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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Kittery, ME
Republican leaders admit that the course of the President in international affairs is going to give him thousands of votes of thinking Republicans. That is true, but it is also a fact that the record of the Administration in getting the country for four years in honest government and an insurgent government will swing and has already swung countless other thousands to his support. I am sorry for Mr. Bryan, not because he is going to be defeated but because he has already fallen into the hands of a lot of untrustworthy men. The same as Taft did—especially because Mr. Bryan has been so long here out of touch with public affairs.
Rusher did not need to go to California to get citrus fruit, it has been handed him by his so-called friends ever since he was nominated. He was told that two Republicans had been forced out when the Democrats came in and now it turns out that one of them admits he resigned voluntarily, and the other was paid a small sum to manage the replaced by a better man from the point of view of their business methods. The latest attack is on the civil service law, and I do not have confidence in saying that President McKinley was the Civil Service Commissioner, an appointee of Roosevelt who
Because of his transparency, heart and noble qualities, was held in high esteem by Test and Wilson. Mr. Wilson has told me that this administration has without question stood up more truly to the spirit and letter of the civil service law than letter of the preceding administrations—and more than this, the civil service records will prove. Dr. Houston Hughes has said the President has created a lot of commissions. Yes—what about?—The Federal Reserve Board which has sterilized American science.
The Rural Credits Board, which will give the farmer for the first time in history an equal footing with the merchants and manufacturers of the whole country; and the Federal Trade Commission-a boon for the merchants and manufacturers of the whole country-and with apparent criticism, he even mentions the Naval Commission Board, the so-called Edison board of experts who give free advice and help to the Navy Department- free, mind you - working without salary of any kind - men who were selected for membership on the board not by the President or the Secretary of the Navy, but by a dozen of the
Great scientific association of the
nation — and neither the Secretary
I have ever had the curiosity to
find out whether they were are
Republicans or Democrats.

That is the kind of argument
the Republican candidate for the
office of President of the U.S. has
teen using during the past month.
But the administration is not
in the position of answering
charges — thank God it is able
to come forward with clear
eyes and clean hands, and
say with a note of challenge
"Here is what we have done
here in the account of our
stewardship, and it, examine
it from every angle, we stand on it as a good record.

I have had the opportunity of knowing most of the men in the cabinet of the last three presidents, of seeing some of their work, and I can assure you most solemnly that from the standpoint of accomplishment, I'll not find administration in the Department to have ever before stood or so high a place.

I need not urge you an example of good stewardship. An example that you do not have to take my word for.
because it is at your very doors, 
the largest government agency in 
this section, the Portsmouth Navy 
Yard. When I came into office 
three years ago I found this 
Navy Yard like a beautiful 
apple rotting at the core. It 
contained great costly buildings, 
partly or wholly empty, it 
had no regularly defined work; 
employment was uncertain. It 
was hardly not an asset to 
the people of the United State. 
And it was because the then 
Secretary of the Navy had 
no definite bureau or method 
of running his Department.
had got into a fight with Congress.

There was an effort to pass the bill, and you people here saw the result in the Navy Yard. It was typical of the other yards.

Typical of the whole Department.

Typical of the Taft Administration.

Which let the Navy unit from 2 to 5 & 4 to place. Mr. Meyer

is still talking about closing up the Navy Yards and building two great naval bases - one in the Chesapeake and one in Narragansett. This really have been good policy ten years ago. But Mr. Meyer does not know that a great change has taken place in naval warfare since and the
Preparation for naval warfare since he retired. You know and every intelligent man in this country knows that modern war is so vast in scale, requires such enormous facilities to conduct it successfully that this government must retain every plant that can be called an economical asset. Portsmouth under the policies of Secretary Daniels has become such an asset. You can appreciate because you can see. You do not have to look twice to know how those once empty buildings are being used for turning out the bulk of the electrical supplies of the Navy at far less
cost than we formerly bought
them — you can see the development
of the highly specialized submarine
construction work, of the melting
and reworking of scrap metal
that used to be sold for a song
and now is being re-used again
at a saving of a hundred
thousand dollars — you know
what employment means now
as compared with the old days.

And if you believe the
record of my department has to
be good here, where you can form
your own opinion, you can rest
assured that the record in equal
good elsewhere — I mean the
people. It is physically impossible.
For the Navy Department to manage this yard well and the rest rottenly, go to them, go to the Fleet, go to the Department in Washington, and a jury of fair-minded men will agree that this yard is only a fair sample of the whole, that the fairness and honesty and good business sense have made very great changes for the better in the past 3½ years, and that the fighting navy is a better instrument of protection than it was then.

