Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945
Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 7

1910 November 5

Hyde Park, NY
Franklin D. Roosevelt made this campaign speech in Hyde Park when he was running for state senator in 1910.
I am glad to be home. For four weeks I have travelled almost day or night over the counties of Dutchess, Putnam, Columbia, in an endeavor to conduct what I believe to be the right and better kind of a campaign, that for I think that the voters have a right to see and hear and talk with their candidates for public office. And while I have enjoyed every moment of it while I have come to the more pressed than ever that I am a Dutchess County man, yet I can truly say that I am most glad that I was born and brought up in the town of Hyde Park.
I am not going to talk about myself here tonight, for you all of you here know and have known about my family for generations. You have known what was my father stood for before me, you have known how close he was to the life of this town, and I do not need to tell you that it is my desire always to follow in his footsteps.

I want to say a few words about the issues on which I am making this fight. I have of course been very familiar as far as you with the conditions which existed in the county and in the city of Poughkeepsie.
to four or five years ago.
And we have known that
under the leadership of Mr.
Chamber and of Major League
and District City. John Macf
in public life, and of such
men as Mr. Hackett in private
life, the government of the
County and of The City of Paul.
People have been elected
throughly cleaned, and put
upon an honest and efficient
basis. And this has been
accomplished by men elected
upon the Democratic ticket,
who when elected have ad-
ministered their offices for
the good not of one party,
only, but for that of the
whole community.

And I believe this too a
Parable is going to be told.
in the legislature of the state. In the legislature of
at Albany, and in the
Senate especially, conditions
have been thought to height
that make the people of New
York ashamed all over the
English speaking world; for
des representation, men who
beginning with the bills that
last year we have had
following up
constant after scandal, and
taking. We in the second
Assembly District of Dutchess
have cause to feel proud
that of all men in the
legislature our representative
last year stood conspicuous
through it all as the champion
of honesty and efficiency.
He has consistently opposed
The wasteful extravagance of the old Board, and it was this voice which was raised in an effort to expose all the graft and all the corruption that threatened this kind of waste. That old little Ring of Republican politicians which opposed him and has effectively prevented the house-cleaning which was so urgently needed.

Now, my friends, I have not and shall not say any thing personal about my opponent, Senator Schloemer. His record is public however, and upon his record he must stand. He has been known as an opponent of
Adopted direct primaries, an opponent of Geo. Hughes, and in a nutshell a member of that little band of Republican politicians who have done so much to prevent progress and good government. I do not know whom Senator Schooner represents. Whether he has most represented the people, or special interests, or himself I do not know. But I do know that he has not represented me. I do know that he has not represented hundreds of Republican & Independents throughout the District. He has not been seen in a Baptist Church Probably
A majority of the voters of the 3 counties
And my friends
I want to say the word about myself - I am running squarely on the
issue of honesty, economy, efficiency in our State Senate, and Dam on the
right side of that issue. I want the privilege of representing you, and I
will take it in the greater honor of all of you
will give your fellow
Townsmen your support
next Tuesday
1910

Campaign Speech

[Handwritten text not legible due to the quality of the image.]

Hyde Park, 1910
F.D.R. Longhand.

1910

Campaign speech for the State Senate. (in Hyde Park)
Speech given by Franklin D. Roosevelt in Hyde Park on
November 5, 1910.

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almost day & night over the counties of Dutchess, Putnam &
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voters have a right to see and hear and talk with their can-
didates for public office. And while I have enjoyed every
moment of it, while I have come to be more proud than ever
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Hyde Park. I am not going to talk about myself here tonight
for all of you here know and have known about either me or my
family for generations. You have known what my father stood
for before me, you have known how close he was to the life of
this town, and I do not need to tell you that it is my desire
always to follow in his footsteps.

I want to say a few words about the issues on which I
am making this fight. I have of course been very familiar
as have you with the evil conditions which existed in the
County and in the City of Poughkeepsie up to four or five
years ago. And we have known that under the leadership of
Mr. Chanler and of Mayor Sague and District Atty. John Mack
in public life, and with the aid of such men as Mr. Hackett
in private life, the government of this County and of the
City of Poughkeepsie have been thoroughly cleaned, and put
upon an honest and efficient basis. And this has been ac-
complished by men elected upon the Democratic ticket, who
when elected have administered their offices for the good
not of one party only, but for that of the whole community.

And I believe a parallel is going to be made in the
legislature of the State. In the Legislature at Albany,
and in the Senate especially, conditions have been brought
to light that make the people of New York ashamed all over
the English speaking world. We in the second Assembly Dis-
trict of Dutchess have cause to feel proud that of all men
in the Legislature our representative last year stood con-
spicuous through it all as the champion of honesty and eff-
iciency. He has consistently opposed the wasteful extrava-
gance of the Little Ring of Republican politicians, and it
was his voice which was raised in an effort to expose all
the graft and all the corruption, and it was that Little
Ring of Republican politicians which opposed him and has
effectually prevented the house-cleaning which was & is so
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to prevent progress and good government. I do not know who Senator Schlosser represents, whether he has represented bosses, or special interests or himself I do not know. But I do know that he has not represented me, I do know that he has not represented hundreds of Republicans & Independents throughout the District. He has never been seen in probably a majority of the towns of the 3 Counties.

And now my friends I want to say one word about myself - I am running squarely on the issue of honesty & economy & efficiency in our State Senate, and I am on the right side of that issue.

I want the privilege of representing you, and I will take it as the greatest honor of all if you will give your fellow townsmen your support next Tuesday.