
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Centralia, WA - Campaign Speech

[Excerpts?]

[Centralia, Washington]

[Aug. 21,

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I particularly wanted to make this visit to Centralia. ~~This visit to Centralia~~ I regard as a pilgrimage to the very graves of the martyred members of The American Legion who here gave their lives in the sacred cause of Americanism. Their sacrifice challenged the attention of the Nation to the insidious danger to American Institutions in our very midst. Their death was not in vain for it aroused the patriotic people of the Great Nation to the task of ridding this land of the alien anarchist, the criminal syndicalist and all similar anti-Americans.

Here in the presence of your honored dead, I pledge to the Nation our determination to carry on this patriotic work - to make certain that the land, throughout its breadth and width, shall be made ~~unsafe~~ ^{free from} for those who seek by violence to destroy the Constitution and Institutions of America.

I know of no more fitting place than here in Centralia to speak my faith in the high purpose of the big ideals of the American Legion. I have been in intimate contact with the men and the women who are its members and its leaders. They are imbued with the same

purpose and consecrated to the same great cause so wonderfully expressed in the Legion Constitution. Banded together for God and Country, I look upon the ^{the} great fraternity of former service men and women as a great new, forward-going force for the welfare of the Nation. I look with confidence upon its many Posts throughout the land to put into public life that new blood, that new courageous and independent thinking, and that high form of red-blooded patriotism that will keep us on the high road to better things.

My message to you, the patriotic men and women of The American Legion, is to hold fast to the great causes you have so far nobly advanced. Continue to serve the Nation in time of Peace as you did in time of War. Keep up the big work in order that we may translate into the woof and fabric of the Land the ideals for which you suffered and sacrificed.