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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 181

1920 September 28

Martinsburg, WV - Campaign Speech

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
SEPT. 28, 1920.

Nearly two months ago I expressed the sincere hope that the Republican candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency would follow the example of Governor Cox and myself in going in person before the people of the United States in presenting the issues. I remarked at that time that it is extremely easy by taking the other course, to study quietly in one place & prepare carefully worded speeches to be delivered on special occasions before a hand-picked audience - different speeches which can be read both ways, or in so many/ways that doubt exists as to the true meaning.

The speech of the Republican candidate at Baltimore yesterday proves my contention. I am not referring to the prepared portion of Senator Harding's speech about the tariff and merchant marine - I am referring to the part which came direct from his own head when he answered a question from the audience in regard to the League of Nations. He himself has said with his own lips that he is not in favor of going into the League of Nations. What must the thousands of Republicans who have been supporting Mr. Harding in the past in the vague hope that ~~somehow~~ somehow, some way, some day he would work out some means of going into the League, now think?

But the salient point of Mr. Harding's first appearance in real public is the fact that in regard to the League of Nations he said: "I am perfectly frank to say to you that I am without anything specific about ~~the~~ a programme constructive in character about the League of Nations". It is sufficient to note that Senator Harding has been a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations for nearly two years. He has been a part of every discussion about foreign affairs during this whole time. Since his nomination at Chicago the League of Nations has been one of the principal questions at issue

between the parties. Today he is without a programme. All he can do is to hold out this brilliant promise - "When I am elected President the first thing I will try to do is to find a plan". Further comment is unnecessary.

For President
JAMES M. COX

**HEADQUARTERS
Franklin D. Roosevelt**

For Vice-President
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

GRAND CENTRAL PALACE
NEW YORK

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