

October 23, 1940

[Wilmington, Delaware - Camden, NJ
Philadelphia, PA]

FDR Speech File

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
OCTOBER 23, 1940.

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I remember very well my visit to Wilmington during the election of 1936. Some of the political experts of those days were somewhat amused at my visit to Delaware in a political campaign. They told me that I certainly was optimistic if I thought that Delaware would go Democratic in that Presidential election.

They were surprised at the result of that election.

Four years ago Wilmington was the home town of the famous Liberty League. ~~That League~~ It was created for several purposes, but its major objective was to defeat the New Deal and drive it from office. ~~The purpose still lives.~~

In view of that fact I thought that Wilmington was a good place to read from a speech made by President Abraham Lincoln, the definition which he gave of the word "liberty".

This year that definition is of even greater significance.

~~significance.~~ This is what President Lincoln said:

"The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people, just now, are much in want of one. We all declare for liberty; but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor; while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men's labor. Here are two, not only different, but incompatible things, called by the same name, liberty. And it follows that each of the things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names -- liberty and tyranny."

And then Abraham Lincoln used this example. He said:

"The Shepherd drives the wolf from the sheep's throat, for which the sheep thanks the shepherd as

his liberator, while the wolf denounces him for the same act, as the destroyer of liberty.....Plainly, the sheep and the wolf are not agreed upon a definition of the wordliberty; and precisely the same difference prevails today among us human creatures.....and all professing to love liberty. Hence we behold the process by which thousands are daily passing from under the yoke of bondage hailed by some as the advance of liberty, and bewailed by others as the destruction of all liberty."

And then Lincoln said this:

"Recently, as it seems, the people have been doing something to define liberty, and thanks to them ~~that~~, in what they have done, the wolf's dictionary has been repudiated."

In 1936 the people of the United States took definite action to define what they intended Liberty to mean in this country for the next four years. They repudiated the wolf's dictionary.

I am sure that this year the people not only of Delaware, but of the United States are all taking a renewed interest in that word "liberty". There are not so many countries left where the word has any real meaning.

I hope that by their votes on election day the people of the State of Delaware will reaffirm their own definition of "liberty" - the same definition they made four years ago.

Franklin Roosevelt

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
From the Rear Platform of his Special Train
Wilmington, Delaware
October 23, 1940, 2:15 P.M.

I have come back to Wilmington again.

I very well remember (very well my) the short visit, the short stop I made here in 1936. (to Wilmington during the election of 1936.) You know, some of the political experts of those days were (somewhat) a little amused at (my visit to Delaware in a political campaign. They told me that I certainly was optimistic if I thought that Delaware would go democratic in that Presidential election) the thought that I could carry Delaware and I think they were surprised at the splendid result.

(They were surprised at the result of that election.)

Four years ago Wilmington was the home town of the famous Liberty League. (It) We remember that League was created for several purposes, but its major objective was to defeat the New Deal and drive it from office. That purpose still lives in other forms.

In view of that fact I thought four years ago and I still think that Wilmington (was) is a good place to read from a speech made by President Abraham Lincoln (the) his definition (which he gave) of the word "liberty."

This year I think (that) the definition is of even greater significance. (This) Here is what President Lincoln said:

"The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people, just now, are much in want of one. We all declare for liberty; but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor;

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.

while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men's labor. Here are two, not only different, but incompatible things, called by the same name, liberty. And it follows that each of the things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names -- liberty and tyranny."

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And then, finally, Lincoln said this:

"Recently, as it seems, the people have been doing something to define liberty, and thanks to them that, in what they have done, the wolf's dictionary has been repudiated."

In 1936, almost four years to the day, the people of the United States took definite action to define what they intended Liberty to mean in this country of ours for the next four years. They repudiated the wolf's dictionary.

I am sure that this year the people, not only of Delaware but of the United States, are all taking a renewed interest in that word "liberty." There are not so many countries left where the word has any real meaning.

