

November 4, 1941

[Election Night - Hyde Park]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
ON ELECTION NIGHT, NOVEMBER 4, 1941,
DELIVERED FROM THE PORCH OF THE
PRESIDENT'S HOME IN HYDE PARK.

(I think) This is (really) one night that we will all of us remember. My memory goes back to (in) the past century (quite a way) and as far as I know this is the first time since about 1871 that we have carried the Town for the whole Democratic ticket. And I think the one explanation is that the two present members, the Supervisor and the Superintendent of Highways, have given such good service during the past two years that the electorate of the Town decided that a few more like ('em) them wouldn't do any harm.

I said in the school yesterday that I was always starting something, and now that Elmer (Elmer Van Wagoner) is in, with a Town Board, I am going to make a suggestion which even he hasn't heard of. I am going to suggest that we have for the Town of Hyde Park, nothing in the way of an official Planning Board, but at least a group of citizens who would be called on from time to time to act as a Planning Board for the whole Town.

The reason I am saying that is because the Town is growing so fast, and there are so many new problems being presented to us from time to time, that in the long run it will pay us if we plan for the future. I don't think it will mean any increase in taxes, if we plan. And at the same time, when we do something, it will be in accordance with an effort to guess into the future, and do things that we won't have to re-do because of failure to plan (in the days to come) ahead.

I think the time has come (for doing) to do it. Up in Rhinebeck they have had a Planning Board for some time, and they have invited opinions from all kinds of people. They asked me to go up there this afternoon,

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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And so I hope that with this new Town Board we can look into the future a little bit more than we have before. We are all going to watch them like hawks. We are going to be on their trail every minute. And we might as well admit that the responsibility for the new government of this Town for the next two years is going to lie in the hands of these Democratic candidates who have been duly elected today.

(And) I think that we ought to have had tonight -- of course it caught us by surprise, we weren't ready for it -- we ought to have had the largest amount of red fire that we have ever had on Election Day night.

(And) So I can properly say in behalf of the majority of the voters -- men and women of the Town of Hyde Park that we congratulate today's winners and wish them all the good luck in the world.

(And) May I say one other thing in closing, and that is this. You know there are other democracies in the world besides the United States. Quite a number of them. There is one democracy from which a great many people in the Town of Hyde Park came (from) -- that is their ancestors -- who came from Holland. We are awfully happy today to be the hosts -- this whole town -- of Princess Juliana of the Netherlands. I have been driving her around through this Township yesterday and today.

I am glad she saw an American polling place this morning -- how we voted -- the mechanics of it. I am glad she saw a Democratic victory tonight. Her mother, the Queen of the Netherlands, reigns over just as much of a democracy as we have in the United States, where people vote just the way we do, where things are decided by a congress that is not very different from ours -- a country that today unfortunately, most unfortunately, hasn't any democratic processes left under the heel of an invader.

And I think all of us hope -- for the Princess and for her mother -- that the day will come very soon when they will go back to their home in the Netherlands, to join with the life of that great -- one of the earliest of all of the democracies of the world.

(CORRECTED BY THE PRESIDENT)

STATEMENTS FILE

FOR THE PRESS

NOVEMBER 4, 1941

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delivered from the porch of the
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X (Insert Heading) November 10, 1941

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[REDACTED] I said in the school yesterday (Elmer Van Waggoner) that I was always starting something, and now that Elmer is in with a Town Board, I am going to make a suggestion which even he hasn't heard of. I am going to suggest that we have for the Town of Hyde Park nothing in the way of an official Planning Board, but at least a group of citizens who would be called on from time to time to act as a Planning Board for the whole Town.

The reason I am saying that is [REDACTED] the Town is growing so fast, and there are so many new problems being presented to us from time to time, that in the long run it will pay us if we plan for the future. I don't think it will mean any increase in taxes, if we plan, and at the same time, when we do something, it will be in accordance with an effort to guess into the future, and do things that we won't have to re-do [REDACTED] because of failure to plan in the days to come.

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Geography of the Molts (abiding)

To get along with it is probably the best I can do.

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(F)

STATEMENT NO. FIVE

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Nov 4, 1941

Head this:

Informal Remarks of the
President on Election Night,
November 4, 1941, delivered from
the porch of the President's
Home in Hyde Park.

Return this original,
please, A. J. Romagna

with 4 copies of the mimeographed

STATEMENTS FILE

11/4/1941

I think this is a really one night that we will all of us remember. My memory goes back in the past century quite a ways, and as far as I know this is the first time in -- I think since about 1871 that we have carried the Town for the whole Democratic ticket. (applause) And I think the one -- the one explanation is that the two present members, the Supervisor and the Superintendent of Highways have given such good service during the past two years that the electorate of the Town decided that a few more like 'em wouldn't do any harm. (applause)

And right now I am going -- I said in the school yesterday that I was always starting something, and now that Elmer is in with a Town Board, I am going to make a suggestion which even he hasn't heard of. I am going to suggest that we have for the Town of Hyde Park nothing in the way of an official Planning Board, but at least a group of citizens who would be called on from time to time to act as a Planning Board for the whole Town.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 13, 1941

MRS. KLAR:

Please re-type this speech, with the corrections as made by the President himself.

"Mrs. Rundall, Ladies and Gentlemen:" -- (insert this just before the first paragraph of the speech -- 'I feel rather embarrassed.....')

At the end of the speech, type on the bottom: (CORRECTED BY THE PRESIDENT)

Return the copy with the President's notations to Dorothy Brady for her file.

Please keep mimeographed copies and rest of file altogether with re-typed copies.

J. Romagna

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
ON ELECTION NIGHT, NOVEMBER 4, 1941,
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PRESIDENT'S HOME IN HYDE PARK.

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~~To do~~
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A.H.

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