

August 9, 1938

[Train Paafburn - Pensacola, Florida]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
(From the Rear Platform of his Special Train)  
Pensacola, Florida  
August 9, 1938, 7.40 P.M.

(The President was introduced by Mayor Hagler of Pensacola.)

MR. MAYOR, MY FRIENDS OF PENSACOLA:

I am glad to come back here after these many years. I am glad to see the splendid progress that has been made here since 1914.

I remember coming here that year on a mission. I was sent here by the Secretary of the Navy, Secretary Daniels, to find out why the previous Republican administration had closed the Pensacola Navy Yard. And, after looking it over, I found a very good use for it, to make it an air training station.

We are very proud of the work that has been done here and very proud of the work that is being done here. We regard it as an ideal spot and we regard it, incidentally, as one of the most successful air training stations in the whole world.

I have been fishing, as you know. We have caught a great many fish off a great many different islands and different lands but I am very glad to get back into the limits of the Continental United States again.

I am glad to see here at least two Governors, the Governor of Alabama and the Governor of Louisiana, but I am sorry indeed that my old friend, Governor Cone, (of Florida) is prevented by illness from being here tonight.

I hope to come back to Pensacola one of these days to see the completion of all this work. You are doing a fine job; I am keen

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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 have been here with you today. I am glad to see the splendid progress that has been made here since 1933. I remember coming here first year of a disaster. I am glad to see the Government of the State, Governor [Name], to lead out with the positive Republican administration and close the Pennsylvania yard. And, after looking it over, I found a very good one for it. So take it as an interesting situation.

We are very proud of the work that has been done here and your proud of the work that is being done here. We realize it is an hard job and we regard it as a very difficult one in the most important for the building structure in the whole world.

I have been thinking, as you know, we have made a great many things out of a great many different islands and different lands but I am very glad to get back into the limits of the Continental United States again.

I am glad to see how at least two Governments, the Government of Alabama and the Government of Louisiana, but I am sorry indeed that my old friend, Governor [Name], is prevented by illness from being here tonight.

I hope to come back to Louisiana one of these days to see the completion of all this work. You are doing a fine job. I am glad

about the place, I am keen about its people, and I am keen about its future.

Many thanks.