

July 24, 1939

[FDR Library Site]

FDR Speech File

1234

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE President
At the site of the Library-Museum,
Roosevelt Estate, Hyde Park, New York
July 24, 1939, about 12 o'clock noon. EST.

STATEMENTS FILE

Shorthand By Kannee

FOR THE PRESS:

Transcript of the President's ^{extemporaneous remarks} ~~comments~~ at the site

of the Library-Museum, Hyde Park, N.Y.,

July 24th, 1939.

(18)

Today marks the first step, under the Act of Congress, of starting the building to hold certain historical collections, which I have made over a period of forty years, including my personal papers as State Senator, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, as Governor of the State of New York and as President. The building is being erected under the supervision of the Archivist of the United States and a Committee of distinguished scholars, but it is being paid for solely and wholly by private subscription before it is turned over to the Government.

The new building will be at the west end of this big field, with a new driveway leading to it from the famous old New York to Albany Post Road, which is one of the most traveled through highways in the United States. The field is five miles from the City of Poughkeepsie, a city of 40,000 people, and about a mile and a half from Hyde Park Village.

The building itself will be constructed of Dutchess County weathered fieldstone, taken from old stone walls, and will be one and one-half stories in height.

When we go into the courtyard, which faces the highway, we will enter a hallway and proceed from it to an Exhibition Hall. It is the plan of the Trustees to place in this Hall

various models, paintings and other objects of interest which have been given to me or which I have acquired over a long period of years, also books on many subjects, many of them inscribed by their authors.

On the left of the main hall, a door leads into the Naval Collections Exhibition Room and here will be placed most of the United States Navy ship models, paintings, engravings, relics and books.

Continuing in this room, we come to a small room that will be devoted to manuscripts and books and maps that relate to the ^{early} history of Dutchess County and the Hudson River Valley.

On the right will be the stackroom, a two-story permanent filing place for manuscripts and papers. To date there are more than six million of them, and one of the particular ~~tasks~~ tasks of Dr. Connor, the Archivist, in the years to come will be to classify them, eliminate duplicates and keep them in constant repair.

Down in the basement will be several work shops and also a photograph room. Within the past few years a new device called a microfilm has been invented so that if any college or public library in any part of the country wants copies of any of the papers in this library, they can be photographed here on the microfilm with a saving of a great amount of space and sent out to the applying library.

It has been the conclusion of the ~~the~~ Committee of scholars who have given me their advice on the whole project that in these modern days it is advisable for us not to put all of our historic eggs in one basket, that there is too much risk in having all of our historic material in one place. Therefore, they welcome a partial distribution of such original material through the different parts of the Nation. This spreads the risk and, incidentally, will probably result in ~~an~~ an increased public interest in historic documents in every part of the country.

In this field are several old oak trees of great antiquity. They are estimated to be three hundred years old, and that was sixty or seventy years before white settlers first came into this part of Dutchess County. It means also that these trees, spreading their great branches widely and close to the ground, grew up under field conditions and not as part of the original forest, ~~which~~ ^{here part} ~~means that~~ we can safely assume that this field was the site of an Indian village and that here they cultivated their corn. That is borne out, too, by the finding of many arrow heads and other relics of the original Indians who inhabited Dutchess County.

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Today marks the first step, under the Act of Congress, of starting the building to hold certain historical collections, which I have made over a period of forty years, including my personal papers as State Senator, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, as Governor of the State of New York and as President. The building is being erected under the supervision of the Archivist of the United States and a Committee of distinguished scholars, but it is being paid for solely ^{by private} subscription. 16702

The new building will be at the ^{West} ~~car~~ end of ^{an} ~~an~~ ^{Thro} ~~Thro~~
~~an~~ ^L ~~eighteen-acre~~ field, with a new driveway to it from the
famous old New York to Albany Post Road, which is one of
the most traveled highways in the United States. The
field is five miles from Poughkeepsie, a City of forty
thousand inhabitants, and one and a half miles from
Hyde Park village.

The building itself will be constructed of the
usual Dutchess County weathered fieldstone, taken from
old stone walls, and will be one and a half stories in
height.

When we go into the courtyard, which faces the
highway, we will enter a hallway and proceed from it to
an Exhibition Hall. It is the plan of the Trustees to
place in this Hall various models, paintings and other
objects of interest which have been given to me over a
long period of years; ~~it will also contain a large~~
~~part of the~~ books on many subjects, many of them in-
scribed by the authors. ~~These, too, have been given to~~
~~me over many years.~~

On the right of the main Exhibition Hall will be a small room for students who come to the building to examine the documentary material for the purpose of making original historical research. On the left will be a small room for me to work in, assisting the cataloguing and maintenance of the collections.

