I am glad to be here.

It does my heart good to see the grain fields of the Nation again. They are a wonderful sight.
The record-breaking harvests you have been getting in recent years have been a blessing. Millions of people have been saved from starvation by the food you have produced.
The whole world has reason to be everlastingly grateful to the farmers of the United States.
In a very real sense, the abundant harvests of this country are helping to save the world from Communism.

Communism thrives on human misery. And the crops you are producing are driving back the tide of misery in many lands. Your farms are a vital element in America's foreign policy.

And while I am on that subject - I know that the war talk which is so prevalent today is causing all of you deep concern. It is plain enough that we are facing a very disturbing international situation.

I should like every American to realize that this country is making every possible effort to preserve the peace.
In this critical situation, my motto has been:

"Keep your temper and stand firm." We have kept our tempers.

We have stood firm. And we have been reasonable and straight-forward at all times.

It is the policy of this Government to continue working for peace with every instrument at our command.

At the same time, we have been rapidly building up our strength.

The peace of the world and the prestige of the United States require that the Nation be strong and vigilant.

But that is not the main point I wish to cover today.

In addition to the issue of peace, there is another important reason why this is a critical period for America.

I am talking about our economic future - your economic future.
Will this Nation succeed in keeping its prosperity?

Will it preserve its high standards of living next year,

and the year after, and the year after that?

I know of only one way to get assured prosperity.

That is by cooperation among agriculture, labor, and business,

large and small.

When these groups work together in a common cause,

this country can achieve miracles. We saw that during the war.

We saw it before the war. By common effort, in the last

fifteen years, every group in the Nation steadily increased

its income. Our people rose from disparity to the highest

living standards in our history.
So long as the farmer, the worker and the
businessman pull together in the national interest,
this country has everything to hope for.

But it is terribly dangerous to let any one group
get too much power in the Government. We cannot afford
to let one group shape the Nation's policies in its own interest,
at the expense of the others.

That is what happened in the Nineteen Twenties,
under the big business rule of the Republicans.
Those were the days when big corporations had things
their own way. The policies that Wall Street big business wanted
were the policies that the Republicans adopted.
Agriculture, labor, and small business played second fiddle,
while big business called the tune.
Those were the days of Republican high tariffs -- tariffs that penalized the American farmer by making him pay high prices for manufactured goods, while he was receiving low prices for his crops.

You remember the results of that Wall Street Republican policy.

You remember the big boom and the great crash of Nineteen Twenty-nine.

You remember that in Nineteen Thirty-two the position of the farmer had become so desperate, that there was actual violence in many farming communities.

You remember that insurance companies and banks took over much of the land of small independent farmers.
That was a painful lesson. It should not be forgotten for a moment.

Since then, the farmer has come a long way. 

The agricultural program of the Democratic Administration in sixteen years has enabled farmers to attain decent standards of living. Interest rates on farm credit have been sharply brought down. Farm mortgage indebtedness has been reduced by more than fifty per cent. Farm mortgage foreclosures have almost disappeared.

All this was done under and by Democratic Administrations.

Today the world needs more food than ever before. There is every reason for the American farmer to expect a long period of good prices — if he continues to get a fair deal.

His great danger is that he may be voted out of a fair deal, and into a Republican deal.
The Wall Street reactionaries are not satisfied with being rich. They want to increase their power and their privileges, regardless of what happens to the other fellow. They are glutons of privilege.

These glutons of privilege are now putting up fabulous sums of money to elect a Republican administration.

Why do you think they are doing it? For love of the Republican candidates? Or do you think it is because they expect a Republican administration to carry out their will, as it did in the days of Harding, Coolidge and Hoover?
I think we know the answer: Wall Street expects its money this year to elect a Republican administration that will listen to the gluttons of privilege first, and the people not at all.

The Republican reactionaries want an Administration that will assure privilege for big business, regardless of what may happen to the rest of the Nation.

The Republican strategy is to divide the farmer and the industrial worker — to get them to squabbling with each other — so that big business can grasp the balance of power, and take the country over lock, stock and barrel.

To achieve this end, they will stop at nothing.
On the one hand, the Republicans are telling industrial workers that the high cost of food in the cities is due to this Government's farm price policy. On the other hand, the Republicans are telling farmers that the high cost of manufactured goods on the farm is due to this Government's labor policy.

That's plain hokum. It's an old political trick.

"If you can't convince them, confuse them."

