

March 30, 1939

[Tuskegee, Alabama & Opelika, Alabama]

FOR Speech File

1212

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA (At the town square)
March 30, 1939.

file

(The President was introduced by Rep. Henry Steagall)

The Congressman reminds me of a gentleman in my own congressional district, way up on the Hudson River. He had been running for Congress every two years for about twenty years and never could get elected. We always wondered -- of course it was a Republican district -- what he had in mind. There wasn't a chance for any Democrat to get elected.

In all those years that he was running for Congress in a hopeless district, he spent his entire campaign going to school houses. He would stop at the little country schoolhouses and he would go in and he would say, "You know, I am running for Congress; I am not going to get elected but I did want to see you children."

Finally, in 1910, he was nominated for the sixth time. I started to campaign with him and when he got out of town and stopped at a little schoolhouse, I said to him, "Dick, why do you waste all this time going into schoolhouses?"

He said, "Well, I figure pretty soon there will be enough children who have grown up and will be able to vote who have known me personally over all these years. They will vote for me and send me to Congress."

That is the way he got there, the first and only Democratic Congressman from my district since 1856. That is why I am trying to educate some young man up there, some good Democrat, to start in on the children and go on every two years until he gets to know every boy and girl in the three counties and eventually, perhaps after I am dead, he will get elected and be the second Democrat since 1856.

Congressman Steagall has told me a lot about his district but I notice that he tells me more about the schools and the young people in his district than any other subject. ~~Dick Connell~~ I think he is like old Dick Connell; I think he figures he will be congressman from this district just as long as he lives and that is why he is cultivating you boys and girls. Well, it is a pretty good habit, a pretty good idea on his part.

Tuskegee - 2

You boys and girls, after all, have a certain amount of responsibility -- not just sending Henry Steagall back to Congress -- you have an even greater responsibility because in a very few years we old people are going to turn over the government of the Nation and the government of Alabama to you kids. I am terribly old; I am fifty-seven, think of that, and when I was your age I used to think that anybody that was fifty-seven had at least one foot in the grave. But I believe that you ~~people~~ who are going to be the voters, the American citizens of tomorrow, are going to be better citizens than we people who are running things today. That is why I am confident and hopeful of the future of America -- because of the children of America, the young people of America.

You have a big responsibility to live up to, but I know you will live up to it with a smile, live up to it with hard work. There is no doubt if you do that the United States is going to be a better place to live in in the days to come.

Many thanks.

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*Orig. Transcript of
SXTmpress remarks*



ORIGINAL RELEASE OF THE PRESIDENT
JULIUS ROSEN, ALABAMA (As the town square)
March 20, 1950.

(The President was introduced by Rep. Henry Steagall.)

The Congressman reminds me of a gentleman in my own congressional district, way up on the Hudson River. He had been running for Congress every two years for about twenty years and never could get elected. He always wondered -- of course it was a Republican district -- what he had in mind. There wasn't a chance for any Democrat to get elected.

In all those years that he was running for Congress in a hopeless district, he spent his entire campaign going to school-houses. He would stop at the little country schoolhouses and he would go in and he would say, "You know, I am running for Congress; I am not going to get elected but I did want to see you children."

Finally, in 1910, he was nominated for the sixth time. I started to campaign with him and when he got out of town and stopped at a little schoolhouse, I said to him, "Dad, why do you make all this time going into schoolhouses?"

He said, "Well, I figure pretty soon there will be enough children who have grown up and will be able to vote who have known me personally over all these years. They will vote for me and send me to Congress."

That is the way he got there, the first and only Democratic Congressman from my district since 1856. That is why I am trying to educate some young men up there, some good Democrats, to start in on the children and go on every two years until he gets to know every boy and girl in the three counties and eventually, perhaps after I am dead, he will get elected and be the second Democrat since 1856.

Congressman Steagall has told me a lot about his district but I notice that he tells me more about the schools and the young people in his district than any other subject. I think he is like old Dick Connell; I think he figures he will be congressman from this district just as long as he lives and that is why he is cultivating you boys and girls. Well, it is a pretty good habit, a pretty good idea on his part.

You boys and girls, after all, have a certain amount of responsibility -- not just sending Henry Steagall back to Congress -- you have an even greater responsibility because in a very few years we old people are going to turn over the government of the Nation and the Government of Alabama to you kids. I am terribly old; I am fifty-seven, think of that, and when I was your age I used to think that anybody that was fifty-seven had at least one foot in the grave. But I believe that you who are going to be the voters, the American citizens of tomorrow, are going to be better citizens than we people who are running things today. That is why I am confident and hopeful of the future of America -- because of the children of America, the young people of America.

