
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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FDR Speech File

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ANTI-TAMMANY CANDIDATES ASK SUPPORT HERE

Franklin D. Roosevelt Says He Will Work for Gerard if Beaten at Primaries

TO MAKE WILSON ISSUE

About 400 persons men and women, gathered in the Symphony Theater last evening and listened to addresses by Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt and other candidates on the Hennessy State ticket setting forth reasons why this ticket should be designated at the coming primaries in preference to the regular or organization designations.

Franklin D. Roosevelt reached this city shortly after 4 o'clock and was greeted by City Clerk Fancher M. Hopkins and escorted to the Arlington where from 4 to 7:30 he held an informal reception.

Among the Democrats who gathered at the hotel to greet him were: Cortland A. Wilber, Arthur J. Roland, Peter J. McManus, Riley W. Sampson, Cornelius Cary, Fancher M. Hopkins, J. M. Kennedy, Robert J. Coddington, E. H. Titchener, Gerry Jones, Dr. M. M. Smith, Herbert E. Dulles, W. H. Heuss, Judge Albert Hotchkiss, Harry Miller, James A. Treat, George W. Griswold, G. C. Leonard, Charles S. Miller, Augustus Babcock and P. J. Hastings.

The meeting was called to order in the Symphony Theater at 8:15 by E. H. Titchener, on the platform with him were Secretary Roosevelt, State Senator Clayton L. Wheeler, of Hancock, Chester A. Miller of Oneonta, John Larkin, candidate for nomination as attorney-general, William Gorham Rice, candidate for nomination as lieutenant governor, and John K. Sague, Federal Appraiser of the Port of New York.

To Endorse Wilber.

Mr. Titchener said the gathering was for the purpose of expressing confidence in the state-manship of the man in the White House. He then introduced John Larkin, of Oneonta, candidate for attorney-general. Mr. Larkin said:

"The present is full of mighty problems for this country. The future is big with portent. Can anyone say that our first duty is not to hold up the hands of the President? Is there any doubt where you should throw your ballot Sept. 28 when the choice is between the man nominated by a New York secret society or the men who are standing by Hennessy and the national administration?"

"What principles have Murphy and Wilson in common? We know from past performances that if Murphy's candidate for United States Senator reached Washington, he would stab the plans of the administration unless the President delivered to the secret society the national patronage in the State of New York.

"Conditions require we should send to Albany and Washington men who can be trusted by the administration, who will oppose to the death what Murphy stands for. These men we have in Mr. Roosevelt for Senator and Mr. Hennessy for Governor.

Roosevelt Appeals to Democrats.

Secretary Roosevelt was then introduced and said in part:

"I want to talk to the organization Democrats and talk as a regular enrolled Democrat of Dutchess county. This year we have a State primary election for the first time. The theory is that anyone who is a regularly enrolled member of the party can present himself to his fellow members as a candidate for any office.

"I have been endorsed by my regular county organization and by other regular county organizations, which is more than my opponents can say. I lack the endorsement of Mr. Murphy for which I am glad, although I have the endorsement of some of his lieutenants.

"For a year and a half I have been connected with the National administration I have met leaders of our party in nearly all the states of the Union. Democracy as a whole does not believe the Murphy organization is an asset to the Democratic party in the nation. They say that the rank and file of the Democracy of the State of New York are of a right timber and in line with President Wilson.

Support of Wilson, His Platform.

"I am running on a platform in support of the National administration. This year Murphy, with the help I believe of Mr. Heatt, decided to put Ambassador Gerard in the field for United States Senator without his knowledge or consent. All of the 2000 names signed to the nominating petition of Ambassador Gerard except 240 came from Tammany districts in New York. Gerard declined to accept the nomination if it required leaving Berlin to campaign this Fall.

"The National Democrats want your support. I don't believe there is more than one Democrat in 100 in Dutchess county who deep in his heart believes the control of the party by Murphy is an asset to it. We have got to go out and get the country votes with us. I think it has been shown that it will be a difficult thing to add to the strength of a party which Murphy controls. If I am going to be beaten I want to be beaten only after all the voters have cast their ballot.

"I hope I will have the opportunity of coming back here after Sept. 28 and contributing all that I can to a victory for the party in November, for I am going to support my opponent if he beats me."

William Gorham Rice, candidate for lieutenant-governor, and John K. Sague, Federal appraiser of the port of New York, made brief addresses urging the enrolled Democrats to turn out and support the Hennessy ticket, thus supporting the Wilson administration as against Murphy and Tammany Hall, which was attempting to handicap and discredit the National administration.

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Franklin D. Roosevelt reached this city shortly after 6 o'clock and was greeted by City Clerk Fancher M. Hopkins and escorted to the Arlington where from 6 to 7:30 he held an informal reception.

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"I am running on a platform in support of the National administration. This year Murphy, with the help I believe of Mr. Heart, decided to put Ambassador Gerard in the field for United States Senator without his knowledge or consent. All of the 9,000 names signed to the nominating petition of Ambassador Gerard except 240 came from Tammany districts in New York. Gerard declined to accept the nomination if it required leaving Berlin to campaign this Fall.

"The National Democrats want your support. I don't believe there is more than one Democrat in 100 in Broome county who deep in his heart believes the control of the party by Murphy is an asset to it. We have got to go out and get the country voters with us. I think it has been shown that it will be a difficult thing to add to the strength of a party which Murphy controls. If I am going to be beaten I want to be beaten only after all the voters have cast their ballot.

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