

July 12, 1938

[Pueblo, Colorado Grand Function, Colorado]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

Pueblo, Colorado

July 18, 1936

(Governor Ammons introduced the President)

Governor Ammons, my friends of Pueblo.

It is good to be back here. I was not quite sure this morning whether I was going to be back here or not because I read in a Denver paper that this was the first time in twenty years that a President had come to Pueblo. I must have been dreaming about my 1936 trip to Pueblo or else I was not President at that time.

I have been having a very delightful trip across the country. It is a very big country and there are a great many parts of it that I cannot possibly see on a given trip. But what has impressed me on this trip are two things. The first is that we seem to have had a pretty good agricultural year, even down in the dust bowl. When I got to the last place in the world I thought I could possibly find rain — Amarillo — I got soaking wet.

And the other thing that impressed me was the growing understanding that everybody seems to have of our national problems.

The example that I used back East is one that directly affects this part of the State of Colorado, the Arkansas River. The average person on the Eastern Seaboard thinks of the Arkansas as some kind of a little creek that grows in Arkansas and drops down with a lot of floods into the Mississippi. And when I tell them that the Arkansas River starts way west of Pueblo, Colorado, back of the trans-continental divide, and that you here were once upon a time nearly wiped out by a flood on that River — that it wanders on down through this state and Kansas and Oklahoma and Arkansas before it even reaches the Mississippi, then they go and get their geography books to verify what I said.

It is a pretty good illustration because that River isn't just the problem of one state or one community. It calls for national planning and that national planning for the Arkansas River involves a great many different angles that you and I know — not only flood prevention but irrigation, reclamation, reforestation, power development and all the things that go with the development of an entire watershed. So it is a good illustration and I always talk about the Arkansas River or Pueblo when I use it.

The same things applies of course to practically every other watershed in the state. You people in this State have a pretty well rounded picture of what that means because you are on two watersheds, one running into the Gulf of Mexico and the other into the Pacific Ocean. You have certain problems — your Governor and I have talked about them — over the use of the water of the Colorado River and some of our friends down at lower Arizona and California — perhaps they have different ideas about the use of that water.

That illustrates why we have to have — not the Federal Government running everything — but the Federal Government as a focal meeting place for all kinds of national problems so our states can resolve the difficulties they may have between each other, a common meeting ground. We are getting over the selfish point of view; we are thinking of all of our problems in national terms.

We have been trying — I think all of us sincerely — to make this Nation conscious of the fact that it is a nation. If we succeed in that it means we can make democracy work, and that is our big objective.

We don't want and we are not going to copy other forms of government — ours is good enough for us.

Today I am going for the third or fourth time up through the Royal Gorge — one of the finest scenic spots in the whole of the United States. More and more this scenery of ours in the Rocky Mountains is being recognized as a national asset by people all over the country and they are coming here for their vacation time. I believe that also is a good thing. If we could get everybody in the United States to travel all around the United States, we

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would eliminate in large part our political differences. We would get to know each other better.

It is in that spirit of the traveller -- the man who wants to go around the country to take a look-see, to find out more about the problems of every section -- that I am passing through Pueblo today. I wish I could stay longer. This trip is helping me to get a re-orientation of what is going on in the United States.

(End)

STATEMENTS FILE

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

Pueblo, Colorado,

July 12, 1938.

(Governor Ammons introduced the President)

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It has been fine to see you and I hope to come back and  
see you again very soon.

End

Transcribed by  
Franklin D. Roosevelt

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
From the Rear Platform of his Special Train  
Salida, Colorado  
July 12, 1933, 12:30 P.M.

(The President was introduced by Congressman Martin, of Colorado.)

The Congressman got off a good line this morning. He said further that once upon a time he had been a railroad man but he had slipped badly, he slipped badly and became a lawyer. (Laughter) I think he is right; I am a lawyer, too.

It is good to see you all. We are having a grand ride. As you know, I have been through here a good many times before and I always think of my first trip to the 1920 Convention in San Francisco, where they nominated me for Vice President by mistake.

(Laughter) I don't think they could find anybody else to run that year. (Laughter) However, it did give me an opportunity to see a good deal of the United States. I campaigned in the summer and fall of 1920 in forty-two states in the Union, and I think that gave me, perhaps, my first picture of the country as a whole.

As you know, we have been trying, since 1933, down in Washington to think of our problems, of our many problems, on a national basis, and I believe that we are getting somewhere.

I suppose that while I was waiting to come out, the Governor and the Senators and the Congressmen were making old-fashioned political orations to you, but apparently it is a little early in the summer; that will be turned on later.

