

---

**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**

**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

---

**File No. 5**

**1910 October 31**

**Poughkeepsie, NY**

October 31, 1910

[Speech at Poughkeepsie]

FDR Speech File

0005

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 Dutchess 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 Dutchess was so upset at our success that he sent out the report that our car had been upset in the Pawling mountains 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.

Speech as Democratic Candidate, Oct. 31, 1910 (cont.)

~~Franklin D. Roosevelt~~

At the meeting in Pokeepsie 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

Speech as Democratic Candidate... Oct 31, 1910 (cont)  
Franklin D. Roosevelt's

the whole people all of that time. I ask your support  
and I will bend my best endeavors to make good...."

from: The Evening Enterprise, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.  
Nov. 1, 1910.

copied: April 31, 1948