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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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**Troy, NY**

June 7, 1919

[Troy, NY]

FDR Speech File

## TROY ENTERTAINS SEC'Y ROOSEVELT

VISITOR CHAMPIONS DERPER HUD-  
SON RIVER PROJECT.

### TENDERED LUNCHEON

If this Congress adopts a governmental policy of aiding the development of industrial or economical advantages possessed by various sections of the country in order that the United States as a whole will benefit the Hudson river valley has a stronger case than any other district in the opinion of Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt, expressed during the course of a talk given after a luncheon this afternoon in the Brosshaer hotel, had been tendered him by the Troy Chamber of Commerce. "Troy stands at the head-water of ocean going traffic," he said, "having an artery with natural advantages second to none in this county. The Hudson river should be deepened so that vessels plying the seven seas might come to your doorstep. The Hudson river will be deepened. My only hope is that it will be deepened soon." After the luncheon Secretary Roosevelt, with officials of the Troy Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Cornelius F. Burns and other prominent Trojans, visited the site of the new Ford plant in Green Island as well as the Watervliet arsenal.

#### Given Great Reception.

Arriving in Troy from Schenectady just before 1 o'clock Secretary Roosevelt was given a rousing reception after he had been formally greeted by President James A. Beattie of the Troy Chamber of Commerce and Joseph J. Murphy. After the luncheon Secretary Roosevelt said he could almost call each and every person present "neighbor," referring to the fact that his home is in Poughkeepsie. Speaking on the value of acquaintanceships made through such gatherings, he said that if he could be "president and congress too," he would pass a law requiring every congressman to file a certificate that he had visited every state in the union at least on one occasion, adding: "If we could make every congress-



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

man, who has a creek in his backyard that has two feet of water in the wet season and none at all in the dry, come up and see the Hudson river and its advantages we could obtain in a day that which we have been fighting for years."

Speaking of his visit to Schenectady he said: "It is a pleasure to see the industries in this section running as they are. They seem to be operated with a proper perspective, that of developing for an individual but developing for the benefit of all."

#### Work of Navy.

In detail he told of how the government carried on the work of the navy during the war. By means of the United States navy he said that the submarines were really beaten inasmuch as this country started an offensive against them while the allies had been content to remain on the defensive. That the nation can do in peace what it has done in war was his contention.

In preparation he said that no matter what happens in the league of nations it is confident that with the cooperation of the people a general that this country will have sufficient rifles,

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On preparedness he said that no matter what happens to the League of nations he is confident that with the cooperation of the people in general that this country will have "sufficient rifles, battalions, in fact everything which means material preparedness" to vanquish any intruder. Advocating some form of universal training for girls and boys he said that this would not only train them to be of military value in case of an attack but that it would inculcate in them a definite knowledge that it was a privilege for them to give from three to six months out of their lives to the service of their country.

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# TROY ENTERTAINS SEC'Y ROOSEVELT

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#### Great Natural Resources.

Referring to the Hudson Valley once more Secretary Roosevelt said: "We here in the Hudson valley have greater natural resources than any other section I have ever seen. We are living in the most wonderful spot in the most wonderful country. We have always thought it and always will think it. We are at the great gateway through which ocean-going traffic can steam right into the interior of the country. We should and will have these steamers stopping right at our doorsteps. They can then go on through the harbor canal to the great lakes. It is practical. It is something the government must provide for if it is to take care of its people. It is not a local problem. It is a national problem."

"It is not so long ago that frigates were built at Foughkeepsie, while a whaling fleet from Hudson sailed out on the seas, bringing back whale oil to be refined in the little city just south of you. The river and harbors will have long been a log-rolling affair. Everybody who amounted to anything could get an appropriation for his section. It was a case of you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. It must go through before long, however."

"If Congress adopts the budget system as I have ever reason to believe, it will be a case of the government providing for the development of sections which will be most important from an industrial, practical and economical viewpoint to the nation as a whole. In visiting these so-called important places in every state in the Union I am quite willing to let the Hudson river's case against any of them. There is no question of what the Hudson river means to the nation. We know it to be a fact that it is the most important natural artery in the country."

