

July 11, 1938

[Amarillo, Texas]

FDR Speech File

1156

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT

AMARILLO, TEXAS,

July 11, 1938.

Even if Marvin Jones had not kept on telling me about Amarillo once a week for the past five and a half years, I would have known all about it because this is the spot where my wife was presented with the biggest bunch of flowers in the world.

Before I left home Mrs. Roosevelt asked me especially to convey her greetings to Amarillo and to tell you how much she enjoyed every moment of her visit with you.

The biggest bouquet in the world -- and here you are greeting me with the biggest Band in the world. Back East enterprising communities have thought they were creating world records by assembling Bands with five-hundred instruments, but out here you think nothing of a Band with two thousand pieces in it.

All this shows what you can do in the Panhandle if you put your minds to it, and that is why I am very happy that you are putting your minds on the subject of water and land use. Everywhere you go in the United States you find the problem of land use, and the same thing is true within any given State. For instance, here in Marvin Jones' district the problem is to get water to the land and to keep the land from blowing away.

Down in Austin the problem of my friend, Congressman Lyndon Johnson, is to keep his land from washing away -- down the rivers and into the sea. And further down at San Antonio, where my friend, Congressman Maury Maverick, represents a great city and its surrounding territory, the problem of land use is tied up with better housing and the needs of a great municipality.

I wish that more people from the Coast and the South and the East and the Middle West could visit this Plains country. If they did you would hear less talk about the great American desert, less ridicule of our efforts to conserve water, to restore grazing lands and to plant trees.

In Washington and on the Hudson River I have seen the top soil of the Panhandle and of Western Kansas and Nebraska borne by the wind high in the air eastward to the Atlantic Ocean itself. I want that to come to an end.

It can be ended only by a united national effort, backed up one hundred per cent by you who live in this area.

Money spent for the building of ponds and small lakes, for the damming of rivers, for planting shelterbelts, for other forms of afforestation, for putting plough land back into grass, is money well spent. It pays to do it, not only for this generation but for the children who will succeed to the land a few years hence.

People who are ignorant and people who think only in terms of the moment scoff at our efforts and say - "Let the next generation take care of itself -- if people out in the dry parts of the country cannot live there let them move out and hand the land back to the Indians". That is not my idea or yours. We seek permanently to establish this part of the country as a fine and safe place which a large number of Americans can call home.

Every year that passes we are learning more and more about the best use of land, about the conserving of our soil and the improvement of it by getting everything we can out of every drop of water that falls from the heavens. Back in the Alleghanies many of the rivers are called "flash streams" -- dry beds or rivulets most of the year -- raging torrents sweeping all before them when a cloud-burst or heavy rain occurs. *And you have flash streams here.*

We are fortunate in Washington in having as Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Representatives a man who has a well-rounded knowledge of the agricultural programs in every part of the United States. He and I have discussed many times the great objective of putting agriculture and cattle raising on a safe basis -- giving assurances to those who engage in these pursuits that they will not be broke one year and flush the next. We need a greater permanency and greater annual security for those who use the soil.

The farming and cattle raising population of the
United States has no ~~wish~~ ^{desire} ~~right~~ ^{given a} to be paid a subsidy or handout
from the Federal Treasury. They have come to understand,
and the rest of the country is learning too, that the
agricultural program of this Administration is not a subsidy.
It is divided into three principal parts.

The first part represents government assistance to
help the individual farmer use his land for those products
for which it is best fitted, and to maintain and improve
its fertility.

The second objective is, with the approval of those
who raise the crops, to prevent overproduction and low prices --
and at the same time to provide against any shortage,
in other words, to apply common sense business principles
to the business of farming and cattle raising. As a part
of this second objective we seek to give farmers as high
a purchasing power for their labor as those who work in
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The third effort of the Government is directed toward
a great decrease in farm tenancy and ~~the encouragement of~~
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farm ownership by those who till the soil. This includes the
encouragement of small farms and of even smaller acreages for
those who live near cities *and* work in cities, and who ^{should} by all
the rules of common sense grow on a few acres around their
homes a substantial part of their own food supply.

You have given me a wonderful reception in Amarillo
and I am happy, indeed, to have seen this extraordinarily
interesting and progressive part of the United States. I am
grateful to you for your cooperation in and understanding of
all that we are doing in the National Administration to help
those who are willing to help themselves.

