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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt's Political Ascension

File No. 130

1920 August 6

Washington -
Remarks upon leaving Navy Department

Washington, D. C., August 6, 1920.--A silver loving cup was presented to Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, by the Association of Master Mechanics, Employees of the Navy Yards and stations and the Navy Department, upon Secretary Roosevelt's severance of official relations with the Department.

Introductory remarks made by Harry T. Morningstar, Vice-president of the National Association of Master Mechanics, were as follows: Mr. Secretary,

I am coming to you as representative of the Association of Master Mechanics, ~~the representative of the employees of Master Mechanics~~, the representative of the employees of the Navy Yards and Stations, and on behalf of the employees of the Navy Department, to ask that you present to our retiring Assistant Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, this small token of our deep appreciation for his kind consideration of all matters which would benefit or help in any way those connected with the vast organization.

I leave to you, Mr. Secretary, the honor of conveying to Mr. Roosevelt the kind thoughts and appreciation of every one connected with the Navy, and for the great work which he has accomplished, not alone for the Navy, but for the whole government of the United States.

You must realize, Mr. Secretary, that this token is but a half token of the high esteem every employee holds for the two civilian heads of the Navy Department. We are looking forward, with gladness, to the fourth of March next, when we shall witness the inauguration of our beloved Assistant Secretary as the Vice President of the United States, and in whose election we all hope to have a most welcome part.

In presenting the cup, Secretary Daniels said:

Mr. Roosevelt, I am privileged, speaking for myself and all who have had the opportunity to serve in the Navy in any capacity in the seven and a half years in which we have been associated in the Navy, to voice their appreciation and their

regret at the severance to-day of the official relations which have been so agreeable in these months of consecration and service to our country. But I wish to emphasize to you, Sir, that it is only and official severance. The ties that have been forged in these years of sacrifice and of service have been forged so that they will endure for all time.

There are only two compensations for a man in public life. The first and the one which must be highest, is the consciousness that in performing his public duty he has given the best of himself for the common weal. And that consciousness you must have to-day, and it must hearten you and cheer you in all the days to come. You have the knowledge and consciousness not only of your own countrymen's appreciation of your service, but it has been recognized abroad and other countries have tendered to you recognition of the splendid service you have rendered.

And the second compensation is that you garnered in this service the love of your comrades and co-workers--a compensation which I doubt not will go with you in the larger sphere into which you have been called. You have been named by a great party for the second highest office in the whole world, and I trust as you enter upon these larger duties you will be cheered and strengthened by the comradeship and friendship of all in the Navy--not only those in the Navy to-day, but the larger number who during the great war were your shipmates.

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I have been chosen, and am thankful for the honor, to present to you in behalf of all your associates and shipmates this loving cup as some token of the friendship which exists to-day and which will endure as long as life lasts.

In accepting the cup, Mr. Roosevelt made the following remarks:

Mr. Daniels and my other co-workers in the Navy, and through you the thousands all over this land and on the sea who are in the same great service, the day is a day of very deep emotion for me. It is a day that I have been looking forward to with real dread for a long time, not because it means leaving an official position, but because, as I think you know, there has been something deeper than mere employment in my work. I have had a kind of personal deep feeling from the heart that we were all of us working together in a common cause. And now at last the hour has struck, and with it I leave you with more than an ordinary feeling of parting; I leave you with the kind of affection that will always stay by me. Our work here for nearly eight years, in fact all of the work of this Department, I like to think, has been that kind of unselfishness on the part of all of us that goes deep down into the heart. And during those eight years, with every person that I have come in contact with, from our chief here down to the most recent comer in the ranks, we have a mutual trust, a mutual spirit of cooperation, and a de-

sire to servt. (Applause) And I feel very certain that when history comes to be written, it will write truly of the splendid work of Josephus Daniels and of every man and woman associated with him. (Applause) And in this cup I will have something that will be a visible reminder, not only to me or my days--for I don't need a visible reminder--but it will be a reminder to my children and to everyone who comes to my house of the human side of working for Uncle Sam; (applause) of the human element, the fact that we have worked together with the right kind of spirit.

I have sent out to-day by telegram two messages--I should like to read them to you if I may--messages to those who cannot be here to-day, the rest of that organization that I like to call THE Navy service, with emphasis on the "the".

First, an"all Navy" message--most of you know what an "Alnav" message is. An Alnav message goes to every ship and every station of the Navy in all the world, to all ships on the seven seas.

"Before leaving the service on August ninth, I want to convey very simply to the officers and men of the Navy my deep feeling at this separation after nearly eight years. I am honestly proud of the American Navy. I am happy too in the privilege of this association with it. No organized body of men in the nation is cleaner, more honorable or more embued with true patriotism.

"We have grown greatly in these years, not merely in size but in right thinking and in effective work. I am very certain that this country can continue to give absolute dependence to the first line of defense. The Navy will carry on its splendid record.

"Please let me in the years to come continue our association."