But this time it won't work.

The farmer and the worker know that their troubles have been coming from another source.

In 1933 under the Republicans, 12 to 15 million were unemployed with average wages 45 cents and men had 15 cents can of 3 cents loaf.
They remember one plain fact. Never once
during the great crises of the past fifty years have the
Wall Street Republican Administrations lifted a finger
to help the farmer. Wait a minute - they did once.
They gave you a Farm Board. That was their great contribution.

How well you must remember the depression of the
Nineteen Thirties. The Republicans gave you that
greatest of all depressions. When hogs went down to three cents,
And corn was so cheap you were burning it for fuel.

All through this century the American farmer and
worker have been the victims of boom and bust cycles -
with the accent on bust. And they have suffered alike
in these misfortunes.
How many times do you have to be hit on the head before you find out what's hitting you? It's about time that the people of America realized what the Republicans have been doing to them.

Why is it that the farmer and the worker and the small businessman suffer under Republican administrations, and gain under Democratic administrations?

I'll tell you why. It is a result of a basic difference in attitude between the Democratic and the Republican parties.

The Democratic party represents the people. It is pledged to work for agriculture. It is pledged to work for labor. It is pledged to work for the small businessman and the white-collar worker.
The Democratic attitude puts human rights and human welfare first.

But the attitude of the Republican gluttons of privilege is very different. The big money Republican looks on agriculture and labor merely as expense items in a business venture. He tries to push their share of the national income down as low as possible and increase his own profits. And he looks upon the Government as a tool to accomplish that purpose.

These Republican gluttons of privilege are cold men. They are cunning men. And it is their constant aim to put the Government of the United States under the control of men like themselves. They want a return of the Wall Street economic dictatorship.
You have already had a sample of what a Republican administration would mean to you.

Two years ago, in the Congressional elections, many Americans decided that they would not bother to vote. Others thought they would like to have a change. And they brought into power a Republican Congress. The notorious "do nothing" Republican 80th Congress.

Let us look at the results of that change.

This Republican Congress has already stuck a pitchfork in the farmer's back.

They have already done their best to keep price supports from working. Many growers have sold wheat this summer at less than the support price, because they could not find proper storage.
When the Democratic Administration had to face
this problem in the past, the Government set up grain bins
all over the wheat and corn belts to provide storage.

Now the farmers need such bins again.

But when the Republican Congress rewrote the charter
of the Commodity Credit Corporation this year,
there were certain lobbyists in Washington representing
the speculative grain trade.

These big-business lobbyists and speculators
persuaded the Congress not to provide storage bins for the farmers.

They tied the hands of the Administration.

They are preventing us from setting up the storage bins
that you will need in order to get the support price for your grain.
When farmers have to sell their wheat below
the support price because they have no place to store it,
they can thank this same Republican Congress,
the Congress that gave the speculative grain trade a rake-off
at your expense.

But the Republican reactionaries are not satisfied
with that. Now they are attacking the whole structure
of price supports for farm products.

This attack comes at a time when many farm prices
are dropping and the price support program is of the greatest
importance to the farmer.
The Democratic Party originated the farm support program. We built the price support plan out of hard experience. We built it for the benefit of the entire Nation, not only the farmer, but the consumer as well.

Republican spokesmen are now complaining that my Administration is trying to keep farm prices up. They have given themselves away. They have given you a plain hint of what they have in store for you if they come into power. They are obviously ready to let the bottom drop out of farm prices.

The purpose of price support is to prevent farm prices from falling to ruinously low levels. Every consumer should realize that these supports apply only when farm prices have dropped below parity.
The Government is not now supporting the price
on major food items, such as meats, dairy products,
and poultry.

The Government has just begun to support
the price of wheat, which has dropped from around
three dollars a bushel to about two dollars.

This support price has nothing to do with the price
the consumer is paying for his bread.

When wheat prices were going up,
the price of bread rose steadily. It went up from
ten cents a loaf to eleven cents - to twelve cents -
to thirteen cents - to fourteen cents.
Now wheat prices have fallen a dollar a bushel.

But the price of bread has not come down one cent.

There you have the policy of reactionary big business.

Pay as little as you can to the farmer, and charge the consumer all that he can bear. That is a fair sample of what the Republican reaction has meant to you in the past two years.

To you, and to every consumer, in cities and on farms alike.

When the Republicans claim that wheat price supports are to blame for the high price of bread, they are trying to stir up the city consumer against the farmer by downright dishonesty.

