
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

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Hudson, NY

October 27, 1910

[Speech at Hudson]

FDR Speech File

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Franklin D. Roosevelt's

Speech as Democratic Candidate for State Senator, Hudson, N.Y., Oct. 27, 1910

"In the course of the last two weeks, I have been travelling from town to town, from farm house to farm house, in these magnificent counties along our great river, and my heart has grown glad and I have thanked God that it fell to my lot to be born and to have lived as one of the people of this Hudson Valley. For with every new face that I have met it has been impressed upon me that here we have a population that is truly American in the best sense of the word; a people alive, a people desirous of progress and of real representation and honest, efficient government. And this being so, I have found no many Democrats who hold that every Republican is a crook, not many Republicans who hold every Democrat a rascal. I believe that there is a thorough independence in these counties of the right sort, independence which will look into the qualification and records of the opposing candidates and choose between them in their fitness. What would have happened to our country without that independence, what has not happened in the past in those sections where that independence did not exist?

"Representation I think is a word that is often wrongly used, often taken in vain. It is a word which should be sacred to every American, to every candidate, to every office holder, and to every voter. Somewhere in the back of my head I have a good deal of reverence for that word. For I believe in the old-fashioned meaning. I believe that your Assemblyman and your Senator should represent the whole people. And I believe that you have had in the past a good many Assemblymen and Senators who didn't do just that, and I think you will allow that I'm right.

If the people of the State have had real representation would you have had a corruption inquiry? Would you have had extravagance and bad government at Albany, would you have had a Legislature whose name is a bye-word

for rottenness throughout the land?

"Now I have met my opponent, Senator Schlosser, and I have nothing to say against him personally or against his personal integrity. But I so say this: I do not believe that he has been a real representative of the people of the 26th Senatorial district. Whether it is that he has represented the Sage of Chatham by long distance 'phone, or whether it is that he has represented nobody at all except himself I don't know. But I do know that he hasn't represented me and I do know that he hasn't represented you.

"Now my friends, you have a right to know what I stand for, and you can always find out at any time. I want to represent you, the people of these counties and no one else. I am pledged to no man, to no special interest, to no boss. I want to stay on the job of representing you twelve months out of the year. I want to get to know you all if possible, personally, and as friends, and I want to know your wishes and nobody else's.

"If finally, I stand for progress and honesty and efficiency in our government, and I will do my best if elected to help clean up and wipe out the blot that rests upon the name of the Legislature of this fair State."

from: Hudson (N.Y.) Evening Register, Oct. 28, 1910, p. 4.
(filed in Columbia County Courthouse Building, Hudson, N.Y.)

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