
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

**Series 2: “ You have nothing to fear but fear itself:” FDR
and the New Deal**

File No. 1077

1937 September 24

Casper, WY - Informal remarks

Rural Coop

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
CASPER, WYOMING,
SEPTEMBER 24, 1937

CASPER-ALCOVA (utilizing flood waters of North Platte) --
Diversion Dam will irrigate from 33,000 to 40,000
acres of land -- Seminole power plant will furnish
electric power many communities Wyoming and even
Nebraska -- present power plant at Gurnsey cannot
meet present demands.

WPA

High School Stadium
Old Fort Casper
State and City park improvements

PWA

State Children's Home

CCC

(being rebuilt on land donated by city)

EXPENDITURES IN WYOMING (WPA -- FERA -- CWA -- CCC -- PWA,
ETC.)

From 1933 through 1936 -- \$60,000,000

EMPLOYED: 1936 -- 11,000
 September, 1937, -- 5,900

I repeat what I said a week ago - "the past four years mark the first occasion, certainly since the Civil War ~~probably whole of~~ and perhaps during ~~the one hundred and fifty years of our~~ Government, that we are not only acting but also thinking in national terms". That is a statement with which only those who are intellectually dishonest or partisan blind will seriously disagree.

And it is worth repeating also, in every part of our wide land, that democratic processes of government can meet the problems of an emergency if the leadership in public life recognizes and has the courage to tackle the problems of the day. Unless these problems are met, uncertainty and fear on the part of the people are likely to result, leading to a dictatorial form of government and the destruction of personal liberty itself.

The rank and file of the people of the country approve the objectives of their government. They approve and support those who work for objectives by proposing methods to attain those objectives. *from the members for change* But they are not very

in consultation
with Congress

enthusiastic about those who give only lip-service to the objectives and do nothing toward attaining them. They are like a man I once knew who was the leading citizen of his community. He gave away a lot of money, was interested in all civic betterment, and made speeches about improving the lot of the working man and working woman. But all the time he was one of the heaviest contributors to his state Association of Manufacturers when they needed money to block a bill in the State Legislature which would have stopped child labor or compelled the shortening of over-long hours of work in the factories of the State.

Fortunately for the country that type of person has less influence in government today than ever before in our history. We can get along in local and State and Federal government without the services of those who are good citizens ^{in by us} ~~just~~ long as it does not cost their pocketbooks anything to be good citizens.

Taking it by and large the conduct of public affairs throughout the United States has shown consistent improvement during our generation. Government servants are more concerned with the public good and more unselfish in the work they do than ever before.

This is due in great part to the fact that the public as a whole take more interest in their Government than ever before.

Constitutional democracy in the United States is succeeding despite the obstacles being thrown in its way by a few people who, in their hearts, do not want to see it work.

You and I are determined to make it work.

Grace

Any one of these
a Reading Copy
?

Paula

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INFORMAL, EXTEMPOREANOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Casper, Wyoming

September 24, 1937, 5:40 P.M.

(The President spoke from the rear platform of his train.)
My hands are cold but my heart is warm.

I am very glad to come to Casper because I have heard about it many times from Senator Schwartz, and I have heard about it even before that because, the very first year (that) I was in Washington -- I am not sure it was not the first week I was in Washington -- I had a visit from Senator Kendrick and Mr. Wilkinson to tell me all about the Casper-Alcova project. That was the beginning of it and you know what has been done since.

I am (very) glad that this great project is being constructed. People all over the country ought to know about it, the fact that (that) the diversion dam is going to irrigate from thirty-three to forty thousand acres of land, the fact that the power plant is going to furnish electric power at reasonable rates -- I hope you have them now, but I don't know, -- at reasonable rates not only to many communities in this State but even across the Nebraska line.

That is just one illustration of what the Government has been doing these last four years. In this delightful drive that I have just taken I have seen other evidences of what the Government is doing in the way of useful work -- your high school stadium, Old Fort Casper, that I had read so much about in my younger days.

