

October 11, 1939

[Remarks of the President to Postmasters]

1247

FDR Speech File

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT TO
THE POSTMASTERS FROM THE SOUTH
PORTICO OF THE WHITE HOUSE,
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1939.

MR. POSTMASTER GENERAL, POSTMASTERS, LADIES, FRIENDS OF THE
POSTAL SERVICE:

It is a privilege and a pleasure to greet you here
at the White House this afternoon.

To you, and through you, to all the postmasters of
the country I want to express my heartfelt appreciation of all
that you and they are doing to maintain our great postal system
as the efficient institution it has become under the able
direction of our Postmaster General, your friend and mine.
Today we may all share in the pride which by every right and
token should thrill Jim Farley's kindly heart. He is doing a
grand job and each one of you is contributing to it.

I am glad you are here in such goodly numbers for
you represent the nation's biggest business. The vast extent
of the enterprise of which you are a part can best be measured
if we pause to sum up the work.

The collection and dispatch of letters is only one
aspect of your work. Our postal service, be it remembered,

also comprises our largest savings bank, our largest express business, our largest system for the transmission of money, as well as the largest agency available to the people for the investment of their savings in government bonds.

The temptation would be strong, if time permitted, to examine the fascinating and romantic story of the postal service, not only the background of its marvelous development in our own country; but its first beginnings back in the dawn of man's history.

We do not know when the postal service came into being but we do know that some twenty-five centuries ago Herodotus stated an ideal which is still exemplified by Jim Farley's cohorts: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from swift completion of their appointed rounds."

It matters not what the means of transportation of the mails may be -- whether the mules and camels of the Old Testament which Job said made his days "swifter than a post" --

or those modern annihilators of distance, the train, the automobile and the airplane.

The mission of the postal service was admirably stated many years ago when two famous educators collaborated in interpreting the work which you are doing. Because I think each of you will carry home a clearer conception of your duties as postmasters if you accept their interpretation, I give you the words of Charles W. Eliot and Woodrow Wilson, which you will find inscribed on the facade of our own central Post Office here in Washington:

One said "Messenger of sympathy and love - servant of parted friends - consoler of the lonely - bond of the scattered family - enlarger of the common life."

The other said "Carrier of news and knowledge - instrument of trade and industry - promoter of mutual acquaintance, of peace and good will among men and nations."

It is wonderful to see you all here and to have an

opportunity to say hello. I hope your stay in Washington
is a pleasant one and that you will carry back home bright
memories of the convention which has brought you here.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Big. mailing copy

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

October 11, 1939

The following remarks of the President to be delivered to
the Postmasters from the South Portico of the White House is for
release in editions of all newspapers appearing on the street NOT
EARLIER than 4:30 P.M., E.S.T. on October 11, 1939.

CAUTION: Please safeguard against premature release.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

MR. POSTMASTER GENERAL, POSTMASTERS, LADIES, FRIENDS OF THE POSTAL SERVICE:

It is a privilege and a pleasure to greet you here at the White House this afternoon.

To you, and through you, to all the postmasters of the country I want to express my heartfelt appreciation of all that you and they are doing to maintain our great postal system as the efficient institution it has become under the able direction of our Postmaster General, your friend and mine. Today we may all share in the pride which by every right and token should thrill Jim Farley's kindly heart.
He is doing a grand job and each of you is contributing to it.

I am glad you are here in such goodly numbers for you represent the nation's biggest business. The vast extent of the enterprise of which you are a part can best be measured if we pause to ~~think up to the moment~~ ^{and} to ~~imagine up to the moment~~ factors which make our postal system our greatest business.

The collection and dispatch of letters is only one aspect of your work. Our postal service, be it remembered, also comprises our largest savings bank, our largest express business, our largest system for the transmission of money, as well as the largest agency available to the people for the investment of their savings in government bonds.

The temptation would be strong, if time permitted, to examine the fascinating and romantic story of the postal service, not only the background of its marvelous development in our own country; but its first beginnings back in the dawn of man's history.

