

September 27, 1937

[Boise, Idaho]

FDR Speech File

1079

Boise, Idaho -

Governor Clark, and I am going to say what Senator Borah said, "Friends and neighbors" :

I shall never forget this morning. When I look back on today's visit to Boise, I shall think chiefly of two things, first your beautiful, tree-lined streets and, secondly, your children.

And I take it, being a Roosevelt, that you are following the Rooseveltian creed, and that the population is not going to die out.

You know, there is something about children and trees that makes me think of permanency - the future. It is not by any means ~~one~~ ^{one} of the ~~tasks~~ ^{tasks} of the Presidency - ~~the task~~ - to think about the present. One of the chief obligations of the Presidency is to think about the future. We have been, in our one hundred and fifty years of constitutional existence, a wasteful nation, a nation that has wasted its natural resources and, very often, wasted its human resources.

One reason why a President of the United States ought to travel throughout the country and become familiar with every State is that he has a great obligation ~~on him~~ to think about the days when he is no longer President, to think about the next generation and the generation after that.

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That is one reason why I am particularly glad on this trip to see a part of Idaho which I have never seen before. I had travelled through the eastern part of the State and the northern part of the State and now I am seeing something new, something that makes me very proud of this part of the country. # And in these travels I am not just thinking of the - what shall I call them? - the more or less petty problems of the day, the quarrels, the disputes of the moment. I am trying to think about the bigger objectives of American life, to think about planning. Planning is not much of a word, but there isn't any better one. # I am trying to think about how we are going to make a better America for those children that I passed this morning. I am trying to think about the conservation of our water resources, to think about the better distribution of a greater prosperity for agriculture, to think about the saving of our timber, to think about a better coordination of our industrial activities, of a better distribution of control over ¹⁸⁹⁵ industrial activities.- That sounds like Senator Borah - ^{April} to think incidentally, of the influence that the United States can have on the rest of the world in behalf of peace - and that sounds like Senator Pope and Senator Borah too.

I wish I could physically take the time to spend more days and more weeks going around the country. There was an old ~~mythological~~ mythological character by the name of Ant^{as}us, who was supposed, every time his foot touched the ground, to redouble his strength. When I go about the country after long weeks and months tied up in Washington, which, incidentally, is one of the narrowest places in the world, I feel that I regain strength by just meeting the American people.

So my friends, I am grateful to you for giving me this wonderful reception today in the Capital of this State. I am grateful to you for coming and saying "Howdy" to me, just like the plain folks we, all of us, are.

Someday, having made your acquaintance once, I want to come back ~~in the future~~ and renew it. I have had a wonderful morning.

September 27, 1937.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

W. H. McIntyre
Secretary to the President.

INFORMAL, EXTemporaneous REMARKS OF THE
PRESIDENT AT BOISE, IDAHO, SEPTEMBER 27, 1937.

Governor Clark; and I am going to say what Senator Borah said, "Friends and neighbors":

I shall never forget this morning. When I look back on today's visit to Boise, I shall think chiefly of two things, first your beautiful, tree-lined streets and, secondly, your children.

And I take it, being a Roosevelt, that you are following the Rooseveltian creed, and that the population is not going to die out.

You know, there is something about children and trees that makes me think of permanency - the future. It is not by any means the sole task of the Presidency - to think about the present. One of the chief obligations of the Presidency is to think about the future. We have been, in our one hundred and fifty years of constitutional existence, a wasteful nation, a nation that has wasted its natural resources and, very often, wasted its human resources.

One reason why a President of the United States ought to travel throughout the country and become familiar with every State is that he has a great obligation to think about the days when he is no longer President, to think about the next generation and the generation after that.

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And in these travels I am not just thinking of the - what shall I call them? - the more or less petty problems of the day, the quarrels, the disputes of the moment. I am trying to think about the bigger objectives of American life, to think about planning. Planning is not much of a word, but there isn't any better one.

I am trying to think about how we are going to make a better America for those children that I passed this morning. I am trying to think about the conservation of our water resources, to think about the better distribution of and a greater prosperity for agriculture, to think about the saving of our timber, to think about a better coordination of our industrial activities, of a better distribution of control over these industrial activities - that sounds like Senator Borah - and to think incidentally, of the influence that the United States can have on the rest of the world in behalf of peace - and that sounds like Senator Pope and Senator Borah too.

I wish I could physically take the time to spend more days and more weeks going around the country. There was an old mythological character by the name of Antaeus, who was supposed, every time his foot touched the ground, to recouple his strength. When I go about the country after long weeks and months tied up in Washington, which, incidentally, is one of the narrowest places in the world, I feel that I regain strength by just meeting the American people.

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.

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H. H. Kaincyre
Secretary to the President.

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PRESIDENT AT BOISE, IDAHO, SEPTEMBER 27, 1937.

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You know, there is something about children and trees that makes me think of permanency - the future. It is not by any means the sole task of the Presidency - to think about the present. One of the chief obligations of the Presidency is to think about the future. No have been, in our one hundred and fifty years of constitutional existence, a wasteful nation, a nation that had wasted its natural resources and, very often, wasted its human resources.

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I wish I could physically take the time to spend more days and more weeks going around the country. There was an old mythological character by the name of Atlas, who was supposed, every time his foot touched the ground, to redouble his strength. When I go about the country after long weeks and months tied up in Washington, which, incidentally, is one of the narrowest places in the world, I feel that I regain strength by just meeting the American people.

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