On the left of the main hall, a door leads into the Naval Collections Exhibition Room. Here will be placed most of the United States Navy ship models, paintings, engravings, relics and books. I have been constantly at work in forming this collection since my freshman year at college, and it has become today one of the major collections relating to the United States Navy.

Continuing through this room we come to a small room which will be devoted to manuscripts and books that relate to the history of Dutchess County and the Hudson River Valley. It is hoped that this particular collection will be maintained by the Dutchess County Historical Society.

In the right wing of the building, as we go into the main hall, will be the stack room -- a two story

permanent filing place for manuscripts. ^{papers} To date there are more than six million of them, and one of the particular tasks of the Archivist in the years to come will be to classify them, eliminate duplicates and keep them in constant repair.

In the basement will be several work shops and also a photograph room. Within the past few years a new device called a microfilm has been invented so ~~that~~ ^{if} any public or college library wants copies of any of the papers in this library, they can be photographed on a microfilm, with a saving of a great amount of space, and sent to the applying library, ~~and read either through a magnifier or re-photographed to full size.~~

It has been the conclusion of the Committee of scholars who have given me their advice on this whole project that in these modern days it is advisable for us not to put all our historic eggs into one basket. ~~There is too much danger in modern warfare that a few well directed bombs might destroy a single, great, national repository of historic source material.~~ They, therefore, welcome a partial distribution of such original material through the different parts of the Nation. This spreads

the risk -- and, incidentally, will probably result in an increased public interest in historic documents.

In the background of this picture you will see one of three very old oak trees. They are estimated to be three hundred years old. That was sixty years before white settlers came into Dutchess County. It means also that these trees, spreading their great branches close to the ground, grew up under field conditions, and it may, therefore, be safely assumed that this field was the site of an Indian village and that here they cultivated their corn.

INFORMAL, EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

At the site of the Library-Museum

Roosevelt Estate, Hyde Park, New York

July 24, 1939, (about 12 o'clock noon, E. S. T.)

Today marks the first step, under the Act of Congress, of starting the building to hold certain historical collections, which I have made over a period of forty years, including my personal papers as State Senator, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, as Governor of the State of New York and as President. The building is being erected under the supervision of the Archivist of the United States and a Committee of distinguished scholars, but it is being paid for solely and wholly by private subscription before it is turned over to the Government.

The new building will be at the west end of this big field, with a new driveway leading to it from the famous old New York to Albany Post Road, which is one of the most traveled through highways in the United States. The field is five miles from the City of Poughkeepsie, a city of 40,000 people, and about a mile and a half from Hyde Park Village.

The building itself will be constructed of Dutchess County weathered fieldstone, taken from old stone walls, and will be one and one-half stories in height.

When we go into the courtyard, which faces the highway, we will enter a hallway and proceed from it to an Exhibition Hall. It is the plan of the Trustees to place in this Hall various models, paintings and other

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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including my personal papers as State Senator, as Assistant

and Secretary of the Navy, as Governor of the State of

New York and as President. The building is being erected

under the supervision of the Archivist of the United States

and a committee of distinguished scholars, but it is being

held for solely and wholly by private subscription before

it is turned over to the Government.

The new building will be at the west end of this

big field, with a new driveway leading to it from the

main old New York to Albany Post Road, which is one of

the most traveled through highways in the United States.

The field is five miles from the City of Washington, a

city of 40,000 people, and about a mile and a half from

White Park Village.

The building itself will be constructed of

Durham County weathered limestone, taken from old stone

walls, and will be one and one-half stories in height.

When we go into the courtyard, which faces the

highway, we will enter a hallway and proceed from it to

an Exhibition Hall. It is the plan of the Trustees to

place in this Hall various models, paintings and other

objects of interest which have been given to me or which I have acquired over a long period of years, also books on many subjects, many of them inscribed by their authors.

On the left of the main hall, a door leads into the Naval Collections Exhibition Room and here will be placed most of the United States Navy ship models, paintings, engravings, relics and books.

Continuing in this room we come to a small room that will be devoted to manuscripts and books and maps that relate to the early history of Dutchess County and the Hudson River Valley.

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