Yes, so further, take the Government management and work as you see fit here and you can...
apply its high standards to all the activities of the Federal Government. We are not apologists, neither do we with boastful words "point with pride". We ask the people of this country, very simply, very humbly, that they examine fairly into the record of what the Wilson administration has done as their agent during these years. We do not fear to abide the result.
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, in the course of his speech at Kittery, Maine, Saturday, said: "Republican leaders admit that the course of the President in international affairs is going to give him thousands of votes of thinking Republicans— that is true; but it is also a fact that the record of the administration in giving to the country for four years an honest government and an impartial government, will swing, and has already swung countless other thousands to his support. I am sorry for Mr. Hughes; not because he is going to be defeated, but because he has already fallen into the hands of a lot of untrustworthy men—the same as Taft did. Hughes did not need to go to California to get citruses fruit; it has been handed him by his so-called friends ever since he was nominated. He was told that two Republicans had been forced out when the Democrats came in, and now it turns out that one of them admits he resigned voluntarily, and the other was replaced by a better man from the point of view of good business methods.

The latest attack is on the Civil Service, and I violate no confidence in saying that President McIlhenny of the Civil Service Commission, an appointee of Roosevelt, who, because of his transparently honest and able qualities, was kept on by Taft and Wilson—McIlhenny has told me that this Administration has, without question, lived up more truly to the spirit and letter of the Civil Service Laws than either of the preceding administrations. And more than this, the Civil Service records will prove this assertion. Hughes
has said that the President has created a lot of commissions. Yes, what kind? The Federal Reserve Board, which has stabilized American finances; the Rural Credits Board, which will give the farmer for the first time in history an equal opportunity to obtain credit; the Federal Trade Commission, a boon for the merchants and manufacturers of the whole country; and, he even mentioned with apparent criticism, the Naval Consulting Board, the so-called Edison Board of experts who give free advice and help to the Navy Department - free, mind you - working without salary of any kind - men who were selected for membership on the Board, not by the President, or by the Secretary of the Navy, but by a dozen of the great scientific associations of the Nation, and neither the Secretary nor I have ever had the curiosity to find out whether they are Republicans or Democrats.

That is the kind of argument the Republican candidate for the office of President of the U.S. has been using during the past month. But the Administration is not in the position of answering charges - thank God it is able to come forward with clear eyes and clean hands and say with a note of challenge, 'Here is what we have done, here is the account of our stewardship; scan it; examine it from every angle: we stand on it as a good record.'
I have had the opportunity of knowing most of the men in the cabinets of the last three presidents, of seeing something of their work, and I can assure you most solemnly that, from the standpoint of accomplishment and good administration, the Departments of the Government have never before stood on so high a plane.

I need but to give you an example of good stewardship, an example that you do not have to take my word for, -- something you can see with your own eyes or learn at first hand with very little trouble. I am referring to the navy yard which lies within your own borders at Kittery. When this administration came into power, it found one of the gravest faults of the previous Republican administrations had been an utterly unbusinesslike, haphazard method of running the navy yards. Kittery was a magnificent example of that incompetency. We found here a navy yard equipped with splendid buildings which were empty and idle, and some of which had never been used from the time they were built. We found no particular work suitable to the place assigned to this station, which was becoming so obviously a burden instead of an asset as to lead the last Republican Secretary of the Navy to advise closing it up altogether. That meant the junking of millions of dollars of government property and turning out into the streets men who had worked all their lives and who had given good service. That is not the Democratic idea.
of a business administration. We consulted with business-
men. We canvassed thoroughly what this yard could or could not do. We found that for certain purposes the yard was ideally adapted, and to-day the empty buildings are filled with machinery and with men, the cry from the Industrial Manager being for more accommodations on account of the press of work in hand. This is not a spurt. It is not temporary work. It is permanent day-in and day-out work. There is no feverish taking on of men and laying them off a few weeks later, a procedure unsatisfactory to the workmen and costly to the Government. There were 1410 men employed at Kittery on the first of this month.

If what we have done has been profitable to Maine and the Maine citizens working in the yard, it has been far more profitable to the Navy itself, for in the electrical apparatus here being manufactured, in the building of a submarine, in the use of this yard as a reclaiming yard for all of our scrap metal, which was previously sold at absurd prices to private concerns, we have saved our Department over a million dollars already, and the daily amount of that saving will increase rather than diminish. We have put the yard at Kittery on its feet and made it an asset - not a detriment. The present submarine will soon be out of the way and there is another one to follow. We have applied the principles of
sound business management to this yard, as we have applied them to all yards, and the Kittery cost of production stands at the bottom of the list of all yards on the East Coast.