You have a big responsibility to live up to, but I know you will live up to it with a smile, live up to it with hard work. There is no doubt if you do that the United States is going to be a better place to live in in the days to come.

My thanks.

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. *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library* parentheticals are words that were omitted when the speech was recorded, though they appear in a previously prepared reading copy text.

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In all those years that he was running for Congress in a hopeless district, he spent his entire campaign going to schoolhouses. He would stop at the little country schoolhouses and he would go in and he would say, "You know, I am running for Congress; I am not going to get elected but I did want to see you children."

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He said, "Well, I figure pretty soon there will be enough children who have grown up and will be able to vote who have known me personally over all these years. They will vote for me and send me to Congress."

That is the way he got there, the first and only Democratic Congressman from my district since 1866. That is why I am trying to educate some young man up there, some good Democrat, to start in on the children and go on every two years until he gets to know every boy and girl in the three counties and eventually, perhaps after I am dead, he will get elected and be the second Democrat since 1866.

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INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE
March 30, 1939

file

Governor Dixon, Dr. Patterson and you, the students
of Tuskegee:

Some of my more conservative friends in the north
accuse me of being very persistent when I once make up
my mind that a thing ought to be done for the good of
humanity. They say that it is because I am part
Scotch and part Dutch. I am afraid they are right/
I try to be persistent and consistent.

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I am fulfilling today a piece of persistency that
began nearly thirty years ago" my first talk with
Booker Washington. He asked me at that time to come
to Tuskegee and see what he was doing and what his boys
and girls were doing. I could not go then and I kept
putting it off and then, for a good many years, Dr.
Moton kept coming to see me, saying, "Why don't you
come to visit us in Tuskegee?" I kept on saying, "Yes,
I am going to come." And then Dr. Patterson in these
later years has been saying, "Come and see us."

Well, I am persistent and consistent and here I am.

I am proud to come to Tuskegee because I am proud of
what Tuskegee has done. I wish that every American
could come to Tuskegee and see what has been done.
I do not know whether in any individual institution the
members of that institution, the faculty and the students,
realize how much they are being watched by the outside
world. The things that they do in their institution
count but, more than that, the things that their graduates
do are things that count very greatly not only among the
body of graduates, not only among their immediate
neighbors but also throughout their state and throughout
their nation.

Tuskegee Institute - 2

Your Congressman was telling me as we drove in here about a predecessor of his who had said that no graduate of Tuskegee had ever gone either to a penitentiary or to Congress.

As a matter of fact, I notice, because I travel around the country a good deal, I notice the graduates of Tuskegee more than some of you who are right here. I hear about ~~xxx~~ a man or a woman, not only in the lower south but in the middle of the country and in the north, somebody who is making good, somebody who is having an influence over human service in his community. And then I hear that he or she is a graduate of Tuskegee and that is what counts.

I did not come here to make a formal address to you. This is a homely gathering. Tuskegee is a homey place. We think, necessarily and rightly, in terms of the American home. You are doing much, through your great body of graduates to improve and bring up to higher standards the American home. That home today is not the old home of half a century ago. Because of necessity and modern invention it must extend its interest, its contacts with a great many other homes in its own community and with other people in neighboring communities just in the same way that no state can become entirely self-contained or be as self-contained as it was 20 or 30 years ago. ~~More~~ More and more we are becoming a part of a nation which, because of changing conditions, means that we have to take part, all the way down to the smallest community and the home, in national affairs. Alabama cannot hoe its own row different from other states, neither can my State of Georgia. More and more they have got to plan, plan for the future, plan for the present, plan to work with the other fellow. *There* That is one thing you are learning and that is that you have got to cooperate with your fellow men and women, cooperate in your own community, in your own state and throughout the country.

That is why I have been not only interested but very proud of all that your graduates are doing, of the fine spirit of humane service that the overwhelming majority of them carry with them throughout their lives.

Tuskegee Institute - 3

Dr. Moton was talking about getting old. There is one thing that he exemplifies and that is the thought that it is a terrible thing for anybody to say, "Why should I keep on living?" We are coming to the realization that it is a great privilege to be alive, no matter what the number of years we have covered. As somebody has said, it is grand no matter how old you get to want to keep on living because there is still so much to be done. That is the spirit of you youngsters; it is the spirit of us in middle life and it is the spirit, increasingly, of the older people in our Nation.