I shall never forget this visit of mine to Amarillo.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

(Original - delivered in
a newspaper)

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT

AMARILLO, TEXAS,

JULY 11, 1938.

Even if Marvin Jones had not kept on telling me about Amarillo once a week for the past five and a half years, I would have known all about it because this is the spot ~~that~~ ^{where} my wife was presented with the biggest bunch of flowers in the world.

Before I left home Mrs. Roosevelt asked me especially to convey her greetings to Amarillo and to tell you how much she enjoyed every moment of her visit with you.

All this shows what you can do in the Panhandle if you put your minds to it, and that is why I am very happy that you are putting your minds on the subject of water ^{and} land use. Everywhere you go in the United States you find the problem of land use, and the same thing is true ^{with} _A in any given State. For instance, here in Marvin Jones' district the problem is to get water to the land and to keep the land from blowing away.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
In Killwood Park, Amarillo, Texas
July 11, 1938, about 7:30 P.M.

MY FRIENDS OF THE PANHANDLE AND YOU FROM NEIGHBORING CITIES WHO HAVE
BEEN GOOD ENOUGH TO COME HERE TODAY:

If I had asked the newspapermen on the train what the odds were, they would have given me 100 to 1 that it wouldn't be raining in Amarillo. Well -- here I am after trying to come here for six years.

Even if Marvin Jones had not kept on telling me about Amarillo once a week (for the past five and a half) during these six years, I would have known all about it because this is the spot where my wife was presented with the biggest bunch of flowers in all the world.

And, before I left home Mrs. Roosevelt asked me especially to convey her greetings to Amarillo and to tell you how much she enjoyed every (moment) minute of her visit with you.

Yes, the biggest bouquet in the world -- and here you are greeting me with the biggest band in the world. Back in the East enterprising communities have thought they were creating world records by assembling bands (of) with five hundred instruments but out here you think nothing of a band with (two thousand pieces in it) 2500 instruments. All of this shows what you can do.

All this shows what you can do in the Panhandle if you put your minds to it, and that is why I am very happy that you are putting your minds on the subject of (water and) land and water (use). Everywhere you go in the United States you find the problem of land and water (use), and the same thing is true within any given state. For instance, in Texas here in Marvin Jones' district most of the time the problem is

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.

to get water (to) out of the land and to keep the land from blowing away. Down in Austin the problem of my friend, Congressman Lyndon Johnson, is to keep his land from washing away -- washing down the rivers and into the sea. And further down at San Antonio, where my friend, Congressman Maury Maverick, represents a great city and its surrounding territory, the problem of land use there is tied up with better housing and the needs of a great municipality.

I wish that more people from the South and the East and the Middle West could visit this Plains country. If they did you would hear less talk about the great American desert, you would hear less ridicule of our efforts to conserve water, to restore grazing lands and to plant trees.

Back in the East, in Washington and on the Hudson River I have seen the top soil of the Panhandle and of Western Kansas and Nebraska borne by the high wind (high) in the air eastward to the Atlantic Ocean itself. I want that sight to come to an end.

And it can be ended only by (a) united national effort, backed up one hundred per cent by you who live in this area, and you are giving us that backing.

Money spent for the building of ponds and small lakes, for the damming of rivers, for planting shelterbelts, for other forms of afforestation, for putting plough land back into grass, that is money well spent. It pays to do it, not only for this generation but for the children who will succeed to the land a few years hence.

People who are ignorant and people who think only in terms of the moment scoff at our efforts and say -- "Oh, let the next generation take care of itself -- if people out in the dry parts of the

country cannot live there let them move out and hand the land back to the Indians." But, my friends, that is not (my) your idea or (yours) mine. We seek permanently to establish this part of the (country) Nation as a fine and safe place which a large number of Americans can call home.

Every year that passes we are learning more and more about the best use of land, about the conserving of our soil and the improvement of it by getting everything we can out of every drop of water that falls from the heavens and today is a good example of it. Back in the (Alleghenies) Allegheny Mountains many of the rivers are called "flash streams" -- dry beds or rivulets most of the year -- but raging torrents sweeping all before them when a cloudburst or heavy rain occurs. And you have flash streams here.

