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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1920 August 21

Portland, OR - Campaign Speech

FROM SPEECH OF HOM FRANKLIM D. ROOSEVELT PORTLAND, OREGON - AUG. 21, 1920

Tonight I want to express my pleasure in getting to the
State of Oregon so early in the campaign, and at the same time to say
that I am indeed sorry that I could not have carried out the original
program which called for meetings in two other cities of this State.

I have learned better than ever before the truth of the old axiom that
"It is impossible to be in two places at the same time", and of the
other old axiom that "Possession is nine points of the law" - for my
Washington friends seized me and would not let go.

I want to start off by making a prophecy. I recognize that the State of Oregon is claimed as absolutely safe by the Republican leaders; but on the other hand, a large number of independent observers, who have studied the situation, have stated it as their opinion that the electoral vote of Oregon must be placed in the doubtful column. If these independent observers are right, as I believe them to be, my prophecy is definite that Oregon will be found casting the majority of its votes on November second for the Democratic Ticket.

I base this prophecy on two great big fundamental facts in

our modern public life and politic contests. These two facts are scarcely open to dispute. Either one of them is sufficent to bring my prophecy true - with the assistance of both of them there can be no room for doubt.

The first of these truths is that today, more than ever before in our national history, the voters of the United States are using their heads. It is very evident in every State of the Union that narrow partisanship is becoming less and less prevalent. It is equally evident that what might be called inherited partisanship is also passing away. A generation ago a very large proportion of the voters of the Mation, in both the Democratic and Republican Parties, were partisans because their fathers or their grandfathers had belonged to a particular party. People inherited their political faith with as great or even more regularity than they inherited the old homestead or their father's watch.

Many elements contributed in the old days to this unfortunate tendency, but the greatest factor probably was the existence of and bad feeling between political opponents.

A hundred years ago people in the United States used to fight duals over politics. The feeling ran high prior to elections, and violence was not an exception. The fighting of the Civil War did little to eradicate bad feeling.

But as these later years have passed by, this old antagonism has largely disappeared, and with its disappearance we are losing, gradually but surely, an antiquated and un-American method of voting a ticket because "grandpa" did.

Tam perfectly willing to let two classes in the community vote for Senator Harding this year, without any effort to call away.

Those who have studied the relative merits of the two platforms, who have studied the relative merits of the two candidates, and who after that are honestly of the opinion that Senator Harding would make the best President for the next four years, should vote for him. So, also, those who are guided by the opinions of their Republican grandfathers,

I do not ask the vote of any man, Democratic or Republican, unless it be a vote of conviction.

type of mind.

It is because I am so certain of the appeal which

Democratic ideals are making this year to those who are willing to

use their individual judgment that I give this as one of the great

reasons for my prophecy of Democratic success in this State this year.

The other great reason is that the American people are on
the whole a pretty wise people, and that they will not be fooled or
mislead by lies or misstatements; and the campaign of the Republican
leaders, as disclosed thus far, is so full of misrepresentations that
the votoers have plenty of time to discriminate - to call the bluff - to
discover the truth, and to punish those who are the guilty parties.

I suppose it is because the Democratic campaign has put the Republicans on the defensive that they are driven to the use of despicable methods. Let me give you an example. During the past week I have been demolishing the silly argument about England being able to out-vote us six to one in the League of Nations. I have shown, first of all, that it is the Council of the League which is the true governing body, and that in that Council the whole British Empire has but one vote, just the same as the United States; and I have shown that while in the Assembly,

of Great Britain's dominions, like Canada, South Africa and Australia, each have a vote, the United States of America will undoubtedly have the support of twice as many of our neighboring and friendly Republics in the West Indies and South America. I cited, for instance, the fact that the Republic of San Domingo is at the present time being administered by the United States Navy, and that as the interests of the two countries are closely bound up together, the votes of both countries would undoubtedly be found in the same column.

The same thing is true of the Republic of Haiti, though in that particular case they have a President and Cabinet of their own.

It is true also that the interests of other Republics, such as Cuba, Panama, Nicaragua and Brazil, are so akin to ours that we should be of mutual support to each other in the Assembly of the League of Nations.

What I am driving at is this. The above simple and clear statement got under the skin of the partisan Republican leaders to such an extent and under the skin particularly of the partisan Republican

Press, that they send some one to the State Department the other day and misrepresented me. saying that I had said that the United States has control over the Governments south of us. A cleverly worded story appears from Washington, making it appear that the State Department has denied my claim about these Republics in the League of Nations. I e that the State Department has denied the absolutely false statement given to them as coming from me. I whooly agree with the State Department. I reiterate exactly what I said before that the United States will have voting side by side with it in the League of Mations. not six States but at least twice that number. fact that these little Republics have the same kind of interests that we have and that it is even more certain that we will all be voting the same way than that Canada, Australia and South Africa will be found voting with England.

