

November 7, 1944

Orange & Ulster Counties
[Dutchess County Campaign - Hyde Park, NY]

FDR Speech File

Informal Remarks of the President
At the Torchlight Parade, 1944, at
Hyde Park, N.Y., November 7, 1944, at

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Torchlight Parade

STATEMENTS FILE

I see some youngsters up a tree -- (laughter) -- which reminds me of earlier days, when I wanted to get away from the discipline of the family, and I climbed that very tree up where that highest youngster is now, and I disappeared and I couldn't be found. And they got everybody -- I think they got the fire department up trying to find me. ^{And} I realized that I was causing a good deal of commotion, so I said "Yoonoo," or something like that, and I came down. ^{PP} Well, Elmer, of course, is a very young man, because I remember my first torchlight parade right here in 1892, ^{PP} Cleveland's election. And I was ^{PP} asleep, or supposedly asleep, right up ^{PP} in this window, a little room at the head of the stairs; and I was listening, and I didn't know what was the matter -- a queer light outside the window, with people coming up on farm wagons -- before the days of the automobile. It was Hyde Park -- a large part of it -- coming down here to have a Democratic celebration. ^{PP} And I got up and appeared down here in an old-fashioned nightgown of some kind on this porch, and I wrapped up in an old Buffalo robe that came out of a wagon. And I had a perfectly grand evening. ^{PP} Now if Elmer were old enough, he would know about that. but he has done pretty well himself. He has been an awfully good supervisor for this town, and we are all mighty proud of our neighbor Elmer Van Wagner. ^{PP} And then there are all kinds of people that I remember, ^{which} only very old people like myself can remember. And I remember, once upon a time, I was fascinated by old Dan Barrett's ^{PP} brewery. And Dan, after meeting the train, which came in about twice a day in those days, used to bring people down here in his old bus, and I would go out there and I would talk to Dan Barrett by the hour. Now we have got a young Dan Barrett and

he is down here on this place, here on the right.

The reports that are coming in are not so bad -- (laughter) -- but I can't concede anything. Oh, I couldn't concede anything -- much too early. I can't make any statement at all. The State of New York as a whole seems to be going pretty well -- pretty well, but it's much too early to say anything. We won't get the final [redacted] returns on these so called [redacted] pivotal States for, I suppose, another hour. And they are working ^{out} all right, so far, and it looks as if I will have to come back here on a train from Washington for four more years. (applause) *P* And it's worth while still, and always will be, to leave Washington on a Friday night and get here Saturday morning, and go back to Washington on a Sunday night, just for two days up here. It will always be worth it. *P* And so I am glad to be here on this election day again -- I might say again and again and again! (laughter) But I'll be perfectly happy to come back here for good, as you all know. I don't have to tell you that. *P* It has been grand to see you. Thanks ever so much [redacted] for coming down, but I have been on the telephone all evening to almost every part of the country. I have got a ticker in there, and I get the returns on that. *I am* [^] trying to keep in touch with all these people -- [redacted] calling up a few people. *P* One -- one person I haven't called up. *I am* [^] I am waiting and holding my breath -- and that is a lady over in our neighboring State in Connecticut. (laughter) [redacted] She is running against another lady over in the adjoining State, and my friend seems to be winning. ^{not} (laughter) -- *she* [redacted] is ahead at the present time. [redacted] And if [redacted] ^{she} can only hold on to that lead, and they don't hold back the returns too long, [redacted] we will have a new Congresswoman down Bridgeport way. And so we have real hope [redacted], which will be rather

excellent for our own feelings, and I think if they prove true, a mighty good thing for this country. And that's a rough thing to say -- about the other lady. ^(laughter) I haven't had any word about the present Congressman from this District, but as I remarked yesterday somewhere, when I was taking ^a drive around, there is more than one way of getting rid of a Congressman. ^(laughter) You have known about it, being done by redistricting the State and putting the Congressman over in another county, but ⁱⁿ the last returns that I have just got, he is doing very well in Rockland County. -- I mean his opponent, Bennett. Bennett is also doing pretty well in Orange, and so there is a real possibility of our -- of our having a new Congressman in the lower districts. Of course, we are in a different district this time -- Thank God! ^(laughter)

So it has been good to see you, and I will have to go on back and do some more telephoning.

