
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

**Series 2: “ You have nothing to fear but fear itself:” FDR
and the New Deal**

File No. 1152

1938 July 10

**Fort Worth, TX - Address (lgh.) [Extemporaneous
Radio Remarks]**

EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
OVER THE RADIO, 7.15 PM, July 10, 1938.

My friends of Texas:

I am glad to be back in Texas - and especially to have a nice quiet family day at my son Elliott's ranch. I always remember that when he first decided to build a house here on top of the hill, he was attracted by the fact that the wide view from here is a little like the view from our old home, far up the Hudson River.

This is a grand part of the country and I am glad indeed to have such a close family connection with it. Tomorrow, on my way to Colorado, I will pass through a part of Texas I have never been to -- Wichita Falls and Amarillo -- and I am glad to know that this year the rainfall has greatly improved conditions in the Panhandle.

That makes me remember one of the objectives of the national administration -- better land use and an all-weather crop program. Nine years ago, when I was Governor of the State of New York, I started my interest in the better use of land. People are apt to think of New York State as a vast metropolis but outside of the city at the southern end of the State, more than six million people live on farms and in villages and small cities. Indeed, New York State ranks in the value of its agricultural products as the fifth or sixth state in the Union. A survey showed us that much of the farming land was being used in an uneconomical way, that thousands of acres were being badly eroded, that reforestation was a great need, that we had to plan for the help of stranded communities, for improving rural schools, bringing in electricity and good roads and stopping the waste and the poverty that so often attended the older methods of doing business.

When I was working on this problem in Albany, I was struck by the fact that agriculture cannot be thought of or worked for just on state lines. Every crop on every farm in every county and every state has a definite tie-in -- a relationship with similar crops in other states. That is why, since I have been in Washington, I have been working on the agricultural and cattle program from a national angle. For example, not only does cotton in Texas have a definite relationship to cotton in Georgia, but cotton in the South and Southwest is clearly connected with the economics of the wheat grower in the Dakotas, the cattle man of Wyoming and the potato grower of Maine. Where one has a poor year, his lack of prosperity hits all of the others. Where one is prosperous, all the others are helped.

In one sense, Texas is a great empire in itself -- you can produce almost everything needed by man, but what gratifies me most of all is that the people of the Lone Star State are co-operating so well with all the other states of the Union in working out our mutual national problems. In this way we will get away from spotty prosperity and work towards universal prosperity.

You need more industries in Texas, but I know you realize the importance of not trying to get industries by the route of cheap wages for industrial workers. Cheap wages mean low buying power. Low buying power means low standards of living and that means low taxable values and therefore difficulty in maintaining good schools, highways, sanitation and other public improvements.

I know from all that I have seen that new industries can and will be developed in this state because of your access to raw materials, because of the efficiency of your labor, because of the growing purchasing power and because of the spirit of the 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.

Yes, I am proud of the spirit of Texas, the spirit of all of its people. I have fished your coasts, I have seen your fields, your oil wells, your cattle, your waterways, your schools and colleges.

And now, as I sit here in a garden on top of a hill, with a breeze blowing and a sunset coming, surrounded by a very delightful gathering of Texans, all I can think of is that I want to come back again many, many times in the days to come.

End.

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This is a grand part of the country and I am glad indeed to have such a close family connection with it. Tomorrow, on my way to Colorado, I will pass through a part of Texas I have never been to -- Wichita Falls and Amarillo -- and I am glad to know that this year the rainfall has greatly improved conditions in the Panhandle.

That makes me remember one of the objectives of the national administration -- better land use and an all-weather crop program. Nine years ago, when I was Governor of the State of New York, I started my interest in the better use of land. People are apt to think of New York State as a vast metropolis but outside of the city at the southern end of the State, more than six million people live on farms and in villages and small cities. Indeed, New York State ranks in the value of its agricultural products as the fifth or sixth state in the Union. A survey showed us that much of the farming land was being used in an uneconomical way, that thousands of acres were being badly eroded, that reforestation was a great need, that we had to plan for the help of stranded communities, for improving rural schools, bringing in electricity and good roads and stopping the waste and the poverty that so often attended the older methods of doing business.

