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**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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**File No. 195**

**1920 October 4**

**Press Release (Probably at St. Louis, MO)**

[Press Statement ?]

[St. Louis, Mo. ?]

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT  
OCTOBER 4, 1920

The outstanding feature of the past week has been the rousing of the interest of women voters in the campaign, especially in those States where they have not had the franchise before. I believe that up to a short time ago the organizers and speakers in both parties have met with little response from the rank and file of the women. But a sudden change has made itself evident to me, not only in the States where I have been this week, but also in the reports coming to me from many other places.

Up to now most of the women have been reading and observing with open minds. They have not expressed their opinions and they have not affiliated definitely with party organizations. So too they have given little evidence of following their husbands or brothers with blind obedience. Frankly, most of them are tired of old party shibboleths and of the avoiding of great issues by taking refuge behind fine words.

I am tremendously heartened, not merely as a candidate but more broadly as an American in the way the women are now surging forward, giving every evidence that they will not only vote but will furnish a tremendous surprise in the League of Nations, the super-question before the Country. I venture to say that a majority of these women have Republican affiliations, but they as well as women of Democratic families regret that the League has ever come into party politics.

They sense the important distinction that in view of the split in the Republican Party, to vote for Mr. Harding will be to vote against the League. Governor Cox told me that he had found the same tremendous swing in the West in the past ten days. It is the moral side, the great Christian purpose, of the League - it is the fact that all of the great nations except the United States are today in the League or about to go in that appeals to women of all parties, and that has caused their weeks of thinking to culminate in open advocacy and active support of the clear position taken by Governor Cox and myself. They are very truly putting America first, seeking to re-

store the United States to our position of moral leadership and  
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store the United States to our position of moral leadership and  
unselfishness among the Nations.

The outstanding feature of the past week has been the <sup>growing</sup> interest of the women voters in the campaign, especially in those States where they have not yet voted had the franchise before. I believe that as to a short time ago the organizers and speakers in both parties have had an uphill fight with little response from the rank and file of the women. But a sudden change has made itself evident & our not only in the States where I have been this week, but also in the reports coming down from many other places.

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They cease the support of Abolitionists  
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