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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 184

1920 September 29

Parkersburg, WV - Campaign Speech

[Charlottesville, W. Va.]

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
SEPTEMBER 29, 1920

On this trip through West Virginia I have talked with hundreds of Republicans and Independents who, until the last few days, had been inclined to cast their ballots for the Republican candidate for the Presidency - but they have been coming to me of their own ^{accord} all of them expressing the same general thought. Up to recently they had assumed that Mr. Harding was only waiting for the proper moment to make really clear his own position in regard to a foreign policy for the United States. They believed he would have something definite to offer - something which the Country could understand.

It was, therefore, with a distinct shock that these Republicans and Independents read of Mr. Harding's statement in Baltimore that he is without any specific constructive programme, and that he has no clear plan to offer as a substitute for the entrance of the United States into the League of Nations. ~~Mr~~ These people realize ~~that~~ that it is a shocking commentary on the Republican nominee when, after two years of service on the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate of the United States, the best he could say is - "The first thing I will attempt to do as President will be to find a programme of world association and cooperation". They believe now that I have been justified in insisting day after day that it is no answer ^{for} ~~from~~ Mr. Harding to make when he repeats that he is in favor of some kind of World Association.

Furthermore, they tell me they are tired of the reiterations about seeking to avoid for the United States any international obligation to send troops across the seas without the consent of our Congress.

After the meeting in Wheeling last night more than two dozen Republicans came to me and said that they realize fully that the position taken by Governor Cox and myself is a full guarantee against any danger which the United States might incur by joining the other thirty-nine Nations in the League, and that if there are any doubts on the subject, a simple declaration reciting the absolute right of Congress to decide on war or the sending of men over-seas will furnish every possible guarantee.

This is merely one of many reasons which is causing the growing drift of Republicans and Independents away from the Republican Ticket.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HOB. F. D. ROOSEVELT
SEPTEMBER 29, 1920

Fils

On this trip through West Virginia I have talked with hundreds of Republicans and Independents who, until the last few days, had been inclined to cast their ballots for the Republican candidate for the Presidency - but they have been coming to me of their ~~conviction~~ of them expressing the same general thought. Up to recently they had assumed that Mr. Harding was only waiting for the proper moment to make really clear his own position in regard to a foreign policy for the United States. They believed he would have something definite to offer - something which the Country could understand.

It was, therefore, with a distinct shock that these Republican and Independents read of Mr. Harding's statement in Baltimore that he is without any specific constructive programme, and that he has no clear plan to offer as a substitute for the entrance of the United States into the League of Nations. ~~xx~~ These people realize ~~make~~ that it is a shocking commentary on the Republican nominee when, after two years of service on the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate of the United States, the best he could say is - "The first thing I will attempt to do as President will be to find a programme of world association and cooperation". They believe now that I have been justified in insisting day after day that it is no answer ~~from~~ ^{for} Mr. Harding to make when he repeats that he is in favor of some kind of World Association.

Furthermore, they tell me they are tired of the reiterations about seeking to avoid for the United States any international obligation to send troops across the seas without the consent of our Congress.

After the meeting in Wheeling last night more than two dozen Republicans came to me and said that they realize fully that the position taken by Governor Cox and myself is a full guarantee against any danger which the United States might incur by joining the other thirty-nine Nations in the League, and that if there are any doubts on the subject, a simple declaration reciting the absolute right of Congress to decide on war or the sending of men over-seas will furnish every possible guarantee.

This is merely one of many reasons which is causing the growing drift of Republicans and Independents away from the Republican Ticket.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
SEPTEMBER 29, 1920

On this trip through West Virginia I have talked with hundreds of Republicans and Independents who, until the last few days, had been inclined to cast their ballots for the Republican candidate for the Presidency - but they have been coming to me of their own accord of them expressing the same general thought. Up to recently they had assumed that Mr. Harding was only waiting for the proper moment to make really clear his own position in regard to a foreign policy for the United States. They believed he would have something definite to offer - something which the Country could understand.

It was, therefore, with a distinct shock that these Republicans and Independents read of Mr. Harding's statement in Baltimore that he is without any specific constructive programme, and that he has no clear plan to offer as a substitute for the entrance of the United States into the League of Nations. ~~xx~~ These people realize ~~that~~ that it is a shocking commentary on the Republican nominee when, after two years of service on the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate of the United States, the best he could say is - "The first thing I will attempt to do as President will be to find a programme of world association and cooperation". They believe now that I have been justified in insisting day after day that it is no answer ~~from~~ ^{for} Mr. Harding to make when he repeats that he is in favor of some kind of World Association.

