

October 4, 1938

[Fargo, North Dakota]

FDR Speech File

ing the summer in England and one Sunday morning they were told that "the Bishop of North Dakota will preach today". By way of explanation the Rector said, "We are to have the pleasure today of hearing a sermon by the Bishop of North Dakota. North Dakota is one of His Majesty's colonies."

Ambassador Daniels told me another story to illustrate the point. On one and the same day he got a letter from a man in Chicago who wrote, "I am contemplating a business trip to Mexico. Do you think it would be safe for me to bring my wife and daughter to Mexico?" And a few minutes later a Mexican friend of his stopped in to ask him, "I am thinking of visiting the Chicago Exposition. Do you think it would be safe for me to take my wife and daughter to Chicago?" The Mexican went to the Exposition with his family and had a delightful time, and the Chicago gentleman and his wife and daughter visited Mexico City and were so delighted that they extended their visit to a month.

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INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, October 4th, 1937, 2.10 P.M.

Governor Langer, my friends of Fargo:

I am glad to come back here again and I wish I could stay here longer. I am glad to note that North Dakota is so much better off this year than it was last year.

I want to tell you what I have said on several occasions on this trip, that I greatly wish that all of the calamity howlers and narrow-minded stay-at-homes could have gone across the continent with me.

You know, it is natural for people to be fearful of or antagonistic to things and places that they have never seen. I know a good many people who consider themselves national authorities on this subject or that who have never been west of the Mississippi, and some who have never been west of the Hudson.

Yes, it pays to travel? We get a much bigger perspective and a lot of knowledge.

I remember a story that President Wilson told about North Dakota. He and his family, when he was President of Princeton, were spending the summer in England and one Sunday morning they went to church. The rector of the church got up and said, "The Bishop of North Dakota will preach today. We are to have the pleasure of having a sermon from the Bishop of North Dakota and, by way of explanation, let me tell you that North Dakota is one of His Majesty's colonies."

I heard another story the other day in a letter from the American Ambassador in Mexico City, Josephus Daniels. One day he got a letter from a friend of his in Chicago, who wrote, "I am contemplating a business trip to Mexico City. Do you think it would be safe for me to come and bring my wife and daughter with me?" A few hours later a Mexican friend of his came to the Embassy and said, "Mr. Ambassador, I would like to go to the Chicago Exposition. Do you think it would be safe for me to take my wife and family to Chicago?"

The Ambassador told the gentleman from Chicago and the gentleman from Mexico that both trips would be eminently safe, so they went and they had a wonderful time.

I believe that if more of us could get around the country -- and this year travel has increased enormously -- the more national we will be in our point of view. That is why those trips that I take every year in the United States have been of very, very great help to me in running the job of President. Although some people have suggested that I ought to "coast" -- ought to stay in the White House and just sit home by the fire and have a good time in the next three years -- I am not going to take their advice.

So I hope I will have the pleasure of seeing you good people in North Dakota once more in the next three years.

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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.

M. H. MCINTYRE
Secretary to the President.

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SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA,
OCTOBER 4, 1937.

I am glad to come back to Fargo and wish that I might stay longer. I am glad to note that North Dakota is on the whole so much better off than last year.

I want to repeat what I have said several times before on this trip - that I greatly wish all the calamity howlers and narrow minded stay-at-homes of the country could have been with me crossing the continent and back again. Most of us are naturally fearful of, or antagonistic to those things which lie far away, or about which we have had little or no knowledge or experience. I know many men who consider themselves national authorities on all kinds of subjects, who have never been west of the Mississippi - and some of them have never been west of the Hudson River.

~~The other day I got a letter from Josephus Daniels,~~
It says to travel. I remember a
~~our Ambassador in Mexico. He told me a lovely story of~~

President Woodrow Wilson's. He and his family were spend-

STATEMENTS FILE

Fargo

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Exposition. Do you think it would be safe for me to ~~go there and~~ take my wife and family to Chicago?"

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I believe that if more of us could get around the country -- and this year travel has increased enormously -- ~~the more~~ ~~and~~ the more national we will be in our point of view. That is why these trips that I take every year in the United States have been of very, very great help to me in running the job of President. Although some people have suggested that I ought to "coast" -- ought to stay in the White House and just sit home by the fire and have a good time in the next three years -- I am not going to take their advice.

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