
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Salt Lake City, UT - Campaign Speech

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, AUG. 26, 1920

Just two weeks ago last night, in Chicago, I started the big swing around the circle that has carried me through the Northwest to the Pacific Coast, down through California as far as Los Angeles and back on the homeward journey as far as Salt Lake. These two weeks have been crowded with events, and a series of impressions has recorded themselves in my mind with a vividness that leads naturally to conclusions that are so definite that they are fast becoming convictions with me. Outstanding among these is the feeling, conviction if you like, that when the will of the people is registered at the poles in November an era of progress will be continued. If there are those in public life in America today who believe that the voters of this Country this year will follow blindly the dictates of party leaders and cast their votes along strict party lines, regardless of what the parties promise or stand for, I have a word of caution for them. America today is thinking, not along narrow partisan lines, but of the broad fundamental issues. America is demanding action, not words, something definite and concrete in the way of a constructive program - not an evasive hodge podge of words such as the old-time politician used to find effective in catching the voters. What America wants today is a real genuine rule of the people by the people, not a rule for the few and by the few.

I have found this true in the industrial centers of Wisconsin, the great farm sections of the Dakotas, the mining regions of Montana, through the broad stretches of Washington and Oregon and through the length and breadth of California. Everywhere is the determination apparent; the individual voter is thinking, being capable of making up his own mind. I have shaken hands and talked with thousands of them, and the story is the same wherever I happen to be. Time and again I have told my audience, and I want to repeat it to you, that throughout this entire trip I have not met a single

democrat so dissatisfied that he is willing to cast his vote for the Republican nominee for the Presidency. On the other side of the picture, hundreds upon hundreds of persons have shaken me by the hand and told me that they were Republicans, or Progressives or Independents, but that this time they propose to cast their vote for Cox and Progress. I have found everywhere a feeling of discontent, almost I might say bordering on disgust, over the action of the Republican National Convention in over-riding so callously the expressed choice of the people and brazenly substituting one of their number as the party choice. Deep rooted resentment is everywhere manifest over the cold-blooded elimination of the three leading pre-convention candidates, for whom the Republican voters had declared themselves. As one former Republican expressed to me in the far Northwest - "The old gang thought this was a normally Republican year and they could elect a ^{anyone} ~~winner~~ ^{wanted to} if they put it up." I am not so certain that the "old gang" was wrong about the first part of this prior to the Convention, but, thank God, the time has past, if it ever existed, when leaders of any party can ride rough shod over the will of the voters and then line them up to carry out orders. So pronounced is the demand for a leadership and program that spells progress and so deep-seated seems the resentment toward the reactionary "Old Guard", that once again is in the saddle and dominating the destinies of the Republican Party, that I am willing now to go on record and stake my reputation as a prophet on the accuracy of the prophecy I am about to make. On November second an overwhelming majority of the voters of America will register their votes for James M. Cox of Ohio for President of the United States. Further than this, within sixty days after the election, the treaty of peace and the League of Nations will be ratified by the United States Senate. This will be done regardless of whether there is a two-thirds majority of Democrats in the Senate or not for I am firmly convinced that the American people will declare themselves so unmistakably for the League of Nations to make impossible a repetition of the horror of 1914, and that the Republicans and Democrats alike will

help to speed the ratification.

After all, this question will be settled by the election and all the world awaits with keenest anxiety the verdict; - Shall the United States lead the world toward the establishment of universal peace, or shall it keep on building greater armies and navies in an endeavor to hold her rightful place among the great military powers of the earth? The first way means the prevention of wars, the lowering of taxes necessary to the upkeep of a large army and navy, the keeping of ^{our} young men on this side of the Atlantic where they belong, where they can engage in useful pursuits and where they can establish their own homes and raise their own families. Now, look at the other side of the picture: First, it means the old order of things, the race for the establishment of the "balance of power" among the nations of the world, similar to the combinations formed during the recent war, the Allies on the one side and the Central Powers on the other. Germany thought she had the men, the ships, the ammunition necessary to defeat the Allies; she thought she was shrewd enough to capture France and Belgium and extend her borders to the English Channel, but, no, she found that the odds were greater than she anticipated. The rest of the Countries, including ourselves, had also been preparing for years. It is lucky that we were prepared, but where will this thing stop if some step is not taken to "standardize", we might say, the armed forces of the world. With all the nations practically on the same footing, where could you find one with nerve enough to "start something"? Not a single one would dare, knowing that the rest of the "crowd" would immediately start a little something of their own. No peoples want war - it is only the men with the militaristic minds that are forever disturbing the peace of the world.

