

September 24, 1940 [National Comm. of Independent Voters For Roosevelt]

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INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF INDEPENDENT  
VOTERS FOR ROOSEVELT.

I think we all of us have our feet on the ground sufficiently to know that we haven't accomplished for the country as much as we ought, but that a great deal is left to do. We don't want to stand still and we don't want to go back. For that reason all of us have been bearing the work in the heat of the day for a good many years; George Norris - long before I did - and I have been bearing a certain amount of the work in the heat of the day for just about thirty years, yes, thirty years this year, and George isn't through and I am not through, and some of these youngsters like Fiorella are not through.

They have got a great many years left to work for what we call by the generic term "liberalism" - for progressive objectives. And I personally am very, very happy to have this group come here today, and very, very happy to accept the support of every liberal and every progressive in the United States because I think we agree now that we are living in an era, an age where the principles of democracy itself are at stake. They are being attacked on many quarters and it is going to help democracy to survive if democracy will remain progressive and liberal through the many strange things that are happening.

And so you are working not just for progressive measures and ideals in the country -- you are working very distinctly for the preservation of democracy. And so I am glad to see you.

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.