Later Secretary Roosevelt urged the Chamber of Commerce not to become too stylized, telling them that a municipality is to develop it must take its rural neighbors into a partnership.

In reference to Bolshevik activities Secretary Roosevelt said: "I'm not afraid of bomb-throwers, although only the other evening all the doors and windows in my Washington home were blown out. I feel sorry for them, the way to stop it is to have people of the country get together and know one another. By means of this loose talkers can be eliminated. Instead of falling on either side of the dead line they will begin to realize what it means to be an citizen."

Frank M. Chandler, chairman of the members' council of the Chamber of Commerce, introduced Colonel Charles G. Mettler, who said that Trojans wanted officials in Washington to know the here so that they can aid Troy in its permission to use the power at the dam for the deeper Hudson, to obtain Federal dam for the new Ford plant and to expand the arsenal.

Secretary McLaughlin announced that President Thomas Wall of the corporation which owns the Congress street bridge, had presented the chamber with a large picture of the structure.

Edward B. Northrup led the singing during the luncheon. After the luncheon Secretary Roosevelt left to visit the Ford site in Green Island. He expressed himself as being more impressed with it and promised to do everything possible to aid Trojans in their fight to have the power license turned over to Mr. Ford.

A salute of African guns welcomed Secretary Roosevelt as he rode through the main gate at the arsenal about mid-afternoon. Colonel J. Walker Lewis, commander, and Colonel Charles G. Mettler, executive officer, were on hand to tender him a cordial welcome. The visitor was presented to the other officers, this taking place in front of the main office. An inspection of the gunshops followed. As it happened the arsenal was in full operation this afternoon, all employees working through the half-holiday last week, when Memorial day and the day after, being Saturday, were both a half-day. Thus the shops thrupped this afternoon with the regular processes of arm manufacture, and although no special experiments were carried out for the secretary's observation, it was of importance that in progress to make the inspection interesting. The expansion of the arsenal since the United States entered the war in April, 1917, was pointed out and was a subject of interest and wonder to the visitor.

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#### Great Natural Resources.

Referring to the Hudson Valley once more Secretary Roosevelt said: "We here in the Hudson valley have great natural resources than any other section I have ever seen. We are living in the most wonderful spot in the most wonderful country. We have always thought it the most beautiful thing we are at the great gateway through which ocean-going traffic can steam right into the interior of the country. We should send a fleet of our destroyers. They can then go on through the barge canal to the great lakes. It is practical. It is something the government must provide for if it is to take care of its people. It is not a local problem. It is a national problem.

"It is not so long ago that frigates were built at Yonkers, and, while a whaling fleet from Hudson sailed out on the seas, bringing back whale oil to be refined in the little city just south of you. The rivers and harbors here has long been a job-rolling area. Everybody who amounted to anything sought out an opportunity for a job here. It was a case of you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. It must go through before long, however.

If Congress adopts the budget system as I have stated before, it will be a case of the government providing for the development of sections which will be important from an industrial, practical and economical viewpoint to the nation as a whole. After visiting these so-called important places in every state in the Union I am quite willing to let the Hudson river case against any of them. There is no question of what the Hudson river means to the nation. We know it to be a fact that it is the most important natural artery in the country.

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Frank W. Chandler, chairman of the members council of the Chamber of Commerce, introduced Colonel Charles G. Mottler, who said that Trojans wanted officials in Washington to know the official spirit which is developing here so that they can aid Troy in its permission to use the power at the rights for the dam on Hudson. To obtain federal aid for the new Ford plant Secretary McClellan announced that President Thomas Wall of the corporation which owns the chamber bridge had presented to the chamber a large picture of the structure.

Edmund G. Northrup led the singing during the luncheon. After the luncheon Secretary Roosevelt expressed himself as being more impressed with it and promised to do everything possible to aid Troy in their fight to get the power license turned over to Mr. Ford.

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