We do not know when the postal service came into being but we do know that some twenty-five centuries ago Herodotus stated an ideal which is still exemplified by Jim Farley's cohorts: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from swift completion of their appointed rounds."

It matters not what the means of transportation of the mails may be — whether the mules and camels of the Old Testament which Job said made his days "swifter than a post" — or those ~~the~~ modern annihilators of distance, the automobile and the airplane. ~~Some~~
~~ever must be to improve and render more efficient~~
~~more inexpensively~~
~~intercourse without delay being of every kind,~~
~~and child in America than any other government service!~~

The ~~the~~ mission ~~and purpose~~ of the postal service were ~~414~~ admirably stated many years ago when two famous educators — ~~the Presidents of the United States~~ — collaborated in ~~writing~~ ^{interpreting} ~~interpretations~~ of the work which you are doing. Because I think each of you will carry home a clearer conception of your duties as postmasters if you accept their interpretation, I give you the words of Charles W. Eliot and Woodrow Wilson, which you will find inscribed on the facade of our own central Post Office here in Washington:
"Our mail" Messenger of sympathy and love — servant of parted friends — consoler of the lonely — bond of the scattered family — enlarger of the common life.

"The other way" Carrier of news and knowledge — instrument of trade and industry — promoter of mutual acquaintance, of peace and good will among men and nations.

It is wonderful to see you all here and to have an opportunity to say hello. I hope your stay in Washington is a pleasant one and that you will carry back home bright memories of the convention which brought you here.

Ewald Steiner 11/11/39

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
Delivered to the Postmasters
From the South Portico of the White House
October 11, 1939, 4:35 P. M., E. S. T.

(The Postmaster General introduced the audience to the President as follows:

"It is my very great privilege to present to you approximately four thousand postmasters, who are gathered here in Washington from every state in the Union and several of the Territories.")

MR. POSTMASTER GENERAL, POSTMASTERS (LADIES), POSTMISTRESSES
AND FRIENDS OF THE POSTAL SERVICE:

You know, when Jim Farley holds a convention, it is always a successful convention. (Applause)

It is a privilege and a pleasure to greet you (here) at the White House this afternoon.

To you, and through you, to all the postmasters of the (country) nation I want to express my heartfelt appreciation of all that you and they are doing to maintain our great postal system as the efficient institution that it has become under the able direction of our Postmaster General, (applause) your friend and mine. (Applause) Today we may all share in the pride which by every right and token (should) ought to thrill Jim Farley's kindly heart. He is doing a grand job and each one of you is contributing to it.

I am glad you are here in such goodly numbers

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.

(for) because you represent, literally, the nation's biggest business. (Applause) The vast extent of the enterprise of which you are a part can best be measured if we pause to sum up the work.

The collection and dispatch of letters is only one aspect of your work. Our postal service, be it remembered, also comprises our largest savings bank, our largest express business, our largest system for the transmission of money, as well as the largest agency available to the people for the investment of their savings in government bonds.

The temptation would be strong, if I had the time (permitted,) to examine the fascinating and romantic story of the postal service, not only the background of its marvelous development in our own country; but its first beginnings back in the dawn of man's history.

We do not know when the first postal service came into being but we do know that some twenty-five centuries ago an old writer by the name of Herodotus stated an ideal which is still exemplified by Jim Farley's cohorts, it was: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from swift completion of their appointed rounds."

It matters not what the means of transportation of the mails may be -- whether the mules and camels of the Old Testament which Job said made his days "swifter than a

post" -- or those modern annihilators of distance, the train, the automobile and the airplane.

The mission of the postal service was admirably stated many years ago when two famous educators collaborated in interpreting the work (which) that you are doing. Because I think each of you will carry home a clearer conception of your duties as postmasters if you accept their interpretation, I give you the words of Charles W. Eliot who was President of Harvard and President Woodrow Wilson, who had been President of Princeton. Their words, which you will find inscribed on the facade of our own central Post Office here in Washington:

One of them said "Messenger of sympathy and love - servant of parted friends - consoler of the lonely - bond of the scattered family - enlarger of the common life."

