Franklin D. Roosevelt — "The Great Communicator"

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt's Political Ascension

File No. 98

1919 July 18

Poughkeepsie, NY

FDR Speech File

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THE EVENING STAR AND ENTER

IRELAND POPS UP AT PEACE MEETING HERE

Speaker Questioned Why She Is Not in League

C. N. HAYS ANSWERS

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Mr. Hay explained that Ireland had not as yet been given its freedom and therefore is ineligible to membership. He said that if Ireland gains its independence either by force or through peaceful means it will then be eligible and not until that time.

He further explained, in answer to the assertion made by many who are opposed to the adoption of the league of nations clause that if after the league is formed Ireland should rebel against Great Britain the United States and all other members of the league would be bound to assist Great Britain, that this is in no way the case. No member of the league would be expected to interfere with the internal troubles of another nation. Only in case of attack from without could interference be justified. As Ireland is still a part of Great Britain a revolt on its part would not bind any other nation to take a part in the discussion.

Last night's meeting was held in the interest of the peace treaty and league of nations under the auspices of the local branch of the League to Enforce Peace. Despite the unfavorable weather which prevailed, there was a most satisfactory audience. The meeting was presided over by Justice Joseph Morschauser and was addressed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, and Charles N. Hay, of St. Louis.

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President Henry Noble MacCracken,
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"Personally I have had but little to do actively with the league of nations. For the past six and a half years I have been engaged in preparations for and the carrying on of the war. My work has had to do with navies, armaments and munitions. It has given me ample opportunity of seeing at close range the suspicions and jealousies which go hand in hand with international diplomacy and intrigue.

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"Many idealists feel that the world war is to be the last ar. I do not believe that this is true. I feel certain that there will be other wars in the future.

"All of the struggling nations felt that something more than the signing of a peace treaty would be needed to put an end to war. We still feel that same way today.

"The armistice came suddenly as a bolt out of a clear sky. The foe was guilty of another of his ungentlemanly acts by asking for peace without first giving us an advance intimation of his intention. As a result we were blamed for waste in placing orders for arms and supplies right up to the last minute. We have made mistakes and doubtless some money was wasted. These mistakes were made in winning the war and the money which is said to have been wasted has helped to purchase liberty and is not being paid as tribute to Germany.

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"At the conclusion of the war for independence in this country there were but 13 colonies striving to evolve a constitution. At Paris this task was increased a hundredfold owing to the diversity of the views and ideals of the different nations represented. At last, however, out of Paris came that document known to the world as the peace treaty.

"I would be willing to lay a small bet that not half of the people in this audience know that the league of nations is a definite part of the treaty of peace. The two are really one. If one is to succeed the other must succeed. If one fails the other will also fail.

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Just returning from Europe know just how settled the conditions over there really are as a result of anarchy and bolshevism. They know that we are certain to feel the effects of this condition in the social changes that are bound to come to us.

"Along this line great steps in advance have been made in Europe by the clauses included in the peace treaty. The laboring classes have been taken into serious consideration in the framing of the treaty. It has provided for the 48-hour week, one day of rest in each week, and stringent anti-child labor laws. It also provides for a great international labor council which is to meet in connection with the league council and is to have its headquarters at Geneva.

"Many of the problems which have been settled in a temporary manner by the peace treaty must later be permanently resettled by the league of nations.

"Opponents of the league of nations say that we will be losing our national rights and national sovereignty by entering the league. I want to say that every time we have made a treaty or concluded the arbitration of any point we have been forced to give up something. Never, however, in the past has this country been the loser in having given up any of its rights or its so-called sovereignty.

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"If we reject the league of nations we are going to be left out of many things aside from that little place at the bottom of the great document where our signature should appear. We will be left out in the future confidence of the nations of the world with whom we have been brothers-in-arms.

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The other speaker of the evening was Charles N. Hay, of St. Louis, who is opposing Senator Reed, an opponent of the treaty and league of nations clause.

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"I knew two boys from the Ozarks, one a Republican and one a Democrat, who marched away to the call of their country. Later I heard of them as doing their duty in the training camp. They marched together in the streets of Paris and fought together in the trenches. These two boys are still in France and will never return. I trust that they sleep side by side. I am now wondering if their fathers, one a Republican and the other a Democrat, will stand shoulder to shoulder to work for the things for which their boys fought and died. I believe that they will. Will we do the same?

