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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 23

1913 August 19

Poughkeepsie, NY

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FDR Speech File

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result of his efforts.

The officers of the Dolphin, of the U. S. Navy, were entertained at a dinner at the small dining room in the Nelson House last evening by a number of well known citizens of the city. There were present from the Dolphin, Capt. G. W. Law, Lieut. L. A. Lamb, Surgeon J. P. Traylor, Paymaster J. H. Knapp, Lieut. J. James, Ensign J. R. Barry, Ensign A. S. Simpson. After the cigars had been lighted John K. Sague, who presided, called upon various persons for speeches and stories and the officers were given a royal good time. There were present Justice Joseph Morschauer, Congressman Edmund Platt, C. Gordon Keel, former State Commissioner of Highways, Assemblyman Kelly, Judge George V. L. Spratt, Joseph Spratt, Peter H. Morgan, C. F. Cossum, Herbert Pinkham, of Khlnebeck, Thomas Allen, J. C. Denney, H. O. Alexander.

Mr. Sague Speaks.

John K. Sague was the second speaker, appearing for Mayor Frank. Mr. Sague said:

"I suppose many of you fellows exclaimed a year ago what kind of a town is that which wants to get this big convention. Now we propose to show you. It matters not if Foughkeepsie is bounded on the north by an insane asylum; on the east by a girls' college; on the west by the river; and on the south by the rural cemetery, we want to assure you we are all alive and there is something doing for you every minute of your stay.

"This afternoon you will be afforded visions of a wonderful panorama as you will down the beautiful Hudson to West Point. We have nothing to apologize for, not even for our women or men. When Foughkeepsie had its men to the battlefield or to the political field they have given us no cause to apologize for their citizenship. Now let me ask you, when has the United States government ever before recognized the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows. Today we are honored with a warship and a national envoy to represent the government at this grand lodge.

"You will find many men looking for you in Foughkeepsie, not for your money, but for your pleasure. In behalf of the mayor and the city of Foughkeepsie I extend to you a most hearty welcome to Foughkeepsie.

"Our city is glad to welcome within its borders such a great stable element, who represent the great spirit of fraternalism. We are made better citizens and better men by it, and Foughkeepsie is proud to welcome you all."

Secretary Roosevelt's Address.

After a selection by Hon. J. B. England from Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, was introduced and given a great ovation, the assembly standing.

Mr. Roosevelt started his remarks by explaining he had lived all his life time in a little village, six miles north of Foughkeepsie.

Continuing, Mr. Roosevelt said: "While coming on the train I was thinking over things that have come

to me in the last five months and what they have brought me. The principles of this order are but the principles of our government under which we live. It is a good thing to get away from home, from liberty from Washington, and meet with conditions in other places.

"I think that one of the lessons you and I have learned is one of loyalty, which can be seen on the face of nearly every man. You go to the convention and fight to win it. If you lose you go back and attend the convention and give it a loyal support.

"This should be the same in politics. We have had great political fighting, and we are going to have more. We will put in those who will fight along the right lines. We are going through a development in this country. We are beginning, more than ever, to look at things with higher ideas. It is the true teachings of Odd Fellowship.

"Organizations are essential just as long as they live up to the people who made them; when they no longer represent the people they should die."

Mr. Roosevelt then spoke of the navy and its excellent condition and its standing.

In concluding, Mr. Roosevelt welcomed the Grand Lodge in behalf of the county Odd Fellows by saying: "We do this not simply because of names of membership card, but because you stand for the right kind of men and are loyal."

Grand Master Responds.

The response for the Grand Lodge was made by Grand Master Gristenstein. The grand master thanked the speakers for their kind words and for courtesies and hospitality already shown towards the visiting Odd Fellows by Foughkeepsie. He mentioned the fact it was the first time the Grand Lodge had ever met in this city, and mentioned Lafayette of Wappingers Falls, Foughkeepsie No. 11 of Foughkeepsie, Eyergreen, of Beacon City and Rhinebeck as being the oldest in the district of Dutchess; large in membership, strong in finances, and adding greatly to the growth of the order, with a steady pace.

The grand master stated that he trusted the meeting would be a great benefit not only to the convention but wherever there is Odd Fellowship.

"I am pleased to say our great brotherhood stands upon a pure and safe foundation and that peace and harmony prevail. I extend to you our best thanks for the Grand Lodge."

Public Session Closed.

This brought the public meeting to an end, and those not entitled to a seat in the Grand Lodge dismissed on request of Grand Master Gristenstein. The Grand Lodge then went into regular session, and after roll call the opening ode was sung and the business of the convention taken up.

A report of the credential committee was made; the grand master appointed various committees; visiting grand officers were introduced, and then an adjournment was taken until tomorrow morning.

Immediately following the close of the session a photograph was taken of the 84 representatives on file taken in the rear of the armory, by O. N.


Demanding in

WASHINGTON.—Charge O'Shaughnessy of the Amberbassy today cabled Secretary from Mexico City that through the foreign minister phatically denies that the foundation whatever for a

1913, August 19, Evening Star, N.Y., Foughkeepsie, N.Y., August 19, 1913.

Speech of Franklin D. Roosevelt before the Grand Lodge Convention of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Foughkeepsie, N.Y., August 19, 1913. (Foughkeepsie, N.Y., Evening Star, August 19, 1913)

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