
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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Providence, RI - Campaign Speech

Dictated by Judge Marx

Each day serves to further reveal the true character of
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this election is held his own statements will unmask the true inward-
ness and purpose of the "syndicate" in attempting to secure control
of the Executive as well as the Legislative Branch of our Government.

I call attention to the significant statement of Senator Harding to the Women's Harding Club of New York City yesterday, in which he said - "Too much is heard of independence in politics ~~now~~". The ~~fact~~ of parading independence is to be deplored". This solemn utterance of Candidate Harding against independence and independent thinking in politics will unquestionably be read with astonishment by the great body of Independents in America who have held the balance of power in our public life and who have constantly kept this Nation true to its great ideals. Those who know the Ohio story of Senator Harding's entire lack of independence in public life would hardly expect any open approval of anything except blind party allegiance. However, even they must be astounded that he should so frankly, and without any realization of the shame of his statement, confess his opposition to all independence in American politics and to the great body of independent voters.

This confession of his political faith was probably prompted by the news from the independent thinking voter of the West and Northwest of how the Independents, who ~~voters~~ in 1916 proved so decisive, are going to vote this year. I do not wonder, after my trip through each of these Western States, that Senator Harding should have been horrified to think that the people of the West are so "independent" that, although normally Republican, they are going to vote for progressive men and progressive principles this year, and not for a reactionary

Senate "Syndicate" which has seized the Republican Party machinery, but which does not represent the rank and file of the Republican Party.

The difference between Senator Harding and ourselves upon this important principle of American political thought is fundamental and vastly more vital than it may sound at first. Governor Cox and I glory in the fact that America is becoming more and more independent in its thinking and its voting. We glory in the fact that the voter who votes a ticket regardless of the nominees or the principles, merely because "grandfather" voted that ticket is fast becoming extinct.

Unlike Senator Harding, I do not think that too much is heard of independence in politics, but that ~~not~~ enough is heard of independence in politics. I look forward with confidence to the day when each party will go before the people and base its appeal solely upon the merits of the issues and the character of the candidates, with a knowledge that there are so many Independents in America that their decision will determine the result. I have faith that this day is not only coming, but that it is here. I believe that it is the Independents who are going to decide the result this Fall.

Men who call themselves Independents or who call themselves members of either of the great parties or of the lesser parties, will do well to study ^{not} only the statement of Candidate Harding that there is too much independence in our Nation, but to study the record of the Candidates themselves for independence in public life. Governor Cox and myself have never hesitated to break with the kind of political thought with which we disagreed, regardless of whom we might offend

in our Party by so doing. Governor Cox proved his independence when he broke with the old organization in Ohio and came out for a new ideal in public life, for a new Constitution and for a new program for popular rule, human welfare and social justice in that State. *(My own record in the General Assembly of New York in opposing the bosses even in my own party is an open book.)* *Mc - Not good now.*

Contrast this with the record of Senator Harding. Never in his entire career has he shown the slightest indication of independence, either in action or in thought. He has never championed or even stood strongly for a single movement or measure during all of his time in public life. On the contrary, he has stood side by side with the political bosses, both in his own State and in the Senate. *Side by side with* *EILKA* with his declaration today against independence in public life, is his telegram of congratulation to Senator Brandgee, one of the most prominent of the clique that have controlled the Senate whenever the republicans have had a majority. Only last week he gave forth an interview, stating that the proudest moment of his life was when he nominated ~~for~~ *Sen. Foraker of Ohio*, a man who Theodore Roosevelt proved received \$50,000.00 while in the United States Senate from the Standard Oil Company. He not only nominated Foraker for the Senate, but he nominated as delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention with *falsely* *praise the man who Lincoln Steffens called the most corrupt boss in America - Boss George B. Cox of Cincinnati.* *Not good*

No! Senator Harding can hardly be classified as an independent in public life. He can hardly have been expected to endorse independence in others. His statement of yesterday strips the camouflage from his career and exposes the emptiness and the vacuity of his political philosophy in utter nakedness before the American public.

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No! Senator Harding can hardly be classified as an independent in public life. He can hardly have been expected to endorse independence in others. His statement of yesterday strips the camouflage from his career and exposes the emptiness and the vacuity of his political philosophy in utter nakedness before the American public.

Each day serves to further reveal the true character
and the type of mind which the candidacy of Senator Harding. Before
this election is held his own statements will unmask the true inward-
ness and purpose of the "syndicate" in attempting to secure control
of the Executive as well as the Legislative Branch of our Government.

I call attention to the significant statement of
Senator Harding to the Women's Harding Club of New York City yesterday,
in which he said - "Too much is heard of independence in politics ***"
The reason of parading independence is to be deplored". This solemn
utterance of Candidate Harding against independence and independent
thinking in politics will unquestionably be read with astonishment
by the great body of Independents in America who have held the balance
of power in our public life and who have constantly kept this Nation
true to its great ideals. Those who knew the Ohio story of Senator
Harding's entire lack of independence in public life would hardly expect
any open approval of anything except blind party allegiance. However,
even they must be astounded that he should so frankly, and without any
realization of the shame of his statement, confess his opposition to
all independence in American politics and to the great body of independ-
ent voters.

This confession of his political faith was probably prompted
by the news from the independent thinking and independent voting West
and Northwest of how the Independents, whose votes in 1916 proved so
decisive, are going to vote this year. I do not wonder, after my trip
through each of these Western States, that Senator Harding should have
been horrified to think that the people of the West are so "independent"
that, although normally Republican, they are going to vote for progressive
men and progressive principles this year, and not for a reactionary

Senate "Syndicate" which has seized the Republican Party machinery, but which does not represent the rank and file of the Republican Party.

The difference between Senator Harding and ourselves upon this important principle of American political thought is fundamental and vastly more vital than it may sound at first. Governor Cox and I glory in the fact that America is becoming more and more independent in its thinking and its voting. We glory in the fact that the voter who votes a ticket regardless of the nominees or the principles, merely because "grandfather" voted that ticket is fast becoming extinct.

Unlike Senator Harding, I do not think that too much is heard of independence in politics, but that no enough is heard of independence in politics. I look forward with confidence to the day when each party will go before the people and base its appeal solely upon the merits of the issues and the character of the candidates, with a knowledge that there are so many Independents in America that their decision will determine the result. I have faith that this day is not only coming, but that it is here. I believe that it is the Independents who are going to decide the result this Fall.

Men who call themselves Independents or who call themselves members of either of the great parties or of the lesser parties, will do well to study ^Wonly the statement of Candidate Harding that there is too much independence in our Nation, but to study the record of the Candidates themselves for independence in public life. Governor Cox and myself have never hesitated to break with the kind of political thought with which we disagreed, regardless of whom we might offend from his career and expose the emptiness and the vacuity of his political philosophy in other nakedness before the American public.

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