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.

[Signature]

[Scrap, possibly handwritten: Original or Copy]
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 enumerate the inestimable 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 modern annilhators of distance, the automobile and the airplane, ever must be to improve and render more efficient a system more inextricably interwoven with the daily living of every man, woman, and child in America than any other government service.

The mission and purpose of the postal service were admirably stated many years ago when two famous educators — one of them President of the United States — collaborated in an interpretation 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:

"We said, Messenger of sympathy and love — servant of parted friends — comforter of the lonely — bond of the scattered family — enlarger of the common life."

"We also 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 brought you here.
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 main-
tain our great postal system as the efficient institution
that it has become under the able direction of our Post-
master 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
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)
Mr. Postmaster General, Postmasters, Clerks, Friends of the Postal Service:

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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.

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

(Copy)