And so, my boy and girl friends, keep the ideals of your youth all through your lives.

I am happy to have been here. I want to come back some day in the future and I will if I can. In the meantime I give you my affectionate regards. Good luck in all the days to come.

*Orig. Transcript of
27 papers of such*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE
March 30, 1930

Governor Dixon, Dr. Patterson and you, the students of Tuskegee:

Some of my more conservative friends in the north accuse me of being very persistent when I once make up my mind that a thing ought to be done for the good of humanity. They say that it is because I am part Scotch and part Dutch. I am afraid they are right. I try to be persistent and consistent.

I am fulfilling today a piece of persistency that began nearly thirty years ago when I had my first talk with Booker Washington. He asked me at that time to come to Tuskegee and see what he was doing and what his boys and girls were doing. I could not go then and I kept putting it off and then, for a good many years, Dr. Moton kept coming to see me, saying, "Why don't you come to visit us in Tuskegee?" I kept on saying, "Yes, I am going to come." And then Dr. Patterson in these later years has been saying, "Come and see us."

Well, I am persistent and consistent and here I am. I am proud to come to Tuskegee because I am proud of what Tuskegee has done. I wish that every American could come to Tuskegee and see what has been done. I do not know whether in any individual institution the members of that institution, the faculty and the students, realize how much they are being watched by the outside world. The things that they do in their institution count but, more than that, the things that their graduates do are things that count very greatly not only among the body of graduates, not only among their immediate neighbors but also throughout their state and throughout their nation.

Your Congressman was telling me as we drove in here about a predecessor of his who had said that no graduate of Tuskegee had ever gone either to a penitentiary or to Congress.

As a matter of fact, I notice, because I travel around the country a good deal, I notice the graduates of Tuskegee more than some of you who are right here. I hear about a man or a woman, not only in the lower south but in the middle of the country and in the north, somebody who is making good, somebody who is having an influence over human service in his community. And then I hear that he or she is a graduate of Tuskegee and that is what counts.

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More and more we are becoming a part of a nation which, because of changing conditions, means that we have to take part, all the way down to the smallest community and the home, in national affairs. Alabama cannot hoe its own row different from other states, neither can my State of Georgia. More and more they have got to plan, plan for the future, plan for the present, plan to work with the other fellow. There is one thing you are learning and that is that you have got to cooperate with your

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fellow men and women, cooperate in your own community, in your own state and throughout the country,

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INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
March 30, 1939.

file

My friends of Auburn:

You are a near neighbor of mine for, from the top of the hill behind my cottage at Warm Springs, I can see into Alabama.)

I am glad to come here. My contacts with Auburn in the past have been the famous football games held every Autumn in Columbus and in those games I have to exercise very strict neutrality.

I am glad to come here and see the work that is being done. Last December I had a grave problem with the Senator and the Congressman as to whether we could get in under the line -- get work started before that fateful January 1st -- and I am told that the dirt did begin to fly and that the buildings are therefore entirely constitutional and legal.

I had an experience that did not go quite so well with the University of Alabama. Two years before the President of the University came to Washington to thank me very much for some P.W.A. money that had been allocated for two dormitories to replace the old dormitories that were unsafe. The law at that time provided that we could only use these grants to aid state institutions to replace buildings that had fallen down or were burned down. The President of the University thanked me for the dormitories but, with tears in his eyes, said, "Mr. President, why didn't you give us the new library too?" I said, "But the application did not say anything about an old library which had either fallen down or burned down."

He said, "Mr. President, our library did burn down." I said, "When?" And he said, "In '64. General Sherman came our way." I believe we stretched the point and went back three-quarters of a century to the date of the arson and gave him a new library.

I have been talking with your Governor and the Senator and the Congressman from this district, driving over from Tuskegee, about land. I have been horrified, as I always am horrified, at all that needs to be done in the future to conserve the soil of the south. That is one of the great problems that lies with this generation and with you of the coming generation. That is part of the necessary economy if the South is to survive. But it is tied up with other needs as well, and perhaps I can illustrate by telling you of my first experience with the agriculture of the South.

The first year I went to Warm Springs, fifteen, nearly sixteen years ago, I had a little cottage that was about a thousand feet from the old A. B. & A. tracks. The first night, the second night and the third night I was awakened out of a sound sleep by the sound of a very heavy train going through at pretty high speed and, as it went through town, the whistle blew and woke everybody up. So I went down to the station and said to the station master, "What is that train that makes so much noise and why does it have to whistle at half past one in the morning?" "Oh," he said, "The fireman has got a girl in town."

