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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. 199**

**1920 October 6**

**Colorado Springs - Campaign Speech**

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SPEECH FILE

Oct. 6, 1920

(Colorado Springs)

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT  
COLORADO SPRINGS, OCT. 6, 1920

Whatever may be our individual opinion of Senator Borah of your neighboring State, it must be admitted that he has earned and is worthy of the title - "The Irreconcilable of the Irreconcilables". Not content with trying to "scrap" the League of Nations, behind which is the power of forty-one of the great nations of the world, the Idaho Senator would slay before it is born the imaginary association of nations which some time or other was to have birth in the mind of Senator Harding.

As Bugs Baer would put it, "scrapping" Leagues is becoming one of the most popular indoor and outdoor sports.

Seriously speaking, I do not envy Senator Harding the dilemma in which he now finds himself. Quite recently in a desperate attempt to save his party and to keep Borah, Johnson, et al in line, Senator Harding went on record as approving everything that Senator Borah had said in his unalterable opposition to the League of Nations. Not content with this victory, Borah has gone a step farther and now declares that he is opposed even to a thought of an association of nations, and that he will not O.K. Senator Harding's substitute for the existing League. It remains to be seen whether Senator Harding will swallow his pride once more and make further concessions to the dauntless opponent of the League.

Today the Republican party is without leadership. Nominally, of course, Senator Harding is at its head, but the leaders of the factions within the party are having a little tug of war of their own. An open break is impending, and the advisers of Mr. Harding find themselves in dire straits. It is becoming almost impossible to keep the water on both shoulders. It is not hard to imagine what Mr. Taft and the other League favoring element in the party will do if Senator Harding again humbles himself at the feet of Senator Borah. On the other hand, every one knows what fireworks will be let off from the Johnson-Borah camp if the Republican nominee should "fight about face" and turn his back on the irreconcilables.

What must make the situation almost unbearable for them is the unmistakable trend throughout the Country toward the League of Nations and the Democratic Ticket. Thousands upon thousands of thinking people who

have, all during the campaign, taken the ground that our interest in the League should not be made a political issue, have come to a realization that it is, after all, an issue, and the paramount issue of the campaign. The attitude taken by the Republican leaders makes it impossible for any real advocate of the League of Nations to do otherwise than to vote for Governor Cox this Fall, regardless of what his party affiliations have been in the past. It is a self-evident proposition that a vote for Cox means a vote for the League, and a vote for Harding means a vote against the League, thus leaving no choice for those who realize the vital importance of our entrance into the League of Nations. The swing of this tremendous element of independent thinking voters has caused consternation in the Republican camps, and has thrown the leaders almost into a panic.

In view of all this, Senator Harding's utterance as to what position he intends to take next on the League question is awaited by all of us with a great deal of interest.

Were the issues at stake not so vital, it would be funny to sit on the side line and watch the play in the Republican camp. It seems to me that there is the richest sort of material for any of our bright young playwrights who have ambitions to write a clever satire on American politics.