

September 27, 1937

[Ontario, Oregon]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
(from the rear platform of his special train)

Ontario, Oregon
September 27, 1937, 4.30 P.M.

I just came out to tell you "Good night," to tell you what a perfectly wonderful day I have had.

You know, I have never been in this valley before and I was thrilled by it.

I am very glad to know that you people are cooperating on a national problem, that is, that a lot of people from the Dust Bowl area are coming into this valley and are making good. Now, that is not only a big help to Idaho and Oregon but it is a good thing for a great many states of the Union which were affected very seriously by the drought. And if you can continue to take care of the people who come here from those states the way you have been doing it, all I can say is "God bless you for doing it."
(Applause)

I think all of the party are thrilled by what they have seen. I do not think any of them knew of the wonderful progress that has been made in farming through this section by the use of water and I am very glad that the Federal Government in Washington appreciates now the value of water and is going to keep on in the development of this great part of the United States.

It has been fine to see you all. I have to go in now to prepare a couple of so-called speeches that have to be made tomorrow.

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.

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.

... of the people who come here from these states for doing it.
I think all of the party are thrilled by what they have seen. I do not think any of them knew of the wonderful progress that has been made in traveling through this section by the use of water and I am very glad that the Federal Government in Washington appreciates how the value of water and is going to keep on in the development of this great part of the United States.
It has been time to see you all. I have to go in now to prepare a couple of so-called speeches that have to be made tomorrow.

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
(from the rear platform of his special train)
Baker, Oregon
September 27, 1937, 9.50 P.M., P.T.

(There were about 7,000 people in the audience.)

My friends, I am sorry we have not got a loud-speaker aboard the train, so I do not know that you can all hear me.

I came out to tell you, first of all, to tell you how sorry I am that I could not come through here by daylight. You know, it is a pretty difficult thing to come across the continent and not pass through a lot of the country that one wants to see by daylight.

We have had a wonderful day today coming down from Boise through that wonderful irrigation district, and I wish very much that I could see this part of Oregon as well. Tomorrow we are going down, as you know, to Bonneville and up to Mount Hood and then on to Portland. I hope some day I will be able to come back here and meet you all when I can see your faces in the sunshine. (Applause)

I have been telling people that I thought it was one of the not only duties but one of the privileges of the President of the United States to get around and see the Nation because, more and more, we are thinking in national terms and we are beginning to realize more and more that any part of the country that falls behind drags down every other part of the country and, in the same way, any part of the country that prospers and makes good, that adds so much to the good of the rest of the country.

I have been very happy in going around on this trip to find the number of people who are traveling. I wish that more and

more easterners can come out here and see this western country.
(Applause) In the same way, I hope a lot of you people out here
will come and visit us in the East. (Laughter)

I know another thing and that is that in the last four
years we have, all of us, in every part of the country, been taking
more and more of an interest in our Government. That is a grand
thing. We understand a great deal more about the problems of the
Nation as a whole. I am very much encouraged by that result of the
last four years, that we are thinking in national terms and under-
standing what it is all about.

I believe also that as we make our democracy function, as
we make it work to meet all of these new problems, that we are more
and more setting an example to all the rest of the world, that we
are setting up an example that aims for peace and not war. (Applause)
And I guess we are all for that. (Applause)

And so, my friends, I am glad to have had this chance just
to say a few words to you. I hope that some day I can come back and
meet you all again and have a little bit more time. Many thanks.

I am particularly glad to be here with my very old friend,
Governor Pierce. (Applause)

(The President asked Governor Pierce to say a few words.)