I asked him what that train was and he said, "That is the milk train for Florida." Well, I assumed of course, knowing that the climate of Florida, especially south Florida, is not very conducive to dairy purposes, ~~and~~ that this train on the A. B. & A. contained milk and cream from Alabama and Georgia. I was wrong. That milk and cream for Florida came from Wisconsin and Minnesota and Iowa and Illinois and was taken through all the intervening states of Indiana and Ohio and Kentucky and Tennessee and Alabama and Georgia in order to supply milk and cream and butter for Florida.

That gave me a feeling that something was wrong with the agricultural economy of these states of the lower south because you and I know from what we have been taught and from the experiments that have been made that these states can ~~and expect to~~ produce perfectly good milk and cream.

A little while later on I went down to the village to buy some apples. Mind you, this place is only 75 miles from here. I knew -- I had heard of the magnificent apples raised at the southern end of the Appalachian System. I had tasted them; no apples in the world were better. Yet the apples in Meriwether County, Georgia, the only ones I could find, came from Washington and Oregon.

I went to buy meat -- and I know that we can make pastures in these states -- and the only meat that I could buy came via Omaha and Kansas City and Chicago.

I wanted to buy a pair of shoes and the only shoes I could buy had been made in Boston or Binghamton, New York, or St. Louis.

Well, that was fifteen years ago, and there wasn't very much change in that system of economy until about six years ago. It was then we began to ask ourselves, "Why is all this necessary?" I think that we have done more in those six years than in the previous sixty years all through these

southern states to make them self-supporting, to give them a balanced economy that will spell a higher wage scale, a greater purchasing power and a more abundant life than they have had in all their history.

It means a lot of work. It means, incidentally, getting the South out of hook to the North. It means establishing your own enterprises down here with your own capital. I don't believe that the South is so broke that it cannot put its own capital into the establishment of its own enterprises.

You young men and women who go through Auburn and go out into every county in this state have a great responsibility, a responsibility not only to put into practice what you have learned here but also the responsibility of trying to devise new methods, new means -- experiments, if you like -- in order to improve the conditions during your own lifetime. I believe you can do it because you are getting the fundamentals, the essential training that will put you into the personal position, give you the personal capacity to use your imagination. We will never get anywhere until we do more and more of that.

I have been called an imaginative person, an experimenter, a seeker of new ideals and, generally, when I have been called that, I have been called something else that does not sound so good. I believe that this country is going somewhere but it must depend for its future progress and prosperity very largely on the younger generation, the people under thirty, the people who have got American ideals and are not afraid of trying new things.

I would like to live long enough to see soil erosion completely stopped in this state and a lot of other states. I would like to live long enough to see the products of factories supplying local needs, state needs. I hope to be able to come back to this State and to the State of Georgia before I die and see at least a part of that ideal come true. For the achievement of that ideal you are going to be responsible in large part.

I am glad to have been with you here today and next Fall I shall -- well, perhaps I will ^{shall} lean a little bit more towards Auburn than I have before.

*Orig. transcription of
extemporaneous speech*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

IMPERSONAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
March 30, 1939.

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The first year I went to Warm Springs, fifteen, nearly sixteen years ago, I had a little cottage that was about a thousand feet from the old A. S. & A. tracks. The first night, the second night and the third night I was awakened out of a sound sleep by the sound of a very heavy train going through at pretty high speed and, as it went through town, the whistle blew and woke everybody up. So I went down to the station and said to the stationmaster, "What is that train that makes so much noise and why does it have to whistle at half past one in the morning?" "Oh," he said, "The fireman has got a girl in town."

I asked him what that train was and he said, "That is the milk train for Florida." Well, I assumed of course, knowing that the climate of Florida, especially south Florida, is not very conducive to dairy purposes, that this train on the A. S. & A. contained milk and cream from Alabama and Georgia. I was wrong. That milk and cream for Florida come from Wisconsin and Minnesota and Iowa and Illinois and was taken through all the intervening states of Indiana and Ohio and Kentucky and Tennessee and Alabama and Georgia in order to supply milk and cream and butter for Florida.

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.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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That gave me a feeling that something was wrong with the agricultural economy of these states of the lower south because you and I know from what we have been taught and from the experiments that have been made that these states can produce perfectly good milk and cream.

A little while later on I went down to the village to buy some apples. Mind you, this place is only 75 miles from here. I know -- I had heard of the magnificent apples raised at the southern end of the Appalachian System. I had tasted them; no apples in the world were better. Yet the apples in Moricruther County, Georgia, the only ones I could find, come from Washington and Oregon.