The other said "Carrier of news and knowledge - instrument of trade and industry - promoter of mutual acquaintance, of peace and good will among men and nations."

(It is wonderful to see you all here) And so, my friends, let me say that I am very happy to see all of you here today and to have (an) this opportunity to say hello, even though I cannot have the privilege or the time to shake you all by the hand. I hope your stay in Washington is a pleasant one and that you will carry back home bright memories of (the) this successful convention which has brought you here. (Applause)

STATEMENTS FILE
Shorthand By Kanner

Mr. Kanner

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

October 11, 1939

The following remarks of the President to be delivered to the Postmasters from the South Portico of the White House is for release in editions of all newspapers appearing on the street NOT EARLIER than 4:30 P.M., E.S.T. on October 11, 1939.

CAUTION: Please safeguard against premature release.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

23b
MR. POSTMASTER GENERAL, POSTMASTERS, FRIENDS OF THE
POSTAL SERVICE:

Mr. Farley's
It is a privilege and a pleasure to greet you here at
the White House this afternoon.

Nation
To you, and through you, to all the postmasters of the country I want to express my heartfelt appreciation of all that you and they are doing to maintain our great postal system as the efficient institution it has become under the able direction of our Postmaster General, your friend and mine. Today we may all share in the pride which by every right and token should thrill Jim Farley's kindly heart. He is doing a grand job and each one of you is contributing to it.

President
I am glad you are here in such goodly numbers for you represent the nation's biggest business. The vast extent of the enterprise of which you are a part can best be measured if we pause to sum up the work.

The collection and dispatch of letters is only one aspect of your work. Our postal service, be it remembered, also comprises our largest savings bank, our largest express business, our largest system for the transmission of money, as well as the largest agency available to the people for the investment of their savings in government bonds.

The temptation would be strong, if time permitted, to examine the fascinating and romantic story of the postal service, not only the background of its marvelous development in our own country; but its first beginnings back in the dawn of man's history.

We do not know when the postal service came into being but we do know that some twenty-five centuries ago Herodotus stated an ideal which is still exemplified by Jim Farley's cohorts: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from swift completion of their appointed rounds."

It matters not what the means of transportation of the mails may be -- whether the miles and canals of the Old Testament which Job said made his days "swifter than a post" -- or those modern annihilators of distance, the train, the automobile and the airplane.

The mission of the postal service was admirably stated many years ago when two famous educators collaborated in interpreting the work which you are doing. Because I think each

that

of you will carry home a clearer conception of your duties as postmasters if you accept their interpretation. I give you the words of Charles W. Eliot and Woodrow Wilson, which you will find inscribed on the facade of our own central Post Office here in Washington:

One said "Messenger of sympathy and love - servant of parted friends - consoler of the lonely - bond of the scattered family - enlarger of the common life."

The other said "Carrier of news and knowledge - instrument of trade and industry - promoter of mutual acquaintance, of peace and good will among men and nations."

It is wonderful to see you all here and to have an opportunity to say hello. I hope your stay in Washington is a pleasant one and that you will carry back home bright memories of the convention which has brought you here.

By
this successful

16-1274-2-10
even though I cannot have the
privilege of the time to shake
you all by the hand
And so, my friends,
let me say that I am
very happy to see all of you
here today and

✓ W. S. L.

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT ²⁴
Delivered to the Postmasters ⁴¹
From the South Portico of the White House ³⁸
October 11, 1939, 4.35 P.M., E.S.T.

(The Postmaster General introduced the audience to the President
as follows:

"It is my very great privilege to present to you approximately four thousand postmasters, who are gathered here in Washington from every state in the Union and several of the Territories.")

MR. POSTMASTER GENERAL, POSTMASTERS (LADIES), POSTMISTRESSES AND
FRIENDS OF THE POSTAL SERVICE:

You know, when Jim Farley holds a convention, it is always
a successful convention. (Applause)

(Copy)

STATEMENT FILE
Shorthand Manne