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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 172

1920 September 18

Bridgeport, CT - Campaign Speech
ROOSEVELT WANTS IRELAND IN LEAGUE

Assails in Speech at Bridgeport
Attempt to Elect "Syndicated President."

URGES RETURN TO IDEALS

Says All Americans United in War to Prevent a Recurrence of That Terrible Struggle.

Bridgeport, Conn., Sept. 18.—President P. B. Borah, addressing an enthusiastic gathering of 3,000 persons in the Cosmopolitan, expressed the hope that Ireland might in the near future take a seat in the League of Nations under Lord Birkenhead's leadership and urged the people of the United States to do their part in electing an "independent President," with Brandeis as Associate President.


"DRY LEAGUE ASSAULTS "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 possible removal of Federal Judges is indicated in statements by its leaders.
'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 which led to the passage of the law imposing Federal Judges on violators of the prohibition law is stated in a resolution adopted at the annual meeting of the National League Conference in Washington, as announced from league offices here.

The resolution was drawn up by William Hume Hopkins, who is president of the Anti-Saloon League of New York, Wisconsin attorney general for the national league.

The resolution says: 'The resolution of the righteous, the righteous nation of God, has taken upon itself the solemn responsibility of enforcing the provisions of the prohibition law as they have been interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States and as they have been held by the federal courts.

The resolution says: 'The resolution of the righteous, the righteous nation of God, has taken upon itself the solemn responsibility of enforcing the provisions of the prohibition law as they have been interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States and as they have been held by the federal courts.

The resolution as announced here reads:

The nation is confronted by a guilt by and without any prospect of success.

Yet it is the unanimous opinion of those who have studied the law that the court has not given the weight of its authority to any of the provisions of the law. It has been uniformly held by the court that the law is not only unconstitutional but also in violation of the federal constitution and the due process of law.

The general high character of the judges, despite their record of failure, has been a bulwark of the presidency and the United States of America. There are many Federal district judges, including a number of the government's most distinguished jurists, who have the responsibility actually to stop the evil, and who are now in the position of having to either go on or down.

Yet it is the unanimous opinion of those who have studied the law that the court has not given the weight of its authority to any of the provisions of the law. It has been uniformly held by the court that the law is not only unconstitutional but also in violation of the federal constitution and the due process of law.
Mr. Cahrlman, ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Chairman 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. 

Still 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 nation's 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 go back and be nationally-minded again, but during the last 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 won't 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 other hand, had put up in this country and said fellow citizens, all we are after is a military victory and when we have defeated the foes of the CENTRAL empires then we will bring our troops home and make a separate peace with Germany, reconstitute the Hague Tribunal and draw a Chinese wall around ourselves and 1 the Europe and the rest of the world go to 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 assure their own independence and their own liberty, the right to self-determination.

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