We are fortunate in Washington in having as Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Representatives a man who has a well-rounded knowledge of (the) agricultural programs and problems in every part of the United States. He and I have discussed many times the great objective of putting agriculture and cattle raising on a safe basis -- giving assurance(s) to those who engage in (these) those pursuits that they will not be broke one year and flush the next. We need a greater permanency, (and) a greater annual security for (those) all who use the soil.

The farming and cattle raising population of the United States has no wish, no desire to be paid a subsidy or given a handout from the Federal Treasury. They have come to understand, and the rest of the country is learning too, that the agricultural program of (this) the Administration is not a subsidy. It is divided into three (principal)

simple parts.

The first part represents government assistance to help the individual farmer to use his land for those products for which it is best fitted, and to maintain and improve its fertility.

The second objective is, with the approval of those who raise (the) crops, to prevent overproduction and low prices -- and at the same time to provide against any shortage(s), in other words, to apply common sense business principles to the business of farming and cattle raising. And as a part of (this) that second objective we seek to give to the farmers throughout the country as high a purchasing power for their labor as those who work in industry and other occupations.

The third effort of (the) your Government is directed towards a great decrease in farm tenancy and towards the increase (of) in farm ownership by those who till the soil. (This) That includes the encouragement of small farms and of even smaller acreages for those who live near the cities and work in the cities, and who should by all the rules of common sense grow on a few acres around their homes a substantial part of their own family food supply.

You have given me a wonderful reception today in Amarillo, not counting the rain, and I am happy, I am happy indeed, to have been able to see (seen) this extraordinarily interesting and progressive part of the United States. I am grateful to you for your cooperation (in) with your National Government, your cooperation in and understanding of all that we are (doing) trying to do in the National Administration to help those who are willing to help themselves, and you people will.

And so, my friends, I shall never forget this visit of mine
to Amarillo. And I am coming back again. And I think this little
shower we have had is a mighty good omen.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT AMARILLO, TEXAS,
JULY 11, 1938.

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Even if Marvin Jones had not kept on telling me about Amarillo once a week for the past five and a half years, I would have known all about it because this is the spot where my wife was presented with the biggest bunch of flowers in the world.

Before I left home Mrs. Roosevelt asked me especially to convey her greetings to Amarillo and to tell you how much she enjoyed every moment of her visit with you.

The biggest bouquet in the world -- and here you are greeting me with the biggest band in the world. Back East enterprising committees have thought they were creating world records by assembling bands of five-hundred instruments but out here you think nothing of a Band with two thousand pieces in it.

All this shows what you can do in the Panhandle if you put your minds to it, and that is why I am very happy that you are putting your minds on the subject of water and land use. Everywhere you go in the United States you find the problem of land use, and the same thing is true within any given State. For instance, here in Marvin Jones' district the problem is to get water to the land and to keep the land from blowing away. Down in Austin the problem of my friend, Congressman Lyndon Johnson, is to keep his land from washing away -- down the rivers and into the sea. And further down at San Antonio, where my friend, Congressman Maury Maverick, represents a great city and its surrounding territory, the problem of land use is tied up with better housing and the needs of a great municipality.

I wish that more people from the South and the East and the Middle West could visit this Plains country. If they did you would hear less talk about the great American desert, less ridicule of our efforts to conserve water, to restore grazing lands and to plant trees.

In Washington and on the Hudson River I have seen the top soil of the Panhandle and of Western Kansas and Nebraska borne by the wind high in the air eastward to the Atlantic Ocean itself. I want that sight to come to an end.

It can be ended only by a united national effort, backed up one hundred per cent by you who live in this area.

Money spent for the building of ponds and small lakes, for the damming of rivers, for planting shelterbelts, for other forms of afforestation, for putting plough land back into grass, is money well spent. It pays to do it, not only for this generation but for the children who will succeed to the land a few years hence.

People who are ignorant and people who think only in terms of the moment scoff at our efforts and say -- "Let the next generation take care of itself -- if people out in the dry parts of the country cannot live there let them move out and hand the land back to the Indians". That is not my idea or yours. We seek permanently to establish this part of the country as a fine and safe place which a large number of Americans can call home.

Every year that passes we are learning more and more about the best use of land, about the conserving of our soil and the improvement of it by getting everything we can out of every drop of water that falls from the heavens. Back in the Alleghanies many of the rivers are called "flash streams" -- dry beds or rivulets most of the year -- raging torrents sweeping all before them when a cloud-burst or heavy rain occurs. And you have flash streams here.