When I was working on this problem in Albany, I was struck by the fact that agriculture cannot be thought of or worked for just on state lines. Every crop on every farm in every county and every state has a definite tie-in -- a relationship with similar crops in other states. That is why, since I have been in Washington, I have been working on the agricultural and cattle program from a national angle. For example, not only does cotton in Texas have a definite relationship to cotton in Georgia, but cotton in the South and Southwest is clearly connected with the economics of the wheat grower in the Dakotas, the cattle man of Wyoming and the potato grower of Maine. Where one has a poor year, his lack of prosperity hits all of the others. Where one is prosperous, all the others are helped.

In one sense, Texas is a great empire in itself -- you can produce almost everything needed by man, but what gratifies me most of all is that the people of the Lone Star State are co-operating so well with all the other states of the Union in working out our mutual national problems. In this way we will get away from spotty prosperity and work towards universal prosperity.

You need more industries in Texas, but I know you realize the importance of not trying to get industries by the route of cheap wages for industrial workers. Cheap wages mean low buying power. Low buying power means low standards of living and that means low taxable values and therefore difficulty in maintaining good schools, highways, sanitation and other public improvements.

I know from all that I have seen that new industries can and will be developed in this state because of your access to raw materials, because of the efficiency of your labor, because of the growing purchasing power and because of the spirit of the people.

Yes, I am proud of the spirit of Texas, the spirit of all of its people. I have fished your coasts, I have seen your fields, your oil wells, your cattle, your waterways, your schools and colleges.

And now, as I sit here in a garden on top of a hill, with a breeze blowing and a sunset coming, surrounded by a very delightful gathering of Texans, all I can think of is that I want to come back again many, many times in the days to come.

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Fort Worth
July 10 - 1938

I am glad to be back in Texas - and especially to have a nice quiet family stay at my own Elliott's ranch. I always remember that when he first decided to build a house here on top of the hill he was attracted by the fact that the wide view from here is a little like the view from ^{old} ~~my~~ ^{home} on the Hudson River.

This is a grand part of the country, and I am glad indeed to have such a close ^{family} connection with it. Tomorrow on my way to Galveston, I will pass through a part of Texas I have never seen to - Wichita Falls and Amarillo - and I am glad to know that this year the rainfall has greatly improved conditions in the Panhandle -

That makes me remember one of the objectives of the national reclamation - better land use and we all weather crop program. Three years ago when I was Governor of the State of New York I started my interest in the better use of land. People are apt to think of New York as a vast metropolitan but outside of the city more than 6 million people live on farms and in

villages and smaller cities. Federal New York State ranks in the value of its agricultural products as the 5 - or 6 - in the Union. A survey showed us that much of the farming land was being used in an uncommercial way, that thousands of acres were being badly eroded, that reforestation was in ~~great need~~ ^{great need}, that we had to plan for the help of stranded communities, for improving rural schools bringing in electricity and good roads and stopping the waste and the poverty that so often attended the older methods of doing business.

When I was working on the problem in Albany I was struck by the fact that agriculture cannot be thought up, or worked for, just on State lines. Every crop on every farm, in every county and every State has a definite tie in - a relationship ~~in~~ with similar crops in other States. That is why since I have been in Washington I have vented on the agricultural ^{cattle} program from a national angle ^{for my eyes}. Not only does cotton in Texas have a definite relationship to cotton

in Georgia, but cattle in the South and Southwest is clearly connected with the wheat grower in the Dakotas, the cattlemen of Wyoming and the potato grower of Maine - Where one has a poor year, his lack of prosperity hits all of the others. Where one is prosperous all the others are helped.

In one sense Texas is a great empire in itself - you can produce almost everything needed by man - but what gratifies me most of all is that the people of the home State are cooperating so well with all the other states in working out our mutual problems. In this way we will get away from spotty prosperity and work towards universal prosperity.

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