
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 197

1920 October 5

Salina, KS - Campaign Speech

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F.D. ROOSEVELT
SALINA, Kan., OCTOBER 5, 1920

I wonder if the people of this State realize just what Senator Harding deliberately proposes that the people of this free and advanced State of Kansas should do. I do not mean by inference but by his deliberate statements of what he announces to be his ideal of government. He is asking you to go into the voting booths on November 2nd and aid by your own votes the re-fastening of the shackles of industrial and commercial slavery which the moneyed powers of the East, in control of the Republican Party, had kept fastened on your Commonwealth for so many years.

I do not know from personal observation whether it is true or not that the leopard does not change its spots. I do know from the closest and most careful observation that a standpat, high tariff, moneyed interest, corporation Republican Leader never changes anything.

Senator Harding has announced that Penrose and Lodge, the two most reactionary relies of a hated past, will be his chief counsellors and advisers if he is elected. You will remember the old secret conferences when that ring ruled the White House in the past. If Senator Harding is elected, you will find the same old crowd in back-room consultations, with the only missing face that of Mark Hanna. Already the influence of this reactionary group has been made apparent in Senator Harding's speeches. Already he has dared to talk about taking the tariff away from the non-partisan Tariff Commission in order that it might be re-tinkered to further protect the grey-haired "infant industries" that have grown up within the Republican ranks.

I do not think the people of Kansas will forget that the reactionists in the Republican Party have always been the people that have created sectionalism in the United States. Before the first stone was laid for the first memorial to Abraham Lincoln his wise policy of forgiveness and forgetfulness had been superseded and the Carpetbagger introduced into American national life, with the result

that it has only been within the last ten years that the North and South have really been united, and if there is a "western spirit" as distinguished from an "eastern spirit" it is because the moneyed interests which finance and always have financed the Republican organization had no broader view of the West than as a sort of geese to lay the golden eggs for eastern capitalists' consumption, - it is because they exploited your wonderful resources for their own benefit and not yours - because they taxed you for the benefit of their own husky "infant industries". You who remember the old days of the harvester trust, who remember how they took their toll on every bushel of wheat and on every ear of corn, will have no trouble in answering the question as to what possibility there would have been of bringing about the present era of cheap tractors and of low-priced motor cars which you now enjoy, under the old protective tariff system of our Republican adversaries. Because this is a Democratic Administration and believes that the wealth of the Nation should be shared by all the people of the Nation, the added cost of these things which the war invariably brought about is already falling and will fall still further if we remain in power.

You people of Kansas have always been a thorn in the side of these Republican financial magnates of the East. Three times in recent Presidential Elections you have clearly stated by your vote that you were tired of it - that you had determined to achieve your own industrial freedom and a change of party. You knew the treatment you have received in the past. You knew that in the effort to prevent your cry for freedom from reaching other States, these Republican Leaders laughed at and belittled your movements for real reform. You will remember their sneers about "Bleeding Kansas" as a kind of joke. You remember the picture their cartoonists drew of Kansas as a long-haired and visionary enthusiast. Eight years ago, because your cause was just, your sister States united in your determination to throw this party of unscrupulous exploiters of the people out of power, and I think if your vote of four years ago shows anything, you have

found your hopes well justified by the results. Remember it was the Democratic Party that struck off your shackles, that, by the Federal Reserve Banks and by the Farm Leans Board, crushed forever the so-called moneyed power and the monopoly of credit.

The character of Senator Harding's political mentors ought to be enough to decide the vote of Kansas, but lest there be any lingering hope that the Senator himself is different from his counsellors, let me remind you that Senator Harding is deliberately asking you to vote for a man who expressed on the floor of the United States Senate his profound conviction that dollar wheat was a perfectly sufficient price for any Kansas farmer ever to receive. Do not be misled because Senator Harding comes from Ohio with the idea that he has even a fraction of the "western spirit". You have seen in your own State in your present United States Senator how a man can forget all of the progressiveness of his native State and by deliberately associating himself with those who held his own territory in contempt, betray his own State. That is another thing which I think the people of Kansas are going to remedy this year.

Kansas, which has always been at the forefront of freedom, is asked to choose between the old days and the present. How can you deliberately go down on your knees, as it were, to the same leaders who exploited you for the benefit of their friends in the past, and holding out your unshackled hands, beg to receive again the fetters of eastern financial domination.

