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**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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**Baltimore, MD**

March 6, 1919

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George:

Attached excerpts from FDR speech  
Baltimore, Md., March 6, 1919  
in Baltimore American, March 7, 1919.

Bob

# FIGHTERS DEMAND A LEAGUE OF PEACE

SECRETARY ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE FROM OVERSEAS.

## WILL SEE GAME THROUGH

Impressive Address at Annual Banquet of the Old Town Merchants and Manufacturers' Association—Mayor Preston Tells of Jones Falls Improvement—Review of National and Local Conditions by Col. Hook.

Four men who in their respective spheres have helped to make history, two of them in the national world and the other two in a field more circumscribed though none the less important locally made addresses last evening following the annual banquet of the Old Town Merchants and Manufacturers' Association at the Southern Hotel, that proved as interesting as they were instructive.

The speakers were Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, whose subject was "Our Navy and My Observations Abroad," Congressman Rufus Hardy, of Texas, on "Our Mercantile Marine and America's Opportunity."

Mayor James H. Preston, "The City of Baltimore."

President Jacob W. Hook, "Our Guests, Our Association and Its Work."

Secretary Roosevelt, who returned from overseas only two weeks following a thorough investigation of conditions abroad, was in a position to give first-hand information of things as he found them, and he enthused the large audience that followed him closely during his address when he, in advocating the proposed organization of a League of Nations, said that the men over there felt that they had a greater task before them than the winning of the war.

### AMERICA'S TASK.

"The objective was much more than a military victory," said he. "Their task was to make war as impossible as it could be made. They do not like fighting for fighting sake, though willing to go on if they can prevent a recurrence. They are thinking of the future of our country, their families and the generations to come. They want a peace signed that will carry with it a pact that would help the civilization of the future. That is why every man over there is supporting a League of Nations."

It therefore hurts, not one's party or local feeling, but one's national spirit that men are opposing, not some detail, but make it appear they are against the League of Nations. We can honestly differ as to details, but we must come out for the principle itself, and that is where our opponents have fallen down. The younger nations are looking to the United States for justice and liberty, and ours is the task to see that the safety of these nations is wrapped up. If the world is to give us credit for what we stand for, we must see this game through.

Before touching on this subject Secretary Roosevelt gave an interesting account of the part our navy took in the war. He told of the comprehensive plan adopted to foil the German U-boats, first by laying the new type of mine that made it almost impossible for the submarines to break through; second, by dispatching numbers of submarine chasers equipped with listening devices and explosives that would put out of commission a vessel within 100 feet, and, third, by the creation of a shore zone, which prevented the U-boats from lying in ambush.

The Secretary was frequently interrupted by applause as he detailed some of the feats performed by the American sailors.

### COLONEL HOOK'S ADDRESS.

Col. Jacob W. Hook, president of the association, made an address that bubbled over with optimism and patriotism. It dealt with affairs inter-

## Will Speak at Banquet



Dr. Stephen S. Wise, leader of Jewish thought in America, who will be the guest at a banquet tendered in his honor next Sunday night at the Southern Hotel.

national, national and local, and demonstrated that the genial speaker was thoroughly conversant with every feature of his subject, every statement made being logically reasoned and sound. Discussing international conditions he said:

If we are to play an influential part in the world's business, we have got to play an influential part in the world's problems. It is senseless to expect to be an absorber of benefits without giving in return some favors. That being true, we must assume our international responsibilities and assume them bravely and creditably. I have no patience with the cowards who are advising us to run back in our little hole and pull the hole in after us. That day is past. As a matter of fact, we are now too big to crawl back into the little hole of international isolation, which existed before the war. I am with President Wilson in his great fight for world peace. Let us back him in his noble efforts with all of the patriotism we possess.

### BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

Referring to business conditions, Colonel Hook said that although the people have before them a tax bill of unprecedented proportions, indicating the country's financial necessities, he was for all that an optimist of the future. He predicted a wonderful prosperity. The outlook in Baltimore was, he said, as alluring as the national outlook and as an evidence of the soundness of trade conditions he referred to the great increase in bank clearings.

"The labor situation," said he, "will eventually adjust itself, without any serious friction between employer and employe. I say this because I cannot believe that labor and capital in America, in their relations with one another, are going to play the part of idiot by each trying to cut one another's throat. Labor ultimately will be well employed at reasonable pay and that element, too, will become an important purchasing influence."

Continuing, he said:

There is one thing in this connection we want to advocate. All of us should become propagandists in favor of the early return of the railroads, under proper protective conditions, to private ownership. I can conceive of very few public policies which would be as disastrous to the best business interests of our country as a continued government control of our railroads. For the sake of future prosperity, then, let us use our influence toward the sensible solution of this problem. The Old Town M. & M. is already on record against government ownership. What we need is a sensible solution along lines that will furnish an unequalled assurance to private capital of a minimum of adequate return, an opportunity for capital to earn more than a minimum, if enterprise and square dealing will produce its simplified government regulation which will not become obstructive, federal regulation of railroad security issues for the protection of the investing public, and a control of railroad wages on a fair basis

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