August 19, 1940 [WKIP Poughkeepsie, NY] 1294

FDR Speech File

Informal Address of the President,
Over Station WKIP, Poughkeepsie, New York,
Made from the Study of his home at Hyde Park, N.Y.,
August 19th, 1940, 6.30 P.M., E.D.S.T.

Friends of Station WKIP:

I gladly embrace this chance to say a few words, even though they are a bit late on my part, to welcome Station WKIP, Dutchess County's new and only radio station. I have been a little bit intrigued trying to find out what that word "KIP" means. Either it must be named after the old Rhinebeck family of Kips or it must be an abbreviation for the old county seat of Poughkeepsie.

The inauguration of this station last June constituted a very distinct step forward for the County and for the Mid-Hudson Valley. The new station, it seems to me, can play a very important part in our cultural life and in the life of this community generally. It is the only station on this side of the River between New York City and Albany. It is thus in a key position to unite our community life to the life of the Capital of the State and the metropolis of the State. It has been brought into being through the vision and foresight of such sterling citizens as John Mack and Jim Townsend and Dick Coon, whose efforts have been ably seconded by Dr. MacCracken of Vassar, John Grubb and Charles Mitchell, this half dozen representative citizens constituting the station's Board of Directors.

Furthermore, I welcome the station because it means that Dutchess County is determined to go forward with progress. We of the Mid-Hudson Valley have always been proud of our landmarks and monuments. We have always had good schools and academies and institutions of higher learning. I have been going through a lot of old books on New York and the Hudson River Valley dating back a hundred years and more, and even then every guide book of the River took special pride in our institutions of learning. And, mind you, that was long before Vassar College was ever heard of -- institutions in those days whose fame and influence had gone far. And the fame and influence of our present institutions of learning have gone as far even as the magic of radio.

In the field of communications this Hudson River of ours has seen the beginning of steam navigation, and the valley on the other side of the county, the Harlem, resounded to the puff of the locomotive when the railroad in America was still in its infancy. And we do not forget that the inventor of the telegraph, Samuel F. B. Morse, lived in Poughkeepsie and that we were one of the first communities in this section to get telephone communication with the outside world.

Today, to all that has gone before to enlarge and enrich and broaden our life is added this new radio station.

I like to think of this station as a cultural adjunct to the community that it serves on both sides of the River -- not merely as an instrumentality to make money but as a vehicle through which emphasis can be placed on the things that count, things that count most in elevating and ennobling the common life.

My earnest hope is that our new station will fulfill the high hopes of the men who have brought it into being and that through them we of the Valley shall have closer ties, better citizenship among all of us neighbors -- and I like to think of them as "good neighbors"-- in the Hudson River Valley.

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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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My earnest hope is that our new station will fulfill the high hopes of the men who have brought it into being and that through them we of the Valley shall have closer ties, better citizenship among all of us neighbors -- and I like to think of them as "good neighbors" -- in the Hudson River Valley.

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Broadcast over Radio Station WKIP,
Poughkeepsie, New York, August 19, 1940
at 6:30 P.M., D.S.T.

FRIENDS OF STATION WKIP:

I gladly embrace this opportunity to say a few words -- although a little late -- to welcome Station WKIP, Dutchess County's new and only Radio Station. Its inauguration early in June constituted a distinct step forward for the County and for the Mid-Hudson Valley.

The new Station -- WKIP -- can play a most important part in our cultural life and in the life of this community generally. It is the only New York station on this side of the Hudson between New York City and Albany. It is thus in a key position to unite our community life to the life of the Capital and to the Metropolis. It has been brought into being through the vision and foresight of such sterling citizens as Judge Mack and Jim Townsend and Dick Coon, whose efforts have been ably seconded by Dr. MacCracken of Vassar, John B. Grubb and Charles S. Mitchell, this half dozen representative citizens constituting the Station's Board of Directors.

I welcome the Station because it means that Dutchess County is determined to go forward with progress. We of the Mid-Hudson Valley have always been proud of our landmarks and monuments. We have always had good schools and academies and institutions of higher learning, whose fame and influence have gone as far even as the magic of radio.

In the field of communications the Hudson River saw the beginning of steam navigation and its Valley resounded to the puff of the locomotive while the railroad in America was still in its infancy. It was the same with the telegraph and the telephone. And now, to all that has gone before to enlarge and enrich and broaden our (more) life, is added this new Radio Station.

I like to think of radio as a cultural adjunct to the community which it serves -- not merely an instrumentality to make money, but a vehicle through which the emphasis may be placed on the things that count for most in elevating and ennobling the common life. My earnest hope is that our new Station will fulfill the high hopes of the men who have brought it into being, and that through them we shall have closer ties, and better citizenship by no neighbor in the Hudson River Valley.

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In welcome the station because it seems that Dutchess County is determined to go forward with progress. We of the Mid-Hudson Valley have always been proud of our landmarks and monuments. We have always had good schools and colleges and institutions of higher learning, where men and influence have come as far even as the Magic of radio.

In the field of communications the Hudson River was the beginning of steam navigation and the Valley resounded to the puff of the locomotive while the railroad in America was still in its infancy. It was the same with the telegraph and the telephone. And now, to all that has gone before to enlarge and enrich and broaden our life, is added this new Radio station.

I like to think of radio as a cultural adjunct to the community which it serves -- not merely an instrumentality to make money, but a vehicle through which the impulses may be placed on the things that count for most in elevating and enriching the common life. My earnest hope is that our new station will fulfill the high hopes of the men who have brought it into being.

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