It is good to see you all. As you know, this is one of my favorite ways of getting across the continent, so you will probably

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boogies had ad fed me sacrifice a need had ad wait a nope mode feed  
ad voice I (original) instead a caused has piled boogies ad piled  
over, reveal a me I (original)  
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has ended each your body a red donut need even I (original) do  
away and at northernly 061 end of girl road ya to sink mouth I  
--- to rockbottom only not in behavior your arms could  
take care of self strong hair since your child's self I (original)  
--- or galvanic shock on my big ti (original) (original) ---  
one reason all at beginning I (original) behind and to face body  
very fast shift I have build and at outside out-throat or head to list  
values a no galvanic shock to sinking teeth or galvanic shock  
--- at over ,that would always stand up ,your boy an  
--- no building your nose to consider me to fields of forget  
--- galvanic shock are no fair minded I have mixed  
tomorrow her ,the nose of galvanic shock I will this morning I  
--- the headmost this galvanic shock remember and our physician air one  
--- ad of virus affect a air of galvanic shock ,one of smallest last  
--- moral no better as little just ; ten  
--- the one of this nose not an .the boy see or book of it  
galvanic shock now on ,galvanic shock causes galvanic shock

see me back again the first chance I get.

(Some flowers were presented to the President.)

I do not know who gave them to me but they are awfully nice. We will put them on the dining room table.

You know, in 1936, I did not get as far west as this. I got to Pueblo and Denver. On that trip I had a favorite flower, the sunflower. (Laughter) Since November of 1936 I always consider the sunflower my lucky flower.

Grand Junction, Colorado

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
From the Rear Platform of his Special Train  
Grand Junction, Colorado  
July 12, 1938, 8:10 P.M.

MY FRIENDS:

I am glad to come back here. I have not been here for a number of years but I know this route across the continent very well and I am glad to see what look like real signs of prosperity throughout the State of Colorado.

You know, this method of traveling is a very wonderful thing. The reason I delayed coming out on the platform was because I have been talking on the long-distance telephone right here, from the end of the car, to Washington, D. C., talking with Harry Hopkins, the Administrator of Works Progress, and before I leave here I am probably going to talk to a couple more Government officials in the National Capital. It shows, it is just one illustration of how closely in touch every part of the country is with every other part.

I have been, on this trip, paying special attention to the subject of water. You know what water means; you know the need of it. (Applause) We believe, in Washington, that it is not only cotton and wheat and corn and hogs that are major crops in the United States, but that there are a lot of other crops, such as fruit, and a lot of other things, like mining, that are really in the position of being major industries. That is why we are trying to include them in the picture of national prosperity, not just a spotty prosperity that hits only certain areas of the country but the kind of prosperity that is felt in every single spot and every section of every state. That is why we are doing what we call "national planning."

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like you telephone off names when will you I had enough to remember myself yesterday to myself from what I said me I have decided to write out the whole letter when I get back to you I am sending out all the names because I never sent out to you off your name again another member-scholar who is not yet graduated out, unindicated until after graduation, U.S.T., not graduate or non of today's visitors as I said over I wrote one message which to not indicate because out of visibility happened from either a or that you have in place and to differentiate you that if it made fit your radio news desk at various air to bring out of automatic telephone system, what will do, used over I will to send out some very names name lady would not refuse to consider her possible time for a to be ready, notwithstanding all advised as (radio) and advised writing out all names when you first good time this radio radio to tell a few, such as name, name radio to tell a few about your self and your name and your name will, unindicated out at most unusual of names one or two at least, remaining name and radio telephone address a few, for, telephone number is just a radio telephone to know out and you can add to your address you a radio phone to address you the radio address also the radio address all "nationally indicated" like as radio station one or

There are a good many people that take a nearsighted point of view that there isn't any such thing as national planning, that every man ought to be for himself, that we ought to go back to the "good old days," but, since the fourth of March, 1933, your National Administration in every state of the Union has been trying to give the kind of help that will be well-rounded help, tying in the prosperity of one section with the prosperity of another.

It is a very interesting thing to me that if, five or six years ago, I had made a speech in the City of New York and told them in New York that their prosperity was definitely tied in with, let us say, the mines of Colorado, or with the fruit or beets or other crops of Colorado, they would have expressed a mild interest, but very mild. They would not have seen the connection. In the same way, five or six years ago, if I had gone out through this territory and had told you that your prosperity here is pretty closely tied up with some of the great industrial centers of the country, you would have expressed mild interest but it would not have meant very much to you. In these years we have come to realize, all over the country, I think, that agricultural prosperity is definitely affected by industrial prosperity; in other words, if the workers in the great industrial plants in Pittsburgh and New York and Cleveland and Chicago and other places, if those workers in those big plants have got purchasing power, if the plants are running, they can buy more of the things that you produce on the farm and in the mines and, in the same way, if you are prosperous and have purchasing power, you out here can buy more of the things that are produced in the great industrial centers. That is what I call the successful working out of the processes of

democracy, and we, as you know, are trying to make democratic government work. (Applause)

We are not only delighted to have the Governor of Colorado and the Senators and the Congressmen with us today, but I am glad also that my old friend, the Governor of Utah, has joined the train. (Applause)

On this trip I have to pass through most of Utah by night but I know the State pretty well and when I wake up in the morning, my daughter and her husband from Seattle will be aboard. So, you see, this is a very happy family trip.

It has been good to see you all. I did not come out here for political reasons but to take my annual "look-see" around the country. I hope to be back and see you good people in the western part of the State of Colorado again very soon.

Many thanks.