

October 11, 1940

[Akron, Ohio]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF HIS SPECIAL  
TRAIN, AKRON, OHIO, OCTOBER 11, 1940

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I am glad to see you. I wish I could stay longer in Akron.

I have had a very interesting day. I have been trying to learn at first hand how this great defense program of ours is going.

May I say this to you. You and I know the difficulties and the dangers of these times in the world. For many years we in the United States have managed to keep out of trouble in other continents and I am confident that in the future we shall be able to avoid being brought into war through attack by somebody else on the Americas. But I also believe, and I think most of you do too, that the best way to avoid an attack is to be ready to meet one.

And that is why in the steel plants, in Pittsburgh and in Youngstown, I told the foremen and the men in those plants several times that the one thing we all ought to work for in speeding up this program is more speed -- the quicker, the better.

And so, to you who are a part of defense -- to you in this town I give the message, "speed up all you can."

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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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.

STATEMENTS FILE

*mimeograph*

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Informal remarks of the President,  
from the rear platform of his special train,  
Akron, Ohio, October 11, 1940.

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End.

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