
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Bridgeport, CT - Campaign Speech

...their own independence and their own liberty — the right to self-determination.

Assails "Syndicated Presidency."

"If you believe in a syndicated Presidency, if you believe in the theory of a little group of men running your Government, then you had better vote for Senator Brandegee and Senator Harding and make Frank Brandegee Associate President. It is now as in 1912, when the Republican Party was split asunder by that great, courageous effort to keep it a party of progress, and in that year it was Senator Harding who, back there in Ohio, was lined up with Foraker, Boss Cox of Cincinnati and the rest of the old-line bosses, and in that campaign Harding referred to Theodore Roosevelt, first as Aaron Burr and then as Benedict Arnold. That is the man who is offered to you by the Republican Party, that is the man you are asked to vote for. But we have time between now and November to tell the American people that the big question is honesty on the one side and a deliberate attempt to deceive on the other."

'DRY' LEAGUE ASSAILS 'RECREANT JUDGES'

Declares They Should Be Removed for Making Mockery of the Prohibition Law.

The attitude of the Anti-Saloon League of New York with regard to penalties imposed by Federal Judges on violators of the prohibition law is stated in a resolution adopted yesterday at the National League Conference in Washington, as announced from league offices here. The resolution was drawn up by William H. Anderson, State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of New York, and Wayne B. Wheeler, attorney for the national league. Preceding the adoption of the resolution Mr. Anderson made a speech in which he reiterated his charges, made recently in this city, that some Federal judges were giving comfort and aid to law-breakers by not imposing heavy sentences.

The resolution, as announced here, reads:

"The nation is confronted by a gigantic and vicious conspiracy to discredit and ultimately overthrow prohibition by violation and non-enforcement of the law, which challenges the good faith, the discriminating intelligence and the persistent devotion of all Federal officials.

"Yet it is a deplorable fact that too frequently, even after the difficulty of conviction or of securing evidence so clear as to make defense impossible has been surmounted, courts impose mere fines and so inadequate in amount as to constitute a cheap license and encouragement of lawlessness.

"The general high character of the Federal judiciary throughout our history has been a bulwark of the Republic and the pride of law-abiding citizenship. There are many Federal district judges who, by their fearless discharge of their responsibility actually to stop the sale of liquor has established a practical standard of fidelity and efficiency which has taught the people what they have a right to expect from every man who holds that high office.

"However, the unstinted credit due them should not soften the weight of public condemnation justly deserved by some recreant judges, some of them in territory dry even before national prohibition became operative, who because of personal prejudice or for other reasons have, by their aid with violators of the prohibition law as to make a mockery of the administration of justice and instead of protecting the public against crime have in fact given aid and comfort to a criminal traffic and its criminal representatives."

"These and other derelict public officials should be removed from office, inasmuch as the tenure of office for certain Federal officers is for life or "good behavior" and the method provided for their impeachment is difficult and impracticable, we appeal to Congress to provide some standard for "good behavior" by defining misconduct in office as in some States and to make violation of it result in forfeiture of office. Winking at violations of the law by judges or citizens is the leprosy of the social order. It hamstring the forces of that great body of honest judges and public officials who are bravely doing their duty."

[Sept. 18, 1920]

File

Mr. Cahriman, ladies and gent

Mr. GRAHAM LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I am glad to get back to B., it is a little over two years ago that I was here last; during one of those Red CROSS drives. I think in May, 1918. It was just before I crossed the ocean on a destroyer during the war. ~~It~~ It is interesting to all of us to think back to that time of two years ago and to contrast our own thoughts of today with what they were then. At that particular time we were rather proud of ourselves. We were rather proud of the splendid work we were all doing in the great national emergency. We were all working shoulder to shoulder, Republicans and Democrats alike; all working for the nations good and Bridgeport ought to know because there was not another city in the US that had as much to do with the winning of the war as did B., CONN. Sometimes I wish we could all god back and be nationally-minded again, but during the las few months we seem to have drifted away from that high purpose we all had at that time. My friends, what have people been saying these last few months. WHY, they have been stooping to petty politics, and saying things that did not mean. Do you think that a young man in Maine the other day was really telling his own thought when he has claiming credit to the Republican Party for the winning of the war. Do you think he will be proud of that statement when he gets to be an older man. Why, it seems that some day we will get back to a sense of proportion. You and I know of that great work in the country, the Red Cross, Liberty Loan drives, the building of submarines and ships, the turning out of ammunition and of rifles and the thousand and one ~~things~~ other things all over this country, and especially here in Bridgeport. Do you think when we get older we wont go back and realize that at that time we were winning the war not as Republicans, not as democrats, but that we were winning the war as by a splendid united effort of men and women of both parties, good Americans all. DO you suppose in 1917 1918, if Sen. Harding or if senator Lodge, or if the President of the US, on the oth other side, had got up in this country and said fellow citizens, all we are after is a military victory and when we have defeated the fo ces of the CENTRAL empires then we will bring our troops home and make a separate peace with Germany, reconstitute the League TRIBUNAL and draw a chinese wall around ourselves and let Europe and the rest of the world go t the DEVIL. No, we had a double purpose in going into that war; to prevent a recurrence of that terrible struggle, and the other to give to the smaller nations of the earth a chance to secure their own independence and their own liberty, the right to self-determination.

If you believe in a complicated presidency, if you believe in the theory of a little group of men running your government, then you had better vote for