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

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Martinsburg, WV - Campaign Speech
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 and prepare carefully worded speeches to be delivered on special occasions before a hand-picked audience—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, 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 him 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.
EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
SEPT. 26, 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.

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

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