

November 5, 1940

[ Torch Light Parade - Hyde Park, NY ]

FDR Speech File

1340

INFOREGA, REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT,  
FROM THE PORCH OF HIS HOME,  
HYDE PARK, N. Y.,  
November 5, 1940.

You know, this is a perfectly tremendous surprise. I learned about it -- I learned about this party first from the news ticker an hour and a half ago. And the news ticker said something else. It said that neighbors and boosters from the Roosevelt Home Club planned a torch light parade to the Hyde Park house shortly before midnight. And you could have knocked me down with a feather. And then the report went on to say -- of course it was probably written by a kid -- that this has been a regular custom on election night since the Chief Executive entered the field of national politics.

It seems to me that I and most of us go further back than that. We go back, first, to the campaigns of 1928 and 1930. And then a few old graybeards like me -- we go back to 1912 and 1910.

But I think that, except for a very few people in Hyde Park, I go back even further than that. I claim to remember it, but the family say that I do not, and that was the first election of Grover Cleveland in 1884. I was one and a half years old at that time, and I remember the torch light parade that came down here that night. As they say, "believe it or not!"

And this youngster here, Franklin Junior, was just saying to me that he wondered whether Franklin Third, who is up there in that room, will also remember tonight. He also is one and a half years old.

We haven't got the full returns yet because we haven't anything definite from California, Oregon, and Washington. However, it looks all right.

And one of the things that makes me very happy about this thing is the fact that we have won a very great victory in these three counties of Dutchess, Putnam, and Orange, because, even though our present Congressman may have been re-elected by a very small majority, the victory of Mr. Steubens is just as big, nevertheless. We are all proud of the splendid fight that he has made.

I don't need to tell you that we face difficult days in this country but I think you will find me in the future just exactly the same Franklin Roosevelt that you have known for a great many years. My heart has always been here. It always will be. And, by Jove, you know some day, when Elmer (Van Wagner) gets tired of running for Supervisor -- oh, I don't know when -- 10 or 20 years -- I might take a shot at that job myself.

It has been fine to see you. Thanks ever so much and I am going to be back here, as you know, just as much as the Government of the United States will let me.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

Thanks very much.

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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

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INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT,  
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November 5, 1940.

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INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
FROM THE PORCH OF HIS HOME,  
WIDE PARK, N. Y.  
November 5, 1940 - 12:30 P.M.

This is my second party tonight and I am very grateful for it. And there is still a crowd coming down the road.

Things look perfectly fine. I have been on the telephone speaking to people all over the United States. I haven't heard finally from Oregon and California and the State of Washington yet but they seem to be coming through in very great shape.

And may I say I am awfully proud of this district of ours -- of what Hardy Stechelm has done, because he has almost performed a miracle in the way he has cut down the vote of our present Congressman. It is a very great moral victory for our District.

I have to speak to a great many people on the 'phone and I hope you will excuse me.

Mrs. Roosevelt and my Mother are very happy. God bless you.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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Informal Remarks of the Pa  
From the Proch of his home  
Hyde Park New York  
Nov. 5 1940 - 11:00 PM

(16)

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