
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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1920 September 24

Watertown, NY - Campaign Speech

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
WATERTOWN, N. Y., SEPT. 26, 1920

In January and February 1919 I had been in Europe, in charge of the demobilization of the American Naval activities, and returned on the same ship with President Wilson, landing in Boston on February 24th. The President bore with him the first draft of the proposed Covenant of the League of Nations. He was met by Calvin Coolidge, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and escorted through streets crowded with cheering and deeply moved humanity.

Before a great gathering in Mechanics Hall, Governor Coolidge welcomed him with words which found instant response in the great audience composed of Republicans and Democrats alike. It is right at this time to quote the words of Governor Coolidge - words which all saw came clearly from his heart:

"We welcome him with a reception more marked than even that which was accorded General George Washington, more united than could have been given at any time during his life to Abraham Lincoln. We welcome him as the representative of a great people, as a great statesman, as one to whom we assure we will support in the future in the working-out of that destiny as Massachusetts has supported him in the past."

The purpose of the League of Nations and the character of the proposed Covenant were well-known at that time. It would seem that further comment is wholly unnecessary.

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