From:

SPEECH FILE

Oct. 5, 1920

(Salina, Kan.)

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F.D. ROOSEVELT
SALINA, KAN., OCTOBER 5, 1920

I wonder if the people of this State realize just what Senator Harding deliberately proposes that the people of this free and advanced State of Kansas should do. I do not mean by inference but by his deliberate statements of what he announces to be his ideal of government. He is asking you to go into the voting booths on November 2nd and aid by your own votes the re-fastening of the shackles of industrial and commercial slavery which the moneyed powers of the East, in control of the Republican Party, had kept fastened on your Commonwealth for so many years.

I do not know from personal observation whether it is true or not that the leopard does not change its spots. I do know from the closest and most careful observation that a standpat, high tariff, moneyed interest, corporation Republican Leader never changes anything.

Senator Harding has announced that Penrose and Lodge, the two most reactionary relics of a hated past, will be his chief counsellors and advisers if he is elected. You will remember the old secret conferences when that ring ruled the White House in the past. If Senator Harding is elected, you will find the same old crowd in back-room consultations, with the only missing face that of Mark Hanna. Already the influence of this reactionary group has been made apparent in Senator Harding's speeches. Already he has dared to talk about taking the tariff away from the non-partisan Tariff Commission in order that it might be re-tinkered to further protect the grey-haired "infant industries" that have grown up within the Republican ranks.

I do not think the people of Kansas will forget that the reactionists in the Republican Party have always been the people that have created sectionalism in the United States. Before the first stone was laid for the first memorial to Abraham Lincoln his wise policy of forgiveness and forgetfulness had been superseded and the Carpetbagger introduced into American national life, with the result

that it has only been within the last ten years that the North and South have really been united, and if there is a "western spirit" as distinguished from an "eastern spirit" it is because the moneyed interests which finance and always have financed the Republican organization had no broader view of the West than as a sort of goose to lay the golden eggs for eastern capitalists' consumption, - it is because they exploited your wonderful resources for their own benefit and not yours - because they taxed you for the benefit of their own husky "infant industries". You who remember the old days of the harvester trust, who remember how they took their toll on every bushel of wheat and on every ear of corn, will have no trouble in answering the question as to what possibility there would have been of bringing about the present era of cheap tractors and of low-priced motor cars which you now enjoy, under the old protective tariff system of our Republican adversaries. Because this is a Democratic Administration and believes that the wealth of the Nation should be shared by all the people of the Nation, the added cost of these things which the war invariably brought about is already falling and will fall still further if we remain in power.

You people of Kansas have always been a thorn in the side of these Republican financial magnates of the East. Three times in recent Presidential Elections you have clearly stated by your vote that you were tired of it - that you had determined to achieve your own industrial freedom and a change of party. You know the treatment you have received in the past. You know that in the effort to prevent your cry for freedom from reaching other States, these Republican Leaders laughed at and belittled your movements for real reform. You will remember their sneers about "Bleeding Kansas" as a kind of joke. You remember the picture their cartoonists drew of Kansas as a long-haired and visionary enthusiast. Eight years ago, because your cause was just, your sister States united in your determination to throw this party of unscrupulous exploiters of the people out of power, and I think if your vote of four years ago shows anything, you have

found your hopes well justified by the results. Remember it was the Democratic Party that struck off your shackles, that, by the Federal Reserve Banks and by the Farm Loans Board, crushed forever the so-called moneyed power and the monopoly of credit.

The character of Senator Harding's political mentors ought to be enough to decide the vote of Kansas, but lest there be any lingering hope that the Senator himself is different from his counsellors, let me remind you that Senator Harding is deliberately asking you to vote for a man who expressed on the floor of the United States Senate his profound conviction that dollar wheat was a perfectly sufficient price for any Kansas farmer ever to receive. Do not be mislead because Senator Harding comes from Ohio with the idea that he has even a fraction of the "western spirit". You have seen in your own State in your present United States Senator how a man can forget all of the progressiveness of his native State and by deliberately associating himself with those who held his own territory in contempt, betray his own State. That is another thing which I think the people of Kansas are going to remedy this year.