We have made efficiency the one consideration in the employment of men. Ask someone who has friends or relatives working in the yard whether politics is allowed to play any part whatever in our management. We have refused to allow any consideration other than a man's efficiency to be thought of in both the employment and promotion of our men. We have formally notified the leaders of all parties in the vicinity of the yard that, no matter how bitter a political fight might be outside of the yard, it must not be carried inside. I want to give credit to both parties in this vicinity for having, so far as I can see, lived up to the spirit of our request. It is our idea of how to get votes for the Democratic party that the proper way, so far as yard management is concerned, is to keep politics out altogether; and, by the efficient administration of the yard, convince voters that the Democratic party deserves support because it is working in the interest of the people and the nation without regard to petty politics in promotions, dismissals or employments at the yard. You know what the navy yard was. If you do not, you can always find out very easily. You know what it is now, or you can.

In both the employment and promotion of our men, we have formally notified the leaders of all parties in the vicinity of the yard that, no matter how bitter a political fight might be outside of the yard, it must not be carried inside. I
go there and see for yourselves, and after you have been there or have asked the people you know how things have been managed there under other administrations, I am willing to leave it to your own judgment and your own good sense as to how much truth there is in the wild cries of inefficiency and extravagance which Republican politicians, without looking or wanting to look at the facts, raise from time to time in the effort to throw dust in the eyes of the public.
FIGHT IN MAIN
OVER EVERY VOTE

Political Campaign Which Ends
on Sept. 11 Hottest in the
History of the State.

ALARM SPURS REPUBLICANS

State is Filled with Spellbinders
and O. P. F. is Making a
House-to-House Canvas.

ALL RESTS WITH FARMERS

Gov. Curtin's Record Gave Hope to
Democrats, Who Expect at
Least to Divide the Victory.

From a Staff Correspondent of The New York Times.

PORTLAND, Me., Aug. 26.—With
the entire nation watching the conflict
with keen interest, one of the most
important political meetings of the sea-
sion took place yesterday in Portland.

As the campaign opened last week by
the Republican National Convention
in Chicago, the campaign in Maine
was just entering upon a more active
and more spirited stage. The Republi-
can party, which has been in the
forefront of the campaign, has been
able to put its candidates in the lead
in most of the important districts.

The Republicans are now in the
charge of the campaign in Maine.

The Democratic party, with
Langworthy at the head, has been
able to make some gains, but it is
still far behind the Republican can-
paign. Langworthy has been able to
make some headway in the northern
parts of the state, but he has met with
some opposition in the southern parts.

The campaign has been opened
with a rally in Portland, where
Langworthy made a speech in sup-
pport of his ticket. The rally was
well attended, and Langworthy was
able to make a good speech, which
was well received by the crowd.

The Republican candidates, on
the other hand, have been able to
make some gains in the northern parts
of the state, where they have been
able to put up strong candidates.

The campaign is now in full
swing in Maine, and it is expected
that the results will be decided in the
election.

REPUBLICANS BRING
HOPES FROM MAINE

Chairman Wilcox Hears from
Speakers That State is
More Than Safe.

HARD FIGHT ON IN INDIANA

Holds Meeting at Indianapolis
Yesterday. The campaign in Indiana
is now in full swing, and the Repub-
licans are making every effort to
win the state for their candidates.

The Republicans have been able to
put up strong candidates in the
northern parts of the state, where
they have been able to make some
headway. The Democratic candidates,
however, have been able to make
some gains in the southern parts of
the state, where they have been
able to put up strong candidates.

The campaign is now in full
swing in Indiana, and it is expected
that the results will be decided in the
election.

JEANNE D'ARC RELIES
KEPT NEAR RHEIMS

Her Letters With Autograph
Signatures Are in Archive of
An Ancient Family.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

REIMS, July 26.—The French
army has been able to hold
the town of Reims, which
has been the scene of
many battles in the past.

The French army has been
able to hold the town of
Reims, which has been the
scene of many battles in
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little difficulty.

CANADA HAS A LAW
TO AVOID STRIKES

Statute Provides for Boards of
Inquiry to Investigate In-
Economic Disputes.

EITHER SIDE MAY Invoke IT

Hearing Company, but Provisions
Not Binding, Though Publicity
Makes Them Effective.

If Canada, as a socialist state,
were to impose the law, the
results would be disastrous.

Either side may invoke the
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WAR RELIEF FOR TEUTONS

Further Contributions for German
and Austrian Aid.

In addition to the contributions
for German and Austrian aid,
the American people have
also contributed to the
funds for the relief of
the victims of the war.

A number of organizations
have been formed for the
purpose of collecting
money for the relief
of the victims of the war.

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ASSESS HUGHES IS MISLED.

F. O. DEAN Answers Some of the Socialist Arguments.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, in a letter to a Socialist who contended that the President was misleading the people by his speeches, wrote:

"Mr. Hughes is not misleading the people. He is telling the truth."

Roosevelt's letter was published in the New York Times.

Left to the News.

Theodore Roosevelt was not considered a Socialist by the Socialists, but the President is considering the Socialist arguments. Will he be influenced by them?

Gibbs, as an author, has written:

"The President is not considering the Socialist arguments. He is telling the truth."