One hates to talk figures to the people of any state, but the fact remains, and it is worth noting, and the other states have shared in proportion, that in the past four years the State of Wyoming

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.

now it looks like we're going to wait until you --
— sometime at one I (don't) care until you get back from your vacation
now I -- apologize if now I have to fit our time in now I
would like a list of possibilities and has Johnson referred to him a
new one so to minimize the new road to follow would seem
spite since most of the
information gained at yesterday's meeting was (true) as I
(will) just fact odd, it looks more of signs without any more like signs
kind of semi-strict most strict of rules of the highway and
kind of rules of traffic being out and back and, and to some measure
you won't even get good I -- with economy to some degree like
minimizing time of time for water consumption so -- and much I find
will exceed our expectations and still left in
and minimized the risk to minimally one day at least.
I just want to make clear that all things that just went along just
as planned and that is obviously most important now and I want you to
know that our plan right now -- that intent to do and at which
speed economy vs at speeds now as fast as I feel, doesn't
and either you're slowed up or you're not at speeds and
and what route and the right time at the time, because most and
priorities to speed and safety must come first of fast, otherwise at speeds

has had spent in it sixty million dollars of Federal funds. It is not going to be spent nearly as fast as that in the next four years because there isn't anything like the unemployment today that existed when I first came into office. As a matter of fact, (just) in the past year the number of people on relief in this State has decreased from eleven thousand to under six thousand -- all of that, of course, is helping me to balance the budget and we are doing it.

But the country is beginning to understand all of these problems in national terms. I am glad that people are traveling more and more. As a matter of fact, there were so many people in Yellowstone Park this summer that I had to wait to go there until it was closed.

Yes, the country is thinking nationally. There is no question about that.

I said the other day, about a week ago, that in my judgment the past four years marked the first occasion, certainly since the Civil War, and probably during the whole of the one hundred and fifty years of our Government that we are not only acting but thinking in national terms. That is a statement with which only those who are intellectually dishonest or blindly partisan will seriously disagree.

And it is worth repeating, also, in every part of the Nation that democratic processes of government can meet the problems of an emergency if the leadership in public life recognizes and has the courage to tackle the problems of the day. Unless those problems are met, uncertainty and fear on the part of the people are likely to result -- as they resulted in 1932 and early 1933 -- uncertainty and fear which, if allowed to continue, would lead ultimately (with a result

leading ultimately) to a dictatorial form of government and the destruction of our personal liberties.

Yes, I am (pretty) well convinced that the rank and file of the people of this country approve the objectives of their Government. They approve and support those who work for objectives by proposing methods to obtain the objectives, even though those methods be changed by consultation and conference. But they do not become very enthusiastic about those who give only lip service to the objectives and do nothing towards attaining them.

Like a man I knew once in Upstate New York in a prosperous community, (who was) -- a leading citizen. He gave away a lot of money and made speeches about improving the lot of the working man and working woman. He was an advocate of civic righteousness, but, all the time, he was one of the heaviest contributors to a reactionary State association. Whenever that association needed money to fight and block a bill in the Legislature which would have stopped Child Labor or compelled the shortening of over-long hours of work in the factories of the State he contributed. He gave lip service in public but fought civic betterment in private.

I am glad to say that in this country that type of person has less influence in government today than ever before in our history. We can get along in local and state and the Federal Government without the services of those who are good citizens only so long as it does not cost their pocketbooks anything to be good citizens.

Taking it by and large, the conduct of public affairs in this country has, I think, shown consistent improvement during our generation. Government servants are more concerned with the public good and

more unselfish in the work they do than ever before. That is due in large part to the fact that the public as a whole -- the rank and file of American citizenship, men and women, are taking more interest in their Government than ever before.

Constitutional democracy in this country is succeeding despite the obstacles thrown in its way by a few people who, in their hearts, do not want to see democracy work. You and I, my friends, are making it work and we are going to keep on making it work.

I am glad to see this fine part of the Nation. I am glad to see the progress that is being made here, the interest that is being taken here. I hope during the next three years to be able to come back and say "Howdy" to you once more.

My hands are cold but my heart is warm.

I am very glad to come to Casper because I have heard about it many times from Sen. Schwartz, and I have heard about it even before that because, the very first year ~~that~~ I was in Washington - I am not sure it was not the first week I was in Washington - I had a visit from Senator Kendrick and Mr. Wilkinson to tell me all about the Casper - Alcova project. That was the beginning of it and you know what has been done since.

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+ 1932-1933 + 1934
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STATEMENTS FILE

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