I hope that by their votes on election day the people of the State of Delaware will reaffirm their own definition of "liberty" -- the same definition they made four years ago.

And, in saying goodbye, may I say that I am very happy to

be here with one Senator from Delaware and that I hope that he will
be joined in Washington by another Senator from Delaware, who is on
this platform.

And also, in the State of Delaware, with many visits to
Washington, by this new Governor of Delaware. (Applause)

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
Frankford Arsenal
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
October 23, 1940, 5:15 P.M.

I am very, very glad to come here. I have heard a great deal about Frankford but I have never been here before.

I am very proud of what the Colonel (Colonel Boatwich) tells me, that we are now employing 7,000 people here at this Arsenal.

You are doing fine work. You are getting into production, you are not behindhand, and we are counting, the Army and the Navy, on all of you good people to speed up the good work as fast as you can.

The more quickly the United States -- we arm, the more secure our national peace will be. That is why I appreciate the splendid cooperation that you are all giving.

Thank you.

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
New York Shipbuilding Company Plant
Camden, New Jersey
October 23, 1940, 4.00 P.M.

I am very glad to come back here after twenty-three years, and, more than that, I want to convey to you my thanks officially, the thanks of the United States Government, for the splendid work that you are doing here in this great shipyard.

I am especially happy to be told today that these ships -- which are not just on order but are being built -- these ships, thanks to all that you are doing, are from four to six months ahead of time.

They are being built, as you know, not to go to war but to keep us at peace. (Applause)

And so all I can say to you is, "Thanks, and keep up the good work and keep up the speed." (Applause)

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
OCTOBER 29, 1940.

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I remember very well my visit to Wilmington during the election of 1936. Some of the political experts of those days were somewhat amused at my visit to Delaware in a political campaign. They told me that I certainly was optimistic if I thought that Delaware would go Democratic in that Presidential election.

They were surprised at the result of that election.

Four years ago Wilmington was the home town of the famous Liberty League. It was created for several purposes, but its major objective was to defeat the New Deal and drive it from office.

In view of that fact I thought that Wilmington was a good place to read from a speech made by President Abraham Lincoln, the definition which he gave of the word "liberty".

This year that definition is of even greater

significance. This is what President Lincoln said:

"The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people, just now, are much in want of one. We all declare for liberty; but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor; while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men's labor. Here are two, not only different, but incompatible things, called by the same name, liberty. And it follows that each of the things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names -- liberty and tyranny."

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I am sure that this year the people not only of Delaware, but of the United States are all taking a renewed interest in that word "liberty". There are not so many countries left where the word has any real meaning.

I hope that by their votes on election day the people of the State of Delaware will reaffirm their own definition of "liberty" - the same definition they made four years ago.

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Draft

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First
They were surprised at the result of ~~this~~ election, ~~four~~ years ago. And I am sure if there are any doubters this year they will be surprised, too.

Let's discuss
Four years ago Wilmington was the home town of the ~~Confederacy~~ Liberty League, organized and supported by some of the leading financiers of the Nation. It was created for several purposes, but its major objective was to defeat the New Deal and drive it from office.

If
In view of that fact I thought that Wilmington was a good place to read from a speech made by President Abraham Lincoln, the definition which he gave of the word "liberty". *If* This year that definition is of even greater significance. This is what President Lincoln said:

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word has any real meaning.

Take
I ~~want~~ that by their votes on election day the people of
the State of Delaware will reaffirm their own definition of "liberty" —
*the same definition they made four
and-a-half years ago.*

STATEMENTS FILE
Shorthand By Kannee

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October 23, 1940

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be delivered from the train at Wilmington, Delaware, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 2:15 P. M., E.S.T., October 23, 1940. The same release of the text of the address also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

I remember very well my visit to Wilmington during the election of 1940. Some of the political experts of those days were somewhat amazed at my visit to Delaware in a political campaign. They told me that I certainly was optimistic if I thought that Delaware would go Democratic in that Presidential election.

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