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

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Chautauqua, NY

July 7, 1917

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FDR Speech File

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Excerpts from a speech by Franklin D.
Roosevelt delivered at the Speakers' Training
Camp for Patriotic Education, Chautaucua,
N.Y., July 7, 1917.

(copy of article in Jamestown (N.Y.) Evening
Journal, July 9, 1917)

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COPY OF ARTICLE FROM JEMESTOWN EVENING JOURNAL
DATED JULY 9, 1917.

FINAL ADDRESS BY ROOSEVELT.

"Go home determined to sacrifice and serve," says Secretary.

SUBMARINE MENACE

Is not under control-Says ships are being sunk faster than they can be built - Speaking campaign for arousing nation is on.

Chautauqua, N. Y. July 9 - The speaking campaign for the arousing of the people of the United States to the meaning of the war with Germany is now on.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant Secretary of the Navy, on Saturday afternoon at the closing session of the speakers training camp, gave the delegates some heavy ammunition for their oratorical guns when they are pointed at the people.

Some Roosevelt epigrams were: "The submarine has not been controlled. "Ships are being sunk faster than they can be built. "The United States is not safe for your children if Germany wins the war. "Go home determined to sacrifice and serve - not satisfied to give your bit but give your all."

Secretary Roosevelt declared that if the people of the United States are waiting for some antidote of the submarine menace to be found we may as well disband our army and allow the Kaiser to pull his noose tightly around our necks and choke us to death as a nation.

He predicted that if the shipping of the world is destroyed at the present rate thruout, another year, that the United States may find itself with a trained army here and no way to move it to Europe where the enemy is found. "Any optimism which you may hold in the present crisis comes from the heart and not from the head," he said. "I am an optimist because I believe the American people will not be downed, but at the same time I am fully aware of the dangers that beset the path to success and the sooner the people are awake to these dangers the more progress will be made in the prosecution of the war."

The following resolutions were adopted for the guidance of the delegates as they make their returns to their various states. In addition to the resolutions of Saturday, the conference has already started a movement for the unification of the defense systems of the various states and for the correlation of a handbook to be used as a guide for the correct information of those who go out to speak to people. Clearing houses for patriotism will be established in New York, Chicago and San Francisco where the various helpful experiences of the states will be gathered and passed on to the others.

The resolutions:

Resolved:

I. That it is essential to national security to bring to the American people exact knowledge of the direct issues of the war, of the military and industrial measures necessary for its conduct and of the varied problems to be solved by the nation.

II. That this work should be forwarded systematically by public lectures under the direction of an organized bureau, in close co-operation with state and city defense committees, educational authorities, chambers of commerce, agricultural, labor, fraternal, patriotic and religious organizations.

III. That we particularly recommend the organization, by states, of speakers' bureaus, utilizing existing forces as far as possible, and that we request the committee on patriotism thru education to immediately undertake this work.

IV. That the handbook prepared by the committee on patriotism thru education, and now being revised, be especially commended to speakers, writers, and readers on the war.

V. That we suggest that the speakers should emphasize:

(1) The patriotic obligation of supporting with singleness of purpose the President and the Federal government in all their plans for the effective conduct of the war.

(2) That politics have no proper place in war policies.

(3) That no dual allegiance or hyphenated citizenship be tolerated, but that the public service should be open to all loyal citizens regardless of racial origin.

(4) That the cause of the allies is our cause and that loyalty to the United States involves understanding of and loyalty to the nations who fight with us, and we recommend the withholding of criticism of our allies either thru the press, cartoons, moving pictures or the stage, as weakening the united forces in the fight for civilization.

(5) That as a war measure the concentration of the fullest administrative powers in the hands of individuals, if coupled with responsibility, is consistent with American ideals.

(6) That as democracy rests upon freedom of speech and of the press, the people are entitled to all the facts regarding the war so far as consistent with the conduct of military and naval operations.

(7) That, in the language of our president, "No nation should seek to

extend its policy over any other nation or people, but that every people should be left free to determine its own policy, its own way of development, unhindered, unthreatened, unafraid."

Henry J. Allen, Kansas;
Charles J. Edwards, New York;
Miss Mabel Hill, Massachusetts;
William H. Hobbs, Michigan;
Robert M. McElroy, New Jersey;
Thomas F. Moran, Indiana;
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