Kansas, which has always been at the forefront of freedom, is asked to choose between the old days and the present. How can you deliberately go down on your knees, as it were, to the same leaders who exploited you for the benefit of their friends in the past, and holding out your unshackled hands, beg to receive again the fetters of eastern financial domination.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HENRY F. D. ROOSEVELT
HARVARD, MASS., OCTOBER 5, 1900

I wonder if the people of this State realize just what Senator Harding deliberately proposes that the people of this free and advanced State of Kansas should do. I do not mean by inference but by his deliberate statements of what he announces to be his ideal of government. He is asking you to go into the voting booths on November 2nd and all by your own votes the re-establishing of the sin-soles of industrial and commercial slavery which the moneyed powers of the East, in control of the Republican party, had kept fastened on your Commonwealth for so many years.

I do not know from personal observation whether it is true or not that the leopard does not change its spots. I do know from the closest and most careful observation that a stoutset, high tariff, moneyed interest, corporation Republican leader never changes anything.

Senator Harding has announced that Congress and judges, the two most reactionary relies of a hated past, will be his chief counsellors and advisers if he is elected. You will remember the old secret conferences when that ring ruled the White House in the past. If Senator Harding is elected, you will find the same old crew in back-room consultations, with the only missing factor that of Mark Hanna. Already the influence of this reactionary group has been made apparent in Senator Harding's speeches. Already he has dared to talk about taking the tariff away from the non-partisan Tariff Commission in order that it might be re-tinkered to further protect the grey-haired "infant industries" that have grown up within the Republican ranks.

I do not think the people of Kansas will forget that the reactionaries in the Republican party have always been the people that have created sectionalism in the United States. Before the first stone was laid for the first memorial to Abraham Lincoln his wise policy of forgiveness and correctness had been superseded and the carpetbagger introduced into American national life, with the result

that it has only been within the last ten years that the North and South have really been united, and if there is a "western spirit" as distinguished from an "eastern spirit" it is because the moneyed interests which finance and always have financed the Republican organization had no broader view of the West than as a sort of geese to lay the golden eggs for eastern capitalists' consumption, - it is because they exploited your wonderful resources for their own benefit and not yours - because they taxed you for the benefit of their own husky "infant industries". You who remember the old days of the harvester trust, who remember how they took their toll on every bushel of wheat and on every ear of corn, will have no trouble in answering the question as to what possibility there would have been of bringing about the present era of cheap tractors and of low-priced motor cars which you now enjoy, under the old protective tariff system of our Republican adversaries. Because this is a Democratic Administration and believes that the wealth of the Nation should be shared by all the people of the Nation, the added cost of these things which the war invariably brought about is already falling and will fall still further if we remain in power.

You people of Kansas have always been a thorn in the side of these Republican financial magnates of the East. Three times in recent Presidential Elections you have clearly stated by your vote that you were tired of it - that you had determined to achieve your own industrial freedom and a change of party. You know the treatment you have received in the past. You know that in the effort to prevent your cry for freedom from reaching other States, these Republican Leaders laughed at and belittled your movements for real reform. You will remember their sneers about "Bleeding Kansas" as a kind of joke. You remember the picture their cartoonists drew of Kansas as a long-haired and visionary enthusiast. Eight years ago, because your cause was just, your sister States united in your determination to throw this party of unscrupulous exploiters of the people out of power, and I think if your vote of four years ago shows anything, you have

found your hopes well justified by the results. Remember it was the Democratic Party that struck off your shackles, that, by the Federal Reserve Banks and by the Farm Loans Board, crushed forever the so-called moneyed power and the monopoly of credit.

The character of Senator Harding's political mentors ought to be enough to decide the vote of Kansas, but lest there be any lingering hope that the Senator himself is different from his counsellors, let me remind you that Senator Harding is deliberately asking you to vote for a man who expressed on the floor of the United States Senate his profound conviction that dollar wheat was a perfectly sufficient price for any Kansas farmer ever to receive. Do not be misled because Senator Harding comes from Ohio with the idea that he has even a fraction of the "western spirit". You have seen in your own State in your present United States Senator how a man can forget all of the progressiveness of his native State and by deliberately associating himself with those who held his own territory in contempt, betray his own State. That is another thing which I think the people of Kansas are going to remedy this year.

Kansas, which has always been at the forefront of freedom, is asked to choose between the old days and the present. How can you deliberately go down on your knees, as it were, to the same leaders who exploited you for the benefit of their friends in the past, and holding out your unshackled hands, beg to receive again the fetters of eastern financial domination.

