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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. 133**

**1920 August 12**

**Waukeegan, WI - Campaign Speech**

June 2, 1950.

this speech was probably given in

WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

early in the morning of August 12, 1920.

(might be Waukesha, Wisconsin)

RLJ

EXTRACTS FROM MR. ROOSEVELT'S SPEECH  
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

AUG. 12, 1920

Any candidates or managers who at this early stage of the campaign are driven to the dictionary to find new adjectives of general hate give away the weakness of their position. This morning, for instance, we find the Old Guard campaigners talking about democratic maladministration about sinful squandering, about a saturnalia of extravagance, about a cataclysm and a betrayal.

Luckily, the American people generally have a sense of humor. They happen to know that this Republican Congress undertook 87 different investigations of the conduct of the war; that these investigations have cost over three millions of dollars and that in spite of every kind of partisan effort not a single responsible official -- Democrat or Republican -- has been indicted for or found guilty of dishonesty or of dishonorable conduct. There is only one impeachment which I admit. We did purchase altogether too much in the way of munitions of war; we did build too many Navy ships; we did lay in more supplies than we could use. Hindsight proves all this. The guilty party has been discovered. All of this would have been unnecessary if GERMANY had had the decency to tell us beforehand that she was going to ask for an armistice in November, 1918.

This country will pay little attention to these investigations and attacks; it has made up its mind that the greatest military effort in our history was conducted by the nation and not by any party; that it was won cleanly and with clear purpose to win if it took ten years. Little men cannot make political capital out of pettiness by the mere use of big words.