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The farming and cattle raising population of the United States has no desire to be paid a subsidy or given a handout from the Federal Treasury. They have come to understand, and the rest of the country is learning too, that the agricultural program of this Administration is not a subsidy. It is divided into three principal parts.

The first part represents government assistance to help the individual farmer use his land for those products for which it is best fitted, and to maintain and improve its fertility.

The second objective is, with the approval of those who raise the crops, to prevent overproduction and low prices -- and at the same time to provide against any shortages, in other words, to apply common sense business principles to the business of farming and cattle raising. As a part of this second objective we seek to give farmers as high a purchasing power for their labor as those who work in industry and other occupations.

The third effort of the Government is directed toward a great decrease in farm tenancy and toward the increase of farm ownership by those who till the soil. This includes the encouragement of small farms and of even smaller acreages for those who live near cities and work in cities, and who should by all the rules of common sense grow on a few acres around their homes a substantial part of their own food supply.

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I wish that more people from the Coast and the South and the East and the Middle West could visit this Plains country. If they did you would hear less talk about the great American desert, less ridicule of our efforts to conserve water, to restore grazing lands and to plant trees.

In Washington and on the Hudson River I have seen the top soil of the Panhandle and of Western Kansas and Nebraska borne by the wind high in the air eastward to the Atlantic Ocean itself. I want that to come to an end.

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People who are ignorant and people who think only in terms of the moment scoff at our efforts and say - "Let the next generation take care of itself -- if people out in the dry parts of the country cannot live there let them move out and hand the land back to the Indians". That is not my idea or yours. We seek permanently to establish this part of the country as a fine and safe place which a large number of Americans can call home.

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The farming and cattle raising population of the United States has no wish to be paid a subsidy or handout from the Federal Treasury. They have come to understand, and the rest of the country is learning too, that the agricultural program of this Administration is not a subsidy. It is divided into three principal parts.

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The third effort of the Government is directed toward a great decrease in farm tenancy and the encouragement of farm ownership by those who till the soil. This includes the encouragement of small farms and of even smaller acreages for those who live near cities, work in cities, and who, by all should the rules of common sense grow on a few acres around their homes a substantial part of their own food supply.

You have given me a wonderful reception in Amarillo and I am happy, indeed, to have seen this extraordinarily interesting and progressive part of the United States. I am grateful to you for your cooperation and understanding of all that we are doing in the National Administration to help those who are willing to help themselves.

I shall never forget this visit of mine to Amarillo.

The biggest bouquet in the world -- and here you
are greeting me with the biggest band in the world.

Back East enterprising communities have thought they
were creating world records by assembling bands of
five-hundred instruments but out here you ~~xxxx~~ think
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STATEMENTS FILE

ALDORF 6249 CIP 2908 290801.006397

AT AMARILLO, TEXAS,

If I had asked the newspaper with what they wanted what the editor was, they would have given me no reply; but it was in a letter from him, written three days after Dugay's arrival here.

Even if Marvin Jones had not kept on telling me about Amarillo once a week for the past five and a-half years, I would have known all about it because this is the spot where my wife was presented with the biggest bunch of flowers in the world.

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I wish that more people from the South and the East and the Middle West could visit this Plains country. If they did you would hear less talk about the great American desert, less ridicule of our efforts to conserve water, to restore grazing lands and to plant trees.

Back in the east. In Washington and on the Hudson River I have seen the top soil of the Panhandle and of Western Kansas and Nebraska borne by the wind high in the air eastward to the Atlantic Ocean itself. I want that sight to come to an end.

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xx

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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CAUTION: This address of the President,
to be delivered at Amarillo,
Texas, is to be held for re-
lease upon delivery, expected
about seven P. M. O.S.T., July
11, 1938.

STATEMENTS FILE

Shown and By Kanneer

STEPHEN T. EARLY
Secretary to the President.

PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

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Every year that passes we are learning more and more about the best use of land, about the conserving of our soil and the improvement of it by getting everything we can out of every drop of water that falls from the heavens. Back in the Alleghanies many of the rivers are called "flash streams" — dry beds or rivulets most of the year — raging torrents sweeping all before them when a cloud-burst or heavy rain occurs. And you have flash streams here.