All right. Thanks.

^(appliance)

(not given to the press)

INFORMAL REMARKS Of The President

To The Torchlight Paraders On Election Night

On The Porch Of His Residence At Hyde Park, N. Y.

November 7, 1944, about 11.15 p.m., e.w.t.

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And it's worth while still, and always will be, to leave Washington on a Friday night and get here Saturday morning, and go back to Washington on a Sunday night, just for two days up here. It will always be worth it.

And so I am glad to be here on this election day again -- I might say again and again and again! (laughter) But I'll be perfectly happy to come back here for good, as you all know. I don't have to tell you that.

It has been grand to see you. Thanks ever so much for coming down, but I have been on the telephone all evening to almost every part of the country. I have got a ticker in there, and I get the returns on that. I am trying to keep in touch with all these people -- calling up a few people.

One -- one person I haven't called up -- I am waiting and holding my breath -- and that is a lady over in our neighboring State, in Connecticut. (laughter) She is running against another lady over in the adjoining State, and my friend seems to be winning -- (more laughter) -- she is ahead at the present time. And if she can only hold on to that lead, and they don't hold back the returns too long, we will have a new Congresswoman down Bridgeport way. And so we have real hope, which will be rather excellent for our own feelings -- and I think if they prove true, a mighty good thing for this country. And that's a rough thing to say -- about the other lady. (laughter)

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I remember in 1910 Wappingers Falls wasn't nearly so big when I came down here. I was a candidate in that year, and spoke from the balcony of the old hotel on the other side of the Wappingers bridge. All the population turned out, but it was only just about half this size.

It is good to come back here on this little pilgrimage which I seem to take fairly often. It can't be helped. I am not immune to what I was reputed to have said four years ago. I am not doing any prophesying for the future.

It is good to see you all. I hope to be back in Dutchess County more in the next four years. It isn't such a difficult thing commuting between Washington and Dutchess County. From that you can gather that I rather think that I will have to do it a little bit longer.

I don't know what Dutchess is going to do. I haven't any idea at all. But I have got some hope that I am not going to be beaten too badly in Dutchess County. You know, hope springs eternal in the human breast. And somebody on the trip yesterday up in New England was telling me that if I decided to run often enough, I would carry Maine and Vermont. So, as I say, hope springs eternal.

You know, I have quite a number of new friends down here, people who have come in during the last ten or twenty

years. I don't know what their first names are, yet I know many of their faces. And there are people who have moved in from other countries. And one of my jobs in Washington is to look after those other countries, countries that have been dominated by the Nazis -- Italy, for instance; and there are a lot of new Italians down here. And one of my jobs in Washington is to do all I can for the people of those countries to get them out from the horrors that they have had -- starvation, and everything else -- under Nazi domination. That is one of the interesting things about being President. We are doing all we can to get back spirit into those countries, where there won't be any more world wars like this one again.

I just want to tell you that I am glad to see you, because I think people in our county feel very much that they are neighbors -- real neighbors of each other. And that is the way I feel about Wappingers Falls. I have had relatives living in here up to a few years ago. I remember Mr. Grinnell, who donated a church on the other side of the square.

Wappingers Falls reminds me of when I was a small boy and we needed a cat up in Hyde Park. And Mrs. Grinnell had a very nice one, so we rode down for it, and we brought it back to Hyde Park in a basket, with a rug over it in the bottom of the wagon. And that cat stayed with us just twelve hours and then disappeared. The cat liked Wappingers Falls so much that it came all the way back, arriving here one week later.

INFORMAL REMARKS Of The President
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Immediate Release

Nov 6, '44.

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ance. *and there are a* lot of new

have had relative
Mr. Brown
remembered

(3)

Informal Remarks of the President at Beacon, New York,
November 8, 1944

~~I wasn't going to be introduced unless I was intro-
duced by Bob Hoyt -- a veteran of the war -- ever since
a hundred and
I just began to talk politics about six months ago.~~

I just wanted to stop on this tour to say "howdy do",
to my neighbors here in Beacon. I have been here off and on for
a very long number of years, and I am back again, still going
strong. And I hope to come back, and I think I am going to for
an occasional trip from Washington, D. C., for the next four
years.

