days, I think I could have come at this time but, as you probably know, I am trying to cover a lot of territory in a very short time. And so I hope to see you again.