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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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**Pueblo, CO - Campaign Speech**

As the campaign progresses, it becomes increasingly clear that Mr. Harding is appealing more and more to the fears of the Country and less and less to the faith of the Country. This is apparent in two broad aspects. The so-called Republican leaders have no leadership, not even of common purpose except the purpose of criticism and complaint of anything suggested or accomplished by any one else.

There is, for instance, the question of ~~largest~~ the great constructive work that must be done at home. Millions of acres of land must be brought under cultivation if the production of food-stuffs is to grow at a normal rate. Reclamation projects, both for the arid lands of the West and for the swamp lands of the Mississippi Valley must proceed along a definite and continuing programme. The same thing is true about building of highways, the education of the 5,000,000 illiterates who can neither read nor write scattered throughout the Nation, the strengthening of the laws against profiteering and speculation, and dozens of other tasks which face us.

I want every voter to ask himself or herself the simple question - Which nominee for the Presidency would you rather entrust with the task of carrying out these great works. Mr. Harding, as you know, has throughout his career been associated with the Lodges, the Penroses, the Forakers - little minds thinking primarily of the good of their special friends - men who have throughout their careers done everything possible to block the really progressive measures which have been enacted from time to time. They are the men who opposed measures like the Federal Reserve Act, the Rural Credits System, Federal Aid for Good Roads, The Eight-Hour Law, and similar legislation.

Contrast this with the record as three times Governor of Ohio of Mr. Cox. During that period he has not merely stood in favor of a splendid system of progressive legislation, but by his insistence it has been enacted into law for the good of all the people of Ohio. He has changed Ohio from a reactionary into a modern, progressive State.

Which of these two men deserves by his record to be entrusted with the great task of reconstruction in the United States in the next four years.

The same line of argument holds true in regard to our foreign affairs. The Republican campaign is based on an appeal to fear - that of Governor Cox and myself on an appeal to faith.

I received yesterday a telegram from an independent Republican in New York, telling me that in the past week a tremendous change had come over public sentiment. Today everybody, Republicans and Democrats alike, are thinking and talking of nothing but the great issue of the League of Nations.

The position of Governor Cox and myself is clear and can be understood by every citizen. We are in favor of having the United States join the forty-one civilized Nations now in the League and of giving up our association as outsiders with Russia, Turkey, and Mexico. At the same time we wish to make it clear that not one single constitutional or congressional right shall be given up by our entering the League. We are wholly willing that this be made plain. If we go in, as Governor Cox has said, I can assure the American people that not one single soldier shall leave our shores without the full approval of the American people and the consent of the Congress of the United States.

I cannot make it too clear that this issue of the League of Nations is above party, but that unfortunately it has been injected into the campaign and that the election on November 2nd will, with absolute truth, be a referendum on the question of whether we shall take our place among the other peoples of the world. A vote for Cox is a vote to have us take our place by the side of the other nations - a vote for Harding is a vote to remain out.