It has been good to see you. I know that you are doing
pretty well in Beacon, from all the figures I get ~~and~~ you have done
a good job in this war. We are going ~~to~~ to keep on until
we win it, and then we hope to get a peace which will
last all the rest of our lives.

(in the S. C. (my/82))

Informal Remarks of the President at Newburgh, N. Y.,
November 6, 1944.

~~My~~ Sometimes it pays to be ahead of time, about 20 minutes earlier, and it has given me a chance to see this yard. I knew the origin of it about 40 years ago, and I am glad to see the Navy coming back to Newburgh.

When I get back to Washington, I am going to try, at least, to see that there is ~~xx~~ a flow of wood up here for continuous work as long as ~~this~~ this war lasts, anyway -- and after the war.

(G. C.)

1
-(T.). 2.2

~~Informal Remarks of the President at Newburgh, N. Y.,~~

(4)

~~November 6, 1944.~~

Informal Remarks of the President at Newburgh, N. Y.,
November 6, 1944

I am glad to be back here in Newburgh. I am glad to come back in the same old automobile along the same old streets. I have just had a glimpse of one of ^{your} ~~the~~ shipyards, and I am very happy to know that the Navy has come back to Newburgh, and I hope it will stay here.

50 or 100

I don't want to disappoint the ~~newspapermen~~ ^{newspapermen} who are with us. They wanted me to come down here and say all kinds of things about your Congressman and my Congressman. I am not going to disappoint them. I am going to talk to you about the legislature of the State of New York. The legislature at the last session redistricted the Congressional Districts, and while you and I used to have the same Congressman, we will not have the same Congressman after the first of January.

And that is why I want to give a little hand to the legislature.

In Dutchess, your neighbors have had the same Congressman for a great many years, almost back to the Dark Ages. ^{absolutely} And we are going to have a new Congressman ~~from a new district~~ ^{hooked up} with Columbia ~~and~~ and Ulster Counties on the first of January. And that is why I am rather pleased with what the legislature did this year.

However, we don't want to call anybody any names.

So good luck to you. And it's good to be here -- glad to be back in the old way. I hope Orange County is going to do all right tomorrow. Thanks.

— — — ~~11~~ ~~12~~ — — —

(5) ~~SECRET~~

L Informal Remarks of the President at Kingston, N. Y.,
November 6, 1944

From
Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, your neighbor across the river is mighty glad to be back here after four years. It has become a sort of a four-year custom by now. But it is rather a good custom for me to come to Kingston, and I always like it. I am happy, too, that now my county across the river is going to have a new Congressman. I told them in Newburgh that ^{I was very glad that} the ~~legislature~~ legislature had taken ~~my~~ my Congressman away from me, and that Hamilton Fish won't be my Congressman after the first of January.

You know, I go back in the history of this city quite a long way ^{to} because I had an ancestor who came up from New York to a place called Esopus about 1660, which is quite a way back. And he came up here just in time to take a musket and help to repel Indians that tried to kill all the original settlers. He was a member of what they call the militia in those days.

And that, perhaps, is why I inherited a good deal of love for the armed forces of the United States, who have been carrying on this war ~~forward~~ so magnificently.

The war is ^{not} in Kingston and Hyde Park physically. It ^{is} across the oceans. But ^{it means} ~~to fight the war~~ for the preservation of our homes in Hyde Park and in Kingston. ~~But~~ The people are beginning to realize more and more that we are fighting for the defense of America. I think we are doing a pretty good job of it.

It takes me ~~so~~ long to go from Hyde Park to Kingston because you have taken off the ferry. I was complaining to the Mayor about

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(6)

~~Kingston~~

it has never been
before.

it, and I think probably the only other thing to do is to build a bridge.

Well, it has been good to see you on this occasion.

~~As this is the~~ I think it's a bigger crowd than ~~it has been~~
before. ^{And} I hope that in the next four years ~~when I am~~ I will

~~from~~ an occasional week end at home from Washington ~~that~~ I will
be able to come over here and see you all.

