
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 129

1920 August 5

Washington, D.C.

80,000 ASK RISE IN 43 NAVY YARDS

More Than 150 Crafts Begin
Plea Before Wage Board for
20 to 40 Per Cent. Increase.

SOME SEEK \$1.25 AN HOUR

Franklin Roosevelt Makes Informal
Speech, Being Warmly
Greeted.

Special to The New York Times.
WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—Representatives of 80,000 employees of forty-three navy yards of the country, appeared today before the Navy Wages Wage Board and asked for substantial wage increases. The commission asks that the present average wage of from 80 to 84 cents per hour be increased to \$1.25. Other crafts ask advances which range from 20 to 40 per cent.

The hearings probably will last several days as witnesses for 161 crafts will testify.

J. E. Anderson, Vice President of the International Machinists, made the opening plea for the union. Heavy union involvement in the controversy will present its own case, it being stipulated that each shall be represented by a single spokesman.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Democratic candidate for Vice President, who today as Assistant Secretary of the Navy on Monday made an impromptu address.

"I have just dropped in," said Mr. Roosevelt, "to say good-bye and also to say hello. This is entirely outside of formal lines, but I wanted, nevertheless, to put before you some of the points in the present position of the Navy Department.

"What we are considering is not a mere question of wages but a matter that affects the activity of the department as a whole. The United States is not a follower but a leader in bringing about modern working conditions for those in its employ. It is a tremendous task for the department and must always be backed by Congressional appropriation. As a result, we cannot call the amounts appropriated and if wages are raised when we are within the top-notch line, we shall have to drop some of our working personnel in order to come within the limitations of the funds appropriated by Congress. That is the real force of what may mean a decrease in the number of men at the building were the blacksmiths, silversmiths, electricians, wood cutters, boat builders, cable splicers, steel workers, chainmakers, crane-men, welders, millwrights and carpenters.

The members of the Navy Wages Board are Captain J. B. Tolson, United States Navy; A. J. Hervey, Secretary of the Federation of Labor of L. Louis Hiller, former assistant to Mr. Roosevelt.

Cubans Bring Roosevelt Fund.
MIAMI, Fla., Aug. 6.—Austro, Neva and Federico G. Morales, President and Secretary of the Roosevelt Memorial Association of Cuba, are en route from Miami to Washington today to the headquarters of the Roosevelt Memorial Association in the city. The fund contributed by the people of Cuba. It is understood that the Cuban Congress will add \$500,000 to this sum in completing Cuba's share in the monument.