ABSTRACT FROM ADDRESS OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
OMAHA, NEB., OCTOBER 8, 1900

I wonder if the people of this State realize just what Senator Harding deliberately proposes that the people of this free and advanced State of Kansas should do. I do not mean by inference but by his deliberate statements of what he announces to be his ideal of government. He is asking you to go into the voting booth on November 2d and aid by your own votes the re-founding of the shackles of industrial and commercial slavery which the snatched powers of the last, in control of the Republican Party, had kept fastened on your Commonwealth for so many years.

I do not know from personal observation whether it is true or not that the leopard does not change its spots. I do know from the closest and most careful observation that a stupid, high tariff, unprincipled interest, corporation Republican Leader never changes anything.

Senator Harding has announced that he desires and looks, the two most reactionary roles of a hated past, will be his chief counselors and advisers if he is elected. You will remember the old saying concerning men that ring ruled the White House in the past. If Senator Harding is elected, you will find the same old crew in back-room consultations, with the only missing factor that of Mark Hanna. Already the influences of this most odious group has been made apparent in Senator Harding's speech. Already he has dared to talk about taking the tariff away from the non-partisan Tariff Commission in order that it might be re-structured to further protect the grey-haired "Infant Industries" that have grown up within the Republican ranks.

I do not think the people of Kansas will forget that the reactionaries in the Republican Party have always been the people that have created nationalism in the United States. Before the first stone was laid for the first memorial to Abraham Lincoln his wise policy of forgiveness and forgetfulness had been unperformed and the carpetbagger introduced into American national life, with the result

that it has only been within the last ten years that the North and South have really been united, and if there is a "western spirit" as distinguished from an "eastern spirit" it is because the moneyed interests which finance and always have financed the Republican organization had no broader view of the West than as a sort of geese to lay the golden eggs for eastern capitalists' consumption, - it is because they exploited your wonderful resources for their own benefit and not yours - because they taxed you for the benefit of their own husky "infant industries". You who remember the old days of the harvester trust, who remember how they took their toll on every bushel of wheat and on every ear of corn, will have no trouble in answering the question as to what possibility there would have been of bringing about the present era of cheap tractors and of low-priced motor cars which you now enjoy, under the old protective tariff system of our Republican adversaries. Because this is a Democratic Administration and believes that the wealth of the Nation should be shared by all the people of the Nation, the added cost of those things which the war invariably brought about is already falling and will fall still further if we remain in power.

You people of Kansas have always been a thorn in the side of these Republican financial magnates of the East. Three times in recent Presidential Elections you have clearly stated by your vote that you were tired of it - that you had determined to achieve your own industrial freedom and a change of party. You know the treatment you have received in the past. You know that in the effort to prevent your cry for freedom from reaching other States, these Republican Leaders laughed at and belittled your movements for real reform. You will remember their sneers about "Bleeding Kansas" as a kind of joke. You remember the picture their cartoonists drew of Kansas as a long-haired and visionary enthusiast. Eight years ago, because your cause was just, your sister States united in your determination to throw this party of unscrupulous exploiters of the people out of power, and I think if your vote of four years ago shows anything, you have

found your hopes well justified by the results. Remember it was the Democratic Party that struck off your shackles, that, by the Federal Reserve Banks and by the Farm Loan Board, crushed forever the so-called moneyed power and the monopoly of credit.

The character of Senator Harding's political mentors ought to be enough to decide the vote of Kansas, but lest there be any lingering hope that the Senator himself is different from his counsellors, let me remind you that Senator Harding is deliberately asking you to vote for a man who expressed on the floor of the United States Senate his profound conviction that dollar wheat was a perfectly sufficient price for any Kansas farmer ever to receive. Do not be misled because Senator Harding comes from Ohio with the idea that he has even a fraction of the "western spirit". You have seen in your own State in your present United States Senator how a man can forget all of the progressiveness of his native State and by deliberately associating himself with those who hold his own territory in contempt, betray his own State. That is another thing which I think the people of Kansas are going to remedy this year.