We are fortunate in Washington in having as Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Representatives a man who has a well-rounded knowledge of the agricultural programs in every part of the United States. He and I have discussed many times the great objective of putting agriculture and cattle raising on a safe basis — giving assurances to those who engage in these pursuits that they will not be broke one year and flush the next. We need a greater permanency and greater annual security for those who use the soil.

The farming and cattle raising population of the United States has no desire to be paid a subsidy or given a handout from the Federal Treasury. They have come to understand, and the rest of the country is learning too, that the agricultural program of this Administration is not a subsidy. It is divided into three principal parts.

The first part represents government assistance to help the individual farmer use his land for those products for which it is best fitted, and to maintain and improve its fertility.

The second objective is, with the approval of those who raise the crops, to prevent overproduction and low prices — and at the same time to provide against any shortages, in other words, to apply common sense business principles to the business of farming and cattle raising. As a part of this second objective we seek to give farmers as high a purchasing power for their labor as those who work in industry and other occupations.

The third effort of the Government is directed toward a great decrease in farm tenancy and toward the increase of farm ownership by those who till the soil. That includes the encouragement of small farms and of even smaller acreages for those who live near cities and work in cities, and who should by all the rules of common sense grow on a few acres around their homes a substantial part of their own food supply.

You have given me a wonderful reception in Amarillo and I am happy, indeed, to have seen this extraordinarily interesting and progressive part of the United States. I am grateful to you for your cooperation in understanding of all that we are doing in the National Administration to help those who are willing to help themselves.

I shall never forget this visit of mine to Amarillo.

(End)

HUBERT A.

The biggest bouquet in the world — and here you are greeting me with the biggest band in the world. Back East enterprising communities have thought they were creating world records by assembling bands of five-hundred instruments but out here you think nothing of a Band with two thousand pieces in it.

250 The Answer

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

CAUTION: This address of the President,
to be delivered at Amarillo,
Texas, is to be held for re-
lease upon delivery, expected
about seven P. M. C.S.T., July
11, 1938.

STEPHEN T. EARLY
Secretary to the President.

PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

Even if Marvin Jones had not kept on telling me about Amarillo once a week for the past five and a half years, I would have known all about it because this is the spot where my wife was presented with the biggest bunch of flowers in the world.

Before I left home Mrs. Roosevelt asked me especially to convey her greetings to Amarillo and to tell you how much she enjoyed every moment of her visit with you.

All this shows what you can do in the Panhandle if you put your minds to it, and that is why I am very happy that you are putting your minds on the subject of water and land use. Everywhere you go in the United States you find the problem of land use, and the same thing is true within any given State. For instance, here in Marvin Jones' district the problem is to get water to the land and to keep the land from blowing away. Down in Austin the problem of my friend, Congressman Lyndon Johnson, is to keep his land from washing away — down the rivers and into the sea. And further down at San Antonio, where my friend, Congressman Maury Maverick, represents a great city and its surrounding territory, the problem of land use is tied up with better housing and the needs of a great municipality.

I wish that more people from the South and the East and the Middle West could visit this Plains country. If they did you would hear less talk about the great American desert, less ridicule of our efforts to conserve water, to restore grazing lands and to plant trees.

In Washington and on the Hudson River I have seen the top soil of the Panhandle and of Western Kansas and Nebraska borne by the wind high in the air eastward to the Atlantic Ocean itself. I want that sight to come to an end.

It can be ended only by a united national effort, backed up one hundred per cent by you who live in this area.

Money spent for the building of ponds and small lakes, for the damming of rivers, for planting shelterbelts, for other forms of afforestation, for putting plough land back into grass, is money well spent. It pays to do it, not only for this generation but for the children who will succeed to the land a few years hence.

People who are ignorant and people who think only in terms of the moment scoff at our efforts and say "Let the next generation take care of itself — if people out in the dry parts of the country cannot live there, let them move out and hand the land back to the Indians". That is not my idea or yours. We seek permanently to establish this part of the country as a fine and safe place which a large number of Americans can call home.

Every year that passes we are learning more and more about the best use of land, about the conserving of our soil and the improvement of it by getting everything we can out of every drop of water that falls from the heavens. Back in the Alleghanies many of the rivers are called "flash streams" — dry beds or rivulets most of the year — raging torrents sweeping all before them when a cloud-burst or heavy rain occurs. And you have flash streams here.

-2-

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