

July 4, 1940

[Hyde Park, New York]

FDR Speech File

1288

EXTEMPORANEOUS ADDRESSES
On the Occasion of the Passing of Title to
The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
Hyde Park, N. Y., July 4, 1940

JOHN McSHAIN:

Mr. Walker, I am delighted to inform you that the work on the new Franklin D. Roosevelt Library has been completed. The President, the architect and the supervising engineer have all informed us that they are well pleased with the construction and not only with the workmanship in the building but also with the mechanic's job.

I am happy to say that the cooperation that we have received has been splendid and today I am presenting you with the key to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

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HONORABLE FRANK C. WALKER:

Mr. President and friends: It is interesting in this world of spiritual agony and mental anguish and real suffering that we are taking part, under the guidance of our President, in an affair, simple in character, on this, our anniversary of independence. I think and hope that it is an omen of good for all of the world.

May I say a word to you, Mr. McShain, of appreciation to you and to Mr. Simon and to those who have been so helpful in doing this fine job. On behalf of the Library, I want you to know that we are most appreciative.

I want to say a word of thanks to the 25,000 who have been

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 prepared reading copy text. Parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be invited to the new Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and the architect and the supervising engineer was all informed as they are well pleased with the construction and not only with the workmanship in the building but also with the building's cost.

I am happy to say that the suggestion that we have received has been accepted and today I am presenting you with the key to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Mr. President and Members: It is interesting in this world of spiritual energy and mental energies and their interplay that we are being built, under the guidance of our President, in an all-time, single in character, on this, our anniversary of independence. I think and hope that it is an omen of good for all of the world.

Now I say a word to you, Mr. Speaker, of appreciation to you and to Mr. Dixon and to those who have been so helpful in doing this fine job. On behalf of the Library, I want you to know that we are most appreciative. I want to say a word of thanks to the 25,000 who have been

so generous in making this institution possible, and to say a word of thanks to the President, who has made it possible that we shall have this fine, cultural exhibit.

Dr. Connor, I ask you, as National Archivist, to accept this fine structure as a gift from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Inc., to the United States of America. We all know how well and capably you have done your work heretofore and how well you will carry on with this institution.

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DR. R.D.W. CONNOR, ARCHIVIST:

Mr. President and Mr. Walker: I accept this key as a symbol of the responsibility which has been placed upon me in having charge of this magnificent gift which the President has made to the people of the United States.

Mr. President, I have the key and I am ready now to unlock the doors of this Library to receive the material which you have so generously donated to the United States Government.

I am sure that we shall all be pleased to have a word or two from you about that material and your plans for transferring it to the Library.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Dr. Connor, this is, of course, a very happy day for me. To see this wonderful building going up during the past year, to see it completed, means that I have got to get very busy in

sending certain collections to the building. You will be glad to know that there are thirty-two cases of books already packed, also a number of cases of prints, and next week I hope that my papers as Governor of New York will come down from Albany.

People will realize that it will take some time to install these exhibits for the public and it is my hope that you and your assistants will have the exhibit ready some time next spring so that we can open the building for the inspection and the use of the public of the United States.

I want to express just one word of thanks to Mr. Simon, the architect, to Mr. McShain, the contractor, and to all the workmen who put up the building. The building has been well and truly constructed and I hope that it will last for many generations.