"As we stand at the end of that bloody conflict the world cries to us for something that is to end the possibility of a recurrence of this bloody strife.

"After long months of hard and faithful work by the scores of delegates to the peace conference there emerged a draft of a treaty and constitution for a league of nations. This was published and cussed and discussed all over the world. It was later revised and the revised draft adopted by the unanimous vote of the delegates representing thirty-two different nations. These delegates included the best leaders of all classes.

"Many oppose the league of nations because they do not understand it. Is this fair? How many in this audience have read and fully understand every sentence of the federal constitution? How many believe in and favor it? You all favor the federal constitution because it stands for all that is best and truest in life. The same is stood for by the league of nations and for this very reason you should favor it even though you may not fully understand every clause of its constitution.

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"Let us look at a few of the cardinal things for which the league of nations stands. First, not to make war to settle international disputes, but to submit all questions for arbitration. Second, to join in a common action to enforce arbitration. Third, to co-operate in a movement to reduce to a logical size the armament of each nation. Fourth, to preserve the territorial integrity of each member. Fifth, to secure fair and humane settlement of labor problems. Sixth, to secure freedom and security to commerce and traffic. Seventh, to prevent secret treaties. Eighth, to co-operate with the Red Cross in its work to prevent disease and suffering. Ninth, to insure freedom of the seas. Tenth, to insure just treatment of natives.

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LOST.
Small money purse with $10 in change. Liberal reward given. P. O. Box Key; phone 195-J. 19-21

WANTED.
Rubber tire runabout wagon; best order; cheap for cash. C. L. Purdy, Stormville. 19-21

NEW PALTZ

MRS. C. W. RITCHIE
Evening Star Corresponden

The block dance and carnival w will be given next Friday ev promises to be the best thing ever en in this village for the [illegible] the community. There will be and varied attractions. There be the dance and very unique will be found all along the mid where ticklers, balloons, whistles other novelties can be bought. there will be an entertainment which will present some very at tive features in the way of songs dances with pretty girls in dainty tumes. Of course no carnival be complete without the clowns which there will be many. All attend will find some kind of am ment to suit their fancy, not m now varied. The chairman, E Elmore, is Sparing nothing in th ort to make this the best and bi affair ever held in this village and Paltz has held some very delig affairs. Already many out of visitors have signified their inten and the many boarding houses in vicinity which have been filled to flowing are planning straw rides t village to enjoy the big carnival, w is being given for the general we of the village and for the advance of community interests. Alsdorf's chestra from Newburgh of 6 pieces furnish the music for the occa There will be vaudeville stunts midway attractions. Prizes are fered for the most unique costume it rains the carnival will be hel the Opera House.

Miss Garret, of the state commi for the blind, who gave such an vellent recital here last Sunday in the Methodist Church and the formed Church has been requeste return and give another one of he lightful concerts this Sunday eve in the Reformed Church. All village are most cordially invite hear this artist. Miss Garrett is blind, is a singer of rare abilit well as an organist of note and all who heard her last week were ver sirous of hearing her again.

The New Paltz Fire Depart which sent so many of its num overseas are planning a big wel for the returning soldiers on the teenth of August. This affair wi the welcome home of the fire de ment. The whole village will en half holiday. A banquet and d will be given for the boys and sweethearts.

Mrs. J. P. Radley and children, have been spending sometime Mrs. Radley's parents, Mr. and Mrs ting Harp, returned to their hom Kew Gardens, L. I., on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Terwillig Poughkeepsie, have been visiting and Mrs. Herman DuBois.

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Miss Gertrude Sutton is the of friends in Binghamton.

Howard Zimmerman, who has overseas returned home Friday a noon.

Mrs. Peter McMullen, who has spending several months in Califo has returned and has been spen several days in town with friends. McMullen is making her home in I land with her sister, Mrs. James I nard.

Leslie Denniston, of Sumpter, S is visiting old friends in town.

The Gardiner bungalow on the p is progressing nicely, being about pleted. This will be one of the tiest homes in this vicinity when pleted.

Martin DuBois entertained a com of friends last Wednesday evenin

The Hugenot Grange will hav guests of honor this evening members of the Clintondale Grange will furnish the program. The freshments will be provided by th cal grangers.

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Speech of Franklin D. Roosevelt at a Meeting Sponsored by the League to Enforce Peace, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., July 18, 1919.
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