
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

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Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

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**Albany, Schenectady, Troy, NY -
Campaign Speech**

ROOSEVELT OFFERS LIVING COST PLAN

Wants Better Transportation,
Middle Men Limited and Prof-
iteer Laws Changed.

OPENS STATE CAMPAIGN

Nominee Promises "Immediate Ac-
tion" if Democrats Win — De-
cries National "Barnesism."

ALBANY, Sept. 20.—Several thousand persons filled Union Hall here tonight to hear Franklin D. Roosevelt make the principal address of the first day of his New York State campaign.

Speaking to an audience which included many who were here to attend the special session of the Legislature, Mr. Roosevelt devoted most of his time to discussing subjects relating to the cost of living. He blamed the present Republican Congress largely for having taken no action to ameliorate conditions and said that if the Democratic Party was successful in November Governor Cox and himself proposed "to take immediate action."

"While it is not to be expected that such action will reduce the cost of living to the point where it was in 1914," he said, "it will be of material benefit to every individual and to every family."

He then made six concrete proposals of measures to improve living conditions throughout the country. They are:

"Increase food production by opening up at once and on a large scale millions of acres of land now unproductive.

"Make farm life more attractive, and direct an intensive campaign to provide better living conditions in the country districts.

"Improve transportation facilities, in order that the products of the farms may be more quickly and more cheaply brought to the consumer.

"Eliminate many of the unnecessary hands through which articles at the present time pass between the man who produces and the man who consumes the articles.

"Change the present ineffective laws regarding profiteering so that the public may be assured that selfish individuals

will not line their pockets out of the undue profits made from the necessities of life.

"Provide such regulations of commodities like coal that the average citizen may be assured that the supply will be adequate and the price reasonable."

He declared that the Republican candidate offered "no such definite program for relieving conditions as this one." The Republican Party, he said, offered "solutions only" in terms of glittering generalities.

On arriving here this afternoon from Troy, where he had also spoken, Mr. Roosevelt called at the executive mansion and was received by Governor Smith.

Says "Barnesism" Threatens Nation.

TROY, N. Y., Sept. 20.—At a luncheon meeting of Democrats here today Franklin D. Roosevelt declared that the election of Harding and his ticket would mean setting up "what people in this State know as 'Barnesism' throughout the country."

Mr. Roosevelt arrived here by motor from Schenectady, where he delivered two campaign addresses. He announced that after today's speeches he would go to Boston to enter his son in a preparatory school, resuming his campaign on Wednesday.

In his luncheon speech Mr. Roosevelt declared that the Republican candidates failed to "stand on their own feet." He charged that if elected they would be merely the "figure-heads through which the 'powers' of the party would work in the actual government of the country."

In his evening speech here Mr. Roosevelt scored the Republican candidates, declaring that they appealed to "all the un-American and alien prejudices and passions in our land."

"For instance," he said, "in centres where Americans of German descent predominate, such as Milwaukee, attempts are made to inflame the people by an appeal to vote against Governor Cox because it is alleged that President Wilson has been unfriendly to Germany and that Senator Harding would help the interests of Germany and the German people."

"At the same time that this campaign is going on, another campaign is under way in New England, in centres where there are no people of German descent. Here they are trying to get votes for Harding on the allegation that Governor Cox was pro-German during the war."

The leading slogan America First! in the disclosures daily made should really be 'Hyphenated America First!'

SCHENECTADY, Sept. 20.—Franklin D. Roosevelt opened his campaign in New York State here today with two addresses to factory employes at the noon hour. Mayor George F. Lunn introduced him at each meeting.

In his first speech, which was to employes of the American Locomotive Works, Mr. Roosevelt attacked what he called Senator Harding's attempt to "camouflage issues of the campaign by waving the flag."

[Albany, 7/10/20]

Here are some concrete proposals:

1 - Increase food production by opening up at once and on a large scale billions of acres of land now unproductive; vast areas in the Middle West and the West can be quickly reclaimed. This will give more foodstuffs and at the same time will offer thousands of new homesteads and farming opportunity to people living in congested cities.

2 - Improve transportation facilities in order that the product of the farms may be brought more quickly and more cheaply to the consumer.

3 - Make farm life more attractive, and direct an intensive campaign to provide better living conditions in the country districts.

4 - Eliminate many of the unnecessary hands through which articles at the present time pass between the man who produces and the man who uses the articles.

5 - Change the present ineffective laws regarding profiteering so that the public may be assured that selfish individuals will not line their pockets out of undue profits made from the necessities of life.

6 - Provide such regulations of commodities like coal that the average citizen may be assured that the supply will be adequate and the price reasonable.

I want to ask two simple questions: First, have the Republican candidates so far in any of their speeches or statements offered anything like a definite program such as that outlined above? Compare this program, which is only a portion of the whole Democratic program, with the glittering generalities of the Republican platform or the Republican nominee. Secondly, ask yourselves which nominee is best fitted to carry out a program, a man who has absolutely no record for executive experience or the support of progressive measures in his whole career, or a man who has won the recognition of the entire country as the champion of practical measures for social and economic relief, and as the successful executive thrice chosen as leader by the people of his own State?

"By their deeds ye shall know them", "you can tell a man by the friends he keeps". These two proverbs may well be pondered over by the voters between now and November second. Compare the deeds in public life of Harding and of Cox. They have both been in the public life or the public eye for approximately the same length of time. Which one of them has done the most for the State of Ohio? Which one of them has left a mark for the good on the lives of his fellow citizens? Compare the friends and intimates of the two men. Senator Harding has been in comradeship and in actual alliance with the old-time discredited bosses of his own State. He has been in constant opposition to the progressive forces within the Republican Party in the Senate, and has been aligned with men like Penrose and Swoot. Governor Cox, during this same period, has opposed bossism within his party, and associated with himself in the Government of the State of Ohio men and women who were honest advocates of honest popular government, experts in the social and economic and agricultural needs of the day.

Put these men side by side; vote according to your own convictions. I will willingly abide by your choice.