

August 11, 1938

[Gruenville, South Carolina]

FDR Speech File

1163

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
From the Rear Platform of His Special Train
Greenville, South Carolina
August 11, 1938

(Governor Johnston introduced the President)

GOVERNOR JOHNSTON, MY FRIENDS OF GREENVILLE:

It is a long way around to come from Washington to South Carolina by way of the Pacific, the Galapagos Islands, the Equator, the Panama Canal and Pensacola, Florida. But I got here.

As you people probably know, I have made two speeches today and there was not time nor opportunity to prepare a third speech. Some of you may have heard what I said down in Georgia, at Barnesville. Those of you who did not hear me, I hope will read in the newspapers what I said of some of the economic and social problems of the South; of the necessity of meeting those problems by a consolidation of the interests of all the southern states and then by consolidating those interests with the interests of the whole Nation.

That, my friends, cannot be done without legislation. As President, I cannot do it alone. The Congress of the United States must pass the laws.

That is why, in any selection of candidates for members of the Senate or members of the House of Representatives -- if you believe in the principles for which we are striving: a wider distribution of national income, better conservation of our natural resources, establishment of a floor under wages and the bringing of a larger buying power to the farmers of the Nation -- then I hope you will send representatives to the national legislature who will work toward those ends.

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.

We need not just team work but more team work in the National Capital -- and I believe we are going to get it.

Before I stop -- and I believe the train is pulling out in a minute or two -- I want to suggest two things to you: The first is that a long time ago I promised Governor Johnston that I would come down some time this year to visit the capital of the State of South Carolina. I have never been there but I am coming. The other thing is that I don't believe any family or man can live on fifty cents a day.

STATEMENTS FILE

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GREENVILLE, S. C.
August 11, 1938.

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That, my friends, cannot be done without legislation. As President, I cannot do it alone. The Congress of the United States must pass the laws.

That is why, in any selection of candidates for members of the Senate or members of the House of Representatives, if you believe in the principles for which we are striving, ~~if you believe in trying to help this country not only get on its feet again~~ ~~but~~ ~~also~~ a wider distribution of national ^{income} ~~resources~~, ~~and~~ better conservation of our natural resources, ~~and~~ establishment of a floor under wages and the bringing of a larger buying

power ^{to} the farmers of the Nation, then I hope ~~that~~ you will send representatives to the National legislature who will work towards those ends.

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~~Good night~~

STATEMENTS FILE

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to type

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STATEMENTS FILE

In my opinion the unexpected withdrawal of State Senator Edgar A. Brown from the Senatorial Race almost on the eve of the primary elections in South Carolina, clarifies the issue. The voters of the State now have their choice between two candidates representing entirely different political schools of thought.

One of these candidates thinks in terms of the past and governs his actions accordingly.

The other thinks in terms of 1938, and 1948 and 1958 as well.

On Tuesday the Electorate of South Carolina will make this choice. On them rests the responsibility of selecting a representative in the United States Senate to play a part in the framing of legislation to carry out the objectives of the Administration's program; legislation to improve the lot of the average American and give him security; to give fair play to the farmer, the laborer, the storekeeper and the great rank and file of our citizens.

This choice is in the hands of the people of South Carolina.
