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."

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."