The truth of the matter is that by encouraging the record production of the last few years, the support program has actually kept consumer prices down.
Those who are wilfully trying to discredit
the price support system don't want farmers to be prosperous.

They believe in low prices for farmers, cheap wages for labor,
and high profits for big corporations.

These are the facts the people need to know.

I am going to keep hammering away at the facts until
the whole country rings with the truth about these gluttons
of privilege.

The record of the Republican 80th Congress is
one long attack on the welfare of the farmer.

Under the Democratic Administration since
Nineteen Thirty-three, the Government sponsored the great
soil conservation program that helped to lay the foundations
for the present prosperity of the American farmer.
But the Republican 80th Congress, under the false mask of economy, cut and threatened to kill the soil conservation program. You people here know best the importance of soil conservation to American agriculture.

You know what the reactionary attack on soil conservation will cost the farmer if we let the Republicans have their own way.

At every point the Republican 80th Congress did what the speculative grain lobby wanted it to do. They killed the International Wheat Agreement, which would have assured American wheat growers a large export market for five years at fair prices.

They started a move to put a death-tax on farm cooperatives.

They ruled out the grain bins that help make the ever-normal granary effective.
They have invited a depression by refusing
to curb inflation.

And now they are attacking the farm support program.

The Wall Street Republicans are not worrying
about whether you like it or not. Their political wiseacres
have assured them that the farmer has fallen back into
his old habit of voting Republican, whatever happens.
The Republicans are saying, "Don't worry about the farm vote.
It's in the bag'.

So long as you had a good year once in a while,
you would be satisfied.

So they thought. So they think today.
You and I know they're making a big mistake.

From what I have seen, the farmers of this country have their eyes open. You're not going to be fooled again by the slick propaganda of Wall Street.

In only two years, with only the Congress under their control, the Republicans were able to weaken your position gravely.

Well, imagine what would happen if they were to get both the Congress and the Presidency for four years. What they have taken away from you thus far would be only an appetizer for the economic tapeworm of big business.
Your best protection is to elect a Democratic Congress and a President that will play fair with the farmer.

An Administration that will reinforce soil conservation, provide adequate storage facilities for grain, encourage production, and help the farmer make enough on his crop to meet the cost of living, and have something left over.

I don't need to tell you how long it takes to get a good crop, and how big the dangers are.

You can work a year, plowing and cultivating, and then at the last minute, a sudden drought or flood can wipe you out. You all know how terrible these disasters of Nature can be.
Now you are faced with the danger of another kind of disaster — a man-made disaster bearing the Republican trademark. For sixteen years the Democrats have been working on a crop of prosperity for the farmer. We have been plowing, seeding, and cultivating the soil of the American economy in order to get the crop of prosperity that you have been enjoying for the past several years.

The question is: Are you going to let another Republican blight wipe out your prosperity?

I have reminded you of the evils wrought by Republican administrations in recent times. But my purpose has not been merely to bring up the past. I am trying to point the way to a healthy future. The Democratic Party is looking forward, not back. We are planning to aid the farmers of America meet their pressing problems and avoid catastrophe.
Today farmers are faced with the threat that markets will fail to keep up with their production. The reactionary Republican answer is to let prices crash to the bottom. But the Democratic Party has a constructive way of preventing such a collapse.

We are reaching out to develop world markets that will absorb production above America's own needs. Scientific research is discovering more and new uses for farm products. We know that the world can absorb the farmers' output, if the right conditions are created, and we are working to insure continued prosperity for American agriculture.
The Democratic Party is fighting the farmer's battle.

We believe that farmers are entitled to share equally
with other people in our national income. We believe
that a prosperous and productive agriculture is essential
to our national welfare.

But the Democratic Party does not stand in defense
of the farmer alone. It stands for the people of the United States -
the farmer, the industrial workers, and the white-collar worker.

Our intentions are made clear by our deeds.
In this Twentieth Century, every great step forward has come
during Democratic administrations of the National Government.
Every movement backward has come under Republican auspices,
and it is the people who have paid dearly for these reactionary
moves.
Too much is now at stake — here and throughout
the world — to take the wrong path now.

There is one way to stop the forces of reaction.

Get every vote out on Election Day, and make it count.
You can't afford to waste your votes this year.

I'm not asking you just to vote for me.

Vote for yourselves! Vote for your farms!

Vote for the standard of living that you have won under a
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