
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

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FROM SPEECH OF HON. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
FARGO, ^{North} DAKOTA
Aug. 16, 1920

I am particularly glad to read that the "perch" campaign of the Republicans is breaking down and that Senator Harding has now condescended to make five whole speeches away from home.

The theory of the Democratic Campaign is, of course, just the contrary. Our candidates are trying not merely to carry the campaign to the Country, but to find out what the Country is thinking.

This difference in attitude of mind extends to the way in which the leaders of the two parties handle all public questions. The Democratic theory is that big national problems ought to be settled from a national point of view, and ought not to be undertaken by a mere gathering in Washington of half a dozen old line leaders who do not know the Country and who represent the kind of things that Penrose, of Pennsylvania, Lodge, of Massachusetts, Root of New York and others of that group advocate, who were in control of the Chicago Convention, and who would be in control of your Government if a Republican President is elected.

For instance, you people out here have long been concerned with the problem of food production and marketing. You know that this is a problem that requires not merely careful study from a national point of view, but it is a problem which requires, also, action, based on a true desire to bring about some national remedy for what undoubtedly is a national evil.

Your appreciate, I hope, the difference between the control of this question by men who are friends of the packers, by friends of the big bankers, and by friends of the eastern middlemen. A solution by them will bring you back to conditions of ten or fifteen years ago.

The Democratic Party is controlled by no such gang. If elected, we pledge ourselves to seek a solution of the problems that will serve the best interests of the producers and the great consuming public, the two ^{after} all who are vitally concerned.

There is no question that the farmer does not get today what he ought to get, and there is no question, also, but that the consumer pays too much. Somewhere in between the two are steps which must be eliminated - our transportation problems - marketing problems - and warehouse problems.

Are you going to trust a leadership of reaction, or are you going to trust what is today the party of progress? I would not be a Democrat unless I was sure that progress in this year of 1920 is spelt D E M O C R A C Y.