In the meantime, I have heard of the great things you are
doing in the war. Your Mayor was telling me the wonderful figures,
the percentage of your boys that are in the armed forces, ^{and} I
want to congratulate you also on what you are doing for the Navy
in the two yards, one of which I happened to start 25 years ago.

So keep up the good work, and good luck to you. all. Goodbye.

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STATEMENTS FILE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR THE PRESS

November 6, 1944.

Informal remarks of the President at Wappingers Falls, N. Y., November 6, 1944.

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However, we don't want to call anybody any names.

So good luck to you. And it's good to be here -- glad to be back in the old way. I hope Orange County is going to do all right tomorrow. Thanks.

Informal Remarks of the President at Kingston, N. Y., November 6, 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, your neighbor from across the river is mighty glad to be back here after four years. It has become a sort of a four year custom by now. But it is rather a good custom for me to come to Kingston, and I always like it. I am happy, too, that now my county across the river is going to have a new Congressman. I told them in Newburgh that the legislature had taken my Congressman away from me, and that Hamilton Fish won't be my Congressman after the first of January.

You know, I go back into the history of this city quite a long way because I had an ancestor who came up from New York to a place called Esopus about 1680, which is quite a way back. And he came up here just in time to take a musket and help to repel Indians that tried to kill all the original settlers. He was a member of what they called the militia in those days.

And that, perhaps, is why I inherited a good deal of love for the armed forces of the United States, who have been carrying this war forward so magnificently.

The war isn't in Kingston and Hyde Park physically. It's across the oceans. But it means the preservation of our homes in Hyde Park and in Kingston. The people are beginning to realize more and more that we are fighting for the defense of America. I think we are doing a pretty good job of it.

It takes me longer to go from Hyde Park to Kingston because you have taken off the ferry. I was complaining to the Mayor about it, and I think probably the only other thing to do is to build a bridge.

Well, it has been good to see you on this occasion. I think it's a bigger crowd than we have ever had before. I hope that in the next four years I can come back for an occasional week end at home from Washington and that I will be able to come over here and see you all.

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In the meantime, I have heard of the great things you are doing in the war. Your Mayor was telling me the wonderful figures, the percentage of your boys that are in the armed forces. And I want to congratulate you also on what you are doing for the Navy in the two yards, one of which I happened to start 25 years ago.

So keep up the good work, and good luck to you.

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November 6, 1944.

Informal remarks of the President at Wappingers Falls, N. Y., November 6, 1944.

I remember in 1910 that Wappingers Falls wasn't nearly so big when I came down here. I was a candidate in that year, and spoke from the balcony of the old hotel on the other side of the Wappingers bridge, when the population was just about half this size.

It is good to come back here on this little pilgrimage which I seem to take fairly often. It can't be helped. I am not immune to what I was reputed to have said four years ago. I am not doing any prophesying for the future.

It is good to see you all. I hope to be back in Dutchess County more in the next four years. It isn't such a difficult thing commuting between Washington and Dutchess County -- from that you can gather that I rather think that I will have to do it a little bit longer.

I don't know what Dutchess is going to do. I haven't any idea at all. But I have got some hope that I am not going to be beaten too badly in Dutchess County. You know, hope springs eternal in the human breast. Somebody on the trip yesterday up in New England was telling me that if I decided to run often enough, I would carry Maine and Vermont. So, as I say, hope springs eternal.

You know, I have quite a number of new friends down here, people who have come in during the last ten or twenty years. I don't know what their first names are, yet I know many of their faces. There are people who have moved in from other countries. And one of my jobs in Washington is to look after those other countries, countries that have been dominated by the Nazis -- Italy, for instance -- and there are a lot of new Italians down here -- and one of my jobs in Washington is to do all I can for the people of those countries -- to rescue them from the horrors that they have been enduring -- starvation and everything else -- under Nazi domination. That is one of the interesting things about being President. We are doing all we can to get back spirit into those countries -- where there won't be any more world wars like this one.