And to those who are not in uniform, those in the yards and stations, the shore establishment throughout the land, I sent this:

"I cannot relinquish my position in the Navy Department as the Assistant Secretary without expressing my deep appreciation at the loyal way in which the civilian employees of the Navy Department, Navy Yards, and Stations have cooperated with me in making our shore establishment more efficient. My position has given me direct charge of these matters ashore, and we have together passed through the most critical period in the history of the Navy.

"The first years of my service were spent in perfecting our shore stations, which are in reality manufacturing establishments of the first magnitude, to meet efficiently any possible strain of war. Long before any sign of trouble appeared we were engaged as a sound military precaution in so organizing our yards and stations, as well as the civilian employees of the Department at Washington, in time of peace as to make them efficient in time of war. When war finally came, a more terrible war than any one anticipated, one which called for our utmost endeavor, the Navy shore establishments met the crisis in a way which has earned the admiration of the country. It is the thing that I am most proud of in my life that I was able to help to bring this about. How much of our success was due to the cooperation of our civilian employees the country will never know or understand. Unswept by the search-light of publicity, which revealed the heroes of the battlefield, the men and women in our yards and stations and those attached to the Department at Washington worked with equal patriotism and with equal love of country to help win the war. I feel that a real friendship has grown up between myself and our civilian employees, a friendship which I hope will continue in after years.

"In saying good-bye I want them to feel that whether or not in after years I will ever be in a position to officially assist them or not, I will nevertheless use every occasion to lend such assistance as I have towards continuing the program of general betterment and efficiency which has formed so large a part of my duties during the last seven years."

And now, Mr. Secretary, I accept wholly what you said.
This is not "Good-bye." It is merely a parting for a short
time. Let me wish you the best of luck in the world, and
let me come back here after November and greet you again.
Thank you, and Good-bye!

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Letter No.

Concurrent

Operative Flotilla Destroyer Squadrons

U. S. Atlantic Fleet

U. S. S. Black Hawk, Flagship

Newport, R. I.

10 Aug 1920.

My dear Mr. Roosevelt -

On the occasion of
your detachment from the Navy Department I
wish to extend to you my very best wishes.

None of the officers of the Navy whom
I know well, and they are many, has ever
had any but words of appreciation for
you, in your sincere efforts to help us in
making the Navy what it ought to be.

I feel a sense of personal loss, for
I know that you have been very kind to
me, and that you always had a sym-
pathetic understanding of my point of view
in respect of Departmental organization.

The secret of the whole business is
that Loyalty is a reciprocal quality - therefore
you should go far.

With kind regards to you & to Mrs. Roosevelt,
in which Mrs. Conran joins me. I am

Ever sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Esq.
Hyde Park, N.Y.

L. W. Conran

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MASTER WORKMEN OF
NAVY YARDS AND STATIONS

Washington, D. C.

16 August 1920.

Mr. Charles McCarthy,
Campaign Manager,
Democratic State Committee,
Grand Central Palace,
Lexington Ave. & 46th St.,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Mr. McCarthy:-

We tried very hard, Mr. Durning and the writer, to get ahold of you Friday, Aug. 6, as we had fixed up a sort of eleventh hour arrangement, Mr. Durning and I, and presented the Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt with a handsome Loving Cup, which Mr. Durning picked out on F Street and, not forgetting what you told me the other night when we parted at the Portner Apartments, I simply took the bull by the horns, bought it myself and made my presentation speech to Secretary Daniels, who, in turn, presented it to Mr. Roosevelt in front of the Navy Department.

We had all the newspaper men, moving picture men, etc. on the job and got plenty of publicity on it. Secretary Daniels, Mr. May and myself prepared a list, which I am enclosing herewith, of all the most important newspapers in the United States, and have sent photographs of the Loving Cup and a description of the same, and why it was given to the retiring Assistant Secretary of the Navy, etc.

This Loving Cup is on exhibition at Shaw & Brown's, next to the old Columbia Theatre on F Street. Mr. Roosevelt was highly delighted with it and says it matches up with a lot of other silver which has been handed down to him for three or four generations in the Roosevelt family. I thought I would let you know about this little stunt we pulled off at the last minute so that you will know we are on the job, and will send you one of the photographs in a few days, for your use in your office, and if you can use any more of them let me know. I believe the New York Times, on August 7 or 8, had quite a write-up about it, a whole column, and I wish you would send me one of them if you will be so kind.

How was everything looking up your way? Now, if there is anything I can do down here or in Ohio, let me know. Don't forget to go over and see Mr. Lewis, Electrical

Superintendent, Brooklyn, Navy Yard.

With kindest personal regards and hoping
to have the pleasure of hearing from you occasionally, and
wishing you all manner of good luck, I am

Very sincerely yours,

H. H. Huntington,
First Vice President.

18, August 1920.

My dear Morningstar:-

I have just received your interesting letter of August 16th in regard to the cup presented to Mr. Roosevelt before leaving the Navy Department. I know that you and Burns tried to get word to me to try and be there, and I did get the word when I returned to my office about 2 o'clock that afternoon, but I delayed there too long and when I started out, I found I could not be there by 3.30 so turned back.

