

July 9, 1938

[Purcell, Oklahoma]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

Purcell, Oklahoma
July 9, 1938, 7.30 P.M.

(The President spoke from the rear platform of his Special Train.)

I am glad to see you all. I think there was a conspiracy to carry me right through to where Elliott lives without stopping.

We have had a wonderful day. I don't think I have ever seen so many human beings in one spot, together, as I saw in Oklahoma City. Of course you can get various estimates of crowds and they ran anywhere today from 175,000 to 250,000 people, and that is quite a lot of them. And I have never had such a good day as I have had today in this State. (Applause)

I did not know this part of the State before; I had never been down on this road from Oklahoma City to Fort Worth but, ever since my small boy, Elliott, came down to the Southwest, I have been coming here at every opportunity because I like your country, and also because I like to see conditions at first hand. I think they are a lot better than they were back in 1932, don't you? (Applause)

Of course, there is still a lot to be done. I think it is terribly important that all of the people who are trying to run the National Government in Washington should get around the country and see things with their own eyes. That is why I encourage members of the Cabinet and the heads of the different Government agencies to travel around the country and see how the work they are doing is panning out, such as city public works, water canals and everything else. We are trying to give you a National Government that is really

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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.

I am glad to see you all. I think there are a few things I would like to say to you tonight. I don't think I have ever seen so many great things in one spot together, as I see in this town. It seems that you are getting a number of things and that they are spreading very fast. From 125,000 people, and that is quite a lot of them. And I have never had such a good feeling. I have had today in this State. (Applause)

I did not know this part of the State before. I had never been down on this road from Elizabeth City to Port South. And, ever since my little boy, Elliott, came down to the boatman, I have been coming here at every opportunity because I like your country, and like because I like to see conditions as first hand. I think that one of the better than they were back in 1932, don't you? (Applause)

Of course, there is still a lot to be done. I think it is terribly important that all of the people who are trying to run the National Government in Washington should get across the country and see things with their own eyes. That is why I encourage members of the Cabinet and the heads of the different Government agencies to travel around the country and see how the work they are doing is paying out, such as city public works, water mains and everything else. It is now trying to give you a National Government that is really

national in its outlook, trying to help every part of the country
equally and fairly.

It is a privilege to me to have had this ride today.

It is good to see you. Good night.