

July 16, 1938

[Los Angeles & San Diego, California]

FDR Speech File

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INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
Los Angeles, California
Saturday, July 15, 1938, 9.00 A.M.

I am very glad to come back to Los Angeles. I shall always remember the wonderful reception that was given me here three years ago when I was starting on another fishing trip.

Yesterday I had a very wonderful day in the Yosemite, the first time I had ever seen it. I was sorry that I did not have a chance to see the new acreage, the new grove or, rather, the very old grove of sugar pines which the Federal Government, because of the persistence of Senator McAdoo, is adding to the Yosemite Park.

And, by the way, last March -- I think it was early in March --there was some question about a certain gentleman running again for the Senate, an old colleague of mine of the Wilson administration days. I wrote him a letter and I told him that I hoped very definitely that he would run for reelection to the Senate.

And I might add that that meant that I hoped he would get reelected, too.

I wish I could shake hands personally with the Reception Committee of two thousand. The Mayor pulled a fast one that time.

It is good to be back and I hope to come back again, without any question, in 1939. Many thanks.

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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.

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
San Diego, California
July 18, 1938

MY FRIENDS OF SAN DIEGO:

I am very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to take part today in the dedication of this great Civic Center, and I am especially happy to have a representation of it on top of this gold key. I like the building and I like especially the motto on the face of it, "The Noblest Motive is the Public Good." I think that if we all carried that motto in our hearts in every city and community of the land, there is no question that democracy, American democracy will survive. (Applause)

I was saying to Senator McAdoo on the way down that, in a sense, I feel like the Godfather of San Diego, (laughter) because, in the early days of the Wilson administration, when Senator McAdoo was Secretary of the Treasury and our old friend, Ambassador Daniels, was Secretary of the Navy, I was sent out here, sent out from Washington to look over this harbor and I think it was, at least in part, the result of my report on San Diego that we undertook to make this one of our major Navy bases. We have never regretted it since. (Applause) Also, as you know, this is definitely one of the starting points of my fishing trips. (Applause) I hope this will not be the last one. (Applause)

I am delighted to see so many of my old friends, whom I have known here and in Washington in bygone days, and especially that very great citizen of San Diego and of the United States, Mr. Justice Clark. I am glad to see him. (Applause)

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MY FRIENDS OF SAN DIEGO:

I am very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to take part today in the dedication of this Great Civic Center, and I am especially happy to have a representation of it on top of this Gold Key. I like the building and I like especially the motto on the face of it, "The Noblest Justice is the Public Good." I think that if we all carried that motto in our hearts in every city and community of the land, there is no question that democracy, American democracy will survive. (Applause)

I am saying to Senator McNamara on the way down that, in a sense, I too like the dedication of San Diego. (Laughter) Because in the early days of the Wilson administration, when Senator McNamara was Secretary of the Treasury and my old friend, Ambassador Daniels was Secretary of the Navy, I was sent out here, sent out from Washington to look over this harbor and I think it was, at least in part, the result of my report on San Diego that we went back to make this one of our major Navy bases. We have never regretted it since. (Applause) And, as you know, this is definitely one of the strategic points of my thinking. (Applause) I hope this will not be the last one. (Applause)

I am delighted to see so many of my old friends, whom I have known here and in Washington in bygone days, and especially that very great citizen of San Diego and of the United States, Mr. Justice Clark. I am glad to see him. (Applause)

Many thanks for this splendid welcome you have given me. I am proud of San Diego and I am proud of this latest achievement of San Diego, proud of the fact that the Federal Government has been able to help your community in the erection of this great Civic Center.

And so, my friends, I shall always remember this day, and I hope to come back next year and see you again.