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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

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**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

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**File No. 163**

**1920 September 13**

**Manchester, NH - Campaign Speech (lgh.)**

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EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT  
MANCHESTER, N. H., SEPT. 15, 1920

My friend, Governor Coolidge, made an excellent address here in Manchester last Saturday night on the subject of autocracy in Government. Any American who is not an anarchist can agree with his patriotic sentiments in favor of a continuation of our Government with its three-fold branches, the Executive, Legislative and Judicial.

But it is on statements of historical fact and the conclusions therefrom that my thought must differ from his. His whole argument is based on the assumption that the great accomplishments of our history are due to the <sup>great</sup> preponderance wisdom and power of the Congress of the United States, and that the leadership of the Nation should during the next four years devolve on the leaders of the Legislative Branch. This is in line with the theory of Senator Harding that the Presidency itself should be a kind of Chief Clerksip to carry out the policies announced by a syndicate or coterie of old line party leaders. We are told that war powers still vest in the Executive, and that extravagance, not specified, results. We are told that the present Republican Congress has saved the day.

There is so little that is constructive in the Republican campaign that one wonders how long the people are going to be satisfied with criticizing words. Here is their campaign in a nut-shell:

1. Charging that President Wilson is an autocrat.
2. Charging waste by his Administration.
3. Offering to have the Government run by a Republican House and Senate through a subservient Administration.
4. Trying to take out an exclusive patent on the American flag and on all the great accomplishments of our history in favor of the Republican Party.

As I recall history, most of our great deeds have been brought about by Executive Leaders, by the Presidents who were not tools of Congress but were true leaders of the Nation, who so truly interpreted the needs and wishes of the people that they were supported in their great tasks. Washington would not have led us to victory in

the Revolution if he had merely followed the actions or lack of action of the Continental Congress. Lincoln would not have issued the Emancipation Proclamation if he had heeded the leaders of the Senate. Cleveland would not have maintained the Monroe Doctrine in the Venezuela affair if he had first asked the advice of mere party leaders. Roosevelt would not have kept the Government out of the clutches of predatory interests if he had bowed to Mark Hanna and Foraker and Bess Platt. Wilson's Administration would not have been successful in the War if he had not adopted the policy of calling in the experts of the Nation, without regard to party affiliations, in order to create and send across the seas that great Army in record-breaking time.

Since the War also the point holds good. Read the recommendations made to Congress by President Wilson in an earnest endeavor to bring the Nation back to a peace footing. Read too the utter failure of this Congress to act in the emergency. The Railroad bill is literally the only answer given by this Republican Congress in an attempt to solve vital needs. It was only an attempt, at that. This talk about the repeal of war legislation as the solution is unworthy because it is fraudulent. We must repeal war legislation, of course, but not until further legislation is passed to take care of pressing problems. To destroy certain machinery without creating something new would be grave injustice. For instance, to stop all food regulations would allow further profiteering and a further increase in the cost of living, unless at the same time Congress gives in new legislation the power to go after the profiteers and to work out methods to eliminate waste and the unnecessary type of middleman.

Of course, the truth of the matter is that this Congress has been so busy attempting to unearth scandal and to lay the foundations for a political campaign that it has had no time for constructive work. It has combed every branch of the Government, and in all the vast work it has found only one or two instances worthy of criticism, and in these one or two the specific matter has been hushed up because

the maladministration has been directly due to prominent Republican dollar-a-year men!

There is a great contrast between the two candidates for the Presidency. Governor Cox is an executive leader. He has proved that in his constructive work in Chic. He does not believe in a syndicated Presidency. Yet he has never been called an autocrat. He has pointed the way in his public life, yet he has been able to work successfully with a Legislature of the opposite political faith.

Our campaign is based on construction. We believe that great problems must be undertaken and solved in these coming four years, and that they can be solved by intelligent leadership, and a true understanding of the correct relationship between the Executive and Legislative Branches, plus a sound public opinion back of it all. We believe, too, that most if these questions are more than partisan and that they deserve to be lifted above the realm of mere politics in the old-fashioned sense. If one could put it in a few words, it would be this:

1. The restoring of peace in conjunction with all other nations - not a separate peace.
2. Making it a permanent peace by building up through the existing association called the League.
3. Reducing the expenses of the Government by a systematic reorganization of the Departments and the creation of a non-political budget system.
4. Repeal of emergency war legislation at the moment such new legislation is passed as will give sufficient authority to control profiteering, eliminate wasteful marketing, increase production and guarantee the Nation against lack of fuel or other vital necessities of life.
5. The conduct of the Presidency and the Administration on the theory of the Constitution—that it is a coordinate branch of the Government and not a branch subservient to the Congress or to any group in the Congress .

About 1200 people  
here - actual count?

1. *Leucosia* *leucostoma* (Fabricius) *lutea* (Fabricius) *leucostoma* *lutea* (Fabricius)

Geo  
Lo La  
Mo La  
Va  
Md  
Del  
Prote  
N.Y.  
N.Y.  
Conn  
R.  
Mass  
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the following table. The cost per ton of coal is given for each type of fuel.

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[Sept. 13, 1920]

[Manchester, N.H.]

My friend Governor Coolidge made an excellent address here in Manchester last Saturday night on the subject of autocracy in government. Very American who, is not an anarchist can agree with his ~~friendly~~ patriotic sentiments in ~~opposition~~ to favor of a continuation of our ~~free~~ government with its three fold ~~leaders~~ branches the executive, legislative and judicial.

But it is an statement, a <sup>historical</sup> fact and the conclusion therefrom that my thought must differ from his. His whole argument is based on the assumption that the powers of the Congress have been usurped and that great accomplishments of our history are due to the preponderant wisdom and power of the Congress of the United States, and that the leadership of the nation should during the next four years devolve on the leaders of the legislative branch. This is in line with the



on the humanizing and in  
all the social movements  
of our time in favor of  
the abolition of poverty.

### C. Social Division

of labor into two main  
classes of workers and  
employers, by the  
means of social control directly  
from this gradually arises the  
division of society into  
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rewards and punishments. The  
punishments are of the strictest  
kind. Floggings and doses of salt  
are frequent and severe. The  
children are compelled to do  
what they consider impossible  
and painful. They are compelled  
to stand in the sun during  
the heat of summer and in  
the rain if they offend.  
They are compelled to stand  
in the cold of winter and in  
the heat of summer if they  
do not attend school  
or if they commit sins.  
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constructive remedies. This tells, about ~~new~~ legislation to ~~stop~~ the repeal of war legislation, as the solution is unworkable because it is fraudulent. We must replace war legislation of course, but not until some ~~substitute~~ further legislation is passed to take care of pressing problems. To destroy certain machinery without ~~substitution~~ and creating something new would be grave injustice. For instance to stop all food regulation would allow further profiteering and a further increase in the cost of living, unless at the same time Congress gives in new legislation the power to go after the profiteers, and to work out methods to eliminate waste and the unnecessary middleman.

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