The moral influence of this country of ours, the participation in the League of Nations, will do more to prevent future wars than any other influence that can be brought to bear on any

nation controlled by the militarists and seized with the desire to control the affairs of the entire world.

The League of Nations is designed to bring the world back to a peace footing, designed to keep our men, England's men, France's men, Belgium's men, Italy's men, Russia's men, yes, and Germany's men and Austria's men within the limits of their own boundaries. I am against all wars, and I am anxious to see this step taken to prevent the recurrence of such a war as we have just passed through, and I do not believe that any man, woman or child in this country, whether that person is a Congressman or a Senator, has a right of any sort to raise his or her voice in opposition to this endeavor of America to lead the rest of the world toward universal and lasting peace.

And now, my friends, think this matter over in your homes, look at it from all sides, and I am perfectly willing, without any further discussion on my part, to leave the question entirely in your hands. ~~The church is a powerful influence in our country,~~ but the little discussions in the home, in the family, go a long way toward keeping this country on the right pathway. We must always remember that the American home is the foundation of this country and we want to do everything possible to make these homes safe for all time and undisturbed by the clouds of war.

NIGHT LETTER

WESTERN UNION

SALT LAKE CITY
AUGUST 26

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

TRAIN FIRST NO. TWO MEX LA & SL BY DUE

LYNDYL UTAH 820 AM AUG 26

HOME
FOR MCINTYRE COLON UTAH IS CHRISTENSENS STATE. HE WILL GET
SUPPORT RADICALS BUT CONSERVATIVE LABOR IS DEMOCRATIC.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION CONVENES HERE THURSDAY.
STATES NEWSPAPERS LARGELY CONTROLLED BY REPUBLICAN MACHINE. HIT
REPUBLICAN FUND REITERATING HAYS STATEMENT FOR PRESS. BOOST
FARMERS, RECLAMATION, LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS ALSO EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM IN STATE WHICH IS ONE OF BEST IN COUNTRY WITH ILLITERACY
ALMOST UNKNOWN. DEMOCRATS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHOOL SYSTEM.

NO FACTIONS IN STATE DEMOCRATIC RANKS. CONVENTION MEETS
AUGUST THIRTY.

TEW IS ~~*****~~ RED HOT. REQUESTED THAT YOU POINT TO
OLD ~~THE~~ GUARD MANAGEMENT REPUBLICAN PARTY DIRECTING OPPOSITION
TO TEW. FOUR SAY MENTION SMOOTS NAME THAT CONNECTION WILL
HELP THEM BUT RED HIM IN OTHER RESPECTS. LARGEST PUBLIC MEETING
EVER HELD IN UTAH WAS GIVEN TO WILSON HERE ON TEW. STATE IS
UNQUESTIONABLY PRO-TEW.

MEETING UPON ARRIVAL OF RAILROAD WORKERS IN SHOP YARDS
WHERE BRIEF ADDRESS EXPECTED. NIGHT MASS MEETING IN MORMAN
TABERNACLE C A BOYD OF OGDEN PRESIDING. GREAT MUSICAL PROGRAM.
MORMAN CHURCH OFFICIALLY ENDORSED LEAGUE NATIONS OCTOBER
NINETEEN NINETEEN-NINETEEN AND STANDS TODAY SO RECORDED AND
ALL CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTED SUPPORT LEAGUE. ALSO JOINED

~~*****~~ WITH TAPT WICKERSHAM AND LOWELL OF
HARVARD IN PETITIONING SENATE FOR IMMEDIATE RETIFICATION
WITHOUT AMENDMENT IN OCTOBER NINETEEN NINETEEN. THREE C W PENROSE
LDS CHURCH OFFICE, A W IVINS ZIONS SAVINGS BANK.

SHEET TWO

CULBERT L. OLSON JUDGE BUILDING, ALL ~~SEE~~ SALT LAKE.

STATE BLUEST.

SUFFRAGE OLD QUESTION HERE.

LEAVING TODAY FOR CHEYENNE DIRECT.

EARLY