I just want to tell you that I am glad to see you, because I think people in our county feel very much that they are neighbors -- real neighbors -- of each other. And that is the way I feel about Wappingers Falls. I have had relatives living here up to a few years ago. Wappingers Falls reminds me of when I was a small boy and we rode down here to bring a cat back to Hyde Park, and we brought it back in a basket, with a rug over it in the bottom of the wagon. And that cat stayed with us just 12 hours and disappeared. The cat liked Wappingers Falls so much that it came back, arriving here one week later.

Informal remarks of the President at Beacon, N. Y., November 6, 1944.

I just wanted to stop on this tour to say "howdy do" to my neighbors here in Beacon. I have been here off and on for a very long number of years, and I am back again, still going strong, and I hope to come back, and I think I am going to, for an occasional trip from Washington, D. C., for the next four years.

It has been good to see you. I know that you are doing pretty well in Beacon, from all the figures I get; and you have done a good job in this war. We are going to keep on until we win it, and then we hope to get a peace which will last all the rest of our lives.

Informal remarks of the President at Newburgh, N.Y., Nov. 6, 1944.

I am glad to be back here in Newburgh. I am glad to come back in the same old automobile along the same old streets. I have just had a glimpse of one of the shipyards, and I am very happy to know that the Navy has come back to Newburgh, and I hope it will stay here.

I don't want to disappoint the newspaper men who are with us. They wanted me to come down here and say all kinds of things about your Congressman and my Congressman. I am not going to disappoint them. I am going to talk to you about the legislature of the State of New York. The legislature at the last session redistricted the Congressional Districts, and while you and I used to have the same Congressman, we will not have the same Congressman after the first of January.

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So good luck to you. And it's good to be here -- glad to be back in the old way. I hope Orange County is going to do all right tomorrow. Thanks.

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Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, your neighbor from across the river is mighty glad to be back here after four years. It has become a sort of a four year custom by now. But it is rather a good custom for me to come to Kingston, and I always like it. I am happy, too, that now my county across the river is going to have a new Congressman. I told them in Newburgh that the legislature had taken my Congressman away from me, and that Hamilton Fish won't be my Congressman after the first of January.

You know, I go back into the history of this city quite a long way because I had an ancestor who came up from New York to a place called Esopus about 1660, which is quite a way back. And he came up here just in time to take a musket and help to repel Indians that tried to kill all the original settlers. He was a member of what they called the militia in those days.

And that, perhaps, is why I inherited a good deal of love for the armed forces of the United States, who have been carrying this war forward so magnificently.

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INFORMAL REMARKS Of The President
At Beacon, New York
November 6, 1944

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And I hope to come back -- and I think I am going to -- for an occasional trip from Washington, D. C. for the next four years.

It has been good to see you. I know that you are doing pretty well in Beacon, from all the figures I get. You have done a good job in this war. We are going to keep on until we win it, and then we hope to get a peace which will last all the rest of our lives.

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INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE President
At Beacon, New York
November 5, 1944

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And that, perhaps, is why I inherited a good deal of love for the armed forces of the United States, who have been carrying on this war so magnificently.

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So, keep up the good work, and good luck to you all.
Goodbye.

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
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Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor: Your neighbor from across the river is mighty glad to be back here after four years. It has become a sort of a four-year custom by now. But it is rather a good custom for me to come to Kingston, and I always like it. I am happy, too, that now my county across the river is going to have a new Congressman. I told them in Newburgh that I was very glad that the legislature had taken my Congressman away from me, and that Hamilton Fish won't be my Congressman after the first of January.

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INFORMAL REMARKS Of The President
To Some Shipyard Workers at Newburgh, N.Y.
Before Delivery Of His Main Remarks There
On November 6, 1944

Sometimes it pays to be ahead of time, about twenty minutes earlier, and it has given me a chance to see this yard. I knew the origin of it about forty years ago, and I am glad to see the Navy coming back to Newburgh.

When I get back to Washington, I am going to try, at least, to see that there is a flow of wood up here for continuous work, as long as this war lasts, anyway ---

SHIPYARD WORKERS: (interjecting) And after the war!

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and after the war.
(laughter and applause)

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I don't want to disappoint the fifty or a hundred newspaper men who are with us. They wanted me to come down here and say all kinds of things about your Congressman and my Congressman. I am not going to disappoint them. I am going to talk to you about the legislature of the State of New York. The legislature at the last session redistricted the Congressional Districts, and while you and I used to have the same Congressman, we will not have the same Congressman after the first of January.

