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

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 202

1920 October 7

Greeley, CO - Campaign Speech

—
EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HONF.D.ROOSEVELT
GREELY, COL., OCTOBER 7, 1920

In August when I made my first trip West, people asked me at almost every meeting whether they would have an opportunity of seeing and hearing the Republican nominees in the course of the campaign. My invariable answer was that I distinctly hoped so, because I felt it was the right of the people of the United States to receive, in so far as possible, at first hand a presentation of the issues. Furthermore, I see little value in what can best be termed "canned" speeches. It is the easiest thing in the world to prepare a speech in one's own home in such a way that anybody can interpret it in any possible direction.

It is obvious now that the Republican nominee for the Presidency is not going West of the Missouri River, and in fact is only going as far West as Kansas City, Missouri. One-half of the Country will, in other words, have no opportunity of seeing him and sizing him up. Even in the East Senator Harding will have made but two or three short trips before Election Day, and every one of the speeches delivered on these trips have been and will be of the carefully prepared variety. As a broad but perfectly fair statement, it is fair to say that the Nation will have no opportunity in this campaign of drawing by personal observation the deadly parallel between Governor Cox and Senator Harding.

Judging by the famous but solitary episode at Baltimore, where the only man who has ever asked Mr. Harding a question was ejected from the hall and thrown into jail, it is interesting to speculate on what would have happened if Mr. Harding had frankly and openly invited questions throughout the Country as have Governor Cox and myself.

I hesitate even to speak of the gentleman who is running opposite me on the Republican Ticket. He has taken no part in the campaign.

Of course there is one very apparent reason for the position of the Republican managers. They view with horror the possibility of a repetition of Mr. Hughes' trip through the West in 1916. They know that even more than Mr. Hughes their candidate for the Presidency

has nothing constructive to offer, and they have seen the effects of one campaign of gloom. A real campaign by Mr. Harding would "let the cat out of the bag". It would expose the utter hollowness of their pretensions. It would expose, too, what every one through this western country knows, and even the Republican managers themselves admit - the complete lack of enthusiasm among the voters for the hand-picked head of the Republican ticket.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF MONSENR. ROOSEVELT
GREELEY, COLO., OCTOBER 7, 1920

In August when I made my first trip West, people asked me at almost every meeting whether they would have an opportunity of seeing and hearing the Republican nominees in the course of the campaign. My invariable answer was that I distinctly hoped so, because I felt it was the right of the people of the United States to receive, in so far as possible, at first hand a presentation of the issues. Furthermore, I see little value in what can best be termed "canned" speeches. It is the easiest thing in the world to prepare a speech in one's own home in such a way that anybody can interpret it in any possible direction.

It is obvious now that the Republican nominee for the Presidency is not going West of the Missouri River, and in fact is only going as far West as Kansas City, Missouri. One-half of the Country will, in other words, have no opportunity of seeing him and sizing him up. Even in the East Senator Harding will have made but two or three short trips before Election Day, and every one of the speeches delivered on these trips have been and will be of the carefully prepared variety. As a broad but perfectly fair statement, it is fair to say that the Nation will have no opportunity in this campaign of drawing by personal observation the deadly parallel between Governor Cox and Senator Harding.

Judging by the famous but solitary episode at Baltimore, where the only man who has ever asked Mr. Harding a question was ejected from the hall and thrown into jail, it is interest ^{ing} to speculate on what would have happened if Mr. Harding had frankly and openly invited questions throughout the Country as have Governor Cox and myself.

I hesitate even to speak of the gentleman who is running opposite me on the Republican Ticket. He has taken no part in the campaign.

Of course there is one very apparent reason for the position of the Republican managers. They view with horror the possibility of a repetition of Mr. Hughes' trip through the West in 1916. They know that, even more than Mr. Hughes, that he could enter upon the campaign

has nothing constructive to offer, and they have seen the effects of one campaign of gloom. A real campaign by Mr. Harding would "let the cat out of the bag". It would expose the utter hollowness of their pretensions. It would expose, too, what every one through this western country knows, and even the Republican managers themselves admit - the complete lack of enthusiasm among the voters for the hand-picked head of the Republican ticket.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HON. F. D. ROOSEVELT
GREENLEY, OGL., OCTOBER 7, 1920

In August when I made my first trip West, people asked me at almost every meeting whether they would have an opportunity of seeing and hearing the Republican nominees in the course of the campaign. My invariable answer was that I distinctly hoped so, because I felt it was the right of the people of the United States to receive, in so far as possible, at first hand a presentation of the issues. Furthermore, I see little value in what can best be termed "canned" speeches. It is the easiest thing in the world to prepare a speech in one's own home in such a way that anybody can interpret it in any possible direction.

It is obvious now that the Republican nominee for the Presidency is not going West of the Missouri River, and in fact is only going as far West as Kansas City, Missouri. One-half of the Country will, in other words, have no opportunity of seeing him and sizing him up. Even in the East Senator Harding will have made but two or three short trips before Election Day, and every one of the speeches delivered on these trips have been and will be of the carefully prepared variety. As a broad but perfectly fair statement, it is fair to say that the Nation will have no opportunity in this campaign of drawing by personal observation the deadly parallel between Governor Cox and Senator Harding.

