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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1910 October 31

Poughkeepsie, NY
Franklin D. Roosevelt's
Speech as Democratic Candidate for N.Y. State Senator
Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, N.Y. - October 31, 1910

(excerpt)

"... Last week, Mr. Connell and I went on an automobile
speaking tour through Duchess county and we were both
'delighted' at the 'bully' reception we got everywhere.

In fact the trip was something new and almost unheard
of in past campaigns in this district. It was a success
in every way. We spoke to a great number of people
everywhere.

We told our audiences what we stood for, where we
stood and why we stood there. As a result we had the
satisfaction of obtaining the endorsement and support
of many independents and Republicans.

The effect on the Republican politicians was to say
the least amusing. One Republican leader in southern
Duchess was so upset at our success that he sent out the
report that our car had been upset in the Pawling moun-
tains and we had all been killed or badly hurt. But it
acted as a boomerang.

The crowds were bigger than ever and people from all
over the countryside turned out to hear the corpses.
But the trip did more. It woke up the Hon. Hamilton
Fish. He so far forgot himself as to launch forth in
an attack on the trip and on me.
At the meeting in Pekespie Saturday night he called the trip a vaudeville tour for the benefit of the farmers.

Now I want to ask Mr. Fish a few questions. Does he sneer at our trip with these words because we carried and were not ashamed to carry on our automobile the American flag? Or was it because we did a thing he never did—went about among the whole section, and gave the people a chance to see their candidates, to meet them face to face, and to find out what they stood for, and to tell them personally what they desired. Will Mr. Fish do this? Will he go through the county and tell the people why he posed as an Insurgent in Washington and as a 'Standpatter' here?

The truth is, my friends, that Mr. Fish is alarmed because he is up against a man who will be a real representative of no special interests, of no bosses, but of the whole people. A man of the people, from the people and a man who will be elected, Richard E. Connell.

I am standing on the same platform that he does. I want to represent all the voters of the entire district for I believe in the word 'representative' as it is used in the Constitution.

I am never ashamed to let anybody know just where I stand. In the first place I stand for honesty and we surely need it. I stand for efficiency, and by efficiency I mean real representation 12 months of the year and of
the whole people all of that time. I ask your support
and I will bend my best endeavors to make good...."