I went to buy meat -- and I know that we can make pastures in these states -- and the only meat that I could buy came via Omaha and Kansas City and Chicago.

I wanted to buy a pair of shoes and the only shoes I could buy had been made in Boston or Binghamton, New York, or St. Louis.

Well, that was fifteen years ago, and there wasn't very much change in that system of economy until about six years ago. It was then we began to ask ourselves, "Why is all this necessary?" I think that we have done more in those six years than in the previous sixty years all through these southern states to make them self-supporting, to give them a balanced economy that will spell a higher wage scale, a greater purchasing power and a more abundant life than they have had in all their history.

It means a lot of work. It means, incidentally, getting the South out of heck to the North. It means establishing your own enterprises down here with your own capital. I don't believe that the South is so broke that it cannot put its own capital into the establishment of its own enterprises.

You young men and women who go through Auburn and go out into every county in this state have a great responsibility, a responsibility not only to put into practice what you have learned here but also the responsibility of trying to devise new methods, new means -- experiments, if you like -- in order to improve the conditions during your own lifetime. I believe you can do it because you are getting the fundamentals, the essential training that will put you into the personal position, give you the personal capacity to use your imagination. We will never get anywhere until we do more and more of that.

I have been called an imaginative person, an experimenter, a seeker of new ideals and, generally, when I have been called that, I have been called something else that does not sound so good. I believe that this country is going somewhere but it must depend for its future progress and prosperity very largely on the younger generation, the people under thirty, the people who have got American ideals and are not afraid of trying new things.

I would like to live long enough to see soil erosion completely stopped in this state and a lot of other states. I would like to live long enough to see the products of factories supplying local needs, state needs. I hope to be able to come back to this state and to the State of Georgia before I die and see at least a part of that ideal come true. For the achievement of that ideal you are going to be responsible in large part.

I am glad to have been with you here today and next Fall I shall -- well, perhaps I shall lean a little bit more towards Auburn than I have before.

INFORMAL REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
OPELIKA, ALABAMA
March 30, 1939.

file

My friends of Opelika: I think I can properly say, "My neighbors," because, as you know, I live just a few miles on the other side of the Chattahoochee River and I have been there for a great many years.

When I first went there, it was almost impossible for me to drive from Meriwether County, Georgia, over into Alabama because the roads were -- well, they were not anything to be talked about. Now we are getting, not only through this section of the country but in every other part of the country, by cooperation between the states and the Federal Government, these wonderful highways.

One of the things that I always think about the new system of highways is not only that they provide access from the farm to the different communities and cities, not only that they are good for through travel but that they also give us a chance to get to know our neighbors.

If you go back to the days of the early presidents of the United States, it was almost impossible for them to get to know the country. It was almost impossible because of lack of means of transportation and, even when the railroads came a hundred years ago, the presidents could follow the lines of the railways but they could not get off the railway and see the back country. There were thousands and thousands of communities that no president could get into except ~~in~~ ^{with} a horse and buggy over a muddy road. Now that has all changed and travel is one of the most important and valuable assets that we have in the country. The more we can get around and see not only our neighbors five and ten miles away and people in the next county, but also people in the next state and in other states, the better it is for us.

If you children think that your education is going to stop when you get through high school, you are very much mistaken. It will be just beginning, only it won't be out of books or during study periods. Your education after you graduate is going to be through contact with other Americans, through seeing other people, through seeing other parts of the country. In that you will have a very great advantage over the older generations because they did not have the same opportunities that you have got today. Just think,

Opelika - 2

in a very few hours I have got off the train and driven through Tuskegee and seen a lot of people there; I have been at Auburn and have seen a lot more people there; I have seen the countryside. I have got to know something because I think I can tell from long experience how things are by looking at the countryside and by looking at people along the highway. And now I am going to West Point and LaGrange and then over to Warm Springs -- a real day of education.

I wish to goodness that I could live another hundred years so as to add to my own education because I have a lot of things to learn.

It has been good to see you today. I have heard a lot about Opelika and of the fine things which have been done here. You are certainly a community with the right spirit; you have gone places and you are going places in the days to come.

I wish I could stay longer but I have got to get to Warm Springs. It is good to have these roses; they will grace my supper table tonight.

Many thanks.

*Orig. Transcription
of 18 Temperance
remarks -*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

INFO RMAL RE MARK BY THE PRESIDENT
OPELIKA, ALABAMA
March 30, 1939.