I think it was a very gracious thing to do, and I am delighted that somebody had such nerve enough to do what was right. It would have been a disgrace to allow Mr. Roosevelt to go away from the Department without some token of the esteem in which he was held by all of the employees.

One can leave it, however, to the National Association of Master Workmen to have a matter of this kind done up right, because I had a little experience of my own when married. Being somewhat on Mr. Roosevelt's type as regards to modesty, I limited the invitations in order to avoid any semblance of trying to get wedding presents, but Mr. Flanagan saw to it that we got, in the name of the association, some very beautiful silver knives and forks. I never forgot this, and appreciated it more than anything I received because of the spirit which came with it.

I know that Mr. Roosevelt will always feel as I do about his loving cup and, as I said before, I think it was a very generous act.

Don't forget to let me have any suggestions that occur to you from time to time. Every vote is going to count and there is positively a fifty-fifty chance of winning. When you come to New York be sure and come in and see me, and I will tell you more in detail of just how things are going and what the chances are.

Sincerely yours,

L H ?

Mr. Harry T. Morningstar,
First Vice President,
National Association of Master Workmen of Navy Yards,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Tribune, Sioux City, Iowa
The Times, Buffalo, N.Y.
The Journal, Albany, N.Y.
The World, New York City
The Record, Philadelphia, Pa.
The Sun, Baltimore, Md.
The Post, Boston, Mass
The Republican, Springfield, Mass
The Herald, Portsmouth, N.H.
The News, Portsmouth, N.Y.
The Herald, Rochester, N.Y.
The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.
The Herald, Syracuse, N.Y.
The Star, Kansas City, Mo.
The News, Chicago, Ills.
The Republic, St. Louis, Mo.
The Post, Denver, Colo.
Deseret News, Salt Lake City, Utah.
The Bee, Sacramento, Cal.
The Herald, Los Angeles, Cal.
The Sun, San Diego, Cal.
The News, Portland, Oregon.
The Times, Seattle, Wash.
The News, Des Moines, Iowa
The Herald, Duluth, Minn.
The Miner, Butte, Mont.
The Chronicle, Bozeman, Mont.
The Tribune, Great Falls, Mont.
The Independent, Helena, Mont.
The Capital News, Boise, Idaho.

The Times, Akron, Ohio
The Enquirer, Cincinnati, Ohio
The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, O
The Press, Cleveland, O
The Dispatch, Columbus, O
The Citizen, Columbus, O
The Star-Journal, Sandusky, O
The News-Bee, Toledo, O
The Times, Toledo, O
The Vindicator, Youngstown, O
The Signal, Zanesville, O
The Courier, Findlay, O
The News, Dayton, O
The News-Advertiser, Chillicothe, O
The News, ~~Canton~~, Canton, Ohio

The Times Union, Jacksonville, Fla.
The Journal, Pensacola, Fla.
The Register, Mobile, Ala.
The States, New Orleans, La.
The Picayune, New Orleans, La.
The Record, Ft. Worth, Texas.
The Item, New Orleans, La.
The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala.
The News, Birmingham, Ala.
The Constitution, Atlanta, Ga.
The Journal, Atlanta, Ga.
The News & Courier, Charleston, S.C.
The News & Observer, Raleigh, N.C.
The Star, Wilmington, N.C.
The Citizen, Asheville, N.C.
The Sentinel, Knoxville, Tenn
The News, Chattanooga, Tenn
The Times, Chattanooga, Tenn
The News Scimitar, Memphis, Tenn
The Banner, Nashville, Tenn.
The Virginia Pilot, Norfolk, Va.
The Star, Portsmouth, Va.
The Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va.
The Star & Enterprise, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, Ariz.
The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebr.
The World-Herald, Omaha, Neb.
The News, Omaha, Neb.
The Exponent, Clarksburg, W.Va.
The Telegram, Clarksburg, W.Va.
The Gazette, Charleston, W.Va.
The Sentinel, Parkersburg, W.Va.
The Register, Wheeling, W.Va.
The Times, Fairmont, W.Va.

Navy

Personal files

This Loving Cup was presented to the Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, on severing his connection with the Navy Department on Friday, August 6th. It is an exact replica of the original Paul Revere Loving Cup now reposing in the Boston Museum of Art, and matches up with the rest of the Roosevelt heirlooms which have been handed down for several generations, and was presented by the Master Mechanics Association of the Navy Yards and Stations, the employees of the Navy Yards and Stations, and on behalf of the employees of the Navy Department, as a token of their high appreciation, regard and esteem for his kind consideration towards all matters which would benefit or help anyone connected with the Navy and for the great work which he has accomplished, not only for the Navy but for the whole Government of the United States.

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The Cup was presented by the Honorable Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, and will be kept at Mr. Roosevelt's home at Hyde Park, New York.

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