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 September 13

Dayton, OH - Good Citizenship
Speech of
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Dayton, Ohio
Sept. 17, 1919

[ from: Dayton (Ohio) Evening Herald, Sept. 13, 1919]

HIGH OFFICIAL OF NAVY PAYS VISIT TO CITY
Assistant secretary Roosevelt, speaker on Americanization Day

Assistant secretary Roosevelt came to this city Saturday for the purpose of talking on "good citizenship" at the fairgrounds. In this connection, his principal idea is that all foreign language newspapers be abolished within a period of five years.

The high navy official declared that "Americans must be Americans and that foreign residents of this country must become Americans if they continue to live here."

Speech of
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Dayton, Ohio
Sept. 13, 1919

[from: Dayton (Ohio) Journal, Sept. 14, 1919]

"... Franklin K. Roosevelt, Assistant secretary of the navy, left Dayton immediately following his address at the fairgrounds, a home-coming festival at Utica having called upon him for a speech at that place. He spoke of the necessity of intelligent voting, deploring blind partisanship and winning applause when he said that the man who boasted he had never scratched a ticket was lacking in the elements of good citizenship. He said that within a year and a half he had dealt with 80,000 federal employees and had never had labor troubles. "They always knew they could talk things over across the table," he asserted.

Mr. Roosevelt said he had once told his colleagues in the Democratic party that he had not voted a straight ticket in 16 years. They were shocked, he said. "If a party does not put up good candidates, it is not good citizenship to vote the party ticket," was his assertion. "The man who does that is just as un-American as the man who does not vote at all because it is a good day for golf."

John P. Frye, of Cincinnati, editor of the McRees' Journal, was the other speaker of the afternoon, appearing just before Mr. Roosevelt. Mayor J.M. Switzer introduced both speakers.
Dayton (Ohio) Sunday News

Sept. 14, 1919.

(FDR speech of Sept. 13, 1919)
When Dayton Celebrated "An

Foreign Born and Natives Join in Americanization Day Celebration—Roosevelt Speaks.

Fair weather brought an attendance of over 1,000 people to the fair grounds Saturday afternoon to witness the big Americanization celebration, staged under the auspices of the Americanization committee of Dayton, in a feature of "Better Americanism." 

Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, addressed the crowd for the entire afternoon, when in his address, he made a

THEMES TO HAVE PLACE IN SERMONS

The theme of Americanization and better citizenship is to be taken again during services in the churches.

Resisting the value of the movement, and the feeling evoked by the sentiment of all of the people, all over the city, will take up the subject of Sunday morning, ... Practically all of the sermons is not dwelling completely with this subject, but it is given it in some measure.

It is believed by some church people of this city, that the church can accomplish a great deal along this line, and the result is the decision of the vast majority of American ministers to serve this subject at church services Sunday.

SINN FEINERS ARE OPENLY DEFIANT: STRIKE IN
WOMAN SUCCEDES TWO DAYS AFTER DRINKING POISON

After lingering for three days, her system poisoned by muriatic acid she drank in an effort to end her life, Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher, 50, 21 Quitman street, died Saturday afternoon at Miami Valley hospital. Dependent on account of ill health, the woman drank a quantity of the acid last Thursday and physicians at the hospital have been bailing for her life since. Coroner E. O. Willoughby viewed the body and pronounced her dead by her own act, said that suffering has been great. According to Dr. Willoughby, the acid closed her throat, making nourishment almost impossible. It was thought when she was first admitted to the institution that Mrs. Fisher might recover, but her condition grew more serious. Although muriatic acid is regarded a deadly poison and its effect rapid, the small quantity the woman drank, influenced by her illness, killed her by degrees.

CITIZENSHIP IS THEME OF PROGRAM

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voices. The crowd stood in attention during the pledge. At the conclusion of the “pledge to the flag”, the children returned to their seats in time to “The National Emblem”. Sousa’s favorite march, played by the Great Lakes naval band.

Immediately after, the speakers moved from the platform, in front of the grandstand, to place in the stand, at the foot of the tier of seats and looking up at the audience. This was done in order that no one in the audience might miss a part of the talks.

RETURNED SOLDIER OBTAINS DIVORCE

Albert E. Ritter, who lives on R. R. No. 4, was granted a decree of divorce from his wife, Mabel A. Ritter, in the court of domestic relations Saturday. Ritter accused his wife of gross neglect of duty, declaring that she was seen in the company of married men while he was away fighting for his country. Ritter was discharged from the army last May, he said.

STRIKE IN BOSTON IS NEAR END

(continued from page one)

of the department prohibit members of the force from joining an organization which is affiliated with an outside body.

Today saw two names added to the growing casualty list of the week. In the part of the city Tremont and Boyllston streets a man was shot to death and a man seriously injured by a guardsman. The man was identified as Gustave Gaist, 20, of Foucher, and the woman as Mary Jacques, 42, a cashier.

The shooting was most spectacular. The streets were thronged with people, when suddenly a truck went by and there were screams. People scattered right and left. An infantryman had ordered a crowd of men to move on. And they were Gaist and his brother. They protested and the man brought his gun down from his shoulder. Gaist seized the rail and a scuffle ensued. Then another guardsman rushed up, leveling his gun, fired.

FACTS A

At the present time prices on all furniture are where you get one dollar’s worth of quality service — variety unequalled — goods that are the best and cheapest —

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Will Be Exhibited