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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1919 April 30

Brooklyn, NY
May 1, 1950.

Speech by Franklin D. Roosevelt before 2,000 New York Navy Yard Employees, in celebration of the launching of the battleship Tennessee, at the 47th Rpt. Armory, Marcy Ave. and Hayward St., Brooklyn, N.Y., April 30, 1919.
YARDMEN WHO BUILT "TENNESSEE" HOLD
A TRIUMPH DINNER

Sponsor for the New Battleship.

THE BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE. NEW YORK. THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1919.

Celebrate Battleship Launching
With Fete in 47th Regt. Ar-
nory—F. D. Roosevelt Talks

In honor of the launching of the
big battleship Tennessee the employ-
ees of the Brooklyn Navy Yard in
the number of more than 2,000 held a
fete in the 47th Regt. Armory at
Maiden Lane and Howard St., last
night. It was the greatest fete the
armory has known in a long time.
The scene was in the main hall
where all the tables were profusely
decorated with the stars and stripes.
The banquet was under the auspices
of the Metal Trades Council and the
participants began to gather early in
the evening. At the head table, where
was seated the commodore, Joseph S.
McDough, there was the Governor of
Tennessee, as well as members of
his staff, among them Gen. T. W.
Vreeland, Col. William W. Barlow, Col.
L. H. Tatro, Col. K. K. Behnken, Col.
H. S. Van Deusen, Col. E. E. Hume,
Col. W. M. Ford, Col. E. C. Davis, Col.
R. W. Hale and Gen. F. R. Whittemore; Rear Admiral J. S. B.
O. L. Davis, Col. John Q. Cannon, Col.
James H. Moree, Col. H. E. Judkins, Col.
A. W. Ring and others.

In giving the address of welcome
Commander J. M. Deming referred to
the tremendous task confronting the
mankind in the years to come, which
had brought much confusion and
chaos and said it would always re-
main memorable to those who partici-
pated. The Maestro of the Band of the
Navy Yard furnished the music.

You men will never forget that Sec-
retary of the Navy Joseph Daniels
asked some time ago to build ships and
then ships until he had in the navy the" best or superior" ship in the world. Well, he is going to
build the Navy Yard in the near
future, so get your hats on there
before it is too late.

We are going to continue building
ships and there will be no tiring in
this work until the program that we
have mapped out is fully completed. Every
ship that is built will be superior to
the previous one, until we have a
battle craft that will be without equal.
We want to show to you that cooperation
between the men in the navy and the
Navy Department is never closing,
but a 100 percent one. We are at all
times ready to help the men and do
what we can for their benefit and
advancement, and we in the Navy
Department feel assured that we shall
receive a similar treatment from the
men here.

It is safe now to make the an-
ouncement that the League of Na-
tions is going through." Mr. Roose-
velt said, "and we can safely count
that the statement that the United States Navy is going to live on
it is today."

Says Tennessee Is Today Most Power-
ful Battleship

Rear Admiral John D. McDonald, U.
S. N., declared that the Tennessee is
the most powerful battleship that can
be seen today in the world; that it has
sufficient equipment upon it to cover
a small area and that many of the
men are well provided for.

"We have had much trouble with
our deck under our and in New York,"
and the Rear Admiral. "This fact
went clearly in our minds when we
looked at the German ships and pre-
pared them for the transportation of
our troops over the high seas. It
was then that we truly discovered that
we were missing in men and that
many of the boys were not used under
vessels under the most dangerous
conditions, but were fortunate and
provided for.

The Tennessee is a ship that we
are building for our navy that will
take care of our less
vessels when we have
them completed.

Now we shall go to that
famous Jutland battle. Do you know
that in that engagement one of
Dutchland's most powerful battleships
was seriously damaged and white draw-
ning in much water glided into a
way sufficiently large enough to properly
take care of her. Do you know that
would have happened but that battle
was a success.

One of our big battleships was
wrecked. There was no
way large enough along the
Atlantic Coast that could have taken
care of her.移动端和Jutland battleship
would have been necessary for us to
be able to take in a temporary patch, if
this was possible and pump out the
water in some manner or other.
However, we are making wonderfully
good progress and we will be prepared for the next evacuation by the
battle ships of the fleet that will not
be due every year that men who
are new in everything about shipbuilding can
give us support.

Governor A. H. Roberts of Tennessee
took his position on the platform.
"It is indeed a pleasure for me to
be in New York on April 26, 1919," he
said, "with a momentous occasion."
possible, and pumped out the water in some manner or other. However, we are making wonderfully fine progress and we will be prepared for such eventualities in the future. To the men who built this wonderful fighting ship are due every praise that men who know anything about shipbuilding can give them.

Governor A. H. Roberts of Tennessee took his position on the platform.

"It is, indeed, a pleasure for me to be in New York on April 30, 1919, for such a momentous occasion," said the Governor. "I feel certain that this monster piece of fighting machinery will do honor to the name of the State for which she was baptized. I want to say right here that I hope this Government will never again be caught napping and in a state of unpreparedness. I know this ship will fight against wrong and for everything that is right, which has always been the slogan for true Americans.

There is but one way that we can be prepared for the unexpected that is by giving universal military training to our boys. Of course, there will be protest against this, but when we appeal to those who protest that such a thing is essential they will see the error of their ways.

At this moment the world owes most to one man, the man in Paris who is endeavoring to accomplish something of value to the world—the League of Nations—and that is President Wilson. I would like to impress this fact strongly on you citizens of the foremost city of the world.

Others who spoke were: James O'Connell, whose subject was "Our Meat Trade Department," Congressman James P. Mahner on "Our Workmen," United States Senator William M. Calder on "Our Seat," James Wilson of the American Federation of Labor, and there was also a short address by William B. Wilson of the Department of Labor. The benediction was given by the Rev. Dr. S. Parker Cadman.