
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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Butte & Helena, MT - Campaign Speech

Extracts from Speech of Franklin D. Roosevelt
at Helena, Montana, August 18, 1920
Release Morning Papers of Thursday Aug. 1920

The farther West I go and the more people I see the more thoroughly convinced I am that the Nation understands the true inwardness of the issues. Strenuously as our Republican friends may try, they cannot make the country believe that the controlling element in the Republican party is this year is progressive. People do not forget the history of the past few years. They have not forgotten the men in 1912 who thwarted the will of the majority of the Republican party and turned their official face to the wall. The wolves who preyed upon the broad interests of the American people and represented special interests- they are the same wolves who have tried to wear sheep's clothing in the past. They are trying to do so again this year, but the American people can see through the thin disguise. They know the Penroses, the Lodges, the Smoots and the Watsons are still licking their chops for another killing.

I will not touch at length on the League of Nations, as I spoke of it at Billings last night. I want to make merely this passing remark in regard to one of the many representations which have been handed out by these same wolves-that relates to the so-called six votes of Great Britain and her colonies in the secondary body of the League -- the Assembly. As a matter of fact, I have always felt that President Wilson slipped one over on Lloyd George when he was in Paris, because while England and her colonies are apparently getting six votes to our one, the United States has a lot more than six votes which will stick with us through thick and thin

in any controversy. For instance, does anybody suppose that the votes of Cuba, Haiti, San Domingo, Panama, Nicaragua and of the other Central American States would be cast differently from the vote of the United States? We are in a very true sense the big brother of these little republics. We are actually acting as trustee at the present time for many of them. They appreciate our disinterested policy toward them. Their lot is our lot, and in the final analysis the United States will have far more than six votes which will stick with us through thick and thin. It is, of course, a ridiculous thing to make an issue about anyway, because as every one knows the Assembly of the League of Nations is not the governing body. That is the other organization called the Council. In the council, the United States has one vote, just the same as the whole British Empire.

But in this general question of the big broad issues, we can take up any of the subjects and find with equal truth that the whole Democratic policy has been one of broad, human progress, and that the Republican leaders stand for an entirely different conception of Government.

In the very matter of labor, everyone knows that the American workman has received not merely more material comforts, better wages and better living conditions during these past few years of Democratic rule than he ever received under Republican rule. There has been a broad bond of sympathy between Washington and those in every State of the Union who toil with their hands. If you do not believe it, go to Washing-

ton. Ask the leaders of organized labor whether they have had or have not had a square deal. The interest of the Democratic Party extends even further: it extends to those who are not organized. It extends to those who have not the means at hand for presenting their case.

Take, for instance, the part of the Government which I know best. For seven and one-half years I have had under me in the Navy Dept from 50,000 to 100,000 civilian employees - men and women, in almost every known trade, employed in Navy Yards and factories up and down both Coasts. Ask them what the attitude of the Democratic Administration has been. I have gone on the theory that disagreements can be settled by talking things out around a table. I have gone on the theory that any man or woman could come not merely to a foreman or a manager, but could come direct to headquarters and see the Secretary of the Navy or the Assistant Secretary of the Navy himself. The result has been that the Navy has not had a single strike or a single serious disagreement during that whole period. It means further that we have had happy Navy Yards, with a wholly satisfactory output of work.

I ask you to put side by side the declarations of the two platforms in regard to labor. The Republican platform is full of empty words. It means nothing more than an attempt again to fool the public and the workingman. Read the Democratic platform - that means something - Yes and more than words. It means that those who ask the authority to administer

the affairs of this Country during the next four years have pledged themselves to carry out the intent of that platform to the best of their ability. And we will do it.

There is no question that the Democratic Party is acting as a whole in good faith. There is no question that the Republican Party is in the grip of a selfish and narrow group who care more for their own interests than they do for those of the nation; who care more for their own interests than they do for those of the Republican Party.

FROM SPEECH OF HON. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
BUTTE MONT.,
AUGUST 16, 1920

The farther West I go and the more people I see the more thoroughly convinced I am that the Nation understands the true inwardness of the issues. Strenuously as our Republican friends may try, they cannot make the Country believe that the controlling element in the Republican Party this year is progressive. People do not forget the history of the past few years. They have not forgotten the men in 1912 who thwarted the will of the majority of the Republican Party and turned their official face to the wall. The wolves who preyed upon the broad interests of the American people and represented special interests - they are the same wolves who have tried to wear sheep's clothing in the past. They are trying to do so again this year, but the American people can see through the thin disguise. They know that the Penroses, the Ledges, the Smoots and the Watsons are still licking their chops for another killing.

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AS PONZI SEQUEL

Massachusetts Banks
Suffering Through
Late Treasurer.

SET FOR TODAY

Massachusetts, an ex-Butcher,
Have Made \$100,000
Agent, Arrested.

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WHOLESALE COMMODITIES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—The wholesale prices of commodities declined approximately 2½ per cent since July 29 in the United States, according to a report today by the Department of Labor. The decrease in cloth and clothing materials was the most notable, amounting to 2½ per cent, while the price of farm products generally 2.5 per cent.

At the same time, prices of many commodities have increased during the month. The price of cotton, for example, advanced 12½ per cent, and the price of wheat 12½ per cent.

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MUTILATED IN RIVER

Body of Placid Trail Around
Ropes Supply Cuts in
Murder Mystery.

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Alleged Gamblers Found in Adirondacks

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—The search for alleged gamblers in the Adirondacks is continuing. The search for alleged gamblers in the Adirondacks is continuing. The search for alleged gamblers in the Adirondacks is continuing.

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HOPEFUL FORFUTURE

Situation in Near East Clearing:
Says British Parliament Mem-
ber, Just Returned.

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ROADS TO FEDERAL APPEAL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—The House today passed a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act, which would increase the rate of interest on Federal Reserve notes from 20 per cent to 25 per cent.

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LEADY TO BEAT SOCIALISTS

Head of the National Security
League Asks That Country
Be Put Above Party.

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