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Many thanks.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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MEMORIAL REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
OPELIKA, ALABAMA
March 30, 1929.

My friends of Opelika: I think I can properly say, "My neighbor, it because, as you know, I live just a few miles on the other side of the Chattahoochee River and I have been there for a great many years.

When I first went there, it was almost impossible for me to drive from Hartshorn County, Georgia, over into Alabama because the roads were -- well, they were not anything to be talked about. Now we are getting, not only through this section of the country but in every other part of the country, by cooperation between the states and the Federal Government, these wonderful highways.

One of the things that I always think about the new system of highways is not only that they provide access from the farm to the different communities and cities, not only that they are good for through travel but that they also give us a chance to get to know our neighbors.

If you go back to the days of the early presidents of the United States, it was almost impossible for them to get to know the country. It was almost impossible because of lack of means of transportation and, even when the railroads came a hundred years ago, the president could follow the lines of the railways but they could not get off the railway and see the back country. There were thousands and thousands of communities that no president could get into except with a horse and buggy over a muddy road. Now that has all changed and travel is one of the most important and valuable assets that we have in the country. The more we can get around and see not only our neighbors live and win miles every and people in the next county, but also people in the next state and in other states, the better it is for us.

If you children think that your education is going to stop when you get through high school, you are very much mistaken. It will be just beginning, only it won't be out of books or during study periods. Your education after you graduate is going to be through contact with other Americans, through seeing other people, through seeing other parts of the country. In that you will have a very great advantage over the older generations because they did not have the same opportunities that you have got today. Just think, in a very few hours I have got off the train and driven through Tuskegee and seen a lot of people there; I have been at Auburn and have seen a lot more people there; I have seen the country side. I have got to know something because I think I can tell from long experience how things are by looking at the country side and by looking at people along the highway. And now I am going to West Point and Lawrence and then over to Warm Springs -- a real day of education.

I wish to emphasize that I could live another hundred years so as to add to my own education because I have a lot of things to learn.

It has been good to see you today. I have heard a lot about Opelika and of the fine things which have been done here. You are certainly a community with the right spirit; you have good pieces and you are going places in the days to come.

I wish I could stay longer but I have got to get to Warm Springs. It is good to have these roses; they will grace my supper table tonight.

Many thanks.

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INFORMAL REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
OPELIKA, ALABAMA
March 30, 1936.

My friends of Opelika: I think I can properly say, "My neighbors," because, as you know, I live just a few miles on the other side of the Chattahoochee River and I have been there for a great many years.

When I first went there, it was almost impossible for me to drive from Meriwether County, Georgia, over into Alabama because the roads were -- well, they were not anything to be talked about. Now we are getting, not only through this section of the country but in every other part of the country, by cooperation between the states and the Federal Government, these wonderful highways.

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I wish I could stay longer but I have got to get to Warm Springs. It is good to have these roses; they will grace my supper table tonight.

Many thanks.

536-10

Suggestions for the consideration of the President
in preparation of address to be made at Alabama
Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama, March 30, 1939.

PPF-1F

PRESIDENT DUNCAN, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE:

There are many factors which combine to make this a delightful visit. I have long wanted to see the Alabama Polytechnic Institute with my own eyes.

I have unbounded confidence in this type of school. I have for many years followed closely the part played by our agricultural schools in other farming states and so I particularly welcome the opportunity to see your campus and to learn first-hand from Dr. Duncan and his co-workers something of the work which Alabama Polytechnic undertakes in behalf of the farmers of this state.

As a farmer I have long appreciated the value of the agricultural training afforded by our so-called land-grant colleges. To my mind the idea behind these land-grant schools is a sound one. What could be more appropriate than to make income derived in the first instance from public lands available to the states to train men and women in agriculture and the mechanic arts?

That partnership between the federal and the state governments which began under the original Morrill Act approved by President Lincoln on July 7, 1862 has been fruitful of rich rewards to American agriculture. It would be difficult to estimate the returns in improved farm method and consequent raising of farm income ^{and} in the enlarging and broadening of home life on the farm as a result of campus teaching, research and extension work carried on through Alabama Polytechnic.

I am sure not only life in the farm homes of this state but community life everywhere has been made happier as a result of the influence of this fine school. And I am glad that the sphere of activity of Alabama Polytechnic is to be widened through the beneficent activities of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works.

As I look about this campus I see a vision of the future school with all these new buildings occupied -- the new general classroom building, the library, buildings in which to carry out the all-important work in farm engineering, veterinary science and all the other studies in agronomy and soils, animal industry, dairy husbandry and all the studies that go into the economy of twentieth century agriculture.

