
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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1920 June 30

San Francisco, CA - Smith Seconding Speech

SPEECH OF
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
SECONDING THE NOMINATION OF
GOVERNOR ALFRED E. SMITH
FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES,
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION,
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 30, 1920.

"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Convention - The past half hour has shown that the great Democracy of the state of New York is an integral part of the Democracy of the nation (Applause), and that is another reason why we from New York sent to this Convention the name of our beloved Governor. I love him as a friend; I look up to him as a man; I am with him as a Democrat, and we all know his record throughout the nation as a great servant of the public.

Come back with us to the old Empire state, and if you will do so and learn to know our Al Smith, there won't be any question about what action you will take. (Applause.) Yes; the Democracy of New York is united - united behind our Governor, from Montauk Point to Niagara Falls, from the Delaware to the St. Lawrence, and so, knowing that he has been a Governor in the open, we know, too, that this Convention is a Convention in the open. (Applause.) The nominee of this Convention will not be chosen at 2 a.m. in a hotel room. (Applause.)

In the Navy we shoot fast and straight. Governor Smith, in that respect, is a Navy man. (Applause.) Help us in New York. Let us help you in the other forty-seven states by lending to his good right arm more power. (Applause.)"