

September 30, 1937 \*  
October 2, 1937

\* Post Angeles,  
[Taosana, Everett & Ephrata, Washington]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
Port Angeles, Washington  
September 30, 1937, 5.30 P.M.

MR. MAYOR, MY FRIENDS OF PORT ANGELES:

That sign on the schoolhouse, ("Please, Mr. President, we children need your help. Give us our Olympic National Park.") is the appealingest appeal that I have seen in all my travels, and I am inclined to think that it means more to have the children want that National Park than all the rest of us put together. (Applause) And so, you boys and girls, I think that you can count on my help in getting that National Park. (Applause)

We need it, not only for us old people and for you young people, but for a whole lot of young people that are going to come along in the next hundred years in America. (Applause)

And I hope you will all pray for a good day tomorrow so that I can see the rest of the Peninsula. (Applause)

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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.

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
(from the rear platform of his special train)  
Tacoma, Washington  
October 1, 1937, 7.45 P.M.

(After motor parade through the city. There were about  
15,000 people in the audience.)

Mr. Mayor, my greetings to Tacoma.

I have had a very wonderful 250 miles of it. (Applause,  
laughter -- it had been raining.) It shows that the old man can  
still take it. (Applause)

I have been thrilled by my first trip around the Olympic  
Peninsula and I am more convinced than ever before that this part of  
our Nation is going to become one of the great playgrounds, not only  
of the State of Washington but all the other forty-seven states  
as well. (Applause) I have been very happy to be the guest of my  
old friend, Governor Martin, in looking over this wonderful State  
Capitol of yours. There again I don't think I have ever -- and I  
have seen most of the state capitols -- seen one in a location more  
perfect or buildings more beautiful.

Now that I am in Tacoma I want to tell you that I have  
been very happy that the Federal Government has been able to have  
helped this community in a good many ways in the last three or four  
years, and I have only one objection. For three years, to my certain  
knowledge, there are two men who have been literally hounding the  
White House, Senator Bone and Congressman Coffee. (Applause)

And I have not given them the Narrows Bridge yet. (Applause,  
laughter) I suppose they will keep on hounding me and I don't mind  
because they are both very old and very good friends of mine.

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This, as you know, is just a word of greeting to you and to thank you for your greeting to me, to tell you how glad I am, after five years' absence, to be back in this splendid city and I hope that I will be here again long before another five years have gone by. (Applause)

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
(from the rear platform of his special train)  
Everett, Washington  
October 1, 1937, 10.25 P.M.

(There were about 10,000 people in the audience.)

We, none of us, have very much voice left on this train, after 250 miles around the Olympic Peninsula and a full turnout of the whole city of Tacoma.

I am glad to come back to Everett. The last time I was here was in the campaign of 1932 and, as you know, this is not a campaign trip. It is just a trip to renew acquaintance with the American people.

I have been tremendously interested in all that I have seen today, and tonight we are going on to the Grand Coulees to see one of those other great things in the State of Washington -- one of those national projects which I believe is going to do much, not only for us in our economic life, but also for our children in the days to come.

I wish I could be here by daylight. I went past you on the way to Victoria and they told me that over on the starboard hand there was Everett, but there was too much fog to see even the shoreline.

I hope sometime to come back and see all of you by daylight. I have had a wonderful trip. It is mighty good of you to come out to see me at this time of the night and just as soon as this train pulls out I am going to climb into my bunk. It has been very good to have with me on this trip your Congressman, my old friend, Wallgren, and also two of the other Members of the House

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I am glad to come back to America. The last time I was here was in 1914, and that was a very long time ago. I have been tremendously interested in all that I have seen today, and tonight we are going on to the Grand Palace to see one of those great Greek things in the State of Washington, and of those national projects which I believe are going to be much, not only for us in our economic life, but also for our civilization in the days to come.

I wish I could be here by daylight. I want to see you on the way to Victoria and they told me that over on the starboard hand there was Stewart, but there was too much fog to see over the shoulder.

I hope sometime to come back and see all of you by daylight. I have had a wonderful trip. It is mighty good of you to come out to see me at this time of the night and that we were on this train tells me I am going to climb into my bunk. It has been very good to have with me at this trip your department, by the way, I believe, and also two of the other members of the Bureau.

from the State of Washington, my old friends, Senators Bone and  
Schwellenbach.

And so, my friends, I will be back soon, I hope. (Applause)



INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
(from the rear platform of his special train)  
Ephrata, Washington  
October 2, 1937, 2.30 P.M.

I hope to come back soon when the dam is further advanced.

I am always glad to see a project in the construction stage because when it is finished very few people will realize, they won't be able to visualize all the difficult work in the actual construction.

And so I hope to come back here in another two or three years and see this dam pretty nearly completed. When that time comes I think we had better, all of us, have a reunion of rejoicing.

(Applause)

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