It is a partnership -- this association between federal and local governments under PWA -- which has justified itself an hundredfold. Best of all, while advancing education in Alabama and thereby safeguarding agriculture, we are aiding also in the great enterprise of national recovery. For every dollar of PWA money spent here means the spending of even greater sums through other channels in wages and materials with consequent stimulation of buying power, without which there can be no prosperity.

All that I have seen and felt and heard here makes me happy that today it was possible to make this visit to this progressive institution. Its fine record of achievement is already a thing for Alabama to be proud of. Its future is bright with promise of greater influence. And I am grateful also to be able to make this visit in the company of that veteran national legislator, Congressman Steagall. He must be very proud that such an important unit in the state's educational system is located within the district which he so ably represents in Washington.

7579/29.
Suggestions for consideration of the President in preparation of address to be delivered at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, March 30, 1939.

415 words
B. Wash.
Pres: D. Patterson
Patterson
Dr. L. M. ...
H. L. ...

PRESIDENT PATTERSON, STUDENTS, FRIENDS OF TUSKEGEE:

I am glad to be at Tuskegee again. It is an institution in which Americans take just pride and in which I long have had an active interest.

P. P. P.
1/1

Everyone who has at heart the welfare of the Negro race and the welfare of our common country -- for the two are indissolubly linked -- must rejoice at the steady progress made since those days in the early eighties when Booker T. Washington made his brave beginning here. It has been my good fortune to be familiar through many years with the aims and objectives and accomplishments of Tuskegee.

Your founder, I believe, was accustomed to celebrate his birthday at Easter time. And so I think it is a happy circumstance that my visit coincides with the approach of Easter tide, the season of hope and happiness and expectation of newness of life. It is a satisfaction to observe that progress has been ever forward at Tuskegee. There has been no retrograde movement here.

It is a high privilege in this place today to pay tribute to the memory of Booker T. Washington. To his vision and courage and indefatigable zeal this institution owes its establishment. Happily, the founder lived to see the work which he launched established on such firm foundations that it will be carried on from generation to generation. Its permanence is assured.

I am glad to note evidences of steady growth and expansion since my last visit. The campus presents a splendid appearance with the earmarks of progress and efficiency on every side. Important as all this physical equipment is, I like, nevertheless, to think that it is the spirit of the work here that entitles Tuskegee to the place it has come to hold in the national affections. This institution is a striking exemplification of

the triumph of faith over all material obstacles and handicaps.

For this magnificent institution was founded on faith -- faith in an ideal. How prophetic were Booker Washington's words when he declared that "Institutions, like individuals, are properly judged by their ideals, their methods, and their achievements in the production of men and women who are to do the world's work."

And so I should like to say that vision was the greatest factor in bringing Tuskegee into being -- a clear perspective of the need of millions of people -- and with vision came faith and courage which faltered not in the face of discouraging circumstances. And out of it all came Tuskegee.

Booker Washington early set for himself the achievement here of such a high standard of value that the work would speak for itself, would commend itself to both races. He was willing to be judged by the practical results of his labor.

In accepting an honorary degree from Harvard University more than forty years ago, Dr. Washington declared that "In the economy of God there is but one standard by which an individual can succeed -- there is but one for a race. This country demands that every race shall measure itself by the American standard. By it a race must rise or fall, succeed or fail, and in the last analysis mere sentiment counts for little."

Those words are as true today as when Booker Washington spoke them in the classic shades of Harvard in 1896.

We like to recall that confession of faith as we pay homage to Booker Washington's memory. We owe to Booker Washington a debt which we can never pay but which we can acknowledge with gratitude whenever we face seriously the problems of the people of whom he was the inspired leader.

But in paying tribute to Dr. Washington we are not un mindful of the work of his devoted successor, Dr. Moton. Friend and advisor of the

founder, Dr. Moton carried forward with undaunted faith the great work which Washington started.

And in education the work is never done. One generation follows another and always there are young minds to be trained, young lives to be shaped and destinies to be directed. The work of the world must go on and youth must be trained and disciplined for the responsibilities of leadership.

As Dr. Moton succeeded the founder so the present President, Dr. Patterson, assumed the leadership four years ago. Tuskegee has taken a leading place among educational institutions of the country in emphasizing and putting into practical effect the theory of "learning to do by doing" and has been a leading exponent of the ideas of self-help, self-respect, the dignity of labor and of law and discipline. I have faith in Dr. Patterson's ability to uphold a great tradition.