And that is why I want to give a little hand to the legislature.

In Dutchess, your neighbors have had the same Congressman for a great many years, almost back to the Dark Ages. And we are going to have a new Congressman hooked up with Columbia and Ulster counties on the first of January. And that is why I am rather pleased with what the legislature did this year.

However, we don't want to call anybody any names.

So good luck to you. And it's good to be here -- glad to be back in the old way. I hope Orange county is going to

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Informal Remarks of the President, ~~before~~ before the Post Office,
Poughkeepsie, New York, November 6, 1944

Neighbors of mine, I have been today on another sentimental journey. I have been among my neighbors. I have come down on this side of the river and crossed a big "sea." And luckily there were no German submarines ⁱⁿ ~~on~~ that "sea" -- I went from Beacon to Newburgh.

And in my travels this day, I think I have seen a very encouraging sign of our American life -- I think the population is increasing enormously. I have seen more children than I knew existed in these three counties. They are coming along in good shape, and it encourages me greatly ^{to think} that the future of the country ~~will~~ ^{is} will be relatively safe in their hands, under a Constitution which has ^{more than} ~~last~~ 150 years, and I think as long as we increase as we are doing now ~~we will~~ ^{shall still} be living under the old Constitution 155 years ^{and} from now. having

~~Down~~ ^{There} in Newburgh I went through a shipyard ~~a few~~ ^{in the after part of the city} a few moments to spare, and ~~there~~ ^{there} was a crowd that was at least twice or three times the size it was four years ago. And that was encouraging. And I told them there that I did want to say a good word for our legislature because as you know, the duty of apportioning the Congressional Districts of this State is the duty of the legislature. And a curious thing happened recently. Our county used to be in the ~~same~~ ^{same} District with Putnam and Orange counties. And quite a number of people were irked, that the legislature changed it a ~~bit~~ ^{bit}. And then I think a Congressman was taken out of the District, ~~in so far as~~ ^{in so far as} Dutchess goes. So after the first of January we will be in a new Congressional District ~~we~~ ^{don't} won't be with

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Orange any more, and therefore we will have a new Congressman.

Well, my friends, there is more than one way of getting rid of a Congressman.

Then I went up to Kingston, and there again the crowd was at least twice the size it had been before, and I remarked to them -- you can see I am pure Hudson River when you come down to it -- ^{that} my mother's family came from Newburgh -- but up in Kingston -- well, there was an old boy in 1660 who went up ^{there} ~~from~~ from New York City. He was young, and I guess he was rather Dutch -- with the old stubborn qualities. About that time the Indians attacked Kingston, and he became a member of the militia that rolled the Indians back.

And I think that it is for that reason, perhaps, that I am interested and have been all my life -- though not in uniform -- in military and naval affairs. It comes from the old Dutch boy in 1660 who belonged to the militia.

But one sad thing happened. I had to come all the way back down the west side of the ~~river~~. They had taken off the Kingston ferry! Otherwise, the District and the county had changed very little in the last four years.

~~read~~
~~We have another great mission before us~~ We were headed at that time -- four years ago -- into a war. We didn't talk about it very much. It doesn't do to scare people or alarm people. But we did a good deal of building and preparation, and by 1941 we had over two million men in the Army and Navy. We built up our munitions factories. We sent a great deal of aid to the people who were fighting Nazism and Fascism. And the result was that we were better prepared for this war than we had been in

-3- Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

all our history for any war. We haven't been bombed in this country -- rap on wood -- and we haven't lost anything within our own boundaries during this war.

And now we are carrying on the offensive against ~~the enemy~~
the enemy, in order to make it quite certain that our own homes back here ^{shall} be safe; ~~the enemy~~

I don't know -- I think we have done a fair job of it, but anyway we have done it in the American way, with the approval of the American people, and that is something -- to go on with our same ideals, our same form of government ~~as we have always done~~ ^{as we have always done}.

And I hope tomorrow that it is going to be said in this country that the war has been conducted constitutionally, and with the approval of the people of the United States. I hope that will be said. I think it will.

