
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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1920 September 22

Syracuse, NY - Campaign Speech

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON F.D. ROOSEVELT
SYRACUSE, N.Y., SEPT. 22, 1920

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The great majority of people who are citizens but who were either born in other lands or whose parents were born in other lands were completely loyal during the War. I can bear witness to this because I saw it at first hand in the Navy Department, among our sailors in the North Sea, and among our troops on the fighting front. I saw it in Liberty Loan and Red Cross Drives at home, but with these people too the Republican Campaign Managers are seeking for the purpose of mere partisanship to encourage the support of organizations, the primary purpose of which is to put questions affecting other nations ahead of the big, vital questions affecting our own nation.

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When the solidly American people of this Republic see the hyphen brought back into national affairs and witness the attempt to divide our people in the interest of foreign aspiration and allegiance, they may well beware.

Speaking for myself and for Governor Cox as well, I say quite frankly that - We want All American votes only.

I call upon Senator Harding and other Republican Leaders to repudiate hyphenated allegiance and hyphenated politics, and especially the organizations formed in his behalf with hyphenated names. These organizations have the effrontery to place the name of some other Country first and the name of America second.

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Contrast this with the statement of Senator Harding before the Veterans of the G.A.R., that the League of Nations is a "Stupendous Fraud". If it is a "stupendous fraud", why have thirty-nine nations of the World joined the League? Why was it that among those which have recently entered was Switzerland, a nation held up through history as the exemplification of the love of liberty and complete independence?

The issue on the League and on the hyphenated vote is becoming more and more definite as the days go by. Senator Harding is opposed to the position taken by thirty-nine other nations of the World. He is on record as repudiating his own vote in the United States Senate. He talks vaguely about international goodwill - about some ~~new~~ new effort to create some new association. Nobody who is conversant with the war-weariness of the World - no one who knows of the horrors and destruction of the present

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For President
JAMES M. COX

HEADQUARTERS
Franklin D. Roosevelt

For Vice-President
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

GRAND CENTRAL PALACE
NEW YORK

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The great majority of people who are citizens but who were either born in other lands or whose parents were born in other lands were completely loyal during the War. I can bear witness to this because I saw it at first hand in the Navy Department, among our sailors in the North Sea, and among our troops on the fighting front. I saw it in Liberty Loan and Red Cross Drives at home, but with these people too the Republican Campaign Managers are seeking for the purpose of mere partisanship to encourage the support of organizations, the primary purpose of which is to put questions affecting other nations ahead of the big, vital questions affecting our own nation.

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I myself chance to be of Dutch descent. My people came from Holland nearly three centuries ago. Why should I vote in this coming election according to the way I think it will best help the people of Holland, instead of the way I think it will best help the people of the United States? If that is true about me, should it be no less true about other people of Dutch descent, whose ancestors came here one century ago or even only one generation ago? And if this is true about people of Dutch descent, should it not be equally true of people of any other descent? Every American, except full blooded Indians, comes in his origin from some other Country.

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Roosevelt charges play to alien vote.
Accuses Republican managers of appealing to element not loyal during the war.
Cites Dierck's support.
Calls on Harding to repudiate hyphenated societies.
He asks only American vote.

Syracuse, N.Y. Sept. 22, 1920.

Republican campaign managers are making every effort to "secure the hyphenated vote" and are "making a special appeal to the small but very dangerous element which was not loyal during the war", Franklin D. Roosevelt declared here tonight before a mass meeting of Syracuse Democrats.

Scoring Senator Harding "for seeking the support of un-American element in the electorate" he charged that the reports of Senator Harding by men like George Sylvester Dierck is in evidence of ~~all~~ the object to be gained.

The assembly room was thronged when Mr. Roosevelt and his party arrived. Sharing the rostrum with him were Miss Harriett May Mills, candidate for Secretary of the State of New York on the Democratic ticket, and Robert S. Marx, Superior Court Judge of Cincinnati, Ohio, who is touring the country as a member of the Roosevelt party.

A noisy and prolonged demonstration followed the introduction of Mr. Roosevelt as the principal speaker of the evening.

He launched immediately into a denunciation of what he called "seeking votes by encouraging divided allegiance - placing the interest of foreign lands above that of the United States". "Republican leaders are making open solicitation of the Italian-American vote - doing deliberately things which Theodore Roosevelt gave the last years of his life to stamp out", he charged.

"When the solid American people of the Republic see the hyphen brought back into national affairs and witness the attempt to divide our people in the interest of foreign aspirations and allegiance, they may well beware".

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"Contrast this with the statement of Senator Harding before the veterans of the G.A.R. that the League of Nations is a 'stupendous fraud'. If it is a 'stupendous fraud' why have 39 nations of the world joined the League; why was it that among those which have recently entered was Switzerland, a nation held up through history as the exemplification of the love of liberty and complete independence".

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In an address at Utica today before women of the Civic League Mr. Roosevelt declared that Harding's plan for an international tribunal was "merely a hospital at the foot of the cliff of international relations". "The League of Nations, on the other hand," he said, "~~is~~ ^{is} a fence around the edge designed to prevent nations from tumbling off into the abyss of war".

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