That is a very good illustration of the kind of misrepresentation to which they have been driven. By they I mean the present people in control of the Republican campaign. That kind of campaigning is not acceptable to the voters of this Nation - to the voters of any political party, and they will show their resentment when they are put to it.

I believe in playing this game on the level - in giving a square deal even to one's opponent. That is the other reason why I am very certain that the people of Oregon are going to put the State in the Democratic column in November.

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ARDING DEMANDS PROOF FROM COX

lares Charge of \$15,000,000 Campaign Fund Is 'Wholly Without Foundation."

TS NEED AT \$3,000,000

That Was Cost of First Mc inley Fight - No Special Appeal to Women

GOV. COX PROMISES PROOF OF CHARGES

natip as a whole, any ROOSEVELT FINDS WEST FOR LEAGUE

Asserts People Also Realize That Cox Has Democratic Progressiveness at Heart.

SPEAKS IN PORTLAND, ORE.

Says Democrats Have Good Pros-

200,000 MAY HEAR COX.

Special Stand and Sound Amplifier Being Built at Gravesend.

TURN ON MARYLAND MOTTO.

pects of Carrying All States West of Minnesota.

By CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, JR. Special to The New York Times.
PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 22.—1 have but had an interview with Franklin D.

Suffragists Want " Deeds Are Mas-

CHARGES HAYS AIDS 'WETS. Anderson Says Interference Threat-

LEGION WILL WATCH SOCIALISTS IN BRONX Veterans to Patrol Tonight as

Two Ousted Assemblymen Ask Re-election.

READY TO CURB DISLOYALTY

Fusion Against Pair Assured by Republican Decision to Withdraw Abeles.

SOCIALISTS UNITE FOR FIGHT. orm Central Board to Direct Ousted

ENROLL 823 REPUBLICANS. REPUBLICANS FEAR

LOSS OF THE SENATE

BARNES, AS AUTHOR, MAKES DEBUT TODAY

Politicians Interested in Ex-Chairman's Book "Republicanism of Nineteen Twenty."

ALL-METAL PLANE BACK FROM PACIFIC

"JL-6" Completes Transcontinental Round Trip, Blazing an Air Mail Route.

HER FLYING TIME 59 HOURS

lickenbacker, a Passenger with Inventor Larsen, Tells of Escap-Ing Bullets In Mexico.

Coal Output Reaches Peak;

Total Is 324.877.000 Tons

Namaton was naked whether be d make any comment on Governor zation a attacks on his foreign policies

the Polish situation furnish an tunity for application of the of Nations Issue?" was asked. have a pretty good slant on it."

Make Special Ples to Women campaign plans may have to that in increasing the amount of literature in view of several more women's votes, the Senator would not address himself to

t upon the political complexion of ess whatever I have to say citizenship of the country, and I make no distinction of sex in the utation of campaign issues that

Continued from Page 1, Column 5.

lovernor Cox sold be attributed this

n as a result of the war.

iled that he would not anticipate H. Anderson, State Superintendent of the he is preparing on foreign Anti-Saloon League, in a letter to Will for the Indiana delegation next H. Hays, Republican National Chairthe Indiana delegation next H. Hays, Republican National Chair—
"I shall so into the matter
"he added.
"ble added.
"ble histituation furnish and
for application of the
for application of the
Elon H. Hooker from becoming a candi-

our opposition to it is. The old father was delighted that his daughter, now a voter, was taking an interest in the affairs of the Nation. PROOF OF CHARGES

The other was of a magnificent boy who came to me and said that he had left two brothers behind him in France; that neither he nor his father had ever voted the Democratic ticket, but that they were both going to do so this "I have never seen so many men at meetings in campaigns

Wants Ald to Farmers on Grain. Governor Cox sent a telegram tonight

gely to a new idealism and a new to Governor W. P. G. Harding of the Federal Reserve Board, asking him to extend aid for grain elevators as a help in harvesting the crops, as he had been informed that it was difficult to obtain rest in government which had been used among the young men of the hey are interested," he said, "in overnment, and especially in bringernor Cox said he did not attach any the war to an end. Their moral litical significance to the conditions, has widened and their moral outat that he had been informed by many alsed. They have been quickened farmers in his travels about Ohio and other States that they were the cause of some distress. The telegram sent to appreciation of what citizenship werner Cov said also that he was Governor Harding read: by the "approach to religious