God grant that Tuskegee may ever be faithful to her past. In that ideal of fidelity lies all the hope of happiness of those who are to come under its influence in the years to come.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

At Tuskegee:

Drive to Veterans' Hospital and through grounds, stopping for a minute at point where patients are grouped.

Drive to Tuskegee Institute and around grounds; proceed to natural elevation where the President will speak from his car.

There will be a choir of about 100 to the President's left; there will be a few selections sung before the President speaks and a concluding selection after he speaks.

At Auburn:

Drive to Bullard Field, where Dr. Duncan will meet the President and the boys will be lined up. The President will speak from his car, then drive around grounds and leave. 15 min. to half hour.

At Opelika:

Brief stop en route. Colonel Starling arranged details with Col. T. D. Sanford, District Attorney. Col. Starling also arranging with Superintendent of Schools Mardre for attendance by 2000 school children.

(Picnic lunch en route)

Tuskegee Institute

FOUNDED BY
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON



March 30, 1939

Frederick D. Patterson, President

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE—FOUNDED 1881

Equipment:	
Campus	110 Acres
School Farm:	
Land Cultivated	690 Acres
Pasture and Woodland	1140 Acres
Russell Plantation	1700 Acres
Total Acreage	2840 Acres
Number of Buildings	110

ORGANIZATION AND ENROLLMENT

Organization	Enrollment
College:	
By Sex	
Male	684
Female	470
Total	1154
By Schools:	
Agriculture	180
Business	125
Education	203
Mechanical Industries	260
Music	35
Nurse Training	41
Home Economics	166
Commercial Dietetics	102
Physical Education	48
The High School	387
Children's House (Practice School)	259
Lewis Adams School	538
Summer School (1938)	551
GRAND TOTAL	2788
The Faculty:	
Teachers	163
Other Workers	110
*Trades and Vocations:	
In which men are enrolled	28

In which women are enrolled	10
In which men and women are enrolled	4
TOTAL	28

Tuition per year:	
Colleges	\$75.00
High School	\$5.00
(Residents of Macon County, \$20.00)	

Scholarships:	
Number Available	20
Total Value	\$2503.00

Attendance at Special Events:	
John A. Andrew Clinical Society (1938):	
Physicians and Surgeons Present	171
Dentists Present	5
Nurses Attending Nurses' Institute	101
Nurses Remaining for Clinic	5
Patients Treated in Out-Patient Dept.	578
Patients Hospitalized	97
The Farmers' Conference (1938)	1750
State Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and Religion Instruction	275
National Sunday School and YFPU Congress (1938)	5000
American Teachers' Association (1938)	350
Macon County Boys' Day (1938)	1500
Macon County Girls' Day (1938)	2090
Vocational Agriculture Short Course (1938)	25
Home Economics School of Instruction (1938)	16
In-Service Agricultural Extension Agents' Short Course	29
CCC Educational Advisers' Short Course (1938)	31
4-H Club Short Course	452
NYA Special Agricultural Course	22
Summer School Begins June 9, 1938	

*There is no rule prohibiting a student, male or female, from enrolling in any course offered



OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON

March 29, 1939.

The Honorable,
The President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

The United States Veterans' Administration Facility at Tuskegee, Alabama, was originally erected by the Treasury Department upon land donated to the Federal Government and upon completion was transferred to the Veterans Bureau by Executive Order of April 29, 1922. The initial cost was \$1,985,252, which funds were acquired under the First Langley Act, and it was opened, for colored beneficiaries only, on June 15, 1923, with a capacity of 596 beds about equally divided for Neuropsychiatric, Tuberculosis and General Medical & Surgical cases. In 1924 it was completely staffed with colored personnel.

As the needs arose from time to time additional buildings and beds were constructed and the total bed capacity now is 1,498: 1,098 beds for Nervous and Mental cases, and 400 for General Medical & Surgical and Domiciliary cases. The capital investment to date is \$3,106,096. The Manager in charge is Dr. Eugene Dibble, the Clinical Director Dr. Toussaint T. Tildon, and the Supply Officer Mr. George C. Busby. There are on duty at this Facility at the present time 23 Physicians, 2 Dentists, 66 Nurses, 3 Dietitians, 7 Occupational Therapy Aides, 3 Physiotherapy Aides, and 1 Social Service Worker. The hospital is operating very satisfactorily and successfully under the present management.

Respectfully yours,

Frank T. Hines
FRANK T. HINES,
Administrator.