~~I think the next time I come back -- oh, not between now and January 20th -- but that after January 20th the President of the United States will still live in Dutchess county, New York.~~

And so it has been good -- it has been a good day. I have seen my near neighbors, ~~the neighbors~~. I have seen the neighbors across the River and down the county -- the southern end. I have seen an awful lot of people. It has been a good day, and I want to thank you for coming out tonight at this late hour, because it has given me a chance to see some of my nearer neighbors.

It is good to see you, and I am going to come back pretty often,

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And in my travels this day, I think I have seen a very encouraging sign of our American life -- I think the population is increasing enormously. I have seen more children than I knew existed in these three counties. They are coming along in good shape, and it encourages me greatly that the future of the country, it will be relatively safe in their hands, under a Constitution which has last 150 years, and I think as long as we increase as we are doing now -- with good American sentiments -- we will still be living under the old Constitution 155 years from now.

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But one sad thing happened. I had to come all the way back down the west side of the river. They had taken off the Kingston ferry! Otherwise, the District and the county had changed very little in the last four years.

We were headed at that time -- four years ago -- into a war. We didn't talk about it very much. It doesn't do to scare people or alarm people. But we did a good deal of building and preparation, and by 1941 we had over two million men in the Army and Navy. We built up our munitions factories. We sent a great deal of aid to the people who were fighting Nazism and Fascism. And the result was that we were better prepared for this war than we had been in all our history for any war. We haven't been bombed in this country -- rap on wood -- and we haven't lost anything within our own boundaries during this war.

And now we are carrying on the offensive against the enemy, in order to make it quite certain that our own homes back here shall be safe.

I don't know -- I think we have done a fair job of it, but anyway we have done it in the American way, with the approval of the American people, and that is something -- to go on with our same ideals, our same form of government -- as we have always done.

And I hope tomorrow that it is going to be said in this country that the war has been conducted constitutionally, and with the approval of the people of the United States. I hope that will be said. I think it will.

And so it has been good -- it has been a good day. I have seen my near neighbors. I have seen the neighbors across the river and down the county -- the southern end. I have seen an awful lot of people. It has been a good day, and I want to thank you for coming out tonight at this late hour, because it has given me a chance to see some of my nearer neighbors.

It is good to see you, and I am going to come back pretty often.

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 1944.

Informal remarks of the President, before the Post Office, Poughkeepsie, New York, November 6, 1944.

Neighbors of mine, I have been today on another sentimental journey. I have been among my neighbors. I have come down on this side of the river and acrossed a big "sea". And luckily there were no German submarines in that "sea" -- I went from Beacon to Newburgh.

And in my travels this day, I think I have seen a very encouraging sign of our American life -- I think the population is increasing enormously. I have seen more children than I knew existed in these three counties. They are coming along in good shape, and it encourages me greatly to think that the future of the country will be relatively safe in their hands, under a Constitution which has lasted more than 150 years -- and I think as long as we increase as we are doing now -- we shall still be living under the same old Constitution 155 years from now.

Down in Newburgh I went through a shipyard, having a few moments to spare, and then in the upper part of the city there was a crowd that was at least twice or three times the size it was four years ago. And that was encouraging. And I told them there that I did want to say a good word for our legislature because as you know, the duty of apportioning the Congressional Districts of this State is the duty of the legislature. And a curious thing happened recently. Our county used to be in the same District with Putnam and Orange counties. And quite a number of people were irked, that the legislature changed it a bit. And then I think a Congressman was taken out of the District, insofar as Dutchess goes. So, after the first of January we will be in a new Congressional District -- we won't be with Orange any more, and therefore we will have a new Congressman.

Well, my friends, there is more than one way of getting rid of a Congressman.

Then I went up to Kingston, and there again the crowd was at least twice the size it had been before, and I remarked to them -- you can see I am pure Hudson River when you come down to it -- that my mother's family came from Newburgh -- but up in Kingston -- well, there was an old boy in 1660 who went up there from New York City. He was young, and I guess he was rather Dutch -- with the old stubborn qualities. About that time the Indians attacked Kingston, and he became a member of the militia that rolled the Indians back.

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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.

STATEMENTS FILE

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