" My attention has been directed in which the camputer had aroused several parts of the country to a connany of those who attended the dition which I think the Federal Reserve Board should and can correct. It is am not taking a partisan position with reference to the movement of the crops. Farmers allege that the grain clevators are unable to secure sufficient san question. This fight is being credits to take in the season's yield. The farmers are without sufficient in its possibilities for good. And granary facilities to carry it over. In on't find any diference of opinion in the rank and file of the Remany instances this compels unnaturally fictitious prices. I am giving you this ety. I think this was fllusinformation as a private citizen, believtty well when I asked at one ing that the public welfare will be conere was any one present who served thereby. to the League of Nations

Makes No Comment on Harding's

DATTON, Ohio, Aug. 22 (Associated Press) .- Governor Cox was informed of the denial made tonight by Senator Harding of the \$15,000,000 campaign fund charges. The Governor said he had no comment to make on the denial at this time. His statement calling on Chairman Hays for information was made prior to his knowledge of Senator Harding's denial.

Woolen Company was interested in the election of a Republican Administration. ere were two incidents at Canton and its officers, he said, had stated that th affected me deeply. One was the Republican success would increase the value of their capital stock from \$10,-600,000 to \$20,000,000. In this connection

the first of September and the first of September and make an extensive tour

Roosevelt arrived here at 7:40 was escorted rium, where he addressed about 4,000

"Tonight," he said, "I want to express my pleasure in getting to the

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Lets Two Classes of Republicans Go. "I am perfectly willing to let two classes in the community vote for Sena-tor Harding this year without any ef-In his address in Canton last night fort to call them away. Those who have Governor Cox stated that the American studied the relative merits of the two

ENROLL 823 REPUBLICANS.

Contestants for Supremacy in Greenwich Expect Lively Caucus. Thursday

Special to The New York Times. GREENWICH, Conn., Aug. 22 .- A lively session is expected at the Republican caucus to elect delegates to the State Congress Convention to be held in he Town Hall Thursday. The Repub-ican Club, composed largely of New York business men, who seek to change

An answer is expected early this week from the State Attorney General as to whether the passage of the suffrage additional votes. The iment of new names, is the largest in the While heretofore fifty d, this year there were omen, the largest since and in 1900. The total

FEAR NEGRO "INVASION"

Ohlo Democrats Disturbed by Arrival of Many from the South. Special to The New York Times.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 22.-Democrats of Ohio are expressing concer over what they say is an invasion of negros from the South. They have been disturbed by the apparent influx of negroes toward the North, especially election cannot well be determined until

the registration is completed late in October. The time allowed for checking up reports of registration is short and up reports of registrative is controlled it is declared that it will be difficult to tell whether all negroes registered are proper voters or not.

Negroes have been coming North in recent very registered.

ns, and that an intensive campaign speaking, canvassing and appeals to voters by letters and literature build be undertaken in each district

Continued from Page 1, Column 4. redouble its energies to gain the seat

now held by him. Senator Frank B. Brandegce of Connecticut, a bitter-ender in the treaty fight and an avowed opponent of women suffrage, is expected to be opposed by Homer S. Cummings, former Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. That Mr. Brandegee will not have the easy sailing that was his portion in previous campaigns for the Senate is generally admitted and the Democrats are taking a hopeful view of the fight against him. Senator George H. Moses of New Hampshire, another bitter-ender, is being strongly opposed for renomina-

tion by Hunter Spaiding, who is said to be making headway against Moses on the League issue within the Republican

Scnator Boles Penrose of Pennsylvania is another Republican whose term will expire next year, but his re-election is believed to be assured. Senator Albert B. Cummins of Iowa is also looked upon as a sure winner in his contest for re-election. The Republicans are not worrying about the chances

Uncertainty in Other States.

One of the sharpest contests will be in Indiana, where Senator James E. Watson. Republican, will be opposed by former Senator Thomas Taggart, Demo-crat, whom he defeated for re-election Democratic Committee recalled in 1916. A confident feeling has preent today what Senator rion Star said when the amendment for direct elemanagers that Taggart would defeat ors was ratified. This is Watson, but it is asserted that Taggart's reported strength may receive a

Panublicana Count on Missouri

Republicans believe they have an excellent chance of re-electing Serfator Selden P. Spencer of Missouri, where the Democrats are divided through Senator Reed's opposition to Presi

ator Recu's opposition to Fresident son and his policies. In Kentucky, another State nor Democratic, the Republicans have of defeating Senator J. C. W. Bed Democrat. The Republican candid

ontrol did not pay attention its of the primary elections. nominated a candidate who

Says Voters Feel Misrepresented. e voters feel that these leaders are ending for what the people were op-" said Governor Cox. " Many

to answer any question

because the leaders who

elved a majority of votes in

ry of a girl who, returning from colhad gone to her father and told can't believe in your position on the Governor referred to the cle eague, although I know how strong the corporation's mills.