Informal, Extemporaneous Remarks of the President
Rochester, Minnesota
September 14, 1938

My friends of Rochester:

I know that I can really call you friends for all that you have done in these past few days for my family and myself. Not only am I going away with a full realization that every care will be taken with my oldest boy but with a better knowledge of the very wonderful work that is being done for humanity as a whole in Rochester.

I want to thank all of you for what I can best describe as an understanding heart on the part of the people of Rochester. You have understood that I have come here not as President but as a father, and you have treated me accordingly. I am going away knowing that you are still going to pull for that boy of mine and that his wife and my wife are going to be in very good hands during the period of recovery.

I am going back now, not to my home on the Hudson River but straight through to Washington because, as you know, having read the papers, the condition of affairs in other parts of the world is extremely serious. That is why, as President, I have to go back to the National Capital.

Again I want to thank you. I am going away from here with a light heart and not only a most kindly feeling but the most affectionate feeling for all of you good people in Rochester.

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.
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