Furthermore, they tell me they are tired of the reiterations about seeking to avoid for the United States any international obligation to send troops across the seas without the consent of our Congress.

After the meeting in Wheeling last night more than two dozen Republicans came to me and said that they realize fully that the position taken by Governor Cox and myself is a full guarantee against any danger which the United States might incur by joining the other thirty-nine Nations in the League, and that if there are any doubts on the subject, a simple declaration reciting the absolute right of Congress to decide on war or the sending of men over-seas will furnish every possible guarantee.

This is merely one of many reasons which is causing the growing drift of Republicans and Independents away from the Republican Ticket.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
SEPTEMBER 29, 1920

On this trip through West Virginia I have talked with hundreds of Republicans and Independents who, until the last few days, had been inclined to cast their ballots for the Republican candidate for the Presidency - but they have been coming to me of their own accord of them expressing the same general thought. Up to recently they had assumed that Mr. Harding was only waiting for the proper moment to make really clear his own position in regard to a foreign policy for the United States. They believed he would have something definite to offer - something which the Country could understand.

It was, therefore, with a distinct shock that these Republicans and Independents read of Mr. Harding's statement in Baltimore that he is without any specific constructive programme, and that he has no clear plan to offer as a substitute for the entrance of the United States into the League of Nations. ~~xx~~ These people realize ~~that it~~ that it is a shocking commentary on the Republican nominee when, after two years of service on the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate of the United States, the best he could say is - "The first thing I will attempt to do as President will be to find a programme of world association and cooperation". They believe now that I have been justified in insisting day after day that it is no answer ~~from~~ ^{for} Mr. Harding to make when he repeats that he is in favor of some kind of World Association.

Furthermore, they tell me they are tired of the reiterations about seeking to avoid for the United States any international obligation to send troops across the seas without the consent of our Congress.

After the meeting in Wheeling last night more than two dozen Republicans came to me and said that they realize fully that the position taken by Governor Cox and myself is a full guarantee against any danger which the United States might incur by joining the other thirty-nine Nations in the League, and that if there are any doubts on the subject, a simple declaration reciting the absolute right of Congress to decide on war or the sending of men over-seas will furnish every possible guarantee.

This is merely one of many reasons which is causing the growing drift of Republicans and Independents away from the Republican Ticket.

[Parkersburg, W. Va.]

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
SEPTEMBER 29, 1920

On this trip through West Virginia I have talked with hundreds of Republicans and Independents who, until the last few days, had been inclined to cast their ballots for the Republican candidate for the Presidency - but they have been coming to me of their own accord of them expressing the same general thought. Up to recently they had assumed that Mr. Harding was only waiting for the proper moment to make really clear his own position in regard to a foreign policy for the United States. They believed he would have something definite to offer - something which the Country could understand.

It was, therefore, with a distinct shock that these Republicans and Independents read of Mr. Harding's statement in Baltimore that he is without any specific constructive programme, and that he has no clear plan to offer as a substitute for the entrance of the United States into the League of Nations. ~~xx~~ These people realize ~~that~~ that it is a shocking commentary on the Republican nominee when, after two years of service on the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate of the United States, the best he could say is - "The first thing I will attempt to do as President will be to find a programme of world association and cooperation". They believe now that I have been justified in insisting day after day that it is no answer ~~from~~ ^{for} Mr. Harding to make when he repeats that he is in favor of some kind of World Association.

Furthermore, they tell me they are tired of the reiterations about seeking to avoid for the United States any international obligation to send troops across the seas without the consent of our Congress.

After the meeting in Wheeling last night more than two dozen Republicans came to me and said that they realize fully that the position taken by Governor Cox and myself is a full guarantee against any danger which the United States might incur by joining the other thirty-nine Nations in the League, and that if there are any doubts on the subject, a simple declaration reciting the absolute right of Congress to decide on war or the sending of men over-seas will furnish every possible guarantee.

This is merely one of many reasons which is causing the growing drift of Republicans and Independents away from the Republican Ticket.