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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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**File No. 112**

**1919 November 28**

**Montclair, NJ**

November 28, 1919

Montclair, N.J. (Proposed Speech)

FDR Speech File

0112

Proposed Speech Of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Montclair, N.J.

Nov. 28, 1919.

From the Montclair Times, November 22, 1919.

"The Outlook Club announces that Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy will be the speaker at the monthly meeting of the club to be held in Hillside Auditorium, next Friday evening. Mr. Roosevelt's subject will be: "Offensive versus Defensive -- the American Navy's Part in the War." He has the reputation of being a forceful and engaging speaker and an instructive and entertaining presentation of our Navy's part in the war is predicted by those who know him, and have heard him on the lecture platform."



Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Hyde Park  
New York, New York

## Local Woman Reports Hearing Talk By Franklin Roosevelt Here in 1919

Whether Franklin Roosevelt actually spoke before the Outlook Club of Montclair in 1919 and what was the subject of this talk if it was given formed the basis of a brief article in the Montclair Times of Jan. 5, this year.

This inquiry was relayed by the Montclair Library to long time residents of Montclair and to students of Roosevelt's early political life in behalf of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York.

The Montclair Times article has secured a telephone response from a Montclair woman, Mrs. William H. Ketcham, who reports actually having heard the talk in November 1919. Mrs. Ketcham said, "I heard Roosevelt then. He was a slim young man, and spoke well. He told of his responsibilities during World War I, including the laying of mines off England. He was Assistant Secretary of the Navy at the time.

"My husband belonged to the Outlook Club, which was not just social, but had serious purposes. The members met once a month, during the Winter, usually with a speaker, often a very good one. The Christmas and Spring meetings were often concerts."

"Among outstanding members were Dr. Herbert W. Foster and Dr. L. W. Halsey."

In search of the files of the Montclair Public Library for further information on the purpose and influence of the Outlook Club, it was discovered that the history of the Club is represented by a scrapbook of clippings covering only the years 1893-1902.

The Library desires the gift of the Minute books of this influential group if such records are still in