

November 21, 1938

[Chickamauga Dam - Chattanooga, Tenn.]

FOR Speech File

STATEMENTS FILE

19

FOR INFORMATION OF THE PRESS

M. H. MCINTYRE,  
Secretary to the President.

*copy made*

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
CHICKAMAUGA DAM near Chattanooga, Tenn.  
November 21, 1938.

I had not intended to make any speech today but I cannot resist the opportunity of thanking you men who are building this dam and, through you, many hundreds and thousands of other men who are doing equally splendid jobs in this Tennessee watershed, to thank you for a contribution that you are making to our American civilization.

I have never seen this particular operation before but I have seen most of the others and I know what you are doing is not merely putting an obstruction across a river just to make a few kilowatts of electricity. We are doing a much bigger job than that. We are not only improving navigation, <sup>and stopping floods</sup> we are not only making highways across the tops of these structures, <sup>and increasing soil</sup> we are not only helping to reforest cut-over land but, taking it by and large, we are doing something constructive that will affect the lives of our grandchildren in the United States. ~~and~~

Because of the example that this work is setting, you will cause equal progress ~~in other~~ not only in the Tennessee Valley but in other parts of the country -- even in parts of the country where ~~it~~ there are no rivers to put dams across.

That is why I want you to know that not only your Government is proud of the work that is being done in the Tennessee watershed -- not only the people of Tennessee and the other states in the watershed -- but also people all over the United States are watching your work. That goes down to the common labor, the day labor on this job and extends all the way up through the different trades and professions to the Commission itself.

I am glad to have been here and glad to have had this opportunity of thanking you on behalf of the Nation.

\* \* \* \*

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

At Chickamauga Dam  
Near Chattanooga, Tennessee  
November 21, 1938

I had not intended to make any speech today but I cannot resist the opportunity of thanking you men who are building this dam and, through you, many hundreds and thousands of other men who are doing equally splendid jobs in this Tennessee watershed, to thank you for a contribution that you are making to our American civilization.

I have never seen this particular operation before but I have seen most of the others and I know what you are doing is not merely putting an obstruction across a river just to make a few kilowatts of electricity. We are doing a much bigger job than that. We are not only improving navigation and stopping floods, we are not only making highways across the tops of these structures, we are not only helping to reforest cut-over land and conserving soil but, taking it by and large, we are doing something constructive that will affect the lives of our grandchildren in the United States.

Because of the example that this work is setting, you will cause equal progress not only in the Tennessee Valley but in other parts of the country -- even in parts of the country where there are no rivers to put dams across.

That is why I want you to know that not only your Government is proud of the work that is being done in the Tennessee watershed -- not only the people of Tennessee and the other states in the watershed -- but also people all over the United States are watching your work. That goes down to the common labor, the day labor on this job and ex-

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.

and through you, many hundreds and thousands of other men and women doing equally splendid jobs in this Tennessee watershed, to thank you for a contribution that you are making to our American civilization.

I had never seen this particular operation before but I had been told of the others and I know what you are doing is not merely putting an obstruction across a river but to make a few miles better of electricity. We are doing a much bigger job than that. We are not only improving navigation and stopping floods, we are not only making highways across the tops of these mountains, we are not only helping to restore out-over land and conserving soil but, taking it by and large, we are doing something constructive that will lift the lives of our grandchildren in the United States.

Because of the example that this work is setting, you will cause equal progress not only in the Tennessee Valley but in other parts of the country -- even in parts of the country where there are no rivers to put down courses.

That is why I want you to know that not only your Government is proud of the work that is being done in the Tennessee watershed -- not only the people of Tennessee and the other States in the watershed -- but also people all over the United States are watching your work. That goes down to the common labor, the day labor on this job and ex-

tends all the way up through the different trades and professions to the Commission itself.

I am glad to have been here and glad to have had this opportunity of thanking you on behalf of the Nation.