Kansas, which has always been at the forefront of freedom, is asked to choose between the old days and the present. How can you deliberately go down on your knees, as it were, to the same leaders who exploited you for the benefit of their friends in the past, and holding out your unshackled hands, beg to receive again the fetters of eastern financial domination.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F.D. ROOSEVELT
SALINA, KAN., OCTOBER 6, 1920

I wonder if the people of this State realize just what Senator Harding deliberately proposes that the people of this free and advanced State of Kansas should do. I do not mean by inference but by his deliberate statements of what he announces to be his ideal of government. He is asking you to go into the voting booths on November 2nd and aid by your own votes the re-fastening of the shackles of industrial and commercial slavery which the moneyed powers of the East, in control of the Republican Party, had kept fastened on your Commonwealth for so many years.

I do not know from personal observation whether it is true or not that the leopard does not change its spots. I do know from the closest and most careful observation that a standpat, high tariff, moneyed interest, corporation Republican Leader never changes anything.

Senator Harding has announced that Penrose and Lodge, the two most reactionary relics of a hated past, will be his chief counsellors and advisers if he is elected. You will remember the old secret conferences when that ring ruled the White House in the past. If Senator Harding is elected, you will find the same old crowd in back-room consultations, with the only missing face that of Mark Hanna. Already the influence of this reactionary group has been made apparent in Senator Harding's speeches. Already he has dared to talk about taking the tariff away from the non-partisan Tariff Commission in order that it might be re-tinkered to further protect the grey-haired "infant industries" that have grown up within the Republican ranks.

I do not think the people of Kansas will forget that the reactionists in the Republican Party have always been the people that have created sectionalism in the United States. Before the first stone was laid for the first memorial to Abraham Lincoln his wise policy of forgiveness and forgetfulness had been superseded and the Carpetbagger introduced into American national life, with the result

that it has only been within the last ten years that the North and South have really been united, and if there is a "western spirit" as distinguished from an "eastern spirit" it is because the moneyed interests which finance and always have financed the Republican organization had no broader view of the West than as a sort of geese to lay the golden eggs for eastern capitalists' consumption, - it is because they exploited your wonderful resources for their own benefit and not yours - because they taxed you for the benefit of their own husky "infant industries". You who remember the old days of the harvester trust, who remember how they took their toll on every bushel of wheat and on every ear of corn, will have no trouble in answering the question as to what possibility there would have been of bringing about the present era of cheap tractors and of low-priced motor cars which you now enjoy, under the old protective tariff system of our Republican adversaries. Because this is a Democratic Administration and believes that the wealth of the Nation should be shared by all the people of the Nation, the added cost of these things which the war invariably brought about is already falling and will fall still further if we remain in power.

You people of Kansas have always been a thorn in the side of these Republican financial magnates of the East. Three times in recent Presidential Elections you have clearly stated by your vote that you were tired of it - that you had determined to achieve your own industrial freedom and a change of party. You know the treatment you have received in the past. You knew that in the effort to prevent your cry for freedom from reaching other States, these Republican Leaders laughed at and belittled your movements for real reform. You will remember their sneers about "Bleeding Kansas" as a kind of joke. You remember the picture their cartoonists drew of Kansas as a long-haired and visionary enthusiast. Eight years ago, because your cause was just, your sister States united in your determination to throw this party of unscrupulous exploiters of the people out of power, and I think if your vote of four years ago shows anything, you have

found your hopes well justified by the results. Remember it was the Democratic Party that struck off your shackles, that, by the Federal Reserve Banks and by the Farm Loans Board, crushed forever the so-called moneyed power and the monopoly of credit.

The character of Senator Harding's political mentors ought to be enough to decide the vote of Kansas, but lest there be any lingering hope that the Senator himself is different from his counsellors, let me remind you that Senator Harding is deliberately asking you to vote for a man who expressed on the floor of the United States Senate his profound conviction that dollar wheat was a perfectly sufficient price for any Kansas farmer ever to receive. Do not be misled because Senator Harding comes from Ohio with the idea that he has even a fraction of the "western spirit". You have seen in your own State in your present United States Senator how a man can forget all of the progressiveness of his native State and by deliberately associating himself with those who held his own territory in contempt, betray his own State. That is another thing which I think the people of Kansas are going to remedy this year.

Kansas, which has always been at the forefront of freedom is asked to choose between the old days and the present. How can you deliberately go down on your knees, as it were, to the same leaders who exploited you for the benefit of their friends in the past, and holding out your unshackled hands, beg to receive again the fetters of eastern financial domination.