Judging by the famous but solitary episode at Baltimore, where the only man who has ever asked Mr. Harding a question was ejected from the hall and thrown into jail, it is interest to speculate on what would have happened if Mr. Harding had frankly and openly invited questions throughout the Country as have Governor Cox and myself.

I hesitate even to speak of the gentleman who is running opposite me on the Republican Ticket. He has taken no part in the campaign.

Of course there is one very apparent reason for the position of the Republican managers. They view with horror the possibility of a repetition of Mr. Hughes' trip through the West in 1916. They know that, even more than Mr. Hughes, their candidate for the Presidency

has nothing constructive to offer, and they have seen the effects of one campaign of gloom. A real campaign by Mr. Harding would "let the cat out of the bag". It would expose the utter hollowness of their pretensions. It would expose, too, what every one through this western country knows, and even the Republican managers themselves admit - the complete lack of enthusiasm among the voters for the hand-picked head of the Republican ticket.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HONF. D. ROOSEVELT
GREENLEY, COLO., OCTOBER 7, 1920

In August when I made my first trip West, people asked me at almost every meeting whether they would have an opportunity of seeing and hearing the Republican nominees in the course of the campaign. My invariable answer was that I distinctly hoped so, because I felt it was the right of the people of the United States to receive, in so far as possible, at first hand a presentation of the issues. Furthermore, I see little value in what can best be termed "canned" speeches. It is the easiest thing in the world to prepare a speech in one's own home in such a way that anybody can interpret it in any possible direction.

It is obvious now that the Republican nominee for the Presidency is not going West of the Missouri River, and in fact is only going as far West as Kansas City, Missouri. One-half of the Country will, in other words, have no opportunity of seeing him and sizing him up. Even in the East Senator Harding will have made but two or three short trips before Election Day, and every one of the speeches delivered on these trips have been and will be of the carefully prepared variety. As a broad but perfectly fair statement, it is fair to say that the Nation will have no opportunity in this campaign of drawing by personal observation the deadly parallel between Governor Cox and Senator Harding.

Judging by the famous but solitary episode at Baltimore, where the only man who has ever asked Mr. Harding a question was ejected from the hall and thrown into jail, it is interest to speculate on what would have happened if Mr. Harding had frankly and openly invited questions throughout the Country as have Governor Cox and myself.

I hesitate even to speak of the gentleman who is running opposite me on the Republican Ticket. He has taken no part in the campaign.

Of course there is one very apparent reason for the position of the Republican managers. They view with horror the possibility of a repetition of Mr. Hughes' trip through the West in 1916. They know that, even more than Mr. Hughes, that -

has nothing constructive to offer, and they have seen the effects of one campaign of gloom. A real campaign by Mr. Harding would "let the cat out of the bag". It would expose the utter hollowness of their pretensions. It would expose, too, what every one through this western country knows, and even the Republican managers themselves admit - the complete lack of enthusiasm among the voters for the hand-picked head of the Republican ticket.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECH OF HONF.D.ROOSEVELT
GLENWOOD, IOWA, OCTOBER 7, 1920

In August when I made my first trip West, people asked me at almost every meeting whether they would have an opportunity of seeing and hearing the Republican nominees in the course of the campaign. My invariable answer was that I distinctly hoped so, because I felt it was the right of the people of the United States to receive, in so far as possible, at first hand a presentation of the issues. Furthermore, I see little value in what can best be termed "canned" speeches. It is the easiest thing in the world to prepare a speech in one's own home in such a way that anybody can interpret it in any possible direction.

It is obvious now that the Republican nominee for the Presidency is not going West of the Missouri River, and in fact is only going as far West as Kansas City, Missouri. One-half of the Country will, in other words, have no opportunity of seeing him and sizing him up. Even in the East Senator Harding will have made but two or three short trips before Election Day, and every one of the speeches delivered on these trips have been and will be of the carefully prepared variety. As a broad but perfectly fair statement, it is fair to say that the Nation will have no opportunity in this campaign of drawing by personal observation the deadly parallel between Governor Cox and Senator Harding.

Judging by the famous but solitary episode at Baltimore, where the only man who has ever asked Mr. Harding a question was ejected from the hall and thrown into jail, it is interest to speculate on what would have happened if Mr. Harding had frankly and openly invited questions throughout the Country as have Governor Cox and myself.

I hesitate even to speak of the gentleman who is running opposite me on the Republican Ticket. He has taken no part in the campaign.

Of course there is one very apparent reason for the position of the Republican managers. They view with horrer the possibility of a repetition of Mr. Hughes' trip through the West in 1916. They know that, even more than Mr. Hughes,

has nothing constructive to offer, and they have seen the effects of one campaign of gloom. A real campaign by Mr. Harding would "let the cat out of the bag". It would expose the utter hollowness of their pretensions. It would expose, too, what every one through this western country knows, and even the Republican managers themselves admit - the complete lack of enthusiasm among the voters for the hand-picked head of the Republican ticket.