
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Portsmouth, NH - Campaign Speech

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Portsmouth, N. H., September 13, 1930.

As the campaign progresses, the big, broad, fundamental difference of opinion between the Democratic Party and the present leaders of the Republican Party is becoming so pronounced and clean-cut that the average voter throughout the length and breadth of the land is beginning to understand it and realize how absolutely vital to the welfare of the country and the world at large it is. Broadly speaking, the differences, the ones that really count, I mean, narrow down, or perhaps it would be better to say broaden out, into the fundamental of progress versus reaction. In fact, so clear cut is this becoming that one feels tempted at times to refer to the two parties, not as Democrats and Republicans, but as Progressives and the Reactionaries.

In almost every issue that has been raised you will find Governor Cox and the Democratic Party take a position that means a going forward of the country, while on the other hand, Senator Harding and his little coterie of Senate associates who have once again seized control of the Grand Old Party are blocking all attempts at going ahead, and in many instances are advocating an actual turning back on the part of the nation in the march of progress.

Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the two attitudes toward the League of Nations. Here you find Governor Cox and the Democratic Party taking a definite stand. As he expresses it, "I favor going in". In direct contrast is the position of Senator Harding, whose attitude is still a matter of speculation, those who so desire interpret his utterances to mean that he is unalterably opposed to the League of Nations, while the pro-League Republicans still find comfort in the vagueness and evasiveness which have characterized his various attempts to placate the widely divergent factions of his own party.

Personally, I have no fight with the rank and file of the Republican Party which fell on evil days at the Chicago Convention. I firmly believe

there are thousands upon thousands of good Republicans who have made up their minds to forget party allegiance at the polls this fall because they realize the vital necessity of insuring the elimination of the present leadership which once again is bringing their party into disrepute. You must remember that it is this same "gang" now in control that made conditions so unbearable in 1912, as ~~xxxx~~ to force the progressive-thinking Republicans out of their party in an attempt to rebuke, at that time, that leadership and give the Republican Party a new birth.

Believing this, as ~~xxxx~~ I do, I know that my party this year offers to the progressive thinkers of every political faith a chance to put into practical effect what they believe. ~~xxx~~ A vote for Governor Cox means a vote for progress and a guarantee against a return of the conditions which led to the world war with all its slaughter and horrors.